



THE VALLEY PATRIOT

"Congress shall make no law..."

valleypatriot.com

A FREE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF NEWS, COMMENTARY AND EVENTS, SERVING MA & NH

MARCH, 2013
VOLUME 10, ISSUE 3
Edition 113

Flavor-Fresh
274 Prospect St. Lawrence
FLAVORFRESHBRAND.COM

CHAMA Grill
Experience quality
Italian Restaurant
Brazilian Steak House
www.chamagrill.com
115 Main Street North Andover
Phone: (978) 258-2238 Fax: (978) 258-1931

Colizzi Memorials
Merrimack Valley's Preferred
Memorial Provider
See Our Ad P. 11

TARSHI LAW OFFICE
510 ESSEX ST
LAWRENCE, MA 01840
(978) 686-1821

Consoli Wilshusen
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
SEE OUR AD P. 7

Parties Unify on Public Records!



Tom Duggan
VALLEY PATRIOT PUBLISHER

While the Democrat leadership on Beacon Hill has blocked any attempt by Republican Legislators to change the Massachusetts Public Records Law (M.G.L. Ch. 66), a revolt among Democrats has caused a tidal wave to build in both the House and the Senate where rank and file members of both parties are calling for the law to be made more effective.

Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 66 is known as the State's Public Records Law. It requires all public documents be turned over within ten days of request by any member of the public.

WHEN THE LAW IS VIOLATED

As of the day we went to print, The Valley Patriot is still waiting for public documents from the City of Lawrence regarding payments made by the city to The Law Firm of DiAdamo and DiAdamo.

The DiAdamos' have a contract with the City of Lawrence representing the city in worker's compensation claims. They also own the building that the Lawrence School

PUBLIC RECORDS, PAGE 5

NOW COVERING LOCAL SPORTS!!

INSIDE THIS EDITION!

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Jeff Katz on The Sequester - P. 3 | |
| Veterans..... | 1, 36-37 |
| Thinking Outside the Box..... | 2 |
| Editorial..... | 3 |
| Jeff Katz-OpEd..... | 3 |
| North Andover..... | 4-7 |
| Andover..... | 17 |
| Methuen..... | 8-13 |
| Jack's Irish Craic..... | 8 |
| Lawrence..... | 9 & 12 |
| Haverhill..... | 10 & 13 |
| Lowell..... | 15 |
| Local SPORTS!! | 6, 10, 13 |
| World Views..... | 16 |
| Tea Party/Democrat Corner..... | 17 |
| Tom Duggan's Notebook..... | 20-21, 42-43 |
| Local Political Cartoonist..... | 21 |
| Massachusetts..... | 1, 5, 24-25 |
| Recipes with Sheila Mullins..... | 27 |
| NEW HAMSHIRE | 29 |
| Groveland..... | 32 |
| Puppy Girl-Tracey Zysk..... | 35 |
| Live the WOW!..... | 39 |
| Health..... | 27, 38-40 |



PuppyGirl
Kate Whitney
PAGE 35



Christine Morabito
TEA PARTY
PAGE 17



Pennie Hale
Let's Talk
About Food
PAGE 27



Dani Langevin
Lesbian
Columnist
PAGE 16



DEMOCRAT CORNER
Mara Dolan
PAGE 17

VALLEY PATRIOT OF THE MONTH POW PAUL STILLWELL, U.S. ARMY, 12TH ARMORED DIVISION

Helen Mooradkian,
VALLEY PATRIOT VETERAN COLUMNIST

In the cold, foggy pre-dawn hours of January 17, 1945, PFC Paul Stillwell, U.S. Army, 17th Armored Infantry Battalion, 12th Armored Division, of North Andover, advanced into Herrlisheim, Alsace, France, to join in the Twelfth's bloodiest battle to date. Paul's battalion had just come from their first major combat engagement, on the Maginot Line—a line of concrete fortifications, tank obstacles, machine gun posts along France's borders with Germany and Italy.

