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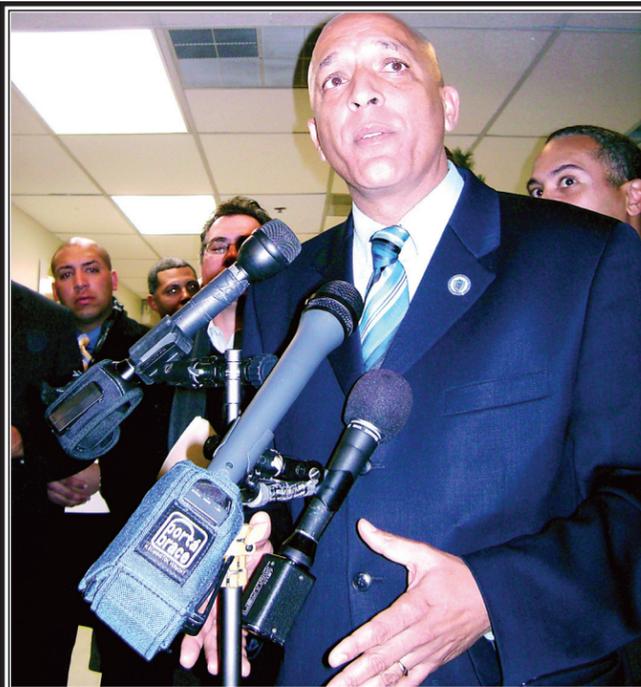
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Lantigua Conceals DiAdamo Money

Lawrence's Mayor Lantigua has spent more than \$32,000 to conceal payments made to DiAdamo



The DiAdamo Law Office on Appleton Way in Lawrence is located next to city hall and is in the same building as the Lawrence School Department administrative offices. The building is owned by the DiAdamo family's trust. Lantigua has paid more than \$32K to keep the public from gaining access to DiAdamo's legal bill and rent payments. To date the DiAdamos have made millions off the City of Lawrence alone.

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VALLEY PATRIOT OF THE MONTH HERO IN OUR MIDST: CORPORAL ROBERT F. BAILEY, U.S. ARMY

Helen Mooradkian,
VALLEY PATRIOT VETERAN COLUMNIST

On September 15, 1944, at 8:30 a.m., 20-year-old Robert F. Bailey, of Lowell, U.S. Army, 31st Infantry Division ("Dixie Division"), 155th Infantry Regiment, Cannon Company, stormed the beach on Morotai Island, off the New Guinea coast in the southwest Pacific. Morotai would become a crucial air and naval base and a key part of General Douglas MacArthur's strategy for the liberation of the Philippines. Located north of Australia and part of the Dutch East Indies, Morotai was the final landing point between New Guinea and the Japanese-occupied Philippines.

In that assault landing on Morotai, 45 LSTs (landing ship, tank) lined the shore. Offshore coral reefs and boulders caught landing craft. Troops, vehicles, and sup-

plies were unloaded onto the beach—with no opposition from the 500 or more Japanese caught there by surprise. But the calf-deep mud and chest-high surf were "the worst ever seen," General Krueger reported. Deep holes and fissures nearly submerged vehicles and men, causing delays.

While Bob was sitting on the beach waiting to move out with his platoon, he saw General Douglas MacArthur wading through the surf to come ashore! "We quickly put on our helmets and stood up," he said, recalling that scene vividly.

By noon of September 15, the Americans had seized Pitoe Airdrome. With the capture and occupation of Morotai, the U.S. now had control of the Halmahera Sea, cutting off 35,000 Japanese soldiers

HERO: PAGE 35



Corporal Robert F. Bailey, U.S. Army, 31st Infantry Division, 155th Regiment, Cannon Company, served two years in the Southwest Pacific, New Guinea, Morotai, and Mindanao, Philippine Islands, during WWII from 1944 through the end of WWII. He was awarded the Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman Badge, the Victory Medal, and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with 1 Bronze Service Star. He saw General Douglas MacArthur three times: on New Guinea during the General's review of the troops, after the assault landing on Motorai when the General waded ashore with his staff, and in Boston's Dewey Square (South Station) after WWII ended.

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Are Statist Leftists Allies of Radical Islam?

Dr. Charles Ormsby

VALLEY PATRIOT EDITOR

In 1945, America exited World War II with an unprecedented strategic edge over our enemies. That edge would have been even greater had President Roosevelt not ceded control of Eastern Europe to the Soviet Union prior to the war's end and had U.S. post-war policy toward the spread of communism not been so feckless, leading to the takeover of China by the "Peoples Liberation" Army.

From 1945 to 1989, those in the U.S. that were ideologically sympathetic to statism constantly gave aid and comfort to the Soviet and Chinese communists who were engaged in a concerted effort to spread their totalitarian philosophy and defeat the western democracies. As a result of these misguided policies, the U.S. and the survival of human liberties were put in substantial jeopardy for several decades.

In 1989, Reagan's successful two-pronged strategy to defeat the Soviet Union succeeded. He insisted on condemning and delegitimizing the Soviet regime by honestly and publicly describing the Soviet Union as an evil empire. Simultaneously, he moved to bankrupt that empire by pursuing an aggressive, technology-based military build-up that the Soviets could not match. The result of our victory was a strategic advantage that made us more secure than at any time since the beginning of the twentieth century.

Now the cycle repeats as America's security erodes.

As outlined in last month's column, America's leftists (blinded by their statist ideology, their distaste for Western civilization, and coupled with a virulent case of naïveté) refuse to recognize or denounce the forces that threaten America. Obama is the penultimate example of this perspective and, as our president, he is positioned

Winston Churchill when the survival of Great Briton was threatened by Nazi Germany: "We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be. We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills. We shall never surrender."

Ronald Reagan speaking before the British Parliament in June 1982: "The march of freedom and democracy will leave Marxism-Leninism on the ash-heap of history as it has left other tyrannies which stifle the freedom and muzzle the self-expression of the people."

Barack Obama commenting on America's response to 9-11 in his recent foreign policy speech: "Imagine, for a moment, what we could have done in those days, and months, and years after 9/11. We could have invested hundreds of billions of dollars in alternative sources of energy to grow our economy, save our planet, and end the tyranny of oil. We could have rebuilt our roads and bridges, laid down new rail and broadband and electricity systems, and made college affordable for every American to strengthen our ability to compete. We could have done that."

to severely damage our national security.

Where is Ronald Reagan when we so desperately need him?

He is no longer with us but his memory and his example live on.

Wouldn't Reagan openly condemn the brutal totalitarian regime in North Korea? Wouldn't he go to the demilitarized zone and demand that "Mr. Un tear down this wall" and free the Korean people to pursue their individual dreams – which now probably amount to being able to grow enough food to avoid starvation.

Wouldn't we all sleep better knowing that the decision to strike – or not strike – Iran's and North Korea's nuclear assets was in Reagan's hands and not in the hands of a president swayed by an aversion to Western values and unable to appreciate American exceptionalism?

How would Reagan articulate the moral superiority of our society when contrasted with brutish seventh century theocracies that deny the holocaust, threaten Israel with annihilation, enslave women, persecute non-Muslims, and commit stonings

and beheadings to enforce their religious edicts?

Is the regime of Syrian president Bashar al-Assad evil? How about the Islamic terrorist organization Hezbollah that was founded by and funded by Muslim clerics in Iran? What about the Muslim Brotherhood that founded Hamas and supported terrorist suicide bombings in Israel?

Obama avoids moral condemnation of these threats at all costs and, when condemnation is unavoidable, he frames it as narrowly and meekly as possible and then finds occasion to find fault with America in the same breath.

Reagan was personally committed to our founding values and could clearly identify the ideologies that were inimical to our interests. When he confronted our foes, which he did often, he was not reluctant to identify them as evil and to commit America to hasten their demise.

Obama cannot lead America in our clash with radical Islam because he is blinded by his ideology. He cannot articulate the moral dimensions of the challenges we face

because he is not committed to America's values. Instead, he harbors sympathy for the very forces that threaten us.

If Obama can't recognize our enemy and if he is unwilling to articulate why they are a threat to our values, he can't lead us to victory.

Unilaterally declaring that the war against Muslim terrorism (the war he is unable to even mention) is over is sure to be met with derision in Pyongyang, Teheran, Waziristan, Tripoli, Beirut, Damascus, the Gaza Strip, and in Al Qaeda's inner circles ... not to mention in Moscow and Beijing.

President Carter's weak foreign policy in the late seventies made America a paper tiger in the eyes of our enemies. By 1988 Reagan had restored America's strength and re-established our self-confidence. Our enemies respected our new-found strength and our determination to protect American values. The result was a safer America and a safer world.

Unfortunately, Obama has returned America to the weak and vulnerable status we inherited from Carter.

Unless we reverse course soon, we will pay a terrible price for Obama's naïve and anti-American ideology.

If we won't acknowledge and fight our enemies, we can't and, therefore, we will not win.

If we don't win, eventually, we will lose.



Dr. Charles Ormsby served two terms on the North Andover School Committee, co-founded of the North Andover Taxpayers Association, is a co-founder of and columnist for The Valley Patriot, broadcasts weekly opinion pieces for WCAP (980 AM) in Lowell, and is a faculty member in the Department of Mathematical Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Dr. Ormsby is a graduate of Cornell and has a doctorate degree from MIT. You can email him at ccormsby@verizon.net

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Why Does Democrat Ed Markey Hate Women?

We don't know.

Truth be told, we were stunned by the latest spate of TV commercials Markey and his advocates are running, which are highly insulting to women. Especially given that the media and the Democrat party have preached for three decades that Republicans represent "rich, old, white, men," while Democrats represent young, energetic minorities who are the future.

Markey has been in Congress since the Gerald Ford administration, with a very troubling record when it comes to women's issues. Even more troubling is Markey's deceit when it comes to telling female voters the truth.

Now, Congressman Ed Markey is running for the U.S. Senate with female Democrats like Niki Tsongas and Elizabeth Warren by his side to mask his hostility and contempt for the fairer sex.

Shame on both Tsongas and Warren for letting him and the Democrat party use

women that way.

These Democrat women have betrayed Massachusetts women and Latinos by publicly standing with Markey as party bosses have told them to. Furthermore, they expect women to vote for Markey as they are told to. We find that repulsive.

On the other hand, Republicans nominated as Markey's opponent, a young, vibrant, Latino, Navy Seal named Gabriel Gomez. If elected, the young Gomez will be the first Latino United States Senator.

Isn't it "time for a Latino" in the U.S. Senate?

How can Markey possibly relate to the poor Latinos in Lawrence, Lowell and Haverhill? How can he possibly understand their struggle in our inner cities and represent them, when he lives in an all-white neighborhood, in a multi-million dollar home in Virginia?

While we are not thrilled by the nomination of a liberal Republican like

Gomez, at least we know for sure that Gabriel Gomez does not hate women. At least we know that Gomez isn't misleading female voters and minorities to protect the "rich, white power structure" in D.C. like Markey is.

At least we know that Gomez isn't going to vote against issues important to Massachusetts women the way Congressman Ed Markey has done for decades in the United States Congress.

We hesitate to officially endorse either Markey or Gomez, as it is the policy of The Valley Patriot to not endorse candidates for office (a policy we have only suspended twice in nine years).

Nonetheless, we do believe it's important for our readers (especially our female readers) to distinguish fact from the media fantasy narrative created by Ed Markey and his Democratic party.

A party which has now betrayed every single thing they once stood for: women,

minorities, and the poor.

We don't know why Ed Markey hates women. We don't understand why he has consistently voted against women's interests in Congress. We are baffled that women like Niki Tsongas and Elizabeth Warren betray women (and Latinos) to support another rich, old, white guy, when they and their party have spent the last three decades telling us that they are the party that cares about women and minorities. Yet here we are.

The Democrats and their candidate are now the ones who hate women, attack Latinos and minorities, and represent the elite, white power structure in Washington D.C., all the while trying to stop the election of a young, energetic, liberal, Latino, Gabriel Gomez.

My, how times have changed.

The question now is, are women in Massachusetts smart enough to notice. We will see on Election Day, June 25th.

Another Day, Another Scandal for the White House

Jeff Katz

VOTED AP's BEST RADIO TALK SHOW HOST

"Another day, another scandal" seems to have replaced "yes we can" and "forward" as the official slogan now employed by the current occupier of the Oval Office and his motley crew of acolytes. No longer is the Dear Leader talking about his desire to transform America, rather he and the JV squad are maneuvering to see who will be the latest to be thrown under the bus. There must be some serious cases of

nerves at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, as the assorted hacks and flacks are remembering that the President had no trouble tossing his own grandmother under the bus, so how safe can some random guilty leftist be?

The facts which are in evidence now demonstrate quite clearly that when Barack Obama made the pronouncement that he was going to punish his enemies, he was being painfully honest. Obama and the nominal Attorney General oversaw efforts which rewarded thugs trying to

keep anti-Obama voters from casting their ballots and then moved on to running guns to Mexican crime syndicates. Once they got away with these egregious actions, they moved on to a full frontal attack on the few journalists still practicing the craft in the United States.

Organized efforts to undermine reporters at the Associated Press and FOX News apparently became the norm for this administration. Wiretaps? Sure. Harassing reporters' parents? Yeah, why not! It was the series of attacks on reporters that forced even the usual Kool-Aid drinkers in the White House press briefing to start asking pesky questions of the Minister of Propaganda. If this keeps up, they will soon toss Beltway Jay to the wolves. I do wonder who they get to take his place. Sadly, John Banner who played Sgt. Schultz is not available. Maybe, they can find Baghdad Bob?

The three most feared letters in the country, IRS, deployed and used as a tool of political oppression as Tea Party groups and conservative organizations were apparently targeted for unimaginable misbehavior. Audits apparently were ordered for those who were identified as not completely agreeing with this administration's plan. Kindly remember that the same agency is slated to take charge of enforcing all of the provisions of Obam-

care shortly. These same agents will have access to confidential medical records of millions of Americans...what could possibly go wrong with that?

I'm not sure about you, but I feel completely confident knowing that Eric Holder will now investigate Eric Holder to determine if Eric Holder did anything wrong when Eric Holder ordered these actions. My crystal ball is at the dry cleaners, but I have a sneaking suspicion that Eric Holder will determine that Eric Holder did nothing wrong when Eric Holder did those things.

So we've got inappropriate wiretaps, misuse of the IRS, an enemies list, politically motivated vindictive A.G. and a giant collection of lies coming from the White House. Someone should be on the lookout to see if Barack Milhous Obama starts talking to the portraits in the West Wing any time soon.



Jeff Katz is a former police officer, former talk show host on Talk1200AM and won the Associated Press Award for Best Talk Show in Boston two years in a row. He is now an exclusive columnist for The Valley Patriot. WEBSITE: vision-accomplished.net

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An Interview with Town Manager Andrew Maylor - Part 3

Tom Duggan

The Valley Patriot sat down with North Andover Town Manager Andrew Maylor, in March of this year, to give residents a chance to get to know the man running their town, and his plans for their future.

Transcribed by Kathleen Laplante

VP: How do we revitalize Downtown? Can we create a local storefront facade program?

MAYLOR: Look at the Old Town Common. You don't have to be from North Andover to drive through that area and feel like, "I'm gonna come back here." That's how you feel, right? You don't feel that way here. And so, we've talked a little, we're actually putting [together] the capital plan to do a similar kind of thing near Machine Shop Village and on High Street, to start to make that sort of historical, "create the period" look. It's a little more complicated here. All you have to do is look out the window. There are poles going where the wires go. They don't just run this way [along the street]. They run like this [across].

So I think if we could start with a storefront program... The real challenge is how do you fund the storefront program and once you do that, I think there'd be a strong interest to change the storefronts, create a continuity of look that makes it look like historic, Old Town New England, and then you're going to have to fund the infrastructure.

So here's the balance. It's a rhetorical question, but if I said to you, we're going to have to set aside two, three, or four hundred thousand dollars, to invest in our own businesses to create the storefront... We're going to have to invest \$1,000,000 to get these poles out of the way so they look like the Old Town Common, are you or are

the residents understanding how this community has now been developed, right?

It's been developed this side of town first, but where has most of the development been in the last 10 or 20 years?

VP: Rt.114 up to Littleton.

MAYLOR: Right. All the way out to the Boxford country area, right? Is the community as a whole willing to invest a million, million and a half, two million dollars, to energize what Main Street could look like? I think that's a real question. That's a community-based question. Are you ready to do that? Is the return significant enough that we're going to attract people here and make it what people envision? I think a couple of more indirect things, part of the Facilities Master Plan - we're going to call for an expansion of the Senior Center. We're seeing a booming senior population. We want to expand that on this site. Part of the proposal was not to expand it here. We want to expand it on the site so that more seniors come here and attract the businesses too.

The next phase, the third phase of the Facilities Master Plan, we'll build a new fire station, but move Planning and Development next door. [That] gets them out of the rental space.

VP: So, unlike Lawrence, you've actually got a plan to eat down all the money that the town is spending on rent, and move those into town owned facilities. Lawrence is going the other way.

MAYLOR: It's sort of an interesting dialogue, because if you look at it's 10-year window, then you sit there and say, "Geez, rentals sort of make sense," right? If you look at it in a historic perspective, how long we've been around and how long we're going to be here, then I think you invest in the assets we have and get out of rental space.

Plus, we have the opportunity here, a



North Andover Town Manager Andrew Maylor talks about the direction of the town and what he hopes to accomplish while he is here.

couple things that are really important. Because of how we structured the Capital Plan, beginning last year, all of the work I'm talking about, expanding the Senior Center. When we do community development here, building the fire station, building a gym at the Kittredge, and moving the Central Office to the Police Station, it's all being done inside the Capital Plan, inside the cap, no overrides, no additional tax dollars.

VP: That's great.

MAYLOR: So what we're saying is, we're just making the wrong spending choices. Let's spend in our own assets. Let's get away from the rental environment, and let's bring people to places where they can energize business. Right now, every person that comes in to pull a building permit, every person that comes into the Health Department, every person that comes into the Planning Department, goes to the 1600 Osgood St. [Commerce Center]. That's the image they see in the town, or like you said, they see 114. They don't see this [downtown].

So, when we move Community Development next door, have a Central Shop, bring 30 or 40 more employees down to this area, people have to come visit [downtown] to get their building permits, their health permits, and we hope that adds more people, but we've gotta support when they arrive here, that there are vibrant businesses that they want to service. And that's all being done. The Capital Plan, the Facilities Plan last year, that we got Town Meeting to support, I've funded

it within a 5-year capital plan.

All the work will be done in 10 years and all done within the cap. It's a good plan.

VP: As far as public safety goes, you come from a city to a town. Public safety is obviously run a lot different in a town than in a city. Anything surprise you? Anything you'd like to change about what's going on as far as the police and fire?

MAYLOR: No, I don't see necessary change... I've spent some time evaluating it. I think that it's interesting. I think we do a lot with the resources that have been provided. I think the resources are appropriate, but I think we do a lot. We're not only 26 square miles, the town's shape is a rectangle, right? Rectangles aren't as easy to service as a square in terms of certain distances, right? So I think our response time is good. The fact that this is a fully accredited Police Department, as an example, shows us the sort of professionalism that exists. Dispatch seems to work really well. The fire response is great. The ambulance system works well here.

We get great response from residents about that. I think we're both staffed and trained well and the service delivery is positive. So I think it's generally status quo on the public safety side. I see good things, and they work well together. Both chiefs have a sense of pride in the community, which I think is evident in terms of what happens in terms of service delivery.

VP: How does the town keep track of

ANDREW MAYLOR: PAGE 38

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Pomps Pond in Andover

Anne Knowles

VALLEY PATRIOT ANDOVER COLUMNIST

What an unusual name for a favorite summer swimming spot, right in the middle of Andover. Where did the name come from and why? Well, many years ago it began with Pompey Lovejoy. He was born in Boston, in 1724, and was a slave belonging to Capt. William Lovejoy. At the age of nine, he moved to Andover with the Captain's household.

He was granted freedom by Captain Lovejoy in 1762, and in the Captain's will, Pompey was "given choice acreage", so that he "better enjoy his later years."

He and his wife Rose, built a cabin on the land given to him by the will of Captain Lovejoy. He served in the Revolutionary Army, when he was 52 years of age, under Captain Abbot of Andover, but only served a few days and returned to Andover.

Pompey and Rose were active in the town of Andover and popular for "hosting gatherings at their home for townspeople, on the bank of the Pond, that now bears his name.

He and Rose were famous for the special "Pomps cake and ginger root beer", that was served on Town meeting days, when townspeople would gather to meet and socialize and discuss politics. No gathering was a "success" unless Pompey's cake was served.

Pompey Lovejoy died in 1826, when



he was 102 years old. His wife died a few months later. In 1923, almost one hundred years later, Pomps Pond was begun as a recreation area for the residents of Andover through the efforts of the Andover Townsman. Money was raised to clear part of the shoreline of the pond, lifeguards were hired and a diving raft for Pomps Pond was erected. Thus, this became a popular and well known summer retreat.

The Department of Community Services for Andover now supervises the pond and it has become a very popular recreational spot for Andover residents. Amenities from swimming to boat rentals, picnic area, children's playground, showers and bathrooms, and swimming lessons given by Red Cross certified instructors, allow children and adults of all ages to enjoy Pomps Pond. For information, check the website for the DCS of Andover through the Town of Andover, Ma. homepage. Discounted season fees are offered for residents, until the weekend of June 22-23. Regular fees will be in effect after this time. Daily fees are also available.

The Andover Farmer's Market

Anne Knowles

VALLEY PATRIOT ANDOVER COLUMNIST

Summer is coming and this year the Andover Farmer's Market will begin the season on June 29th. The Market has been a fixture for the past seven years and has gained a large following throughout the area. Site of the Market will be on the grounds of the Andover Historical Headquarters at 97 Main Street, Andover Center and will be held Saturdays 10:00am to 2:00pm from June 29th until October 5th

The Andover's Farmers Market mission statement is to "offer educational programs, promote healthy eating, local economies sustainability and community spirit by providing fresh local produce, baked goods and prepared foods as well as hand-crafted goods."

It will be a wonderful opportunity for

residents and visitors to try a plentiful display of locally grown fruits and vegetables. Baked goods and food items by vendors who have made this Farmer's Market so welcomed by the customers over the past years. This year will also feature a variety of crafts from new vendors and well known artisans.

The Andover Historical Society encourages visitors to explore this activity as well as other programs that the AHS promotes. Check the AHS website for information on their available historical research materials that allow for a wonderful exploration of Andover for generations. The AHS works with many organizations in Andover to provide a deeper understanding of the past and what can be accomplished going forward for the Historic Town of Andover.

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Notices From the North Andover Senior Center

The North Andover TRIAD is a community safety initiative that focuses on empowering, educating and improving the safety, security and peace of mind of the senior population. The goal of TRIAD is to: reduce criminal activity which targets the senior community, alleviate senior's fear of victimization, build confidence, improve their quality of life, and enhance the delivery of law enforcement services to the senior population. The North Andover TRIAD provides services such as the File of Life, Yellow Dot Program, photo ID cards and "My Personnel Information Record", to name a few. In the fall, we will be sponsoring a Car Fit program in conjunction with Bright View, a new independent and assisted living community opening soon in North Andover. Stay tuned for pub-

licity regarding this event as it promises to provide many opportunities for education and enjoyment.

Medical Transport Volunteer Drivers are needed! You can set your own schedule, morning or afternoon, any day of the week. Call the North Andover Senior Center for more information. Speak with Cahla at 978-688-9560 for application and assistance.