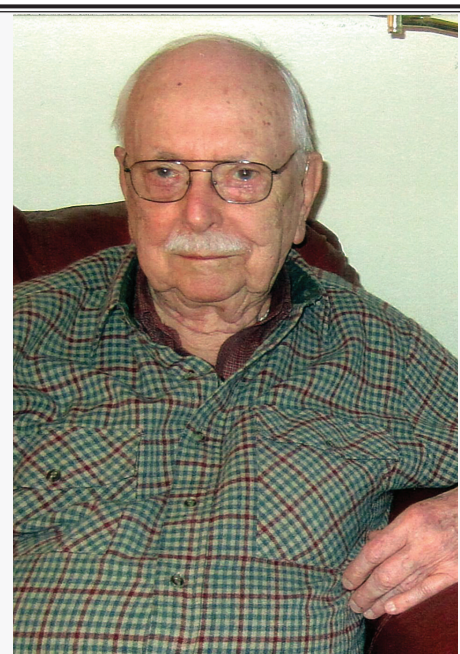
Having arrived in France only in mid-November, they were somewhat inexperienced. Auffay, Luneville, Bining, and Rohrback did not really prepare them for the nightmare of Herrlisheim. Herrlisheim became their "baptism by fire."

It was there that they lived up to their name, the "Hellcats" Division.

Snow 15 inches deep and heavy ground fog blanketed the region around the Rhine River. As Paul's battalion moved across the flat, open field, they advanced directly into the line of heavy machine gun fire. They had entered "a perfect kill zone." No place for concealment. The canals were swollen with ice and snow and all but one bridge had been destroyed. The Germans lay hidden behind the small clusters of woods and railroad embankments, along with major elements of the 10th SS Panzer Division—including a tank brigade with 88mm and 75mm guns, a mortar company, motorized infantry brigade and anti-tank guns. Not only did the Germans far outnumber the Ameri-

HERO: PAGE 37

PFC J. Paul Stillwell, U.S. Army, 17th Armored Infantry Battalion, 12th Armored Division (the "Hellcats"), was a POW during WWII in two German prison camps, Stalags 5A and 11B, after his capture during the bloody battle of Herrlisheim, Alsace, France. During 1943-1945, he fought in the Rhineland Campaign and Central Europe. Paul was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, as well as the Victory Medal, American Theater Ribbon, European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with two Bronze Battle Stars, Overseas Service Bar.



The Office Exchange

"Your Office Furniture Resource"

Our Retail Outlet has the
BEST PRICES IN THE VALLEY
On New or Pre-Owned Furniture
for your home or office

425 Merrimack St., Lawrence, MA 01843
TEL: (978) 681-5001 * Fax: (978) 681-5011

Offering new, Refurbished
& Pre-Owned Office
Furniture & Panel Systems

theofficexchange.com email: Info@Theofficexchange.com

Installations, Relocations, Liquidations, Buy-Back Solutions... Home or Office!



Open: M-TH 8AM-3PM,
FRI 8AM-1PM

The Democrat War on Our Nation's Youth

Professing Undying Love While Stabbing Them in the Back

Dr. Charles Ormsby
VALLEY PATRIOT EDITOR

A favorite trick of pickpockets is to create a distraction while reaching into your pockets and relieving you of your money. The Democrats are masters of this technique and they employ it over and over. It works best on those that are naïve and inexperienced, so it is not surprising that our innocent youth are smack dab in the middle of the Democrat crosshairs.

Imagine a group of youngsters moseying down the street thinking about their latest romance, their future, how smart they are becoming while taking courses on women's rights and hate crimes, and how compassionate they must be while earning their degree in Peace and Justice Studies.

Now look closely behind the tree. There is a gang of Democrats with those evil grins rubbing their hands together in anticipation of making a major score.

Here is the Democrat plan for our poor unsuspecting youth:

First, they convince them that everyone has a right to the same healthcare insurance at the same price. Certainly, idealistic youngsters will endorse this proposition because it sounds so good. They'll tell them that only mean old Republicans would

deny people equal access to healthcare.

What Democrats will not tell our young people is that they will be forced to pay for this plan disproportionately. Their plan is to deny our youth the right to contract for their own health insurance and force them to buy the same coverage as seniors and at the same price. Since young people are statistically much less likely to have high healthcare expenses, the free market would naturally sell them an excellent, comprehensive health policy for much less than they would sell it to someone in their sixties.

The next part of the Democrat agenda is to deny our youth access to employment opportunities so they can demand greater pay and benefits for those already established in their jobs with greater experience. They tell our youth that the mean capitalists want employees to work as slaves and not pay them what they deserve. Certainly, any worker deserves at least \$9 per hour. Not only that, they should be guaranteed paid vacation, sick time, family leave, drug counseling, and extra overtime pay.