UPCOMING TRIPS and EVENTS:
June 14th, Tower Hill Botanical Gardens. Admission \$9 and Bus \$5. Bring a lunch or have lunch at the Twigs Café. Bus departs 9:30. Supper Club, Thurs. June 20th., Hardcover Restaurant in Danvers. Bus departs 4:30, Bus \$3.00. Keep Moving Regional Walking Program, Carson Beach, Dorchester, MA. Friday June 21st. Must

sign up with reception for van reservation. Pack a picnic lunch, wear proper footwear, hat, and sunscreen. One mile and three mile routes. RAIN or SHINE. Limit 12. Friday June 21st, Hampton Beach Sand Sculpting Competition. Bus \$4, departs center @ 10:30, Limit 12. Lunch on your own.

LECTURE SERIES: Monday June 10th at 10 am. Speaker will be Andrew Maylor, Town Manager.

News & Views: Every Wednesday from 10-11:30. Come and join in the lively discussion of current events, politics, history and you never know what else.

The Fix It Shop: On the first and third Monday of the month from 12-3pm. We repair almost as good as new. Lamps, with cords and sockets, replace watch batteries, small tables and chairs. Anything that is not listed, we will give it a shot! Your cost is \$2 - \$4 depending on work needed, plus parts. Proceeds benefit the Senior Center. June dates are June 3rd and June 24th, (because of a vacation.)

Walk in Clinic: The North Andover Senior Center and Home Health Inc/VNA operate a wellness clinic every Wednesday from 9 am until noon. If you are a North Andover Senior, we urge you to take advantage of this opportunity to check your blood pressure, blood sugar, weight and blood oxygen level. You will be able to consult privately with an RN regarding any medication and health issues that you are concerned about. There is no charge for this service, but donations are gratefully accepted.

Hearing Clinic: Miracle-Ear will be at the North Andover Senior Center the 3rd Wed of the month, 10 to noon. Sign up with reception for a free screening.

Shine Volunteers: Free, confidential counseling on all aspects of health insurance to North Andover residents on Medicare; the 1st, 3rd and 4th Tuesday of the month, 12-2:30. Call center for an appointment.

Foot Care: RN Catherine Languedoc, Foot Care Specialist, will be available

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Summer Schedule:
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on the third Friday of every month from 9-12. Upcoming dates are, June 21st and July 19th. Dr. Connolly is available on the second Wednesday of the month from 1-4. The next dates are June 12th and July 10th. Please call to schedule an appointment.

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. We also need new Yarn.

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Lawrence Firefighters Play New England Patriot All Stars



While other children were getting autographs from the New England Patriot's All Stars between periods of the charity basketball game with the North Andover firefighters last month, six and a half year old Brendan Elliot of North Andover gets an autograph from hero North Andover Firefighter, Shawn Bushnell. At right, North Andover Firefighter Rob Crane, with his copy of The Valley Patriot at half time. The NA Firefighters lost to the New England Patriot team, but all the money raised went to the North Andover Firefighter's Relief Association.

Fitness Together Raises Money for the One Fund

Fitness Together North Andover held a fund raiser last month for the ONE FUND, a fund established to help the victims of the Muslim terrorist attack on the Boston Marathon.

In one day, (June 7th) owner Maureen Sullivan says that their "keep our treadmill moving" event raised more than \$2,000.

Runners had their friends and family sponsor their treadmill run by the mile.

We had almost no advertising," Sullivan said. We were promoted by North Andover Patch and The Valley Patriot on line, but other than that it was mostly word of mouth.

"One client of ours got \$42.25 per mile because his family members kept trying to outbid each other."

Asked how they came up with the

idea, Sullivan said that the idea came from one of her clients.

"Actually it was a client named Lisa Meyers, she was running on the treadmill one day after the Marathon bombing and she came up with the idea of having a treadmill challenge. She even paid for the printing for the fliers, Sullivan said.

"The Boston Marathon is an athletic event and I think because we are all about fitness and health and athleticism here I think it kind of hit home for a lot of our clients. Those athletes who were victims will have a life long struggle and they need life long support.."

Sullivan says that they are still selling Boston Strong bracelets for \$10, 100% of the proceeds go to the ONE FUND.



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On Taxes and Transportation in Massachusetts: The Big Picture

Linda Campbell
METHUEN STATE REPRESENTATIVE

First I would like to thank Valley Patriot Columnist D. J. Deeb for his label as a moderate Democrat. My colleagues would likely tweak that to conservative Democrat but nonetheless, I accept.

I also want to thank writer Deeb for paying attention to our State Government policy debates. Coverage has declined in recent years among local newspapers due to budget challenges, but we must remember that most national policy stems from policies first debated and implemented at the state level.

Massachusetts used to be rightly labeled as "Taxachusetts" in the 1970's. However, in large part due to the leadership of moderates and the presence of a pro-business perspective in the Massachusetts Legislature, we are "Taxachusetts" no longer. In fact, for the past five out of the last six years, Massachusetts and Arizona have shared the top spot nationally for the lowest state and local taxes as a percentage of personal income. Add in sales taxes, excise taxes, and all others, and we are now and have been for quite some time, in the middle of the nation in terms of overall tax burden.

These tax policies, along with substantial cuts in public sector jobs and pension reforms over the past four years, have allowed Massachusetts to remain in the "top three" - a group of states who maintain the top three largest state reserve holdings in the nation. This is a crucially important factor to national bond rating agencies as we compete for favorable rates for capital projects such the building of schools and the repair of roads and bridges. This translates to millions upon millions of tax dollars saved.

We all know that the "Big Dig" and excessive salaries, pensions and health-care benefits at the MBTA have diverted substantial funds that should have gone to cities and towns to repair and maintain their roads. Legislation has addressed



many of the excesses at the MBTA but, more remains to be done.

As a first step, the transportation reform recently passed by the House is a step in the right direction. It requires that the funding that the Legislature allocates for transportation be spent on capital projects, repair of equipment, and so forth - not on salaries and personnel costs or to finance debt. We require that the MBTA make further reforms in order to achieve this. If they fall short, they shall have to raise their fees, which brings free market forces into play.

We direct that a very modest increase in the gas tax, which has not increased since the early 90's, be allocated to maintaining our roads and bridges. The Legislature adopted the responsible policy by resisting calls from the business community and the Governor to build new public transportation. New public transportation must wait until we have fixed and adequately maintained what infrastructure we have. To not have stepped in to immediately address the structural deficit at the MBTA would have been an abdication of our responsibility, and a total waste of taxpayers' money. Again, thank you for paying attention.

Linda Dean Campbell
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Methuen and Haverhill
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617.722.2305

The Merrimack Valley Irish Connection

The Kilkenny Forge

Jack Doyle, County Sligo
VALLEY PATRIOT IRISH COLUMNIST

James Patrick Kilkenny was born in Lissaveeney, Sooley in 1911. As a young man he served a three year apprenticeship as a blacksmith in Josie Noones forge, Ballyfaron. After that, he rented a forge known as "Hannons" situated behind Willis's shop at the end of Riverstown village. In 1941, he bought a plot of land from Janie and Mary Cogan and built his own forge at Ardumber. It was built by Michael Tahney and his son, Stephen, for 40 pounds. James Kilkenny was the blacksmith in Riverstown for twenty years.

Making horse shoes of varying sizes, and shoeing horses and donkeys was the main part of his work. He was also busy making and repairing farm implements and repairing farm machinery. He also shod cartwheels along the riverbank. He made decorative items like gates for entrances to houses, along with practical household items such as crooks to hang pots on open fires or fire gates. James Kilkenny was renowned for his skill in making turf spades, and people traveled from all over Connaught to purchase a "Kilkenny" turf spade.

Welding was an essential skill for a blacksmith, and a helper was required

when making a weld. Iron bought from the ironmonger came in long lengths of varying widths. The iron was heated in the fire until it was red hot and pliable and then shaped; afterwards it was cooled in the water trough. His brother Bernard worked with him, as did William Kelly from Ballinasloe, and Tommy and Paddy Jinks from Carroweshel.

It was a difficult working environment, very smoky and in a small, confined space with extremes of hot and cold. It was easy to catch a cold. The work was heavy and a strong man was required. A blacksmith's work also required a lot of mental dexterity and creativeness, as many jobs were 'tricky' and the blacksmith had to find a way to solve the problem.

In later years, he leased the forge to Thomas Crann from Geevagh (this writers grand uncle), and then leased it a second time to Thomas Kiernan from Ballinafed.

There was also a forge in the yard of Bernie McDermotts shop, now demolished. Willie McDonagh, from Geevagh had a forge behind the Blackthorn lounge, Gurhys forge was situated at the back of Quigley's shop and Martin Bakers butcher shop was also the site of a forge.

**Maura Brehoney (nee Kilkenny) ppgs 191/ 192, The Riverstown Story, County Sligo.*



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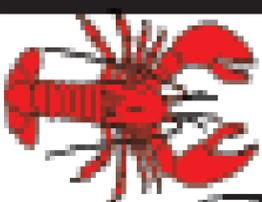
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Methuen Terror Suspect Freed - Separating Fact from Hysteria

An Essex County Grand Jury has refused to indict Carmen D'Ambrosio on state terrorism charges after the 18 year old Methuen High School Student posted what police say were threatening messages in texts and on Facebook. The teen was released to his family last week.

D'Ambrosio was being charged under Massachusetts General Law Ch. 269, Section 14, a state statute regarded as "the terrorism statute" by police. It includes communicating a bomb threat or a hijack threat by means of electronic communication. He was arrested by Methuen police on May 1st after Methuen High officials reported that "dozens of students" complained to Methuen High School assistant principal James Weymouth about the violent nature of D'Ambrosio's Facebook posts and text messages. Students reported that they viewed the electronic messages as "threatening".

D'Ambrosio was being held on \$1M bail during a dangerousness hearing before Lawrence District Court Judge Rooney. He faced up to 20 years for felony charges of communicating bomb threats.

Chief Solomon released this statement upon D'Ambrosio's release:

"I have just been advised of the Grand Jury decision from earlier today, where the Grand Jury did not issue an indictment on the high school threats case."

Although we disagree with the Grand Jury's decision we respect it. Several judiciary levels have confirmed the probable cause in this case as it has worked its way through the criminal justice system. We will continue to take all threats against our community seriously and will always utilize due diligence in our investigation."

Thank you
Chief Solomon

Solomon told the Valley Patriot that he had a great deal of respect for the students at Methuen High School who came forward to administrators about the Facebook postings.

"I commend the students who came forward with the information. We do not want to overlook how brave they were," Solomon said.

The Chief said he did not want to comment further until he spoke with the District Attorney's office about the particulars.

His arrest was just days before the mass



shooting at the Sandy Hook Elementary School, in Newtown Connecticut.

Police officials in Methuen say they stand by their work in trying to prevent major tragedies like the Sandy Hook shootings and the Columbine massacre. Officials point to the fact that D'Ambrosio wrote about "beating every murder charge" on facebook and specifically referencing the Boston Marathon bombing, the White House and, given his history with law enforcement, their response was "appropriate."

This is the second Methuen teen who had charges against them dropped or reduced after being arrested under state terrorism statutes.

In January of this year, 17 year old high school junior, Jacob Butze-Maille, was charged with terrorism after he made specific threats to commit a mass shooting at Methuen High School.

Advocates on Social Media Weigh In

Since The Valley Patriot broke our exclusive story about D'Ambrosio, he has been hailed as a free speech poster boy by 1st Amendment advocates online. Websites like fightforrights.com and centerforrights.com demanded his release claiming D'Ambrosio was being "Held without bail? For writing a rap song?" as if Methuen police were trolling the internet for bad music.

Fightforrights.org garnered more than 50,000 on-line signatures in less than 48 hours supporting the man's release. Even some Tea Party groups took on the D'Ambrosio's cause, erroneously reporting on Tea Party websites that D'Ambrosio was being targeted for his

"anti-Oabma" political views.

Some sites attacked the Methuen Police, and particularly Chief Solomon, as well as The Valley Patriot for breaking the story.

"He was arrested because of the threats he posted, not because of his views, absolutely not," said Methuen Police Chief Joe Solomon. "Let's not confuse someone making threats with political speech, I don't care about anyone's politics. My job is to keep people safe and respond to what we deem to be credible threats, and that is what we were trying to do."

Controversy via Social Media

Solomon said he welcomes the scrutiny on him and his department, and praised the role of social media in getting out the story and stimulating discussion, even though much of that discussion were attacks and controversy aimed at him.

"I don't know how you [The Valley Patriot] do it, but you post a story and it goes viral around the world and that's a good thing," Solomon said.

"Social media is very important to free speech and we make use of Twitter and Facebook and what we are finding is that by releasing the information this way, more people are aware of what's going on in the community."

Solomon said he routinely gets discouraged by other police chiefs not to use social media because of the possibility of stirring up controversy, but the chief says he welcomes such controversy.

"When the D'Ambrosio story hit we had publicized it [on social media]. And because we got a lot of negative com-

Cam Dambrosio
1 hour ago

All you haters keep my fuckin' name outcha mouths, got it? what the fuck do I gotta do to get some props and shit huh? Ya'll wanme to fucking kill somebody?. What the fuck do these fucking demons want from me? Fucking bastards I ain't no longer a person, I'm not in reality, So when u see me fucking go insane and make the news, the paper, and the fuckin federal house of horror known as the white house, Don't fucking cry or be worried because all YOU people fucking caused this shit. fuck a boston bombinb wait till u see the shit I do, I'ma be famous for rapping, and beat every murder charge that comes across me!

ments from people that were thinking this was a free speech issue, I got a lot of grief from other police chiefs saying, "See, we told you not to do that". But, you know what? People making negative comments is OK, because this is America. People have the right to say what they want to say."

"Now, as for our social media, swearing, false allegations, or fighting with other people [on Methuen police social media sites] those things violate the rules, we take that down. But if you look at my Facebook or particularly my Twitter, people say a lot of negative things, particularly about me."

"But, as long as they don't violate the rules, I don't mind the negativity. I mean, if you paid attention to anything about me in the last seven years, I'm not new to being slapped around the news media. So, we take the good with the bad, as long as people follow the rules and it's a good conversation. We put out the facts of the case, and in this case some people were pro and some con, but as long as nobody is attacking each other or swearing, that's actually good because its engaging."

Online Hysteria

In a statement from Tiffiny Cheng, Co-Director of The Center for Rights, she states:

"The Center for Rights launched a petition for Cameron D'Ambrosio about 48 hours ago and we have seen an overwhelming response and outpouring of support. First Amendment issues are very important to many Americans, and it seems a lot of people out there are thinking, 'that could be me.' So far, we have collected over 50,000 signatures in support of Cam's release, and our page with Cam's story has been seen by nearly

D'AMBROSIO: PAGE 34

After you read this kid's story, you'll think twice about what you post on Facebook. (And that's the problem.)

Meet Cameron D'Ambrosio. He's 18 and lives in a small town outside Boston. He wants to be a rapper and calls himself "Cammy Dee" in his YouTube videos.

Oh, and he's been locked up without bail for weeks -- facing terrorism charges and 20 years in prison -- all for something he posted on Facebook.

On May 1st, Cam was skipping school and messing around online. He posted some lyrics that included a vague reference to the Boston Marathon Bombing and called the Whitehouse a "federal house of horror." Shortly after that he was arrested and charged with Communicating a Terrorist Threat, a felony that carries 20 years in prison.

The post contained no specific threat of violence against any person or group of people, and in the context of the rest of the lyrics and Cam's rap persona, it was clearly nothing more than a metaphor. A search of Cam's house found NO evidence that he was planning any violence, but a judge still ordered him held *without bail* for the next 3 months, pending trial.

Like our page to stay in touch and get updates about Cam's case.



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State Auditor Bump on Waste Fraud, Abuse in the Welfare System

30,000 Missing EBT Cards, Dead People Getting Benefits, Deval in Denial

Massachusetts State Auditor Suzanne Bump's office released an audit of the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance (the state's welfare agency).

Among other things, Bump's audit found 1,164 dead people receiving welfare benefits, and 30,000 blank EBT cards (welfare cash cards) completely unaccounted for.

Instead of embracing Bump's objective financial report, Governor Patrick has chosen to quibble over some of the more meaningless numbers released in the audit.

Valley Patriot Publisher Tom Duggan interviewed Auditor Bump on his WCAP radio program, Paying Attention, on Saturday June 1st. Here is what Bump had to say about the audit and the controversy:

What is a State Auditor and what is your function in State Government?

This is an office that has existed since 1850, when the voters passed an initiative calling for an auditor to follow the money being spent by government. What we do when we follow the money [is], we look at state agencies policies and procedures, make sure they are following their own internal controls, and we test whether they have the sufficient controls in place to prevent the waste, abuse, and fraud of the public's money.

This office is to uphold the public interests and public trust. We go into [state] agencies and ask, what are your policies and procedures, test whether they are following them, ask whether they are efficient and then we publicize the results.

TROUBLE AT DTA - TAKING PEOPLE'S WORD FOR IT

Over a year ago, we started our audit of the Department of Transitional Assistance. Under our mandate, we have to audit some aspects of every department's activities on a three years basis. So, it was time to audit DTA and what we focus on, like we did with our Medicaid audit of MassHealth last fall, we focused on their policies of determining eligibility.

So, an applicant comes in, they apply for assistance, what are the policies that case workers follow in order to certify someone is eligible or benefits?

Then, we also look at the controls they had in place over the EBT cards. Are they physically keeping the EBT cards safe so people can't steal the cards, and work with someone in the agency to load them up with benefits and use them? Are they making use of all the tools they have to track EBT transactions, and

"They [DTA officials] should have realized this was a problem because, it had only been a couple of years before when they, in-fact, had employees who were taking blank cards, loading them with benefits and then using the cards themselves, or giving them to friends who were using them."

~MA State Auditor Suzanne Bump



find out if benefits are being misused or abused.

Those are three major element of an audit.

What we found [at DTA] was that they were not using all the tools they had, particularly with regard the Social Security database to determine whether folks are who they say they are.

They couldn't account for 30,000 blank EBT cards.

Furthermore, in some offices that we visited, the cars were pretty much out in the open, and they weren't making use of all the technological tools that they have themselves, already at their disposal, to detect suspicious patterns of EBT card use.

WHAT IS A BLANK EBT CARD?

When you apply for benefits and you get approved, the staff at the regional office has the EBT cards there and they are blank, it's like a blank debit card. They are supposed to be kept in a safe and secure location. Only authorized people are supposed to have access to them. When they get delivered, it's like an armored car delivery, you know, they are supposed to keep track of what comes in and what goes out.

Well, 30,000 [blank EBT] cards couldn't be accounted for, according to their own records.

Also, in some locations, they were not properly stored. You certainly shouldn't allow applicants to have access to them, but in at least one location, they were not only accessible to the general staff, but by applicants who were coming in and going through interviews to find out if they were eligible.

They [DTA officials] should have realized this was a problem because, it had only been a couple of years before when they, in-fact, had employees who were taking blank cards, loading them with benefits and then using the cards themselves, or giving them to friends who were using them.

As recently as 2010 they had people who were prosecuted for this.

So this should have been a control

that was upper most in their mind, that needed to be followed up on all the time, and they were lax about that. So that was the deficiency.

Audits make government work better.

I will tell you, all of the deficiencies that we found in our audit, are things that they [the Department of Transitional Assistance officials] themselves acknowledged before this audit was complete. The final product was put out this week. Months ago, we met with the new commissioner to tell her what we found. All of the recommendations we made to her was contained in her 100 Day Plan.

An audit is a snapshot in time. It is not a snapshot of what is going on today in that office, but it's a snapshot of what was going on at the time we did the audit. So, they are already working on fixes and, in some cases, already completely implemented fixes that we recommended, but this gives you a snapshot of how bad things were before.

Did Deval Patrick's administration embrace this and say 'we are going to fix it, so more needy people can get benefits?'

It's very curious to say they did not.

They did not embrace it and say 'we recognize that, and here's our plan, and we are fixing these things,' which would have been an appropriate response. They have a good story to tell. Instead, they are saying all our numbers are wrong.

All we did was match their numbers with the Social Security database, and more specifically, the list that Social Security provides on whose [Social Security] numbers have been put away because the person is deceased.

When we did the match, what we found was that there were heads of households who, according to the Social Security system, were dead. [We also found] dependents whose guardians were getting benefits. Those dependents were either dead or using a dead person's Social Security number.

So, that suggests that the system being used by the agency of just accepting people at their word when they come in and apply, rather than checking it against

the Social Security database, is not a good practice. It's a practice that allows for abuse and fraud. And it's a practice they are changing and fixing.

We didn't get feedback on the findings that we had [at DTA] when we matched the heads of household to the Social Security death list.

What they did give us feedback on was, they [DTA] said that our number of 178 dependents whose Social Security numbers were either dead, or people using dead Social Security numbers was wrong, but they wouldn't allow us to test how it is that they reached their conclusions about it.

Without our ability to test the findings, we can't accept them because that's the whole essence of auditing. You get the data and you have to verify it.

What seemed to have happened with this 178? They reviewed their files months after the snapshot was taken, they had updated their files, but at the time we took that snapshot there were 178.

They had a good story to tell. It's unfortunate that we are in the weeds about details that truly are irrelevant to them fixing the problem, which they are in the process of doing.

Every 3 years we look at some aspect of an agency. Consider how big some of these agencies are, and how many facets of their operation they have policies for. So, when we decide what we are going to audit, we look at risk. Where is the greatest chance that a system could fail, or public money would be wasted, or public services would not be delivered the way they are supposed to be?

Then we look also at relevance. What is happening now in that agency that is a public concern? What's an initiative that hadn't been examined before?

It [the EBT card system] hadn't been looked at before, there's a lot of money involved and that's why we looked at it.

ILLEGALS & NON-RESIDENTS GETTING BENEFITS

A few months ago, when we did put out an audit of MassHealth, the Medicaid program, we found that in general, just as in DTA, they were relying on people at the stations. They were taking people's words as to their Social Security numbers, they were also taking their word as to where they lived. So, we found that there were folks who had come in on medical visas from other countries that were applying for, and being approved for MassHealth coverage, as well as folks who didn't belong here in the first place, such as those from out of state because they weren't checking it... even when

EBT FRAUD: PAGE 30

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Lantigua Spends \$32K to Conceal Payments to DiAdamo Law Firm



"... what Mayor Lantigua and City Attorney Charlie Boddy are doing is, they are using your public money to hire a law firm out of Boston, to prevent you the public from getting access to documents you already paid for. It's like something out of the Twilight Zone."

~ Tom Duggan, Publisher The Valley Patriot

Records obtained by The Valley Patriot reveal that Lawrence Mayor William Lantigua has spent a stunning amount of state taxpayer's money, (\$32,178.51), to fight the release of public records regarding legal bills and rental payments to Carmine and William DiAdamo.

The DiAdamo and DiAdamo Law Firm has been paid millions of dollars over the last ten years representing the City of Lawrence on worker's compensation claims, rental payments made to the DiAdamos for the Lawrence School Department Central Offices on Essex Street, payments made for their representation of the Greater Lawrence Sanitary District and the city's Workforce Investment Board.

CONCEALING DIADAMO'S PUBLIC RECORDS

Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan initially filed the public records request for DiAdamo's public payments in February of 2012.

Mayor Lantigua's office claimed they never received that request. The Valley Patriot refiled in July of 2012.

Under Massachusetts' Public Records Law, (MGL. CH 66), public records must be turned over within ten days of request by any member of the public.

Mayor Lantigua refused to turn over the DiAdamo payment records, first claiming the documents were not public (despite Boddy's letter claiming the contrary, to the right) then, after being ordered to turn them over by a judge and the Secretary of State's Office, he sent payment slips that had the dollar amounts blacked out.

In court, Lantigua claimed (through Jeremy Evans of Foley and Hoag) that the amount of money paid to Carmine and William DiAdamo for work they do for the City of Lawrence was "privileged".

Essex County Superior Court Judges Thomas Murtaugh (last October) and Robert Cornetta (last month) both rejected those claims at separate hearings, and ordered the City of Lawrence to comply with The Valley Patriot's records request in full.

Judge Cornetta said that the public has the right to know how their government is spending taxpayer dollars, citing "transparency in government".

"It would seem to me, your client should understand by now that Mr. Duggan is not going away. This matter is not going away," Judge Cornetta told Attorney Evans.

Cornetta said that the city had until May 31, 2013 to turn over the complete information sought by The Valley Patriot on DiAdamo payments.

LANTIGUA RELEASES MONEY PAID TO OTHER LAWYERS WHILE CONCEALING DIADAMO PAYMENTS

As of the publication of this story, (June 11, 2013), Mayor Lantigua still refuses to release public records on payments made to DiAdamo, but has no problem complying with records requests by others concerning other law firms representing the city.

The letter to the bottom right on this page shows that the Lantigua Administration answered a records request by a

Richard Russell from Lawrence. Russell asked for and received the total amount of money paid (\$32,178.51) to the Law Firm of Foley and Hoag.

That's the law firm Lantigua hired to fight The Valley Patriot's request for public records concerning the millions of dollars the DiAdamos have made off the City of Lawrence.

WHY IS LANTIGUA CONCEALING DIADAMO'S PUBLIC PAYMENTS?

"The fact is, City Attorney Charles Boddy sent us a letter last year stating that the information we requested were indeed public records," Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan said. "This should never have gone to court."

"Lantigua is purposely concealing how much money he paid to the DiAdamo Law Firm, and the taxpayers ought to be asking why? Why is Lantigua spending so much money to stop public record from coming to light?"

"The City Attorney's letter said he would turn over the documents if we paid the city \$61.81, claiming it would take merely two hours to produce these public bills. He took our check; he cashed our check, and then refused to turn over the records. Now think about this..." Duggan continued.

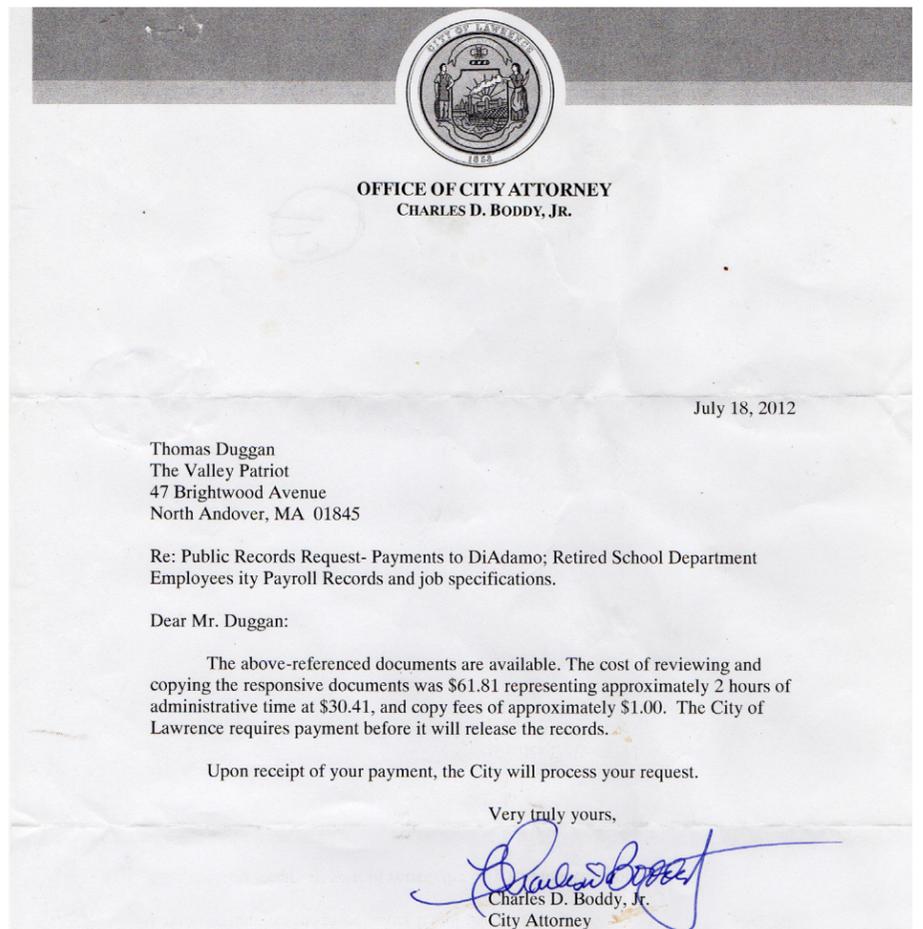
"... What Mayor Lantigua and City Attorney Charlie Boddy are doing is, they are using your public money to hire a law firm out of Boston, to prevent you, the public from getting access to documents you already paid for. It's like something out of the Twilight Zone."

"On top of all that, we have incurred thousands of dollars in legal bills to fight for these DiAdamo documents, documents that their letter said should have only cost us \$61.81. We will be looking to recover those costs."

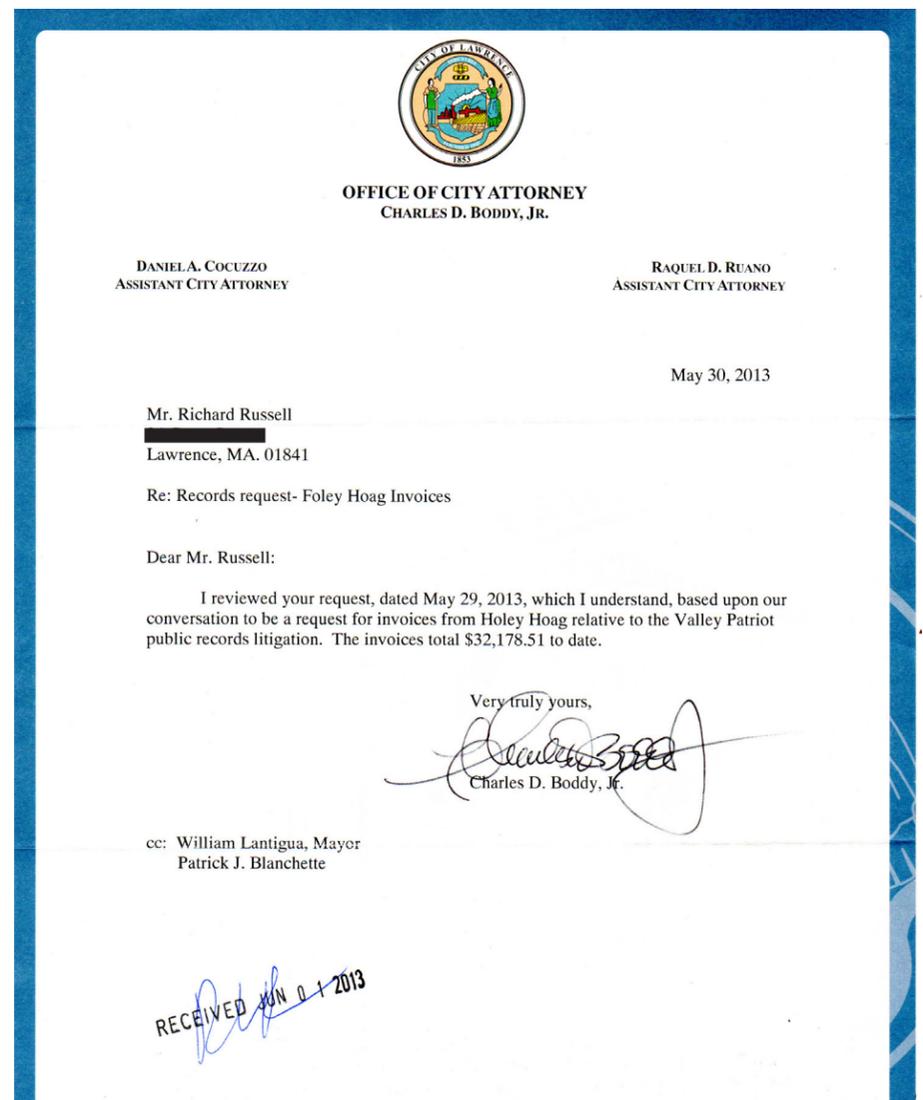
"Lantigua doesn't care because it's not his money, so at the end of the day, he gets to use unlimited amounts of money to actively protect Carmine and William DiAdamo's public payments from coming to light. No wonder he is always smiling. He gets to screw the taxpayers and make them pay for it."

"So now, here we are. More than a year after our state mandated ten-day public records request. Here we are more than a year after Lantigua took my check for \$61.81. More than a year after Mayor Lantigua cashed my check for \$61.81. Then he not only refuses to give us the DiAdamo records, but also slapped everyone in the face along the way and got away with it."

"He slapped Secretary of State Bill Galvin's Office in the face. He has slapped Judge Murtaugh and Judge Cornetta, indeed the entire court system, in the face. He continues to slap the taxpayers in the face. And yet, no judge has imposed any fines, sanctions, or granted us legal fees. No government agency has stepped in to put a stop to this. No newspaper has filed a brief to stand with us in our court battle. Furthermore, we still do not have the complete information we requested about how much money William and Carmine DiAdamo are making on the state taxpayers who, by the way, are paying all the bills



Letter to The Valley Patriot from the city attorney stating DiAdamo's public payments are indeed public records and that it would only cost \$61.81 to obtain.



Letter to Richard Russel disclosing legal bills for Foley and Hoag, the law firm that Mayor Lantigua hired to fight The Valley Patriot's public records request in court.

in Lawrence."

"This is such a waste," Duggan concluded in frustration. "That \$32,000 dollars spent to fight our \$61 records request could have hired a police officer. It could have hired a firefighter. Lawrence has a City Attorney they are already paying more than \$120,000 a year to handle these issues. His name is Charles Boddy, the very same guy who said in writing (above) that these documents were public and would only cost us

\$61.81. What does that tell you about what is really going on in Lawrence?"

FIRED BY SULLIVAN AFTER LOSING TRAFICANTI CASE, RE-HIRED BY LANTIGUA UPON ARRIVAL

The DiAdamo Law Firm was representing the City of Lawrence in worker's compensation claims made by city workers under the Sullivan administration. But Sullivan refused to renew their contract after

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE: DIADAMO PAYMENTS

they lost the Andrea Traficanti case.

Andrea Traficanti was a city worker who claimed that she was permanently and totally disabled, and cannot ever work again because of the stress she endured at Lawrence City Hall when Mayor Sullivan yelled at her.

Her attorney, Michael Torrisi on December 10, 2008, filed the disability claim.

Traficanti, who is now married to DPW director Frank McCann, (who was her boyfriend and immediate supervisor at the time), won her stress-related workers' compensation claim, filing for said benefits shortly after Mayor Michael J. Sullivan stated that he was about to lay her off due to Lawrence's severe budgetary constraints.

Traficanti was making \$53,000 a year as the Projects Planner for the city, and answered directly to her (then) live-in boyfriend, DPW Director, Frank McCann, who was under fire for allegedly mispending city money on construction projects.

Traficanti's award amounted to \$612.06 per week, tax-free. The award was retroactive from the date of alleged loss (January 4, 2007). Traficanti was also awarded continuing medical costs, attorney fees and expenses. The award was won at a conference before a judge.

The weekly compensation of \$612.06 was based upon her average weekly wage of \$1,020.10.

While Traficanti's claim (that she was

too stressed to ever work again) was working its way through the worker's compensation process, she applied for the Highway Commissioner's job in Haverhill.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST NOT DISCLOSED

While the DiAdamo Law Office was representing the City of Lawrence against Traficanti's workers' compensation claim, they continued to serve as special counsel for Greater Lawrence Sanitary District (GLSD), where Frank McCann (Traficanti's husband) had been a Board Member since the year 2000.

In a letter dated August 26, 2008 from the DiAdamo Law Office about their pay from the GLSD, it states:

"We are special counsel for the GLSD for litigation matters. We bill hourly. It appears to me that roughly \$25,000 to \$30,000 would have been due and owing work performed in 2007."

Documents from GLSD, however, show payments of \$47,731 was paid to DiAdamo Law Office in 2007. Documents also show that in 2006, the DiAdamo Law Office made \$108,733 for legal services.

According to a letter by Richard Hogan, Executive Director for GLSD; "Frank McCann is a member of the GLSD Board of Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners approve all bills and contracts and there are no outstanding bills of DiAdamo Law Office."

Also, according to Hogan, no conflict of interest documents (called a 268A) were submitted to GLSD or the City Attorney's office between January 1, 2001 to present.

In short, DiAdamo never properly disclosed in writing the potential conflict of interest representing the city against Traficanti while working for her husband, Frank McCann, on the GLSD Board

at the same time. DiAdamo also never disclosed the fact that their law office had previously represented the Lawrence DPW in worker's compensation claims, as McCann was the DPW director for the City of Lawrence.

Lawrence Mayor William Lantigua rehired the DiAdamo Law Firm after succeeding Mayor Sullivan in 2010.

Since that time, Lantigua was also represented in court by the DiAdamo Law firm in a personal matter involving a restraining order filed against Lantigua for something that happened in a local nightclub.

William DiAdamo told the Eagle Tribune that he had no idea who was paying his bill when he represented Lantigua and Patrick Blanchette, (Lantigua's Economic

Table with columns: INVOICE #, P.O., INV DATE, VOUCHER, WARRANT, CHECK #, INVOICE RET, DUE DATE, TYPE, SIB, INVOICE DESCRIPTION. It lists various invoices from the DiAdamo Law Firm, many of which are redacted with black bars.

Payments Made to the DiAdamo Law Firm Blacked out by Lantigua

Development Director) in the restraining order hearing.

"Did the Lantigua Administration bill the tax payers for his personal matter in court? Did anyone ever pay that bill? Did DiAdamo represent Lantigua and Blanchette for free because Lantigua signs his contract with the city?" asked Tom Duggan.

"We don't know what the taxpayers actually paid for because Lantigua refuses to turn over the documents showing the DiAdamo payments. Its time the public start asking Lawrence City Councilors, candidates for office, and law enforcement officials: what does Lantigua have to hide, and how many laws does he have to break before someone actually puts a stop to it?"

The Declaration of Independence vs. City of Lawrence

Peter Larocque VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

According to the Declaration of Independence, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, are unalienable rights of all the people endowed by their Creator. To secure these rights, Governments are instituted deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, the people! Whenever any form of Government becomes destructive of these Rights, it is the right of the people to alter, or abolish it, and institute new Government! This all sounds so wonderful and good, but for some reason the above doesn't seem to apply to the City of Lawrence. Why is that?

In the span of three days, May 10 through May 12, 2013, there was a column and an editorial concerning the Lawrence School Committee printed in the daily newspaper. On Friday May 10, 2013, there was a column by Keith Eddings entitled, "State education takeover dulls interest in running for School Committee". Then on Sunday May 12, 2013, there was an editorial entitled, "Time to reinvent the Lawrence School Committee". Both of these make reference to the fact that the people of Lawrence no longer have meaningful input when it comes to the education of their children. Sadly, this was all accomplished in the light of day by those who were elected to represent the people of

Lawrence. Add to this, millions of state and federal dollars are being spent in the name of reforming the education system for Lawrence's children without any accountability by anyone in Governor Deval Patrick's administration! What does the Patrick administration stand to gain by the lack of transparency in the state takeover of Lawrence's public schools?

Unfortunately, Mayor Lantigua has successfully convinced the citizens and parents of Lawrence that the state takeover of their school system is a good thing. The State Receiver/Superintendent, Mr. Riley, has also successfully convinced the same that his turnaround plan for the failing Lawrence public schools is their only hope. Unfortunately, their success has also removed most parental concerns even though it was minimal to begin with, parents can just move along because there is nothing to see here!

Mayor Lantigua and Receiver Riley along with the politicians, whom we have elected to represent us, have successfully removed all checks and balances to this takeover of Lawrence's public schools by the State Department of Education! What are they hiding? Is there any local or state elected officials who gives a damn? Have they all drunk the same Kool-Aid?

In the opening paragraph of this column, I referred to the very document that mentioned what to do when government



no longer represented the interest (the people's rights) of the people governed, [what to do when the government became destructive of these ends], that it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it and institute new government! Well folks, the people of Lawrence did exactly that!

Back in 2010 and 2011 there were a series of meetings under the City Charter Review, (required by the City Charter every 10 years), and it was during these meetings new recommendations to the City Charter were put forth concerning the Lawrence School Committee, how it was to be elected and how the committee itself was to appoint a Chairman and Vice-Chairman. To make a long story short, the new recommendations could not be imple-

mented because of the style of government Lawrence has which is a strong powerful Mayor and a lesser powerful City Council. To change this, it would take the Mayor, the City Councilors, and those representing Lawrence in our State Legislature all agreeing to do so. Clearly this is a case where those elected to represent the people are telling the governed, the people, how they are to be governed, rather than the governed, the people, telling the elected how they wanted to be governed. The old cart before the horse scenario!!!

This is truly Massachusetts politics at its best! A heavily Democrat progressive party ruled type of government! This is why

LAWRENCE: PAGE 33

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Parental Alienation Syndrome

D. B. Langevin

VALLEY PATRIOT LESBIAN COLUMNIST

When parents are denied the right to have contact with their children you have what is called Parental Alienation Syndrome or PAS. This is not simply a burden that an alienated parent must bear, but their children too, must deal with being forced to live without one of the strongest bonds in their life: the bond between a child and his or her parent. Although calculated, the abusive damage being done to the child is often unknowingly committed.

Last month I introduced you to Derek, a father who is victim to a vindictive ex-wife and a corrupt Massachusetts divorce court system. Derek introduced me to PAS, a term and affliction I had never heard of before. According to Dr. Reena Sommer, Parental Alienation Syndrome is defined as:

"The deliberate attempt by one parent (and/or guardian/significant other) to distance his/her children from the other parent and in doing so, the parent engages the children in the process of destroying the affectional ties and familial bonds that once existed..."

Derek's ex-wife systematically denied his right as a parent to see and even speak with his children to the extent that they believed he had abandoned them. Derek, as devastating as it was, did his best to respect the confines of the bogus restraining order placed on him by a corrupt court system so that he would not end up in jail, only to have his children after two long years, tell a court ordered psychiatrist that they were no longer interested in seeking a relationship with their father.

As a parent, my heart sank when Derek shared this with me. I felt my blood drain, then boil, and I felt sick to my stomach thinking what it would be like to hear this from my own children. It is unconscionable that any parent would do this to another and, in essence, their own children.

Anyone who seeks to exact revenge or the destruction of their ex-partner's relationship with their own children is only seeing the pain it will inflict on the adult in this situation. They are so blinded by their own hate and anger that they cannot see the incredible and long-lasting damage they are causing their own children. "In these cases, children become the victims. They cannot win or defend themselves. It robs children of security and embeds in their minds falsehoods about the targeted parent that are injurious to their own psyche and their sense of self"(Sommer).

Ultimately, the only way to please the alienating parent is for their child to turn against the parent being targeted. The alienating parent forces their children to choose between two of the most important people in their lives. "The guilt they

experience when their parents first separate is exacerbated by the added stress of being made to feel that their love for one parent is contingent on their abandoning the other."

How does a parent do this without seeing the damage it is doing to their own flesh and blood? It is calculated brain-washing of oneself and one's children. They use their own children as "spokespersons for their hatred", soldiers in their battle to destroy their imagined enemy and pawns in a war where there will be no winners.

What is most frightening is neither the parent nor the children are aware of what is happening. It is difficult for children to protect themselves against one parent's campaign against the other, and it is often so damaging that the effects are difficult to reverse.

According to my research, there are three types of 'alienators'. Type one is known as the Naïve Alienator. Almost every divorcing parent, at one time or another, exhibits this behavior. It is expressed when their anger gets the better of them and they lash out verbally in front of their child or children.

"I can't afford that. Your father makes more money than me. Tell him to buy it for you." These parents are very much aware and respect the relationship their ex has with their children, but some times lose 'their cool'. Because they can separate their own feelings from their children's, they encourage and support the relationship the children have with the other parent. They are secure in knowing that their children are capable of needing and loving both parents equally. As a result, communication between both parents is frequent, respectful and healthy for all involved.

The type two alienator is the Active Alienator. This is the parent who often feels like they are losing control due to being angry and hurt over the loss of their relationship with their partner. They may return to court to have the legal system hash out problems between them rather than working them out together. They will point out their ex's imperfections and/or inconsistencies to their children,

"She's late again. She was late when we were dating, late when we were married and she's still late. You're probably going to miss your practice and it will be all her fault."

In reality, these parents are doing their best and want their children to have a good relationship with the other parent, but their own feelings get in the way and frustration sets in. They apologize and try to mend the damage that has been done.

The type three alienator is the Obsessed Alienator. They are unable to separate their own feelings for the ex-partner

SYNDROME: PAGE 33

MORALTY MATTERS

Why is There a Left and a Right?

Paul Murano

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

In considering the great left/right divide of contemporary culture it's important to ponder beneath the surface on the reasons why. There is much debate in the media on surface political issues, yet it is rare to hear discussion on why there are two poles of thought, and why different basic premises of life are adopted by different people leading to sharp disagreement on social and moral issues.

There seems to be two fundamental complementary principles universally recognized throughout history.

The Chinese called it the Yin and the Yang, the Greeks the animus and anima. In popular culture you had Cupid and Psyche, Romeo and Juliet, John Wayne and Marilyn Monroe. Additionally, every unit, body, and organization has a head and heart, authority and generosity, leadership and nurturing.

The two sides of love are justice and mercy, truth and compassion, punishment and forgiveness, signifying the masculine and feminine dimensions that ultimately reflect the two "sides" of God. These two poles reflect the divine by distinguishing themselves as individuals while coming together in unity, resulting in trinity.

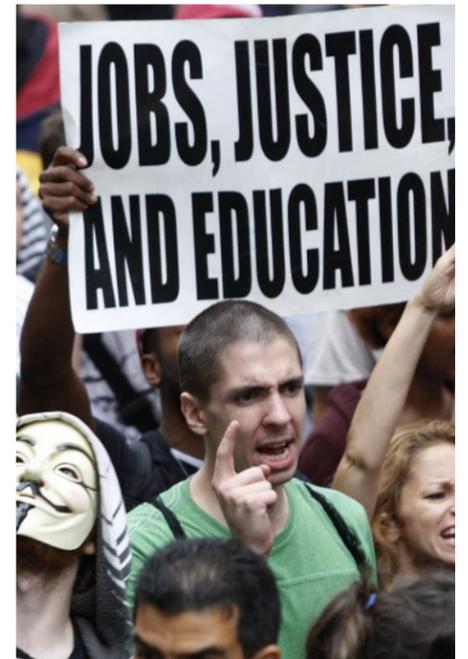
For example, hydrogen and oxygen is water, hot and cold is warm, a man and woman make marriage, and male and female reproductive cells create a child. The two become one, to become three. This is the great mystery of life.

One irony of our era is that while the roles of male and female have deliberately become blurred, the masculine and feminine of politics and culture have become much more pronounced and polarized. The left and right today have very different visions of reality, but without a bridge that brings them together.