What Democrats will NOT tell our youth is that employers are not required to hire anyone under these conditions; they can opt to not hire anyone at all. All the Democrats are dictating are increases in the

minimum cost of hiring an employee if you hire them. What is an employer to do? Of course, the natural response is for employers to only hire employees with sufficient expertise to justify the required higher costs and to substitute automation wherever possible. What employers will do less of is hire inexperienced youth. So instead of our youth getting a low paying job with fewer benefits - BUT a job that offers them valuable experience and a chance to move up - they get nothing. More precisely, they get discouraged, angry, tattoos, nose rings and purple hair. Who can blame them?

We should note in passing that the first two parts of the Democrat plan for destroying our youth are synergistic. Since employers are required to subsidize health insurance for their employees and youth have lower than average healthcare costs, it should be advantageous for employers to hire youthful applicants. But alas, since we are not allowed to tailor plans to individuals, all prospective employees represent the same health insurance cost burden and this rare advantage, that should be enjoyed by our youth, is eliminated. The net result is that under 55% of our youth aged 18-24 have a job. The lowest level ever recorded. Way to go Democrats!!

The Democrats are not satisfied with this. They have the education unions (part and parcel of the Democrat coalition) to satisfy. Certainly the youth - through their parents - can be counted on to care about the quality and cost of education. The Democrats use this to their advantage to funnel money and privileges to their union supporters while indoctrinating the naïve but idealistic youth with their statist ("government solves all problems") dogma.

Here is how the scam works: The Democrats will pose as champions of the youth by proclaiming the importance of education. They will say that our youth have the right to a quality education at an affordable cost.

Of course their answer is to spend, spend, spend ... with grants and aid programs that directly feed the education special interests and low interest loans guaranteed by the taxpayer to ingratiate themselves with students and parents. Given the poor job market and the overhyped need for formal schooling and college degrees, an inordinate percentage of our youth take the loans despite their lack of serious interest in academic subjects. The money flows into our colleges and is promptly eaten up by bloated salaries and administrative staff, all now firmly indebted to the Democrat party.

But what about our youth? Some gain a solid education that they can use to estab-

lish successful careers, but too many end up with few marketable skills, four years less experience due to their lack of employment, and a huge debt burden they will carry with them for much of their lives.

When graduates leave their college graduation ceremonies, they are optimistic that they will be able to translate their diploma into a good paying job and that life will be comfortable. The reality for most is quite different, especially for those who have spent their college years in the "soft" disciplines. If your major was in a subject area where you could, just as easily, have checked out books from your local library and joined a discussion group on weekends, you will find that your college expenditures have largely been wasted.

So now we have a large group of poverty-stricken youngsters living in their parents' basements. One would think that the Democrats would take pity on them and agree to not inflict any additional suffering. But you underestimate the evil that Democrats are capable of. Our youth have been stripped of opportunity and resources now, but that doesn't mean that the Democrats can't steal their future earnings!!

We're all tired of hearing about our massive federal debt (nearing \$17,000 billion). If you don't think this is a big problem, you are either ignorant of basic economics or too old to care about the future. This debt will not be paid by those in their seventies, eighties or nineties. It is likely that they will be long gone before the IOUs hit the fan. The biggest impact will be felt by those under fifty and most especially by those even younger. The annual interest costs will be immense, but the news is even worse. As the baby boomers retire, it is the youth that will be shouldering the burden of supporting the elderly through Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, prescription guarantees, ObamaCare and other elderly aid programs. Even today, there are only 1.75 employees in the private sector supporting the costs of each retiree and the number is dropping every day.

The big question is, will our youth ever figure out the Democrat scam? Will they ever hold the Democrats to account?

When they reach the breaking point, and they will, the youth may very well take Ayn Rand's suggestion and shrug. But will it be too late?



Dr. Ormsby is a former member of the N.A. School Committee. He is a graduate of Cornell and has a doctorate degree from MIT. He is currently a faculty member in the Department of Mathematical Sciences at UMASS, Lowell. Email him at ccormsby@verizon.net.



Ward 6 Social Club

A Private Social Club

Private Bar & Function Rooms



**57 Springfield St.
Lawrence, MA 01843
978-686-6066**

Low Cost Memberships!

Open 7 days a week
Mon-Thurs 2 PM - 1 AM
Friday 2 PM - 2 AM
Sat & Sun 2 PM - 1 AM



3 Newly Renovated Bars and 2 Function Halls!

Dancing Every Thurs, Fri & Sat Night!