The masculine and feminine poles in the political realm include liberty and equality, excellence and fairness, law and leniency, obligations and rights. They have become battle lines rather than sources of mutual attraction, and hence American society is divided. At no time since the Civil War has this become so apparent.

Head and heart have lost many of the organic pathways that keep them connected as one body.

While conservatism representing the masculine aspect of society (the head) properly seeks to lead and protect the body, liberalism representing the feminine (the heart) focuses on nurturing the internal and assisting the needy. While the danger in the former is the easy abuse of power, the latter is two-edged sword: While a mother would defend her criminal son and accuse the cop or judge for being mean, so too the cultural left on its own denies unpleasant truths and creates its own subjective reality, often out



of displaced compassion. We all want a pitbull mom when we're in trouble; but when truth, justice and law become higher values, as they tend to be with the cultural right, compassion then takes its proper place.

When objective truth is denied and when the heart is not led by the head there is confusion and chaos.

On the other hand, when the head is not inspired and prompted by the heart, trouble and misfortune often ensues. The head seeks respect, the heart love. Truth without love is harsh, and love without truth is pure sentimentality.

This is the mark of our age, caused by the lack of integration between the masculine and the feminine. It is no coincidence that while most men that marry become more responsible, most women that marry become more grounded and conservative.

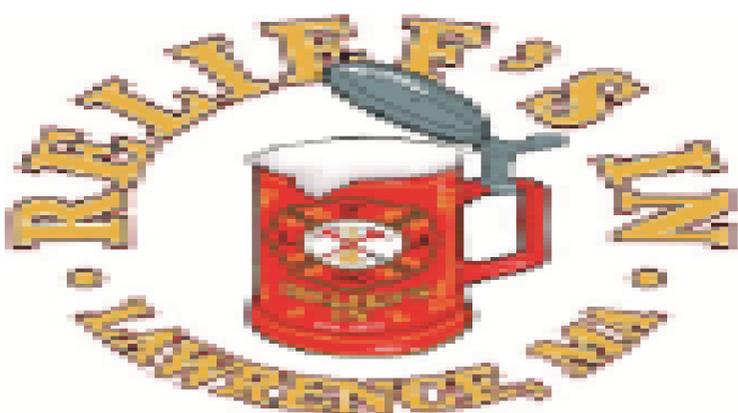
Left unchecked the cultural left will continue to create a false reality out of fear, disordered desire, and displaced compassion, couched in politically correct language and attack-the-messenger tactics. It will continue to feed the moral chaos and culture of death until she is led by a cultural right that is trusted.

Only then will the two poles attract - head and heart, masculine and feminine, right and left - and the balance of order be harmoniously restored.



Paul Murano teaches philosophy at North Shore Community College and Middlesex Community College, and theology at the College of Saint Mary Magdalen. He hosts Beneath the Surface talk radio show on 980 WCAP Sunday nights 10pm-midnight, hosts the BTS TV show at Burlington Cable Access TV, and is co-host of the Paying Attention! radio program on Saturday mornings. Paul is also chairman of Heartbeat Pregnancy Help center in Burlington and is a singer/songwriter/musician.

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Is LeapFrog Group Ratings Bought and Paid For? PART II

Dr. Padmanabhan
VALLEY PATRIOT GUEST COLUMNIST

Last month I introduced readers to the fraud known as the Leapfrog Quality Rank and how it gives hospitals a way to steal millions from taxpayers via Medicare, as well as from all of us via insurance premiums.

The Leapfrog concept was the brain-child of Harvard's Professor Lucian Leape who hit upon scaring physicians into thinking they kill 100,000 patients every year and that by hiring Leapfrog, the consultancy that he founded, the matter would be resolved to the advantage of both. The 100,000 number itself is the definition of dubious. Dr. Leape's original paper gave the range as 48,000 – 98,000 deaths a year, a suspiciously broad range. This was helpfully rounded up to 100,000 by the folks employed to drive up business, who never ever mentioned the 48,000 again, a telling omission. The patients themselves naturally got lost along the way.

For a fraud to be successful, it has to create the desired aura, the look and feel, the authenticity that movie directors strive for. And the creator of the fraud must be regarded as a pillar of society, like Bernie Madoff. The fake aura and impression is then actively reinforced by endlessly repeated statements extolling the creator of the fraud, initially by persons benefitting from the fraud and then by fellow

travelers - statements such as "Dr. Leape is a World Leader in Patient Safety." The fraud is then helped further by getting into bed with politicians, especially those with rule-making power in the realm of health-care like Secretary Kathleen Sebelius in Washington DC, or members of the Massachusetts Congressional delegation.

In this column, I shall concentrate on Cambridge Hospital, the public hospital run by Cambridge that allows Dr. Leape to pose as the World Leader in Patient Safety. As a hospital Trustee affiliated closely with longtime Chief of Medicine, Dr. David Bor, Dr. Leape has enormous influence over the workings of the place. It also serves as the locale for his writings, much like Lake Wobegone in Garrison Keillor's musings, writings that are as fraudulent as Bernie Madoff's monthly statements.

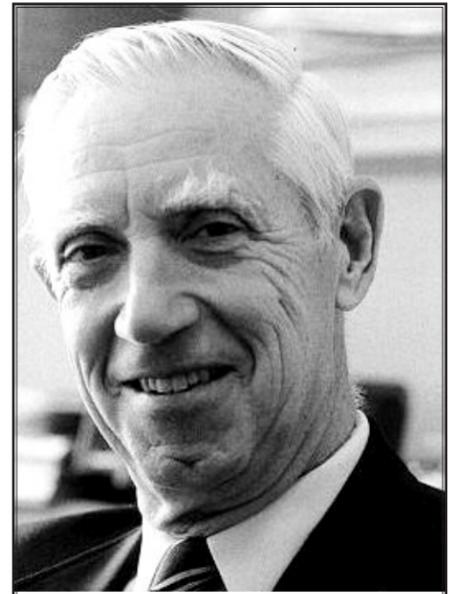
One of Dr. Leape's most famous and oft-repeated statements, based he claims, on the ongoing experience of special teams he has set up at Cambridge Hospital, is that root cause analysis of major errors in hospitals must be non-punitive. Meaning the individuals who committed the error should not be named and shamed as this prevents people from exposing the error allowed by the system. It is, in other words, hate the error, and love the error-maker. What we are told is that all major errors at Cambridge Hospital are religiously chased down, analyzed, and

lessons are learned from them from a systems perspective, which Dr. Leape then publishes for the benefit of humanity.

I worked at Cambridge Hospital for three years and I did not ever see this in action. I encountered numerous egregious errors where patients were exposed to significant harm. No root cause analysis was done, be it punitively or not. And truth-tellers are harshly retaliated against, including falsely reporting to the Board of Medicine that the truth-teller sold prescriptions to known drug addicts, and then bribing the Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health's own attorney, Mr. James Paikos, to mislead the Board into hanging the truth-teller.

Also, major errors are not reported to the Massachusetts DPH. Now, the death of Brian Evans' mother has proved that the Massachusetts DPH does not at all care about major errors by hospitals either, but the requirement to report them is still on the books.

The warmth of the relationship between Cambridge Hospital and DPH is evidenced by Secretary Judy Ann Bigby appointing Cambridge Hospital's own Dr. Julian Harris as the Director of MassHealth, the very day after he finished residency training. This was before she herself had to be fired over the massive number of meningitis deaths as well as the Annie Dookhan state lab scandal, both of which harmed hundreds and occurred



Dr. Lucian L. Leape, founder of the LeapFrog Group

under her leadership. Dr. Julian Harris of course, soldiers on. And the Massachusetts Inspector General has officially declared he is too scared of litigation to investigate any wrongdoing at either MassHealth or Cambridge Hospital.

Cambridge Hospital's errors thus provide us with a unique opportunity to see Dr. Leape's various pronouncements in practice. The rhetoric, incessantly repeated by Dr. Leape and his various

LEAPFROG: PAGE 38

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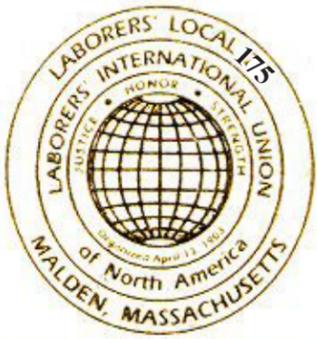
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IN YOU'R CORNER ... WITH SEN. KATIE IVES

In Support of Police Training

Senator Katy O'Connor Ives
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

May was a busy month in the Senate. It was my first budget season and per tradition in the legislature, a new legislator has to give a first formal speech - a "maiden speech" before being able to engage in discussion and debate on the floor. Senators choose this first speech carefully, because it's on a topic of particular interest, and all members of the Senate are in attendance and pay close attention to the chosen topic and remarks. At the conclusion of the speech, fellow Senators give a standing ovation and the text of the speech is placed in the Senate Journal. I wanted to share the text of my speech with you, as well as the results of the Senate vote that followed the speech.

Thank you, Madame President, and through you to the members. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and every member of this Massachusetts Senate for the warm welcome you've shown to me as a new member to this August body. I rise to speak on the floor of the Senate today in support of an amendment about which I feel strongly.

What is the worth of a well-trained police force? We know through recent experience about the value of providing consistent and high-quality police training. Now, we need to invest and support

their efforts so our officers are equipped to respond to public safety challenges with confidence and success

Today, Massachusetts ranks 50th. We're at the very bottom of the list of states in the U.S. for funding municipal police training. I speak in support of an amendment, to increase funding to the Municipal Police Training Committee in the amount of \$500,000.

The Municipal Police Training Committee is an agency of the Executive Office of Public Safety & Security, which serves the Commonwealth by establishing standards, and provides training to the 17,000 men and women who serve as municipal police officers in the Commonwealth. We should, in fact, be leading the way, and setting the standard for cutting-edge, comprehensive and uniform police training. Our standards and systems for training should be the model to which other states aspire.

Funding has fluctuated greatly for the Municipal Police Training Committee over the past 25 years, making it hard to develop systems and efficiencies in training procedures. Not only does approval of this amendment send a clear message that we value recruit training and in-service training for our municipal police officers, the tangible result will be ongoing and refresher training to ensure officers maintain the knowledge and skill levels needed to keep themselves safe, and the public safe.

The problem is that the municipal police training committee has lost the ability to proactively train police for day-to-day challenges—let alone emerging issues. There is no reliable funding mechanism to support training, and municipal police officers rely solely on legislative appropriation.

Yet we know proper training is key to the quality public safety we seek. There isn't sufficient funding right now to develop critical specialized curricula for best practices in the areas of search and seizure, incident response, SWAT team, officer safety and building searches, to reference only a few areas of increasing complexity.

In addition, resources are insufficient to meet the demand for statutorily-mandated classes like sergeant and detective basic training. Nor does the Municipal Police Training Committee have the capacity to evaluate training standards, or confirm that mandatory training standards are being met.

Fortunately, the State Police were sufficiently funded, so they may continue to respond to public safety needs with optimal systems. Today, I seek parity for municipal police training. Over 200 departments and agencies responded to the public safety needs and developments that ensued after the Marathon attacks, including officers from police departments in many of the districts of my colleagues here in this chamber.

In the example of police searches of buildings, it's critical that officers implement the same tactics and terminology for successful outcomes. Each depart-



ment should not apply individual methods for responding to incidents that involve multiples municipalities and jurisdictions. Quality training impacts how rapid, targeted, and uniform officer response will be.

The Massachusetts Municipal Police Committee seeks to update its curriculum. Their recruit curriculum hasn't been updated since 1996. Staffing has been slashed from 60 employees during the 1980s, to a current staff of 21.

Counter to the trend of under-funding the Municipal Police Training Committee, adequate investment will enable them to advance important long-term goals, one of which is the ability to offer training to develop specific career-training paths for officers, such as K-9 units, school resource officers, and sergeants. Currently, specialized training takes place only when

SENATOR IVES: PAGE 32

Common Core: Too Common for Our Kids

Christine Morabito
GREATER BOSTON TEA PARTY

At the risk of sounding elitist, Massachusetts schools should not have to lower their exceptional education standards to be equal to other states. Alabama is a very nice place, but it does not necessarily share our educational requirements, especially if we hope to compete in the high tech and medical fields that attract students and businesses from all over the world.

Common Core State Standards (CCSS), a K-12 curriculum, was designed by unelected, unaccountable special interest groups to inject "fairness" into the education systems across the nation. Adopted in 45 states, the program, concentrating on English language arts and mathematics, is scheduled to be in place by 2014. However, as concerned citizens learn the disturbing details, at least 10 states are having second thoughts - and with good reason.

Establishing an education curriculum is the responsibility of individual states and certainly not a function of the federal government. In a prime example of executive overreach, and in violation of 3 federal laws, the Obama administration has coerced states into adopting CCSS by tying their participation to federal grants for programs like Race to the Top and waivers from the epic failure that is No Child Left Behind. This gave cash-strapped states a huge financial incentive to adopt a one-size-fits-all education policy at the

expense of our children.

State legislators around the country claim they had never heard of CCSS until they began to get complaints from constituents, especially parents and some teachers, afraid of losing control over what is being taught in the classroom. Those hurt most by the new standards will be students at the very top and the very bottom of the education spectrum, as the program has little to offer gifted children or those who are struggling.

In the rush to redistribute education, there was no time for cost analysis. In states where CCSS has been adopted, legislators are now being asked to fund the program - to the tune of \$16 billion nationwide - according to a study done by the Pioneer Institute, a leader in the fight against national standards in Massachusetts since 2009. The implementation costs include funding for new technology, teacher training and the purchase of new textbooks and instructional materials.

Some of the approved textbooks have parents outraged. A lesson plan from a literature and writing book for first-graders, encourages youngsters to use negative words for maximum emotional impact and manipulation of the listener. Its companion workbook contains the following multiple choice question: "My mom always _____ me to clean my room." The choices are "tells" and "nags." Shockingly, the correct answer is "nags." Equally disturbing is the language used in promoting the frameworks which describes our

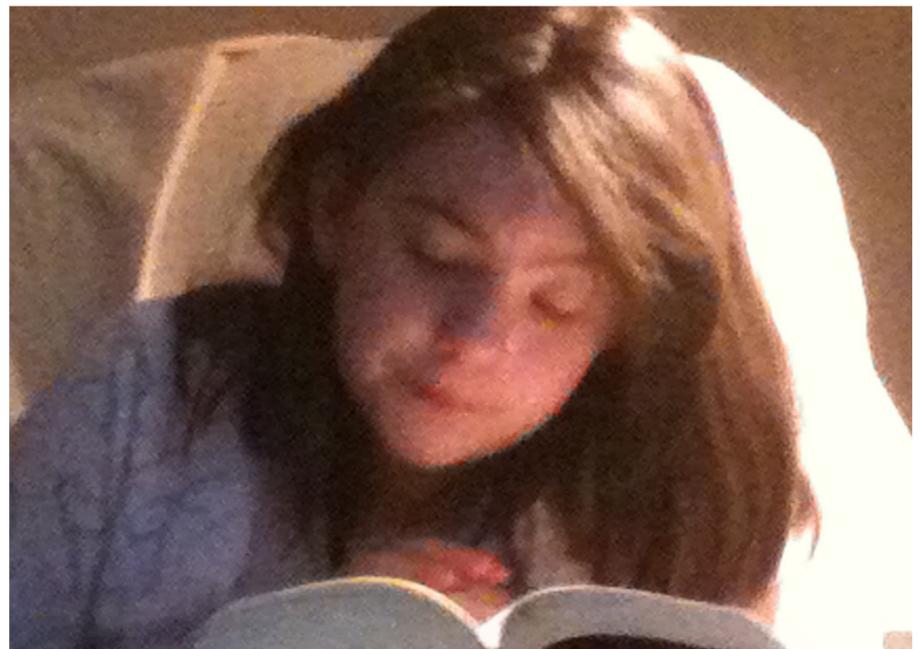


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children as "human capital."

The new guidelines ensure that teachers prepare students for state testing and little beyond that. Gone will be the promise of creating lifelong learners or challenging children who excel. While state assessments are important, they only measure minimum competencies. With these methods, what incentive will a student, a teacher, or even a school have to aspire to educational excellence?

There is no evidence that these national standards are in our children's best interest. Simply repeating the narrative that the curriculum is "rigorous" does not make it so. CCSS gives new meaning to the term "fuzzy math," which is more concerned with method than correctness. Critics say the algebra standards are mediocre and only prepare students to perform at a community college level. And parents are left frustrated by the inability to help kids with their homework.

Another area of great concern is the creation of student databases for the purpose of tracking children from school to the

workforce by including healthcare history, household income, religious affiliation and family voting status, which will be accessible to federal and state agencies. Unfortunately, it is clear from the ongoing IRS scandal that such data can be used for evil in the hands of a coercive government.

The attempt to nationalize our education system, dumb down our kids and limit parent's role in their child's learning is an issue that has caught the attention of not only the Tea Party, but citizens from across the political spectrum. That's because our children's future - for that matter, America's future - is a bipartisan issue. The Obama administration may be uncomfortable using the word "exceptionalism," but here in Massachusetts, we embrace it.



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



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Haverhill's Mayhew Makes History with All-Time Best

Mark Behan
VALLEY PATRIOT SPORTS REPORTER

Alex Mayhew is worth cheering about. If you are not familiar with Alex Mayhew, it may be because you blinked. At 5'7" and 150 pounds, he is not particularly imposing. But it's not his slight build that may have caused you to miss him. It's his speed. Alex Mayhew is fast. And after three solid – yet sometime roller coaster – years at Haverhill High School, he apparently saved his best for last. Mayhew has enjoyed not only a successful senior year, but also a historic one. This year Mayhew broke Haverhill High records for 55 meters (6.47 seconds), 100 meters (10.95), 200 meters (21.71) and the long jump (22'1"). The 55-meter and long jump marks were longstanding, lasting 23 and 40 years, respectively. The old 200-meter record (21.80) set in 1996 by Andy Alsup was once thought unbreakable, but Mayhew's 21.71 is the fastest time ever run by an athlete in the Valley Patriot readership area. "It's exciting to mention Alex's name among some of the great sprinters in Haverhill history," said Haverhill High track coach Mike Maguire. Mayhew may or may not be the best sprinter in Haverhill High history. But you'd be hard pressed to find a faster cheerleader. That's right, the young man who can run the length of a football field in about 10 seconds is adroit at doing a round-off hand-

spring, double back flip – his favorite move. A member of the Hillies cheerleading squad as a sophomore, Mayhew is a competitive cheerleader. How did he become involved in cheerleading? "I loved to do flips and tumble in my backyard," said Mayhew, who competes for East Celebrity Elite in Tewksbury and with an all-star cheerleading program. "One day someone saw me doing flips and told me that I was very good and that I should sign up for cheerleading. So I did." "And I loved it right away," Mayhew said. He said that cheerleading is great conditioning, very competitive, and helps him stay in shape for track. "We work hard," Mayhew said. As far as what others think of him cheerleading, Mayhew said that kids made fun of him on a daily basis, but that it doesn't bother him. "You have to do what you like to do. That's important," Mayhew said. Mayhew has come along way since winning the 100 meters and long jump in the annual city-wide middle school meet as an eighth-grader. He came out for track during the spring of his freshman year where he made an immediate impact, according to Maguire. As a sophomore he captured second place and eighth in the 200 meters in the MVC meet and E Mass Division 1 meet, respectively. He appeared poised for stardom. But Mayhew missed the indoor season of his

junior year because he was academically ineligible. Mayhew said he is a better student today than he was a year ago. "He did enjoy some success up to this point, but there was always a feeling he could make it to a higher level. He needed more focus and attention to what he was doing," said Maguire. Mission accomplished, as Mayhew has renewed his focus and energies on getting the most of his abilities. This winter Mayhew broke Rusty White's 23-year-old 55-meter dash record (6.50) in the finals of the New England Championship. He continued his record assault this spring, breaking Tony Pendelton's four-decade-old record (21'11-3/4") in the long jump. And he secured Joe Hicks' 100-meter record (11.04) set in 2010. On June 1, running in the finals of the 200 meters at the All-State Championship in Westfield, Mass., Mayhew clocked 21.71 to earn second place and break Alsup's mark of 21.8 – a record he had been eyeing since his freshman year. "He is a great athlete with tremendous explosiveness. But his biggest strength is his top speed. Once he gets going, he is very exciting to watch," Maguire said. As for the future, Mayhew will probably attend Northern Essex Community College next fall where he will continue to work on his grades. "Alex is a very respectful and humble kid. As a coach you want to see your student athletes develop their potential and reach their highest goals, but you also want to see



them mature and grow as individuals," Maguire said. "This year I've seen Alex grow and take responsibility. It's been the key to his success." Will he continue running track and competing in cheerleading in the future? "You have to do what you like to do," Mayhew said. "And I love doing both."



Mark Behan is a former reporter for the Haverhill Gazette and has received an award from the New England Press Association for his writing. Mark is now the local sports columnist for The Valley Patriot. Mark lives in Newton NH, you can email him at behanms@aol.com

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Under Massachusetts Law, voters may cast absentee ballots for the following reasons only:

- 1) absence from the City during polling hours (7am – 8pm); or
- 2) physical disability preventing you from going to your polling location; or
- 3) religious belief

Voters who are eligible to vote absentee and wish to vote over the counter may also do so during the normal weekday office hours of 8am to 5pm. The deadline to apply for absentee voting is Monday, 12:00 noon, June 24th – the day before the election. But voters who are requesting an absentee ballot through the mail are urged to request the ballot as soon as possible.

To request an absentee ballot through the mail, you may request an absentee ballot application from the Election & Census Commission or send a letter of request including the following: your name and Lowell address where you are registered to vote, the address where the ballot is to be sent, your signed name, your printed name, and reason for voting absentee.

Voters who are not current in the census will only be allowed to vote if they submit their ballots with a copy of identification and sign an affidavit that they still reside at the given Lowell address.

For further information about your voter registration status or absentee voting procedures, please call the Election Office at 978-674-1200.

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State Representative and City Council President Frank Moran and his candidate for City Council At-Large Wendy Luzon.



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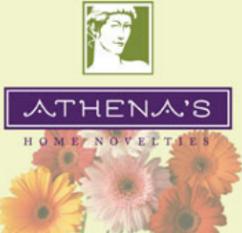
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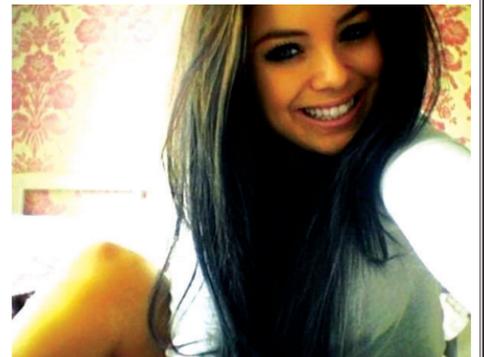
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Valley Patriots Open Season with Two Straight Wins



PHOTOS TOM DUGGAN

The 2012 True Vision, World Series Champion Valley Patriots started off the 2013 season a little sluggish against the Cougars in West Newbury last month. But, with the addition of four new players, Gena Mitchell, Joselyn Marinez Bengtson, Beth Pickles, and Christine Salvo, our Valley Patriot team rallied from behind at the bottom of the 7th inning to win with a hit from Beth to drive in the winning run. Our Patriot girls had no time winning game two against the Titans with a 6-1 victory. Beth Pickles was named player of the game in Game 1. Joselyn Marinez Bengtson was named player of the game in game 2. See our Facebook page: facebook.com/valleypatriot for game times and scores.

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TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK

Sorting Out the Scandals, Connecting the Dots

In the last few months, the American people have had to endure story after story in the news about the Obama administration's abuse of power and violations of civil liberties.

Though I rarely write about national politics or the President, I think it is important for our Valley Patriot readers to understand the gravity of government intrusions into our daily lives. It is important for our readers to understand that the only "right of privacy" anyone has, is a right to have an abortion. As for the rights of free speech under President Obama, we have lost our right to a free press, the right to bear arms, the right not to have people who work in government snoop through your laptop, monitor your phone calls and worse, turn your personal information over to political groups or the media.

Scandal By Scandal

IRS Scandals: What we learned in the last month is that people who work at the Internal Revenue Service were targeting for audit and refusing to give nonprofit status to a multitude of conservative political groups, individuals and private businesses. What happened here is that government officials inside and outside the IRS decided to use the great power of the IRS to intimidate and coerce conservative Americans and defeat them at election time.

These IRS officials collected every morsel of information about these conservative groups they deemed to be "the enemy", used our government to audit them, invade their homes and businesses, shutting some of them down, threatening them with jail time if they did not comply and worst of all, these political operatives who hijacked the power of the IRS, then took all data they collected on their "enemies" (Republicans, conservatives and Christians) and turned them over to liberal political groups and activists.

The problem with this scandal above all the others, is that we now have proof that our government can be weaponized and used against us, create an environment of fear, where people are afraid to assemble and protest their government. Weaponizing government is much less about punishing people with different views, and much more about making everyone else think twice about getting involved in the political process of trying to influence the direction of our government.

We know that this was not just a few rogue employees in the IRS; in fact most IRS employees are decent hard working people who follow the law and execute their duties of managing the nation's tax collections. This was arms of the Democrat Party and Obama campaign support-

All the Way from Greece



Paul and Alexandra Dedoglou, owners of Star Pizza of North Andover, recently took a trip to Greece for the wedding of their daughter...

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ers using our government to maintain their own power as if government power and political power were the same. In this case, they made it the same.

Possible solutions? We could abolish the IRS Its not that hard and would not take much of an effort, but it's not the most practical solution. We could create a Federal IRS Auditing Agency whose sole function would be to audit the IRS on an ongoing basis to root out fraud and abuse of power. They would be funded by the money they save reforming the IRS and keeping it efficient. They could do management audits to see what policies and procedures work and don't work, and hold the IRS to a fair standard of performance.

The fact that IRS officials spent MILLIONS of dollars on vacations called "conferences" and have no receipts for all of those millions spent... it's downright laughable. It makes a mockery of the very function of the IRS How could this happen? It happens because there is nobody overseeing the officials who run the IRS so IRS employees feel threatened and intimidated to go along with these things they normally would report

or object to. An IRS Auditor would put a stop to all that.

Benghazi, Libya: This is probably the scandal people understand the least, but is easiest to explain. The American embassy in Libya was attacked by Al-Qaeda Terrorists. They stormed the compound where our Ambassador, his security team which included marines, and other American military and civilian personnel were working. Ambassador Stevens called for backup as mobs of terrorists attacked with rocket launchers, rocks and bottles and automatic weapons.

Despite calling for backup, and despite the fact that US Marines were just a few hours away, someone ordered their backup to "stand down" meaning not to rescue our American Ambassador and the other Americans under siege on the embassy compound. Ambassador Stevens and others fought off the attack for seven hours before terrorists finally overran the compound and killed everyone.

The Obama administration told the American public that the attack was not a terrorist attack, but a spontaneous protest over a YouTube video. We now know that the Obama administration knew that

was a lie when they said it. Over and over, President Obama and his administration made this public claim knowing it wasn't true.

Why is this important? It's important because Americans are dead, and their families deserve to know why. The families of the Benghazi attack, and indeed all Americans, deserve to know who ordered the American military to stand down and leave men behind. Someone must be held accountable.

We also deserve to know why the embassy can be attacked, so that we can prevent similar attacks in the future.

Spying on the Press

If Attorney General Eric Holder was telling the truth and was simply snooping through the phone records of one or two reporters to find out who was leaking top secret documents, I would have no problem with what happened here.

But what happened here was not that. The United States Justice Department, tasked with finding out who leaked secret information, snooped through hundreds of Fox News employees' phone records. They snooped through hundreds of employees of the Associated Press. And in the case of James Rosen, a reporter for Fox News, it was Attorney General Holder himself who told a judge in a signed warrant application that Rosen was a co-conspirator for treason.

Either Attorney General Holder lied to the judge (under pains and penalties of perjury) for permission to snoop through a reporter's phone records, or he lied to Congress when he said he never even heard of a case where a reporter would be charged with such a crime.

While it is perfectly reasonable for the Justice Department to get a warrant and investigate the leaking of national secrets (especially in a time of war), it is not reasonable to pull the phone records of more than 100 employees in a news organization. That's a fishing expedition. I am sure now that the Justice Department has all those phone records. Nobody at Justice went looking to see what other government employees were talking to "conservative" reporters negatively about President Obama or the Obama administration. Can this information too, be weaponized the way the IRS has weaponized information against political "enemies" of the Obama administration?

This is one of the biggest problems we face as free Americans. We want our government to snoop when they have to, ie: during an investigation of a terrorist threat, or a domestic threat of mass violence. But we do not want the employees gathering that information to use it for nefarious political purposes, or take legitimate government power and turn it against law-abiding citizens.

NOTEBOOK: NEXT PAGE

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The NSA Snooping Through People's Phone Records:

We learned last week that the National Security Agency, tasked with counter intelligence and keeping us safe from terrorist attacks here at home, has been gathering and cataloguing all of our cell phone calls, text messages, emails, websites that we visit on line, etc. Like the Justice Department, we want the NSA (some may disagree) to snoop and spy on known terrorist threats, gather information in any way they can to stop those terrorist threats from being carried out, and keep us safe from people within the US who plot to blow us up.

But we don't want the NSA to be cataloguing every piece of electronic data they can, on every single person in the country for others to use or misuse in the future. As we saw with the IRS and Justice, people who work within these agencies have access to all this information. It's obvious with all the leaks during the Obama administration, that people who work for our federal government are not really good at keeping their own information safe, much less the information they are gathering on all of us.

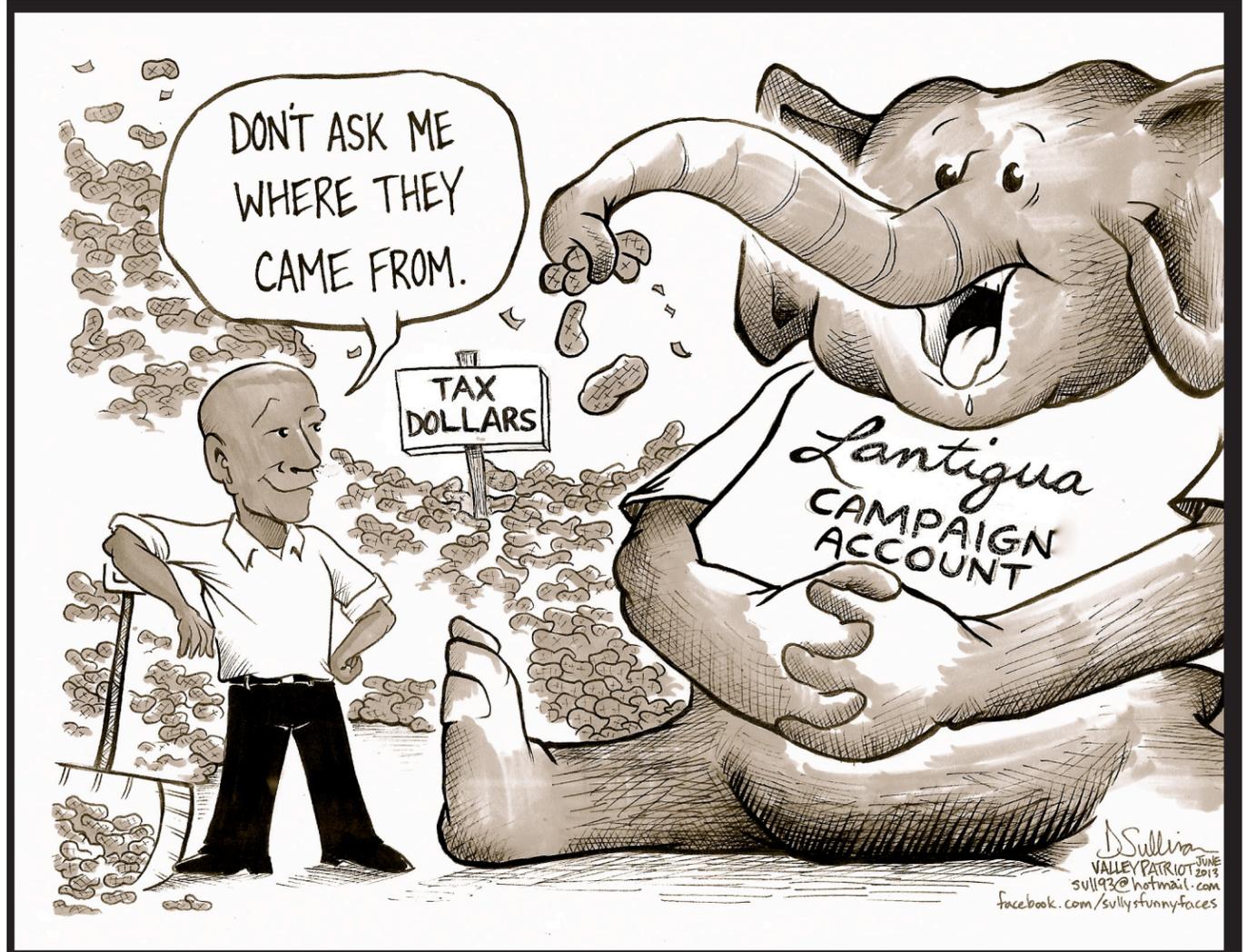
The solution to this problem is simple. If the NSA needs to troll phone records and metadata to gain an understanding of terrorist cells in the United States, fine. But as soon as the data is no longer needed it must be destroyed, not catalogued in a massive database system. This takes a simple act of Congress. Anyone caught leaking information gathered on private citizens, should suffer the same fate as anyone caught leaking national security secrets.

Summary

When you look at all of these scandals in their totality under the Obama Administration, you see a common thread. Government agencies with legitimate functions were systematically abused by employees of those agencies to achieve a particular political agenda.

That agenda was to silence, intimidate, conceal from or mislead the American people. That agenda is to punish republicans, Christians, and conservatives for daring to hold a different political opinion than the current administration.

If you ask me it is no different than having our government infiltrated by a foreign enemy spy agency using our government against us. The only difference is that those who have infiltrated and weaponized our government against us are political partisans who want to stifle free speech, silence their "enemies" and intimidate anyone else thinking about challenging their enormous political and government power.



NEWS ITEM: Lantigua political hire arrested for stealing from city garages, depositing money into campaign account.

What is most troubling about all of this is that those in charge of fixing the problem, our elected officials, have no interest or motivation to change the way that our government is abused.

Where is the call for IRS "Reform" from Congressmen Niki Tsongas and John Tierney?

Where is the bill for "Justice Department Reform" submitted Senator Warren to protect our free press?

Why is there no immediate movement in the Congress or the Senate to protect us from abuses by our own government?

The fact is, our elected leaders have the ability to move mountains when they want to. Look how quickly they passed the Patriot Act (something I support) after 911!

That's because they were motivated by you. When the public outcry is loud enough, they will respond. So motivate them! It's as easy as getting to a computer, looking up your congressman, sending them an email and telling them to get to work protecting our freedoms.

If you don't, that option may not be available the next time government overreaches.

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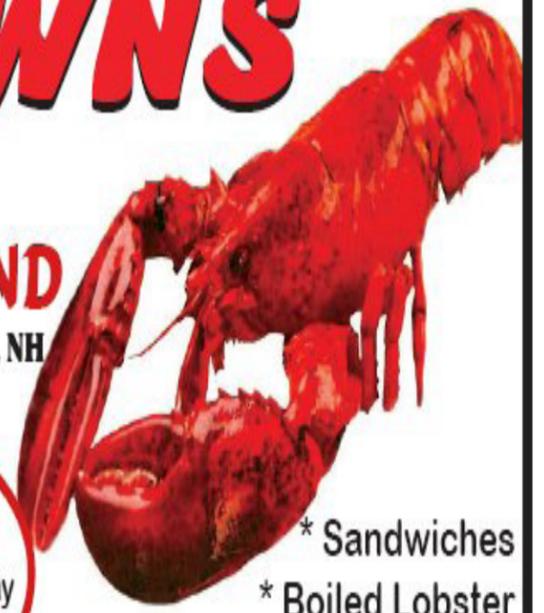
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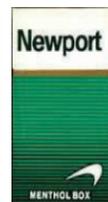
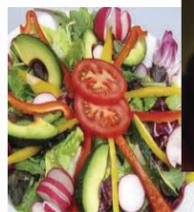
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Kelsey Butter and Marian Prescott from Markey's and Mr. Brown from Browns across the street both make amazing seafood plates. Some of our readers prefer Browns, some prefer Markey's we say try them BOTH! Nowhere on Hampton, Salisbury or Seabrook are you going to find the better tasting clams, scallops, crabs or lobsters!

Maudslay Arts Center Summer Concert Series Seeks Volunteers

Volunteers are needed for the Maudslay Arts Center Summer Concert Series, which opens with The Spinney Brothers on July 6, and concludes with The 60s Invasion on Aug. 25.

This non-profit series seeks volunteers to help set up an hour before performance time, seat patrons when they arrive, and/or serve refreshments at intermission.

Saturday concerts begin at 7 p.m. and include: The Spinney Brothers on July 6, Shirim Klezmer Orchestra on July 13, The Paul Broadnax Ensemble on July 20, Grace Kelly Jazz on July 27, The Don Campbell Band on Aug. 10, Rebecca Parris on Aug. 17, and The New Black Eagle Jazz Band on Aug. 24.

Sunday afternoon performances begin at 2 p.m. and include: Fatum Brothers Jazz on July 14, The Shaw Brothers on July 21, Hal McIntyre Orchestra "Big Band Tribute to Frank Sinatra" on Aug. 11, Liz Frame and the Kickers on Aug. 18, and The 60s Invasion on Aug. 25.

Maudslay Arts Center is located at 95 Curzon Mill Road in Newburyport. The concerts are held rain or shine, moving inside to the MAC Concert Barn when weather dictates. For further information about volunteering, call (978) 388-2552.

HAMPTON BEACH ACTIVITIES

Classic American Music, Ron Drolet
Hampton Beach Sea Shell Stage. Jun 14th. 7PM - 9PM

Catamaran Regatta, On the Water at Hampton Beach, Jun 15th, 9AM - 4PM
Price FREE: 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.

Strafford Wind Symphony
Hampton Beach Sea Shell Stage
Jun 15, 7PM - 9:30PM
Classical American Community Band.

Paul Wayne Hampton Beach Sea Shell Stage, Jun 18th, and July 23rd, 7 PM - 9:30PM, Jazz rock.

The Reminisants, Hampton Beach Sea Shell Stage. Jun 19th, and July 2nd, 7PM - 9:30PM; July 16th, 7PM - 9PM
Rock The Continentals, Hampton Beach Sea Shell Stage. Jun 22nd, and June 26th, 7PM - 9:30PM; JULY 4th, 7 PM - 9:30PM

JULY 10th. 7PM - 9:30PM - JULY 17th, 7PM - 9:30PM; JULY 24th, THE TIME IS THE SAME: 7PM - 9:30

PM. Classic dance, rock and oldies!

United States Volleyball Tournament
South Beach near the playground
Jun 22, JULY 20, 9 00 AM - 5 30 PM
9AM - 5PM. New England Beach Volleyball Tournament

Joey Scott and the Connection
Hampton Beach Sea Shell Stage
Jun 28th, 7 PM - 9:30PM
High energy entertainment

Sand Sculpting Competition
Angela West and Showdown
June 20 - 30 and from July 1-7
Mike & Me The Vic Paul Show
Hampton Beach Sea Shell Stage
Jul 9th, 7 PM - 9:30PM
Great Entertainment!

BRANDY - Hampton Beach Sea Shell Stage. Jul 8th, 7PM - 9:30PM
High Energy Entertainment

Ricco Barr and the Jumping Jive Review. Hampton Beach Sea Shell Stage
Jul 27th, 7 PM - 9:30PM, Swing

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VP

TV TALK WITH BILL CUSHING

Bates Motel

Bill Cushing

VALLEY PATRIOT TELEVISION COLUMNIST



Bates Motel: Great performances and smart writing make this mysterious and fun show worth watching.

I'll admit, when I first heard that a TV series prequel to 1960's 'Psycho' was being developed, I was extremely skeptical. But I decided I would give it a chance. I'm really glad I did. Not only is this drama filled with great acting performances, but the writing is very sharp and smart. The series was created by Anthony Cipriano, and comes from Executive Producers Carlton Cuse (Lost), and Kerry Ehrin (Friday Night Lights), quite an impressive resume.

The series chronicles the life of Norman Bates and his mother Norma, prior to the events portrayed in Alfred Hitchcock's big screen adaptation, but adapted to modern day. Norma purchases the rundown motel located in the coastal Oregon town of White Pine Bay so the family can start a new life after the death of her husband.

As the series unfolds, we learn that the town of White Pine Bay has many secrets, and many strange and intriguing characters. The creepy goings-on in the lives of the Bates family aren't the only weird things in this town.

Now, you would think that the character of Norman Bates would be the focal point of the series, but Norman's mother is the real star of this show. Played so brilliantly by actress Vera Fermiga (The Departed, Up In The Air). Norma steals virtually every scene she appears in. Fermiga really deserves an Emmy nomination for her work here.

Freddie Highmore (Finding Neverland, Charlie and The Chocolate Factory), plays Norman. He's perfect in the role. He's exactly as you would imagine Norman Bates to be as a teenager, teetering on the brink

between sanity and insanity.

From Nestor Carbonell (Lost) as the very mysterious Sherriff Romero, to Max Theriot (House at the End of the Street) as Norman's stepbrother, Dylan, the show boasts a great cast of supporting characters as well.

Not a horror fan? Don't be scared off. This is hardly horror. While there are some creepy aspects to it, the show is much more in the mystery/suspense genre than in the horror category.

'Bates Motel' just finished its first season on A&E, airing Monday nights at 10pm, and it has been renewed for a 2nd season. Do yourself a favor and try and catch up with it in rebroadcasts or On Demand. You won't be disappointed.

TV Notebook

TNT has cancelled 'Southland' after 5 seasons. Very disappointed with this news. Excellent show.....

26 year old John Cochran became the Sole Survivor and walked away with the \$1 million dollar prize on Survivor: Caraoan.....

'Veep,' starring Julia Louis-Dreyfus, has been renewed by HBO for a 3rd season.....

FOX has announced that '24' starring Kiefer Sutherland will return to TV in May 2014 for a 12 episode season.....

Speaking of returns ... 'Arrested Development' returned to Netflix on May 26 for a 4th season. 7 years after season 3 aired on FOX.

CBS has cancelled CSI: NY after 9 seasons, and Rules of Engagement after 7 seasons.....

Actress Jean Stapleton from 'All In The Family' died on May 31st at the age of 90....

Do you have any questions about TV? Email me at BillsTVTalk@gmail.com. I will answer all of your questions and will feature some of the questions I receive in a future column.

Follow Bill on Twitter @TVNewsandNotes and on Facebook at TVNewsandNotes.... www.tvnewsandnotes.com

SHEILA'S RECIPE CORNER:

Sheila Mullins

VALLEY PATRIOT COOKING COLUMNIST

This month I'm focusing on a couple of things I have made recently; one for a get together with friends & one for an event for the Harvard Club. The two are otherwise completely unrelated. Both are relatively quick & easy in terms of preparation but do take a bit of unsupervised cooking time. Perfect for when you need to do some other things around the house. The one thing they both have in common is that they are both budget friendly which, in my book, is always good!

Kheer

You may have heard of kheer if you've gone to an Indian restaurant or eaten dessert

there. It's an Indian version of rice pudding, but oh, so much better! Try this, see if you can resist it. I can't!

1 cup basmati rice

8 cups skim milk (you may use other types of milk as you see fit, but I find skim is truly rich enough)

2/3 - 3/4 c sugar

1 rounded teaspoon ground cardamom seed

1 T rose petal water

Unsalted pistachios for garnish

Sultanas (golden raisins) for garnish

Preheat oven to 325°F. In a large roasting pan, add all ingredients except the pistachios, sultanas, & rose petal water. Cook until almost all of the milk is absorbed

or until consistency is as you prefer. This process can take anywhere from 45 minutes to 1 hour. Cool completely. Add rose petal water & stir thoroughly. Serve with garnishes. Makes 8-10 servings.

Chicken Bruschetta

This was one of the first things gone at the event so my conclusion is that the group enjoyed it immensely!

1/3 cup olive oil

3 T double concentrated tomato paste

1/4 t garlic powder

Salt & pepper to taste

1 baguette

1/2 pint of grape tomatoes, chopped fine packed without oil, chopped

2 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves

1 1/2 cups Italian style salad dressing, divided

3 cups fresh spinach, chopped fine

2/3 cup crumbled feta cheese

Place the chicken & 1 cup of Italian style salad dressing in a non-reactive bowl. Cover, turning once, & marinate overnight or 4 hours minimum.

Preheat broiler or grill & oil pan or grates to ensure chicken does not stick. Cook until it

reads 155 °F & rest, covered, until cool. Shred chicken. Preheat oven to 350°F.

In a small frying pan or pot, cook over medium heat the tomato paste, salt, & tomato paste until hot. Add the pepper & garlic powder. Mix well.

Slice the baguette diagonally in 1/2" thick slices & place on baking sheet & cook at 350°F until lightly toasted. Remove from oven & cool on sheet.

In a bowl, place the spinach, cheese, tomatoes, remaining Italian style salad

dressing, shredded chicken, & season to taste. Mix gently until combined.

With a silicon brush or the back of a spoon, spread on each toasted crostini (baguette slice) some of the tomato paste

mixture. Top with the shredded chicken "salad." Place on plate & serve!

Makes approximately 28 pieces.



Recipes are created by Sheila Mullins. Sheila lives in Newburyport & is a personal cook. She can be reached at Sheila_A_Mullins@hotmail.com & she looks forward to hearing from you.

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Salisbury Selectmen Fred Knowles (center), donates "double reds" and shows it doesn't hurt at the recent Salisbury Blood Drive. Salisbury Lions Club President David "Chuck" Colburn looks on as American Red Cross Phlebotomist Jenny Espinola watches to make sure everything is going well. The Salisbury Lions Club sponsors a Blood Drive every two months at the Hilton Senior Center. Donors may donate blood every 56 days; "double red" donors must wait 112 days. A double red donation can make double the difference in one donation. If you meet certain criteria, double red cell donation allows you to safely donate two units of cells during one appointment, using an automated donation process.

Methuen Mayor Zanni Thanks American Training Volunteers

METHUEN, MA – Filled with gratitude, Mayor Steve Zanni met with participants from American Training, Inc and thanked them for volunteering with the Methuen Veterans Department.

The 16 volunteers, most of whom have developmental disabilities, worked with the Veterans Department to place new, clean American flags at the headstones of deceased veterans in Methuen cemeteries.

"This group helped us honor the memories of our deceased servicemen and women, and I very much appreciate that," Mayor Zanni said.

Zanni visited the group at American Training, Inc's Andover offices. While there, he presented the volunteers with citations of recognition for commitment to replacing the flags each year.



Mayor Zanni thanks one of the American Training volunteers, Crystal White.

"People are giving back to our city all the time, and I think it is important that they be thanked," said Mayor Zanni. "And in the case of this group, I am certainly thankful."



Lawrence Mayor William Lantigua illegally parked at the City of Lawrence Parking Garage, across from the Lawrence District Court on Methuen Street. Lantigua's campaign supporter and head of the Parking Garage was arrested last month for stealing money from the city, and depositing it into Lantigua's campaign account. Our sources say that Lantigua routinely has meetings in the basement of the garage, and that Lawrence DPW workers spend a great deal of time hanging out there instead of working.



CLASS OF 2013: Congratulations Jordan Raffalli who graduated from North Andover High School last month. Jordan will be attending The University of Maine - Orono, majoring in animal science.



Valley Patriot news spotter and New Hampshire resident, David Larchean in Arizona, on the Mexican border, baffled at how the fence behind him is supposed to stop people from illegally entering the country.



Justess Jacobson of Manchester NH Graduates from Hesser College with an Associates Degree in Communications.



7th and 8th grade Chorus Concert, Marsh Grammar School, Methuen

The Corruption of a President

Tom Weaver

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Yes, our President is fighting a war, a war run by bureaucrats with rules of engagement set by those not risking their lives to carry out a mission. Young folks are being killed and maimed by those we believe may be friends. But, we will continue the mission, even though victory has never been defined. We must continue to fight, as this war is against a global movement that is at odds with our nation. We must stem the tide of this movement and prevent the expansion of this ideology. Yes, our President needs to open new communication avenues with those that fund the enemy. It seems strange, but that is the new norm given the global condition.

Re-election could have been worse, but who ever heard of a sitting President in the middle of a war losing an election. It would never happen. But, nonetheless, it was important that the President insure that he got the votes. Yes, our President has an enemies list. And if he used the Internal Revenue Service to threaten those groups, he is the President and he does control the IRS. Besides, no one went to jail. He must have had a reason to harass and intimidate using a government agency.

In reality the President is a good guy, he really cares about the environment, so much so, that he funds programs to help protect the future of our planet. Someone that cares that much about the environment must be a great leader and be concerned for the future of the children.

There is evidence that some phones have been wire-tapped, but there probably is a reasonable explanation. Congress is controlled by the opposite party. Exactly how much of this banter is due to Congress wanting to score political points? Yes, there are low-level government employees that are just zealots in their approach to their task. But how can the President control every function of the federal government? Many agree that the President gets angry when he is questioned; he appears to be a narcissist.

This was the situation in 1974, when President Nixon resigned. He had lost the moral authority to lead; he had lied to the American public. The baggage of Vietnam, China, communism, McGovern, EPA, burglars, and Watergate finally caught up with the President. The intentional lies, the cover-up, finally brought action by his own party. And so, Congress initiated impeach-

ment proceedings against the first Quaker President.

Each President represents the first of something, if we look hard enough. But does the difference matter? Or does the ability to lead, the ability to govern? We are a nation that is comprised of every difference in the world – and that makes us unique and very special. We are founded on the principle of equality under the law and in the eyes of the Almighty. As such, the differences in race, life style, religion or anything else simply do not matter.

President Obama has lost his moral authority to govern and lead this nation, for he and his administration are not being truthful with the American people. He has forgotten that the people hold the power of government. He is systematically attacking every facet of the Constitution; from freedom of press and religion, to the right of self-protection and the sovereignty of the states.

In addition to sins as grievous as those committed by Nixon, he has failed to support our consulate in Benghazi, resulting in the deaths of four Americans. He has allowed weapons to be openly transported across the border where they have been used to murder Americans and Mexicans. He has failed to bring to trial a terrorist responsible for the deaths of 13 Americans on American soil. He has bypassed the will of Congress issuing hundreds of Executive Orders. He has incited class and racial violence by ignoring the rule of law with respect to election laws, voter registration, immigration and the burden of paying taxes. He has used his sequester recommendation to produce the worst outcomes on our military and their dependents. He has ignored our cherished allies, Israel and Great Britain, while seeking the approval of Russia, Venezuela and Iran. He has promoted the demands of his union supporters while ignoring the right to work laws of the several States. He has steadfastly increased the tax burden of every American by issuing paper money designed to inflate our currency, reducing the purchasing power of every American.

From the Declaration of Independence: "But when a long train of abuses and usurpations... evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security."

It is time to hold the President of the United States accountable for his actions.

Hackney Hijinx in Boston

Stephanie Davis

VALLEY PATRIOT INVESTIGATOR

Boston's taxicab industry has long been plagued by allegations of bureaucratic mismanagement, petty corruption and general inefficiency.

In 1982, Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government issued a case study entitled "Boston's Taxicab Problems, 1970".

More recently, a 1995 Institute for Justice report entitled "Opening Boston's Taxicab Market" documented cronyism, discrimination and excessive pricing relative to alternative (limousine) modes of transport.

The most recent example: an April 2013 three-part Boston Globe expose' which cast a harsh glare on industry regulators in general and the Boston Cab empire of one Edward J. Tutunjian in particular.

Background

Hackney Division – Industry Regulator Boston's "Hackney Carriage Unit" operates as a division of the police department and serves as the official licensing and regulatory arm of Boston's taxicab industry.

Using city-supplied 2012 financial data, Hackney:

Consists of 13 members, 2 sergeants & 11 officers, who earned a total of \$1,289,070 including: \$114,244 of "overtime", \$107,363 of "detail", and \$59,307 of "other".

The department's highest earning officer was Rhethia Y. Stewart of Milton at \$133,547.

The department's highest earning sergeant was Kevin Rodday of Hanover at \$143,577.

Mark A. Cohen, a civilian Police Department employee and the Hackney's chief enforcement official is listed as an "Exec Asst (BPD)" earning \$110,836.

Tutunjian the Titan

According to the Globe, the Boston taxicab market is worth \$1 billion and Boston Cab, owned by Edward J. Tutunjian, is its dominant player. The source of his power: taxi "medallions", which are required to legally operate a cab within the city and issued at will by the aforementioned Hackney Carriage Unit.

Hackney's long-standing history of limiting the number of medallions it issues at any given time has made them highly coveted, stratospherically priced rarities.

The 1995 Institute for Justice report placed the open market value of a SINGLE unit at \$95,000. Numerous sources suggest the 2013 number has risen to \$600,000.

Of the roughly 1900 medallion presently outstanding in Boston, nearly one in five is controlled by Tutunjian, a stake conservatively valued just north of \$220,000,000.

Recent Developments

In the aftermath of the April Globe spotlight and according to an April 13th Boston Globe story:

Effective April 11, 2013, Hackney's civilian head, Mark A. Cohen, was placed on paid administrative leave pending the outcome of an internal investigation regarding a purported "heated exchange" that took place with another Boston Police department employee.

As this story goes to press, city officials report that Cohen's status should be resolved by mid-June.

The same story raised questions regarding Cohen's oversight of the Boston Taxi Driver Bereavement Fund, established in the late 1980's to provide financial aid to the families of drivers killed while on duty.

Its principal funding mechanism was to be via a fee assessed on each medallion at the time of its renewal.

The precise amount of contributions paid into the fund, and disbursements made from the fund have been largely unaccounted for.

In recent days, mayoral spokesman Dot Joyce reported that the fund's \$45,000 balance had been transferred to the city treasurer.

On May 31, 2013, a federal search warrant was jointly executed at Boston Cab's Kilmarnock Street headquarters by FBI, IRS, and HUD officials, accompanied by members of the Boston and Cambridge police departments.

US attorney Carmen Ortiz's office has declined to comment in detail on the raid other than to acknowledge its occurrence.

In recent weeks, Boston mayor Thomas M. Menino has taken steps to hire an independent firm to conduct a comprehensive industry review and to outline possible elements of major reform.

It remains to be seen if said review and reform will occur prior to this November's mayoral election. If not, does this entire issue once again fall by the wayside until it springs to life in future years?

Conclusion

The issues uncovered by the reports and stories cited in this article lead to important public policy questions including:

- Are agencies like the Hackney Carriage Unit relevant in 21st century America, when mobile communication devices are ubiquitous and innovative services such as Uber, Hailo, Sidecar, Lyft and others have begun service models in their own right?
- Is government regulation of non-government activity effective? Does it serve the public good and if so, how?
- Is it wise to deploy \$1.3 million of police resources into the regulation of taxicabs or might those same resources be better utilized in pursuit of such genuine public safety tasks as counter-terrorism and community policing initiatives?





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The American Right to Keep and Bear Arms

D.J. Bettencourt

VALLEY PATRIOT NEW HAMPSHIRE COLUMNIST

All persons have the right to keep and bear arms in defense of themselves, their families, their property and the State. ~ Article 2A, New Hampshire Constitution

Immediately following the 2012 elections, New Hampshire Governor Maggie Hassan and legislative Democrats began filing legislation to strip Granite Staters of their Second Amendment rights protected under the state and federal constitutions.

Their latest effort has focused on repealing New Hampshire's "stand-your-ground" law passed by the 2011-2012 legislatures. Before 2011, a citizen's first obligation under state law was to retreat from danger before responding with deadly force. However, the previous Republican legislature revised state law to make clear that citizens have a right to defend themselves from a physical threat. Since its passage there have been no unintended consequences or vigilante behavior but none of that mattered to New Hampshire Democrats who have become obsessed with gun control.

While the Republican-controlled State Senate scuttled their efforts to repeal stand-your-ground last week, as Democrats continue their gun control efforts it is worth remembering our nation's heritage and the foundation of our Second Amendment freedoms.

By the late fall of 1776, the Continental Army under George Washington was on the ropes. The year before, the army had stood tall at Bunker Hill and in spring, it had forced the British out of Boston. Six months later, it waited on the banks of the Delaware River in Pennsylvania for the British in New Jersey to cross and deliver their deathblow. The sunshine patriots and summer soldiers were gone. The Continental Army hardly existed as a functioning fighting force.

That summer and fall the Continentals had barely escaped annihilation at the Battle of Brooklyn, were thrown off the island of Manhattan in another defeat, and then chased the length of New Jersey to their hoped for sanctuary in Pennsylvania. Having defeated, if not broken, the organized resistance of the colonists, the British turned to terrorizing the local population into submission. This was a tactic that had worked well in the past as demonstrated in their historical suppressions of Irish and Scottish nationalists, as recently as the Jacobite Rebellion in Scotland only 30 years earlier.

Even then America was different. The British and their Hessian mercenaries did not encounter an unarmed European peasantry browbeaten by centuries of feudalism and oppression. Rather, they brought

their policy of rape and pillaging on armed American farmers with a tradition of self-defense in a sometimes hostile land. Within weeks, the armed and outraged resistance of New Jersey farmers relegated the British army to garrison towns along the road from New York to Trenton. The British found that they could leave those forts only in groups of at least 500 soldiers and even then lost hundreds of soldiers in what has since become known as the Forage War. Accounts come down to us of Red Coat foraging parties of over a hundred men returning with less than 30 remaining. Their fighting strength was cut in half by the end of the winter. Armed citizens engaged in self-defense saved the Revolution and American freedom.

Our founding fathers whose Revolution and lives were saved by an armed citizenry, never wanted a country with citizens denied the very armed self-defense that had saved them. Having sat in Philadelphia in 1776 waiting to see if the British would cross into Pennsylvania, the leaders of our Revolution knew from their own experiences that just as a nation's army may not provide a perfect defense, so it is not possible for its constabulary to provide immediate defense against all dangers. They knew in fact, and not just in theory, that freedom is founded on the right and ability of each of us to defend ourselves. So 15 years later they wrote a fundamental right to bear arms into the Federal Bill of Rights and confirmed that right in their states' constitutions.

Since the days of our founders, too many have confused the safety existing because of this tradition of armed self-defense as a reason to abandon its very foundation. They have lost an understanding that armed self-defense is the bedrock upon which our freedoms arose.

Our founders knew that they would forfeit their lives if the Revolution failed. They also knew that they owed their lives to an armed populace, such as the outraged farmers of New Jersey, who held the means of self-defense. It is time for Governor Hassan and her fellow Democrats to brush up on history and stop ignoring the constitutional rights and safety of Granite Staters.



D.J. Bettencourt served as a State Representative in the New Hampshire House of Representatives from 2005 to 2012 and was the House Majority Leader for the 2011-2012 legislative term. He currently works

as a special education academic assistant and is the Volunteer Coordinator at the Salem Animal Rescue League.

FBI Releases Preliminary Annual Crime Statistics

According to the FBI's Preliminary Annual Uniform Crime Report, released today, the nation experienced a 1.2 % increase in the number of violent crimes and a 0.8 % decline in the number of property crimes in 2012 when compared with data from 2011. The report is based on information the FBI gathered from 13,770 law enforcement agencies that submitted six to 12 comparable months of data for both 2011 and 2012.

Violent Crime

■ In 2012, the violent crime offenses of murder and non-negligent manslaughter increased 1.5 % from the 2011 figures, aggravated assault increased 1.7 %, and robbery increased 0.6 %. Forcible rape offenses declined 0.3 %.

■ Violent crime increased 3.7 % in cities with populations of 500,000 to 999,999, the largest increase in the city groupings. There was a 1.0 % decrease in violent crime in the nation's cities with 10,000 to 24,999 inhabitants. Violent crime increased 1.2 % in metropolitan counties and declined 0.9 % in non-metropolitan counties.

■ Murder and non-negligent manslaughter offenses increased in all city groups but one, with the largest increase (12.5 %) occurring in cities with populations of 500,000 to 999,000. Cities with populations of 50,000 to 99,999 showed the only decrease of murder and non-negligent manslaughter offenses (1.3 %). Murder and non-negligent manslaughter offenses declined 4.8 % in metropolitan counties and 0.4 % in non-metropolitan counties.

■ Cities with populations of 1 million and over in population experienced a 3.2 % increase in forcible rape offenses. Cities with 25,000 to 49,999 inhabitants experienced a 3.5 decrease in forcible rapes. Forcible rape offenses declined 1.2 % in metropolitan counties and increased 1.3 % in non-metropolitan counties.

■ Robbery offenses decreased 2.9 % in cities with 10,000 to 24,999 inhabitants, but increased 2.4 % in cities with populations from 250,000 to 499,999. Robberies increased 1.1 % in metropolitan counties and declined 1.1 % in non-metropolitan counties.

■ Aggravated assaults remained virtually unchanged in cities with 25,000 to 49,000 in population and declined 0.6 % in cities with 10,000 to 24,999 inhabitants. Aggravated assaults increased in all remaining city groups, with the largest

increase, 5.2 %, occurring in cities with 500,000 to 999,999 in population.

■ Violent crime increased in three of the four regions (3.3 % in the West, 1.3 % in the Midwest, and 0.6 % in the South). There was a 0.6 % decrease in violent crime offenses in the Northeast.

Property Crime

■ Nationally, the property crime offense of burglary decreased 3.6 % in 2012 when compared with 2011 data. Motor vehicle theft increased 1.3 %, and larceny-theft offenses remained virtually unchanged.

■ Property crime increased 0.4 % in cities with 50,000 to 99,999 inhabitants. Decreases of 1.0 % in property crime were reported in cities with 25,000 to 49,999 in population and in cities with 1 million or more in population. Property crime decreased 3.5 % in non-metropolitan counties and 2.1 % in metropolitan counties.

■ Burglary offenses decreased in all city groups, including the largest decrease, 7.0 %, which was reported in cities with 250,000 to 499,999 in population. Burglaries decreased 4.3 % in non-metropolitan counties and 3.1 % in metropolitan counties.

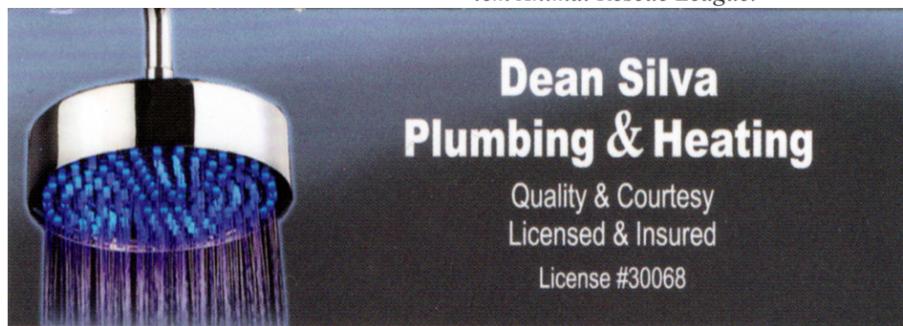
■ Larceny-theft offenses increased in all city groupings except those with populations of 25,000 to 49,999 and those with fewer than 10,000 inhabitants, each of which reported a 0.2 % decrease. Larceny-thefts decreased 3.2 % in non-metropolitan counties and 2.2 % in metropolitan counties.

■ Motor vehicle thefts increased 4.9 % in cities with 250,000 to 499,999 inhabitants, but decreased 5.1 % in cities with 1 million or more inhabitants. Metropolitan counties reported a 2.1 % increase in motor vehicle thefts while non-metropolitan counties reported a 2.1 % decrease.

■ Three of the nation's regions had decreases in property crime in 2012 when compared with data from 2011. These offenses declined 3.5 % in the South, 2.1 % in the Midwest, and 1.6 % in the Northeast. However, property crimes increased 5.2 % in the West.

Arson

■ Arson offenses, which are not included in property crime totals, decreased 1.2 % nationwide. Arsons declined 4.3 % in both the Northeast and the South, but increased 1.6 % in the Midwest and 1.0 % in the West.



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Simple Solutions for Serious Constipation

Dr. Jin Sung

VALLEY PATRIOT CHIROPRACTIC PHYSICIAN

Constipation is a very common problem, but fortunately is one that can usually be easily remedied with lifestyle changes. Ironically, one of the biggest hindrances to your success may be not realizing you're constipated in the first place.

Conventional medicine typically defines constipation as fewer than two or three bowel movements a week. But you should really be having one bowel movement a day, and preferably two or three. So if you are having anything less than one bowel movement a day, you should take steps to relieve your constipation.

Regularity is so important for your health because without it, toxins accumulate and are recirculated in your bloodstream. Constipation can also increase your risk of hemorrhoids or fecal impaction, in which your stool must be removed manually.

Fortunately, although constipation is very common, it is also usually temporary and relatively easy to resolve.

What Causes Constipation?

One of the main causes of constipation is a poor diet -- one that focuses on processed foods and sugar and lacks fresh vegetables that are good sources of fiber. Fiber helps move bulk through your intestines and promotes bowel movements.

Other common causes include:

- Laxative abuse: If you take laxatives over a long period of time, you can become dependent on them. First you may require higher dosages to have a bowel movement, and eventually your intestine can fail to work properly.

- Hypothyroidism: An underactive thyroid gland is a common cause of constipation

- Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS): This can cause spasms in your colon that slow the speed at which the contents of your intestine move through your digestive tract.

- Ignoring the urge to go: If you consistently ignore the urge to have a bowel movement, for instance to avoid using a public toilet, eventually you may stop feeling the urge.

Why Laxatives are NOT a Good Option

Americans spend three-quarters of a billion dollars every year on laxatives, ac-



ording to the American Gastroenterological Association, which is not only a waste of money but a potentially harmful move.

One of the biggest risks of laxatives, especially stimulant laxatives, is that your body can become dependent on them for normal bowel function. When you stop using them, it takes a long time for the activity of your bowel to be restored.

This is true even of senna or cassia laxatives, which are frequently marketed as natural.

These laxatives, when used for a period of weeks or months, may even decrease your colon's natural ability to contract, which will worsen constipation. Further, overuse of laxatives can damage nerves, muscles and tissues of your large intestine.

So if you absolutely must use a laxative, make sure it is only for a very short-term period. And remember that laxatives do absolutely nothing to address the underlying causes of your constipation. But fortunately the natural tips in the next section do.

Relieving Constipation Naturally

If staying regular is a struggle for you, here are my top recommendations:

1. Get checked for hypothyroidism, especially if you're a woman over 40. Constipation is one of the hidden symptoms of hypothyroidism.
2. Try squatting. This is the best, natural position to help expel stool from your

colon and reduce your risk of hemorrhoids, and it's still the way many people around the world go to the bathroom. In your home, you can get many of the same benefits by placing a stool near your toilet to raise your knees, purchasing a special squatting device to modify your toilet, or simply squatting on your own toilet.

3. Eat plenty of fiber-rich foods. Vegetables are phenomenal sources of fiber, and I suggest eating those that correspond with your nutritional type freely. For added fiber to help normalize your stool, try whole organic flaxseeds. Grind the seeds in a coffee grinder, then add a tablespoon or two to your food.

You can also try organic psyllium, which I personally use nearly every day. Psyllium is unique because it's an adap-

togenic fiber, which means it will help soften your stool if you're constipated, or reduce frequency of your bowel movements if you have loose stools.

4. Exercise regularly. This helps stimulate circulation and intestinal function, causing your bowels to move properly.

5. Take a high-quality probiotic. This helps to balance the good and bad bacteria in your gut, which is essential for proper digestive function. Probiotics are also useful in fighting IBS, which can contribute to constipation.

6. Aloe vera and magnesium supplements can also be useful tools to speed up your bowel movements.

If you integrate this advice into your lifestyle, you should be able to virtually eliminate your risk of constipation and any reliance you had on laxatives. For one final tip, make sure you heed nature's call. The longer you ignore the urge to have a bowel movement, the more water is absorbed from the stool. This makes it harder and ultimately can make it more difficult to stay regular.

Source: Mercola.com



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

visit his website at www.DrJinSung.com

FROM PAGE 10: BUMP ON EBT FRAUD

there was conflicting information in the file that indicated that they were not from Massachusetts.

So, just as in the case of DTA, and this audit as the result of that audit of a few months ago of MassHealth, they are now tracking income through the IRS and The Department of Revenue databases. They are asking for verifications of residency. They are reacting in all the appropri-

ate ways to our audit findings, which is the whole point of an audit. It's not to make agencies look stupid, it's to make government work better. It's to uncover problems that could lead to fraud or abuse, and fix them so that the taxpayers are benefitting as well as the people who desperately, legitimately need these public assistance programs. That's where my background, as you would say, my bleeding heart liberalism comes in. I want these programs to work. I want people to have confidence in them. I want the public to support them, and I know that public trust gets eroded when problems such as we have found at DTA and at MassHealth, are just left to fester.

WHO IS ACCOUNTABLE?

First of all, the agency heads are. I appreciate that people want to lay this directly at the feet of the Governor. You can say, just as at my agency, that's where the buck stops. The reality is, Governor Patrick cannot know about internal controls in every agency's operations. I can tell you having worked for him, that he does have high standards and he cares deeply about this.

That said, the folks at DTA apparently didn't get the message, or they weren't heeding the message that we have standards in government, and they were not using all of the tools that they had.

He [Governor Patrick] has to rely on their representations of the work being done there and in those bureaucracies ... it's a difficult job. Fraud fighting has to be reinstated as a priority; the new folks in that agency are absolutely doing that. I will leave it to the legislature as to what policies to make, but operationally they are being improved."



Dr. Vaso Hatzigiannis D.D.S.

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BABIES AND BRIEFCASES

SIZZLE UP YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA THIS SUMMER

Cheryl Hajjar

VALLEY PATRIOT MOMMY COLUMNIST

As the end of the school year approaches and families are making their summer vacation plans, both the seasoned and budding entrepreneur are most likely thinking of ways to gear their businesses up for the fall. If you are a business owner, you are well aware of the importance of incorporating social media into your business, but just like your business goals need to be re-evaluated and updated on a consistent basis, so does your social media.

Since most businesses go through several changes during the course of their tenures, a good place to start is sitting down and looking at your business plan. Have you brought on new products? Hired more employees or taken on any interns? Redesigned your marketing plans? Only you will know the answers to these questions, so this is the most important step before starting to update and re-organize your social media structure.

Once this step has been completed, perhaps the most important thing I can emphasize is looking at the "About You" section of your social media accounts. Whether its Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Google + or any other platform, you want this section to be a descriptive as possible. This may be one of the things that was written years ago when you first opened your account and it has never been revisited since. When was the last time this section has been updated? Make sure your brand is still consistent with this section as well as your mission statement. Is your current business location, business email, phone numbers and URL still the same? Many times we change these things and never make the updates making it harder for your customers to reach you.

Updating your images and your business branding is crucial. Do you have a new logo, or new pictures from a recent event your company sponsored? Are there new products in your company that you would like to showcase? Make sure when you do update, you do it across all of your social media platforms. This will ensure consistency within your brand and increase awareness.

Find new contacts to engage with. Do you feel like you are marketing to the same audience? If you do, chances are your audience feels the same way. Before adding new contacts, do a clean up of the ones that may no longer have interest in your products and services. You want quality of contacts, not quantity. Although it may look impressive to have 4,000 contacts on Facebook, some profiles may not be suitable to be floating around on your business accounts, so keep that in mind when purging.

When adding new prospective customers, it might be a good idea to scroll through a current customer's profile to look

for any mutual friends that you might have with them. You are more likely to have a better response engaging with a potential new customer if you have mutual friends.

The best form of marketing is still word of mouth so if someone absolutely loves a product of yours, they will tell their friends and since so many of us spend so much time on our social media accounts these days, being present when your company's name comes up in a conversation will be priceless. You want to be there before a customer even needs your product or services.

Use Twitter more than Facebook? You can do a Twitter search to find people by interests and industries. Websites like Twiends and We Follow help build your profiles. On these sites you are able to be added to directories by category and follow only specific people whom you share the same interests. This will help narrow down the white noise quite a bit and help you form clear and concise lists for prospecting.

If you are on LinkedIn, you know the importance of having credibility within your business peer group. Recommendations can offer incredible validation for your business. Ask friends, clients and customers to say a few kind words about your services or products.

A testimonial will go along way and will not exceed your marketing budget because they are free. Review your experience section. Has your company had changes? Have new skills or expertise? This section should be as current as possible. Lastly, joining groups on LinkedIn is a great way to network within your sphere. There is always a conversation going on on LinkedIn. Joining them and sharing your insights on the topic of the day will make you and your company highly visible. You want to make friends with your colleagues because these will also be the individuals who will either become customers at one point or give your business the credibility you are looking for.

The dog days of this summer do not have to be lazy. Consider this your social media revival and map out a plan to clean up your platforms and add fresh and exciting ideas. When the hot apple cider is brewing and leaves start to turn, your business will also be turning new profits.



Cheryl Hajjar is a lifelong resident of the Merrimack Valley. She keeps busy by fulfilling her duties as a mother to her young son. She is an entrepreneur and the CEO of Indigo

Magic, an interactive children's company. One of her passions is music, songwriting and classical piano which she incorporates into all areas of her life. EMAIL: babiesbriefcases@gmail.com

Knowledge vs. Wisdom

Jeff Katz

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Surely you remember that old phrase, "a little bit of knowledge is a dangerous thing." There are very few expressions which really hit home like that one does. If you are of a certain age, you just don't get it though. After all, while you are a child in school you find that you are cramming your head with all sorts of knowledge.

Facts, figures, and the like are to be learned, memorized, recited, regurgitated, rinse and repeat. I before E except after C. Got it. 1 plus 1 equals two. Sure does. A fruit is defined as seed bearing. Check. And all the way through school, we keep hoping that there is some small part of our brain which is still available to store some more information. Well, now that we find ourselves in possession of all of this knowledge what do we do?

I before E except after C, but what of "ancient"? 1 plus 1 equals 2 unless of course we mean 1 father plus 1 wife equals 1 family. And sure a tomato is a fruit, but you'd really want to avoid putting it in a fruit salad.



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Seems to me that knowledge is the awareness of the rules, wisdom is understanding the exceptions and excellence is when you are capable of utilizing both appropriately.

Accumulate knowledge, cultivate wisdom and strive for excellence!

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FROM PAGE 18: SENATOR IVES

federal funding is available.

Moreover, continued investment in municipal police officer training lays the groundwork for an initiative with widespread support—and that is, to create a Peace Officers Standards & Training system. A POST system is a model adopted in most states throughout the country, establishing minimum standards for the training and certification applicable to all officers exercising police powers. For example, in Connecticut, their POST system creates statewide, model policies and procedures, and adopts and enforces professional standards for certification and decertification of officers. There has been a Special Commission on Massachusetts Police Training co-Chaired by the esteemed Senator from the town of Walpole, which produced a July 2010 report recommending the implementation of a statewide Peace Officers Standards & Training system in Massachusetts.

This Commission also recognized that issues pertaining to mental illness in emergency response require specialized and updated training statewide. I'm confident that you've been contacted by your police chiefs, whether they serve small towns, suburbs, or large cities, voicing the need and importance of quality and consistent recruit and in-service training.

Police chiefs in my district have told me that supporting these training programs is one of the most important and lasting measures we can take in the legislature to support the work of their departments. All of the 17,000 police officers in our cities and towns deserve the same quality and continued training no matter what community they serve.

Currently, departments are often left to apply standards on their own. We don't want 351 different ways to interpret and instruct standards. Funding to the Municipal Police Training Committee also means training for instructors, so they can attain certification in critical skill areas, such as firearms, defensive tactics, medical first responder skills, and CPR.

I ask you to appreciate that in years past, police chiefs could send officers to the Municipal Police Training Committee for instruction. Now, the Municipal Police Training Committee can only offer curriculum and not instruction. It's now incumbent upon city and town police departments to fill the training gap, and determine how they will track training.

As such, Massachusetts lacks a comprehensive registry of training for police



officers currently serving, and there are no mechanisms to track curriculum uniformity. This funding history is not conducive to fostering career staff for instruction continuity. The Municipal Police Training Committee has added web-based distance learning for logistical and financial efficiencies, but even with this successful initiative, officer interest has outpaced staff capacity and the training needs remain unmet.

Municipal police training is akin to an unfunded mandate. Where the public-at-large has high expectations for officer performance, and I imagine our individual expectations are high in each instance we encounter a police officer or ask officers to respond to an emergency. The time has come for us to meet their expectations and support an opportunity for access to the high-quality training they deserve.

We need to seize this moment to reverse the trend in funding and, instead, move Massachusetts to the forefront in leading the way for new recruit, in-service, and specialized municipal police training. Now is the time to demonstrate our value of world-class police officers by our actions in addition to our words. I request that when a vote be taken, it be taken by a call of the yeas and nays. Thank you, Madame President.

There was a unanimous vote in favor of the amendment to increase the Municipal Police Training line item by \$500,000 in the Senate budget. Thanks to Representative John Rogers of Norwood, who had successfully filed an amendment to increase the House budget by this same amount. As of this writing, the House and Senate budgets are being reconciled in conference committee, but our amendment will very likely make it through because both the House and the Senate included them in their respective budgets. Our office will be posting video of the speech along with other updates on our facebook page: www.facebook.com/oconnorives.

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LAWRENCE MAYORS RACE FROM 13

there is no public outcry. The majority believe in a cradle to grave socialist style of government, which unfortunately includes our education system.

Back to those articles that were printed in the daily paper, which by the way, did not mention the City Charter review meetings recommendations concerning the Lawrence School Committee. I believe they purposefully left it out so that they could push their agenda that the City of Lawrence is incapable of governing itself!

Both articles in the daily paper quoted Mr. James Vittorioso, the voice and member of the Lawrence School Committee for 12 years. He was quoted as saying, "it was pointless to run for another term because of the lack of power of the School Committee members." I find it ironic that Mr. V. makes this statement knowing full well that it was his vote in 2010, along with the Mayor and two other members, resulting in that specific School Committee not being able to find a Superintendent to replace Dr. Laboy who they fired.

It was Mayor Lantigua's lack of leadership as the Chairman of the School Committee, along with the rest of the members of that specific School Committee, which caused the State Education Department to come in and takeover in the first place! It was not the failing Schools that initially brought the State into Lawrence's Public Schools. Don't believe the Mayor's lie!

(This all can be verified if you refer to the 81 page report of a review of The Lawrence Public School System conducted by the Department of Education in 2011.)

The state takeover resulted in removing any and all power and voting privileges from the School Committee and gave those privileges to the state appointed Receiver/Superintendent. Mr. Riley has all power and authority to do as he sees fit and spend

how much he sees fit, all in the name of educating the children of Lawrence. The daily paper also quoted a spokesperson from the Office of the State Education Commissioner, Mitchell Chester, "That even without a vote, the School Committee does have a role to play and that the Receiver/Superintendent definitely values the School Committee member's input." (If you believe that, I have some ocean front property I would like to sell you in Colorado!) So again folks the bottom line is, no checks and balances!!! Hard to believe we are talking about a city in America, but unfortunately we are, (OIL!)

In conclusion, I would like to give a special message to all Lawrence Mayoral Candidates in the 2013 City Elections. Please write this down, make it a part of your agenda that within your first four years as Mayor of Lawrence that you will begin the process of ending the state takeover of the Lawrence public schools and restore the voting privileges of the Lawrence School Committee, therefore giving back to the parent's local control of their children's education! Local control, local oversight has been and will always be better! Stop believing the lie that the opposite is better! Government should never remove parental rights in the education of their children, not in America!

G-d bless all of you, and may G-d continue to bless the City of Lawrence.



Peter Larocque is a former member of the Lawrence School Committee and is a regular columnist for The Valley Patriot. You can email him at: peterlarocque@hotmail.com

FROM PAGE 15: SYNDROME

from their children's. They see protecting their children from the ex the number one priority and materialize abuse that has not occurred. "The obsessed alienator enmeshes the children's personalities and beliefs in their own. This is a process that takes time but one that the children, especially the young, are completely helpless to see and combat." The obsessed alienator is able to convince their family and friends that their ex is dangerous and abusive emotionally and, therefore, potentially physically abusive.

Their, "supporters are often seen at the court hearings even though they haven't been subpoenaed." Court hearings are frequent because the obsessed alienator's main objective is to seek exacting revenge on the ex and completely alienate them from their children through false accusations. "They have a desire for the court to punish the other parent with court orders that would interfere or block the targeted parent from seeing their children. This confirms in the obsessed alienator's mind that he or she was right all the time."

The long term effects of PAS on the children, the innocent victims in these cases, are extensive and often irreversible. Children who have been forced to reject one parent over another can suffer from anger, depression, suicidal ideation, sleeping, eating and educational disorders, bedwetting, drug abuse or destructive behavior, anxiety and panic attacks, and damaged sexual identity. Boys often turn to delinquent or destructive behavior when the most important male figure has been villainized by their mother. Many children subjected to PAS have a fear of being abandoned or rejected because they have been brainwashed to believe that one of their parents are less desirable therefore they may be undesirable. As they get older, many of these children will try to fill the void of the missing parent with everything from bad behavior, to drugs, alcohol and sex.

The intention of the alienating parent is not to destroy their children's psyche, but it is a horrendous side effect of the destructive war they wage against their ex-partner due to being blinded by anger, hate and revenge. Much can be done to

prevent these effects. The first step is to recognize the signs of Parental Alienation (PA) in children.

It begins by recognizing that the focus is on the parent being alienated rather than the child or children. If visitation is court ordered, do NOT give the child the option not to visit a parent during designated times. This sets them up for conflict. Your children are not your confidants. Discussing every 'little' thing about your marital relationship is destructive and painful.

Claiming that you just want to be honest is a cloak for giving your children information that they cannot process or only turn into resentment against one of their parents. Refusing to allow children to bring their own property to and from both parent's houses sets a dividing line between the two homes. Denying contact with a parent, refusing an ex-partner access to medical records, school or sports functions, placing blame on the other parent and using a child as a spy are just a few of many more signs that a child is being exposed to, and damaged by PA.

There is a great deal of research and literature about PA and PAS. It is the responsibility of every parent and family member of the children involved in a divorce to keep the children safe from having to choose between one parent or the other, or used as a pawn. I would hope that no parent would want any harm to come to their own child, especially at their own hands or actions.

Next month I will speak specifically about Derek's case. His fight to see his children is ongoing. He still has no driver's license, no rights as a father and has been completely alienated from his children for two years as of June 11th. He has no way of knowing how this is affecting his children. Unfortunately, this column sheds some light on just what that may be.



Dani Langevin is a teacher and has a Bachelors in Fine Art and Masters in Education. She has written four young adult novels, one of which is self-published. You can email Dani at DaniBLangevin@aol.com

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Michael Finer Joins National Veteran Owned Business Association

On this past Memorial Day, when citizens throughout Massachusetts and the nation honored the sacrifice of military men & women, Major League Investments has announced that founder, Michael Finer, has joined the National Veteran-Owned Business Association.

Major League Investments is an investment advisory, financial planning & tax strategies firm on Massachusetts' North Shore.

The firm is led by military veteran Michael S. Finer, a Lieutenant Colonel in the Massachusetts National Guard. Mr. Finer served as a Garrison Commander with the Army in Iraq from 2007-2008. He was also Commander of Task Force Yankee,



a joint military unit of 500 soldiers and airmen, who provided support and stability operations in the city of New Orleans during the Hurricane Katrina disaster.

“Although we have for many years served the financial planning, tax & investment needs of military veterans and their families, we felt it was important to become more proactively involved in reaching out as a veteran owned business here in Massachusetts,” said Finer; “It is an honor to serve the financial planning, tax & investment needs of Massachusetts Veterans.”

Major League Investments can be found at Buy Veteran: <http://tinyurl.com/ipev24u>



Flag Day & Election Day

John Lenotte
VALLEY PATRIOT VETERAN COLUMNIST

June is finally here and with it the Summer season. There are 2 major events this month. First is Flag Day on June 14th and the other is the special election for U.S. Senate.

Flag Day. What is it all about? Why should we care?

According to Wikipedia, Flag Day commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States, which happened that day by resolution of the Second Continental Congress in 1777.

The United States Army also celebrates their birthday on this date; Congress adopted “the American Continental Army” after reaching a consensus position in the Committee of the Whole on June 14, 1775. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation that officially established June 14th as Flag Day; in August 1949, National Flag Day was established by an act of Congress. Interestingly, Quincy, MA is noted for having a parade on Flag Day since 1952 !!

In 1989, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that burning the flag was permissible under freedom of speech.

As noted on the American Legion national website, www.legion.org, an amendment giving Congress power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States., H.J. Res 47, was reintroduced in the House of Representatives by Reps. Spencer Bachus, R-Ala., and Dan Lipinski, D-Ill. The resolutions reads simple, “The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.”

The American Legion supports such an amendment through Resolution 272, passed during the 2012 National Convention in Indianapolis. The resolution

states, in part, that The American Legion continue to urge the Congress of the United States to propose and approve an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would allow the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the Flag of the United States.”

I would urge all of you to contact your Congressional representatives and ask them to sign on as co-sponsors of H.J. Res. 47. If they already are co-sponsors, please thank them for their support of the amendment. In past years Representatives Lynch, Neal, Keating and McGovern have supported this bill. While in office, Scott Brown indicated he would vote for it in the Senate. Our previous Senators voted against it. When this goes to the Senate, we will need to press our U.S. Senators on this issue. The last time this went to the Senate it was defeated by one vote. We must not let this happen again.

But why? Some say it is just a piece of cloth. Yes, it is a piece of cloth. But it is the symbol of our nation. It flies not only on government and military installations but many of us have it at our homes. It is a symbol of hope, freedom and democracy. And those who are against it burn it in the streets. Since 1776 it has been our symbol.

Countless men and women have fought and died for “Old Glory”. When veterans are buried, it covers their casket and is later presented to the family, “on behalf of a grateful nation”. I could go on but I think this sums it up. The stars and stripes represent who and what we are as a nation. And I along with many of you believe this is the greatest nation on this earth.

I hate to repeat this from last month but I feel it really is necessary to get the message across: “It seems like all we have been doing the last couple of years is have a vote for US Senator from Massachusetts.

This past primary election on April 30th saw less than 730,000 voters out of a potential 4 million voters. What a shame. I hope that there will be a larger turnout for the June 25th election. This is such an important position. It is for one of our two US Senate seats, one of only 100 Senators in Congress. I constantly hear people talk about their dissatisfaction with government.

Where were they when it was time to vote? I was there and will be there on June 25th. I hope you will join me in voting on that day”.

May God Bless our troops and their families.

John Lenotte, Past Department Commander, The American Legion, Department of Massachusetts



John Lenotte is the American Legion, Commander, Wilbur M. Comeau Post 4 Haverhill and Vice Commander, Dept. of Massachusetts. He is also the recipient of The Valley Patriot Hero Award. You can Email him at JohnLDistrict8@verizon.net

FROM PAGE 9: D'AMBROSIO FREED

1 million people. The prosecution has offered no evidence showing that Cam is a threat to anyone. He should be home with his family while he awaits trial, and these outrageous charges should be dropped. Cracking down on free speech won't keep us safe, the real threat in this story is the threat to our online civil liberties,” Cheng wrote.

The website also takes aim at the The Valley Patriot saying that there is a conspiracy to paint D'Ambrosio as guilty, dooming his chances of a fair trial:

Slim chance of a fair trial.

It's not a surprise that the judge in the case felt pressure to come down hard on Cam, since the local media has been quick to sensationalize the story and demonize a harmless teenager.

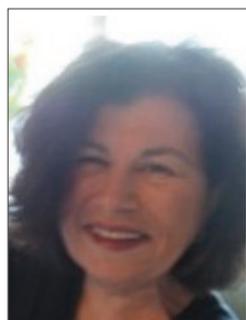
Before charges were even formally filed, local newspapers were already posting pictures from Cam's Facebook and pointing to “disturbing” posts like “Fuck politics. Fuck Obama. Fuck the govern-

ment!” and “satanic” imagery (like some image from a metal band's poster.) All of this is free speech that is 100% protected by the 1st Amendment.

But Fox News went so far as to say that Cam's Facebook profile had images that they “couldn't show on TV.” They and other media outlets frequently and intentionally printed only a small section of the lyrics that Cam was arrested for allegedly writing, and took them out of context to make rap metaphors sound like a real threat.”

EDITORS NOTE: Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan went on record on his 980WCAP radio program the week D'Ambrosio was arrested saying he did not agree with the terrorism charge against D'Ambrosio. A fact that none of the websites never bothered to ask us about while attacking the Valley Patriot for a “bias” against D'Ambrosio.

The Valley Patriot was unable to reach D'Ambrosio's attorney.



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FROM 1: ROBERT F. BAILEY

garrisoned at Halmahera Island. Robert Bailey was awarded the Purple Heart for combat on Morotai. On the evening of October 4, 1944, Bob and his friends returned to their tent after watching the movie "Johnny Eager," starring Lana Turner and Robert Taylor. Suddenly the Japanese bombed their tent. Bailey and others were wounded—but Bob's friends, on either side of him, were killed instantly.

Morotai was the staging area for Mindanao. Bob took part in that invasion the following April 1945 when the 31st joined the Eighth Army in the final drive to liberate the Philippines. Jungle warfare - from "ducks" to carrier pigeons

Before engaging in combat, Bob trained in jungle warfare and amphibious landings at Oro Bay, New Guinea, arriving there April 22, 1944. In the mountains and jungles of the Southwest Pacific islands, American forces relied heavily on:

- DUKWs or "Ducks"—six-wheel amphibious vehicles with a payload capacity of 2.5 tons that transported ammunition, supplies, equipment and troops



Corporal Robert Bailey, U.S. Army, fought on Mindanao during WWII with the 31st Division (also known as the "Dixie Division" made up of National Guard Units from Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida). Among the 33,000 Filipino guerrillas on Mindanao aiding the Americans were young boys, 16 years old, excellent soldiers and well educated, as well as older, experienced soldiers.

over rough seas and onto the islands. Bob rode in his first DUKW at Oro Bay. Amphibious landings were vital to General MacArthur's mission in the Southwest Pacific.

- Self-propelled 105mm howitzers—designed specifically to travel and maneuver over the rough jungle terrain and through heavy mud. "We had six in our Cannon Company," said Bob, "and they provided immediate support of the infantry wherever our regiment went."

- Carrier or homing pigeons—that carried messages from reconnaissance patrols behind enemy lines, flying over the dense, impenetrable jungle that blocked radio airwaves. Bob first used them in Sarmi-Wadke, New Guinea.

New Guinea is the second largest island in the world (after Greenland), with a northern coastline that extends nearly 1,600 miles. Mountains as high as 15,000 feet and dense tropical rainforests cover the area. A major mountain range runs through the center of the island, from east to west, with many sections impassable. "We saw a yearly rainfall totaling 240 inches," said Bob.



General Douglas MacArthur shown on the beach of Morotai, in the Dutch East Indies, on September 15, 1944, when the 31st Infantry Division made their assault landing. Robert Bailey was sitting on the beach waiting to move out with his platoon when he saw the General wade through the surf to come ashore.

Other areas got up to 300 inches. "In one 24-hour period, we would get up to 27 inches of rain. Then the monsoon season would begin."

In July 1944, Bob Bailey and most of the Dixie Division relieved the 6th Infantry Division at Maffin Bay in the Wakde-Sarmi Campaign. They landed on Sarmi, on the New Guinea coast, as U.S. forces seized Wakde Island—two miles away on Maffin Bay—from the Japanese. Wakde had a good airstrip for the B-24 Liberator heavy bombers, critical for freedom in the Philippines.

While the Division's 124th Regimental Combat Team (RCT) went to Aitape, New Guinea, and fought in the bloody battle along the Drinumor River, other elements built bridges, roads, and docks, and engaged small units of the enemy (killing more than 1,000 Japanese), without provoking large-scale counterattacks.

Aggressive patrolling kept the Japanese at bay. "I remember the first time I used carrier pigeons for communication in Sarmi," said Bob, a radio operator. "Our 20-man recon patrol had gone behind enemy lines. We used trained pigeons to send back news of the enemy's location, troop strength, and gun positions. We inserted the message in a tiny capsule fastened to one of the pigeon's legs. Pigeons were so dependable we did not need to code messages.

"We set off on patrol, carrying the pigeons in a wire-mesh crate. The steaming tropical heat. Dense jungle growth. Chest-high swollen rivers we had to wade through, where crocodiles lay hidden. All this took their toll. We took turns carrying the crate of pigeons on our shoulders. But when one of our men stumbled and fell from exhaustion, the crate crashed to the ground, the door flew open—and the pigeons vanished forever! We never saw them again. Fortunately, we did not run into the enemy that time."

Mindanao: 72,000 enemy troops
On April 22, 1945, the 31st Infantry began landing on Mindanao, the southernmost island in the Philippines. The largest Japanese force was amassed in eastern Mindanao—more than 43,000 armed troops plus 29,000 combat and service troops—far outnumbering the Allies. The Japanese were entrenched along the north-south Sayre Highway (about 250 miles long). The highway's northern stretch lay in total disrepair while the southern portion was nothing but a

dirt road that ran from Kabacan across uncharted mountains.

The 31st Division drove north along the Sayre Highway, toward Kibawe, to block the enemy's retreat from the east. They captured Kibawe and its airstrip by May 3 and then took Kabakan, at the junction of the east-west and north-south routes, thus gaining control of the supply routes.

Destroyed bridges, impassable trails, unforeseen obstacles slowed them down. "At one point we had to take a small landing craft up the Mindanao River," Bailey said. "On reaching camp, when unloading, one of our 105mm howitzers toppled into the river and sank. It took us 10 days to retrieve it, haul it out, and then dig a path to tow it to land. During that time, we traded with the Filipinos: one T-shirt for two chickens. We had chicken and eggs every day. It was the best we ever ate."

As the 31st advanced north, they successfully wiped out a Japanese "banzai" (suicide) attack—the last major Japanese offensive on the Sayre Highway. From then on, the chief obstacle became the torrential rains. On May 23rd, Bailey's regiment met up with the 108th RCT. The Sayre Highway was finally cleared. Strong patrols flushed out Japanese who had fled to the mountains. By July 1st, all organized Japanese resistance had ended. On August 15, 1945, Japan finally surrendered.

The 31st slogged courageously through the unknown, overcoming insurmountable odds. Each patrol had a point man—the leader who showed the way. Whom do you trust?

Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." That's why the apostle Paul could write: "We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair ... struck down, but not destroyed ... Therefore we do not lose heart" (John 14:6; 2 Corinthians 4:8-9, 16).

Thank you Robert Bailey for being a Hero in Our Midst.



Robert Bailey in military uniform.



Helen Mooradian is our Valley Patriot Hero columnist and a former business writer. She is also a member of the Merrimack Valley Tea Party. You can email Helen at hsmoor@verizon.net

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PUPPY LOVE! with Kate Whitney



What You Should Know About Canine Cancer

Kate Whitney

VALLEY PATRIOT PUPPY GIRL

The topic I want to bring awareness to this month is Canine Cancer. I should have written this article last month. Oh well, I'm a month late... better late than never.

Last month I participated in the Puppy Up Canine Cancer Walk in Boston. It was a pretty small event: a few vendors were set up and we walked around a few blocks in Boston. But it's not the size of the event that matters it's what the event was for, Canine Cancer. It's estimated that 50% of dogs over age 10 will die of cancer. I feel like the number is higher, because it seems like every person I talk to recently who has had a dog pass away, cancer has been to blame. The slogan behind the Canine Cancer walk is "Cancer. Touches. Everyone."

Whether it's a dog or a person, I think we have all known someone who has been touched by this awful disease. Did you know that dogs (and cats) get cancer at approximately the same rate as people do? Early detection is critical (just like for humans). Remember the importance of having your pet examined regularly and be aware for some of the pet cancer signs that I will discuss below.

Be sure to be on the lookout for these pet cancer signs provided by the Veterinary Cancer Society: Persistent, abnormal swelling, sores that do not heal, loss of weight, loss of appetite, bleeding or discharge from any body opening, offensive odor, difficulty eating or swallowing, hesitation to exercise or loss of stamina, persistent lameness or stiffness, difficulty breathing, urinating, or defecating. Also watch for seizures, and lumps/bumps/swelling/growths on the skin, legs, mouth, and breasts.

Don't be part of the 80% of pet owners who have limited knowledge about pet cancer. Educate yourself about this disease and hopefully you can prevent it from happening or better help your dog cope with it if they already have it.

The detection and treatment of canine cancer is improving every day. With routine vet visits, you are increasing the chances that early detection would be made possible. If the vet finds something suspicious, there are many ways to go about getting a diagnosis. Some of the ways are a biopsy, blood tests, x-rays, ultrasound, endoscopy, surgery, CT/MRI scan, urinalysis, and fine-needle aspiration.

Due to improper breeding practices, certain breeds of dogs are genetically prone to canine cancer. Stay away from online sites that sell dogs and stay OUT of the pet stores at the mall. These dogs come from horrible mass-breeding facilities called puppy mills. The dogs are bred only for monetary purposes and things like genetics and breeding lines are not taken into consideration. Remember, don't shop... ADOPT! Some breeds that are prone to canine cancer include, but are not limited to: Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, Rottweilers, Bernese Mountain Dogs, and Boxers.

Did you know that second hand smoke causes cancer in pets? If you are still someone who smokes, you should think about trying to quit. Not only for yourself, but for your pets. Have you ever thought about the effects your smoking has on your best four-legged friend? Humans have the ability to leave the house frequently to get fresh air, but pets, for the most part, are kept inside the house. Think about all the toxins that are in your home.

So if you smoke, quit. If you can't quit, think about smoking outside, so the inside of the house is kept nice and "clean" for your pet. Why would you knowingly put your pet at risk for developing cancer? I'm sure they would never do that to you.

There have been numerous studies done to show the effects of smoking on dogs and cats. I want to highlight two studies here. First is a study about cats. A study was conducted at Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine, and it was discovered that a strong correlation exists between cats living in smoking households and oral cancer.

Scientists determined that the reason is because cats lick themselves to groom and they end up licking carcinogen deposits that get trapped in their fur. After exposing the skin in their mouths to harmful amounts of carcinogens over a long period of time, they begin to develop cancer. Some cats were found to have also developed cancer in their lymph nodes.

And now a study about dogs and smoking. In a study performed at Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital, it was determined that dogs living in smoking households have a 60% greater risk of developing lung and sinus cancer than dogs living with nonsmoking owners. Those numbers increase even more when talking about long-nosed breeds like Dobermans



June is Adopt a Cat Month

Tracey Zysk

VALLEY PATRIOT DOGGIE COLUMNIST

What a Purr-fect time to bring a feline into your home. June is National Adopt a Cat Month. Rescue leagues nationwide in collaboration with the American Humane Society will be promoting this annual adoption event in hopes to find 1000's of cats and kittens their forever home.

In the spring months, better known as "Kitty Season" you may have started noticing the births of more and more litters of kittens. Due to mating season, there is always an abundance of young kitties left for homeless, and animal shelters and rescue organizations are often full.

Preparing is everything: Ask yourself the following:

1. Why do you want to bring a kitten/cat into your home? - This is a lifelong commitment. Therefore evaluate your lifestyle and determine if you have the time for a pet.
2. Are you financially prepared for the expenses of owning a cat? Have a short term and long term budget. You may

even want to consider pet insurance

3. Meet the cat first and make sure the temperament and personality fits with yours.

4. Do you want a kitty or are you interested in a senior aged cat? Once again, depends on your personality, lifestyle and finances.

5. Research your local veterinarians and bring your new cat in for a visit within the first few days of adoption. It is important to develop that relationship between your cat and vet as soon as possible.

6. Cat supplies- Go shopping before you bring your cat home. You want to introduce your new cat to his surrounding and make it as welcoming as possible. Also cat proof the home before you bring him home. This will set the boundaries when he is first introduced to his new place.

7. Pet sitting- You will travel and you will need someone to care for your cat when you are not home. Make sure you have family members available to help

KITTENS: PAGE 38

and Collies. This is because longer noses mean more surface area for carcinogens, which means more carcinogens reaching the lungs.

So you might be wondering if you can prevent canine cancer from affecting your best friend. There are a few tips that you can follow, but following them does not guarantee your dog will stay cancer free. For the most part, the tips fall under a category of "healthy living". So, bottom line, provide a healthy lifestyle for your pet.

-Be aware of the water you provide to your pets. Tap water can contain chemicals such as lead, arsenic, and nitrates. Holistic vets strongly advise using a good-quality water purifier to filter your tap water or provide bottled water.

-Keep your dog's weight under control. The feeding guidelines on the bag aren't there to entertain you. Follow the recommended feeding amounts and stick to them. Also, check with your vet to make sure your dog is getting the right nutrition. A pudgy dog might look cute, but you are not doing it any good with regard to health. A few extra pounds on a dog are a lot. Make sure you are giving your dog enough daily exercise.

Take him to the dog park or doggie daycare. A walk around the block doesn't usually cut it for the amount of exercise a dog needs.

Sustained, vigorous use of the muscles stimulates all tissues and increases blood circulation. Blood vessels dilate and blood pressure rises. As a result, tissues become oxygenated, which helps to clean the cells of toxins

-Use natural flea and tick products on your dog. Flea collars, sprays, and shampoos are full of poisons. Instead of chemical insecticides, use natural and less-toxic methods of flea control such as natural flea shampoos, vacuuming frequently,

and combing your pet with a flea comb. Pyrethrins are a natural and safe means of flea control for dogs, but need to be applied frequently. Check out all natural tick repellents as well.

-Don't forget about a well balanced diet. Stay away from the Kibbles and Bits that you buy at the grocery store or Wal-Mart. Also stay away from Science Diet, Purina, Iams, and Eukanuba. Try to visit specialty dog stores that only sell brands of food you have never heard of, such as Holistic Select, Orijen, Solid Gold, Wellness, and The Honest Kitchen. If you want to make sure your dog's nutritional needs are being met, the best way to do that is make sure you have them on a good food!

There are places out there that are currently studying cancer and discovering genetic changes that can lead to the development and spread of cancer. The more doctors and veterinarians who can understand the different cancers, the more diagnostics and therapies can result for both dogs and people.

There are lots of companies who are asking for your help in order to study canine cancer. If your dog has cancer, a simple blood or saliva sample can be sent to a location where they can study the blood and hopefully advance the knowledge about certain types of cancers.

Ask your vet or go online to find out more information about how you can participate. All dogs with cancer can help future generations of dogs by donating a sample.

I hope that none of you reading this will ever experience a pet with cancer. But with the odds the way they are, that is just not realistic. Remember that early detection is key, as is a healthy diet, ample exercise, and a stress-free life.

You can email PuppyGirl at kwswingrite@aol.com



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Keller Williams Dedicates RED Day to Salem Animal Rescue League

DJ Bettencourt

SALEM NH ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE

SALEM, NH - Keller Williams Realty associates today donated their time to "Give Where They Live" as part of RED Day, one of the biggest events in the real estate industry.

Short for "Renew, Energize and Donate," RED Day was created to unite Keller Williams Realty offices and associates in an international day of service to improve local communities. As part of the 2013 RED Day effort, Keller Williams Realty in Andover, MA chose to spend the day with the Salem Animal Rescue League located in Salem, NH.

Established in 1992, the Salem Animal Rescue League (SARL) is a non-profit organization whose goal is to find permanent, loving homes for the abandoned and unwanted animals in Salem, NH and surrounding towns.

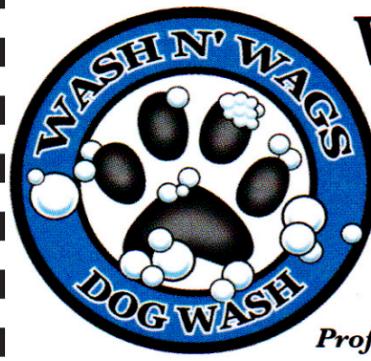
Keller Williams Associates helped to paint, mulch, fill pot holes, do yard work, and beautify the property.

"SARL is incredibly grateful for the tremendous kindness and hard work of the staff at Keller Williams. They did a great

job clearing the field at our shelter which will allow our dog residents to have more room to exercise. Thanks to their re-painting of the facility and landscaping work, potential pet adopters visiting SARL will find a first-class facility that is firing on all cylinders to help find our animals their permanent home," said SARL Director of Development and Community Relations, D.J. Bettencourt.

"We look forward to RED Day every year and it was a real pleasure helping the Salem Animal Rescue League. They do outstanding work caring and finding good homes for their animals. We are confident that our efforts will help SARL in their important mission," said Keller Williams realtor and Salem resident Barbara Scanlon.

Since the first RED Day in 2009, Keller Williams associates have given almost half a million hours of community service through activities ranging from food and blood drives to cleaning up trash in public parks, revamping gardens at nursing homes and rebuilding homes and school for community members in need.



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FROM PAGE 5: ANDREW MAYLOR

assets like computers and Blackberries and things that are given out to the schools and the employees? We hear a lot of complaints in cities, especially like Lawrence and Haverhill, that the schools are giving out laptops for the kids and there's no tracking them. I know towns are a little different, so I'm just wondering if you guys have a ...

MAYLOR: We have an asset tracking system. Every asset that's deployed is bar coded. I was just looking at the side of that desk. There's a barcode on that. There's a barcode on the conference room table here. There's a barcode on the more portable assets. We keep track of inventory like that. Our central IT shop has been the centerpiece for doing that.

The law changed a little bit. The accounting rules changed some years ago where communities were required to actually place their fixed assets on their balance sheets in a concrete way, not just an estimate.

So, about a decade or so ago communities actually had to keep track of all physical assets, not only critical assets like technology, but believe it or not, even our pipes and streets. What's the age? What's the length? And some communities were more aggressive about complying with that. North Andover has done a really effective job. We have an asset inventory and asset software program that identifies all those. The world is changing, so our assets are becoming more portable. That becomes tricky. It does.

You track that stuff, but at the end of the year, comparing what you began with to what you ended with and then trying to figure out in between if the phone broke, the iPad broke, becomes tricky. I think we're taking sort of a measured approach on big [things]. I'm very hawkish on technologies. You see some of the changes to the meeting room. We can now do things in a way that is more consistent with the private sector view on things: we didn't have WiFi in this building before I arrived. We have WiFi. We now have an iPhone/Droid app that you can use to identify potholes or other complaints you may have and send them directly to Public Works.

But with that comes a little bit of a risk about the portability of the assets. So it's not a perfect system, but trying to keep track of the assets with an asset tracking system helps.

VP: Do you get frustrated at all about the way the school system and the School Committee operates? They negotiate a contract with the Union that's far and above what's in their budget, and they have to come to the town and ask for more money to pay for something they've already committed to giving away in a signed contract.

MAYLOR: Well, my experience here has been that the communication between the Selectmen, the School Committee,

the Administration, and myself has been good. If I had to note one thing that stands out in a positive way, it's been that [the communication] with the schools.

VP: Really?

MAYLOR: I meet weekly with the Superintendent and the Business Manager, or whatever we call Jim Miller these days in the schools. We talk candidly. We have those discussions. The School Department adopted a budget last night. I think it reflects a reasonable balance of "We need all this" vs. "What we have". And those conversations, I think last year is an example. There's been sort of a circular practice here, of using the Budget Communications Group. It was a, "Let's lock ourselves in a room until we can figure out how to balance what you want vs. what I want."

Last year, we didn't use it. Last year, we were able to talk through the priorities, the balance and the needs. It goes through sustainability piece. Last night, the School Committee voted as part of their budget, \$150,000 to a reserve fund to deal with the fluctuations in special education.

When's the last time a School Committee voted anything to a reserve fund? Not in my experience, right? It's complicated. So as part of their core service, they said, "We want to set aside \$150,000 in the reserve fund, so next year, when we get an out of district placement, or something unusual, we're not taking it from something else." I think that is the result of the really positive communication that we sit there and say, "We're trying to be sustainable. We're not spending every nickel we have. We have set it aside. We sort of expect you to do the same."

It's been really great. We don't agree on everything. I wouldn't do everything the same way. I wish I had bottom line spending like superintendents have, you know, but the relationship's been great.

VP: How much more are they spending this year??

MAYLOR: I think their request was \$4.12M.

VP: Is the majority of that salary?

MAYLOR: Yes, usually. Schools are different than towns in the fact that they are 80% or so employee based, so therefore it's salary driven and you go up with that. So if you just applied that math across the increases on what they get year to year, they're 80%, you know, they're well over a \$1,000,000 in salary related stuff.

The Town is a little more balanced, more like 60/40. The nature of what they do is different, and you have to get that up front. Again, we're not going to agree on everything, on every approach. I will tell you, to date, the relationship has been good.

VP: Good.

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FROM PAGE 16: LEAP FROG GROUP

as yet un-indicted co-conspirators, is that all individuals in a hospital setting "own" safety. Much drum-beating has taken place over the term "disruptive physician," a physician who is not a good member of the team. If only all physicians would be good team players, says Dr. Leape, patient safety shall bloom.

Let us examine how that worked in the one incident I shall analyze here.

A patient of mine, whom I had diagnosed with multiple sclerosis after his second MS attack, came from home by ambulance to Cambridge ER after calling 911. He had woken up paralyzed on his right side. When he arrived at the ER, he still could speak, and asked the staff for me by name. He also informed the nurses and doctors that he had MS and that this was his third bad attack.

The ER staff never called me despite the patient's clear wishes. He was instead seen by the new Chief of Neurology at Cambridge, who told him that as he had been diagnosed with MS by a doctor from the Third World, she was pretty sure he could not have MS. An MRI scan of his brain was done and showed that he did not have a new stroke. The hospital's computer system was full of details about his MS and the previous brain scans. But the Chief went ahead and declared that he had a new stroke and gave him the clot-buster t-PA anyway.

Now, t-PA is a dangerous drug when not handled properly, meaning given to the wrong patient. Numerous people have bled to death from it, which is why patients should meet strict criteria to be given t-PA. Here is where one can look around to see Dr. Leape's "Culture Of Safety" in action in real life in his own hospital.

The patient-centered ER nurse did not object to an MS patient being given t-PA when the MRI showed no new stroke, the intern did not object, the ER's attending physician did not object, the pharmacist did not object and my patient was given a drug that kills people, a drug he clearly did not need. Clearly all of them were excellent team players. Not even ONE disruptive person on the team! A true "Leape Ahead" success story the Boston Globe would declare. Members of the American Medical Students Association surely would approve.

In reality, there is no "Culture Of Safety" in evidence at Dr. Leape's own hospital. No one "owns" safety. There is no system. Just as Bernie Madoff did not really have a system.

Dr. David Bor, having been Chief of Medicine there for almost 30 years, on a government salary, surely must know the whole thing is a fraud too. Perhaps that explains his longevity at that post.

When you look at the massive fraud that Dr. Leape sustains via Leapfrog on the basis of his public reputation and writings about Cambridge Hospital, it becomes very clear why there was no way they were going to report this major error. A multimillion dollar scam rides on this false reputation. Madison Avenue's brand managers don't come even close to the folks who maintain a massive and heartless healthcare fraud on the Leape brand name alone.

My previous article made clear that this fraud is nationwide. It affects every single person who takes a loved one to a hospital, in addition to stealing from all our taxes and premiums. For this, we can thank Obamacare and Kathleen Sebelius, a person officially declared by a US Court to act in deliberate bad faith, and who has spent scarce public tax dollars to pay for Leape to travel the lecture circuit, as well as mislead people into thinking he is US Government-approved. Even Bernie never had that.

Readers in Massachusetts surely remember the impact on car insurance premiums from the massive fraud involving fake accidents, corrupt doctors and chiropractors. When the fraud was shut down, our car premiums decreased by \$875 MILLION, according to the Insurance Fraud Bureau of Massachusetts. One can only marvel at how much our health insurance premiums will decrease when the Leapfrog fraud is shut down.

Investigating the financial arrangements, in the US and offshore (<http://www.icij.org/offshore>), of Leapfrog, Dr. Leape, his un-indicted co-conspirators and his Cambridge Hospital would be a great place to start.

Dr Padmanabhan is a Board Certified neurologist who specializes in multiple sclerosis in the Boston area. He may be reached at scleroplex@gmail.com

KITTIES: FROM PAGE 36

and also build a relationship with your local petcare business. Wiggles & Jiggles Loves ALL pets!

8. Family evacuation plans - include you cats and all your family pets in your designated family evacuation plan. You just never know what Mother Nature will toss our way. Be prepared: travel crate, extra food, collar, tags and have your cat microchip. In case of an emergency this will help you to be able to keep your cats from being displaced from you during an emergency.

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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 wigglewalk@comcast.net. Become a fan on facebook at Wiggles & Jiggles Pet Care.

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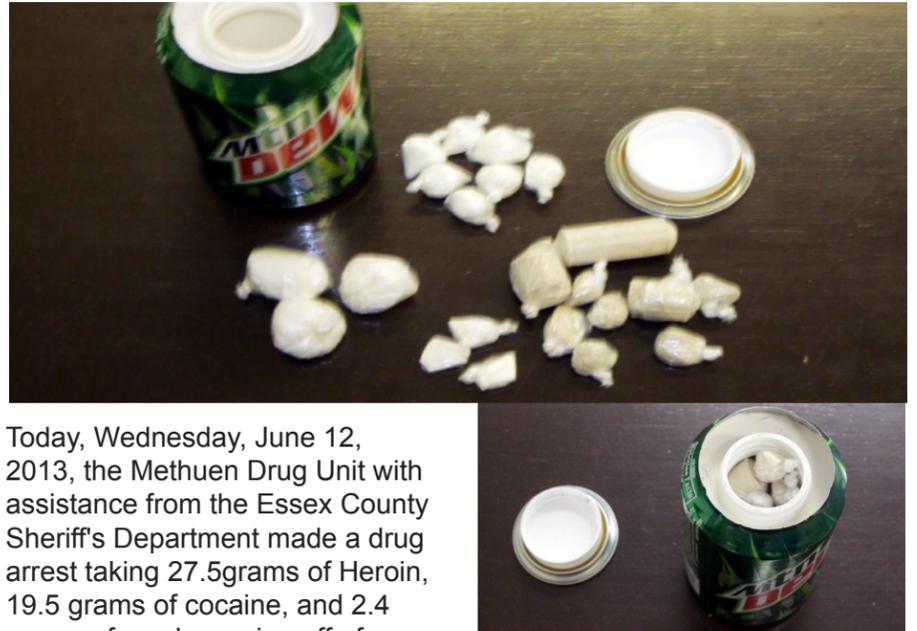


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Methuen Police make Drug Arrest and take 49 grams of Drugs off the Streets



Today, Wednesday, June 12, 2013, the Methuen Drug Unit with assistance from the Essex County Sheriff's Department made a drug arrest taking 27.5grams of Heroin, 19.5 grams of cocaine, and 2.4 grams of crack cocaine off of Methuen Streets. The call came in from a concerned Methuen resident reporting a suspicious vehicle on Arlington Street. An investigation led to the arrest of Wesley Valentin, 32 of Lawrence. Valentin is being held on \$10,000 bail. These photos are of the "hide" that the drugs were found in. Not your everyday soda can.

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Greater Boston Tea Party

May 13, 2013

Dear Congressman:

The recent public acknowledgement from the IRS regarding its role in targeting conservative non-profit groups should concern you as much as it concerns us. Regardless of one's political preference, when a regulatory agency, like the IRS, singles out specific groups because of their beliefs, it threatens all of our freedoms.

The IRS admitted to targeting conservative non-profit groups with the phrases "patriot" and "tea party" in their applications. According to the *Politico*, the IRS went further and "gave a skeptical eye to groups focusing on specific issues including "government spending," "government debt," "education of the public via advocacy/lobbying to 'make America a better place to live,'" and all groups that "criticized how the country is being run." According to the *Wall Street Journal*, "many groups say they were asked for lists of their donors and other sensitive information." The *Washington Post* published a must read editorial titled "Playing Politics with Tax Returns," calling to task the IRS. George Will on ABC's This Week called the IRS's actions against conservatives an "Impeachable Offense."

The issue of the IRS, or any regulatory office, targeting conservative groups is inexcusable. It should not matter if these groups are conservative or progressive, unfair treatment has no place and it affects the freedoms of all of us.

We are writing to you today because we represent several conservative organizations in Massachusetts that are concerned with the IRS's actions. We are calling on you to join other Members of Congress, from both parties, in publicly condemning the IRS's actions. This type of behavior cannot be tolerated and it's important that residents of Massachusetts know how their Members of Congress stand on this good-government issue.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions; we are eagerly awaiting your public statement. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Paul D. Craney
 Executive Director
 Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance

Sincerely,
Barbara Anderson
 Executive Director
 Citizens for Limited Taxation

Sincerely,
Christine Morabito
 President
 Greater Boston Tea Party

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