16 Dart Boards, 3 Pool Tables and More!



\$100 off Hall Rental with this ad!

Gaythorne Hall

*Perfect for: Weddings - Showers
Anniversaries - Birthday Parties
Banquets - Company Meetings*

**Our large hall holds 250 people.
Our small hall holds up to 60 guests.**

METHUEN KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

462 BROADWAY, (RTE. 28) METHUEN * (978) 686-1291

Another Anniversary ... Nine Years News and Views

Little more than 9 years ago, The Valley Patriot was just an idea. That idea was to provide an alternative voice for Merrimack Valley newsmakers and community leaders who were frustrated by the lack of adequate local coverage in other media outlets. We wanted to publish a newspaper that was different. We wanted a newspaper with a mission to provide news and opinions not filtered by the political agenda of an editorial board. Skeptics and malcontents in the community laughed, saying that the paper would never get off the ground and would never have credibility.

Within a few short months, however, we were publishing breaking stories that were later covered in the local daily papers and on Boston talk radio. A few months later we were noticed

by Andy Card at the White House, Congressman Marty Meehan and Governor Mitt Romney. Something that even surprised us! We knew we had arrived! Two years later we were honored with a New England Press Association award for journalism and have received numerous awards since then from Veterans and civic groups.

Of course, the skeptics and critics have noticed us too. The Massachusetts Teachers Association even brought legal action trying to suppress the opinions of one of our columnists. We were unsuccessfully sued by disgruntled father Kevin Thompson, and we have been attacked by corrupt politicians unhappy about what we report.

It obviously scares many people to know that every month, the public is exposed to ideas they don't approve of

and yet nine years later we have yet to lose a court battle or an attack on our credibility. This month, as we publish our nine-year anniversary edition, we are humbled and grateful that so many important political and business leaders have embraced and endorsed our mission to provide real local news and opinions not covered by other media. We are also appreciative that so many readers have made us a regular part of their news consumption every month... and every day on line at valleypatriot.com.

When we started this little venture we were distributing to 4 communities back in 2004. This month you can find us in more than 35 communities as far west as Leominster and Gardner MA. We cannot individually thank everyone who has contributed to the success

of The Valley Patriot. From business leaders, to community activists, to elected officials and a very loyal readership, the response has been overwhelmingly supportive. If not for the help and cooperation of all of them, this monthly newspaper would still be ... just an idea.

The Board of Directors at The Valley Patriot want to express our THANKS to the readers, contributors, advertisers, (anonymous phone callers), elected officials, community activists and everyone else who has given of their time, money, energy, effort and prestige to make The Valley Patriot an exciting and reliable voice in the Merrimack Valley.

Come Celebrate with us at our 9th Anniversary BASH, on March 22nd, details at the bottom of the page.

JOIN US for our 9th Anniversary BASH!

YES! This month the Valley Patriot turns 9 Years old and we are throwing our BIGGEST BASH YET!!

FRI. MARCH 22nd 7PM at the Firefighters Relief's In 1 Market Street, Lawrence, MA

SPONSORED BY:

Joe Zingales & Remax Presitge
Janice & Walter M. Pomerleau
in Memory of Walter H. Pomerleau
Sharon Birchall - Laborers Local 175
WCAP Radio - Sahtaine Restaurant
Tom Delisle and Geri Callahan Delisle
In Memory of of Jeanne Callahan-Allen
Lawrence Firefighters Association
Indigo Pixies - Bell Aire Music Productions
Daily Dose Cafe - Emily's Bakery
Author Kenny Tingle - Author Al Zappala
Methuen Councilor Jen Kannan
Food Art By Charles

FEATURING!

PUPPYGIRL!
Radio Legend Jeff Katz
Paul Murano & Justess Bowles
Comedian Mac Livingston
Andreas (Drama) Dramatik
Bell-Aire Music Productions
State Rep Jim Lyons
Crooner Brian Evans
Mayor Mike Sullivan
Mayor Bill Manzi
Tea Party President Christine Morabito
The Valley Patriot Softball Teams!
Awards and Tributes!

**Food
Music
Awards!**

Tickets: \$20ea/\$30 for 2
(in advance)
\$25 at the door
Tables of 8 are \$120
Tables of 10 \$150



Our MC will be none other than the Valley Patriot's PuppyGirl Kate Whitney!

Tickets; Pennie Hale at 978-886-9719 Or email Stephanie Petrow at spetrow@aol.com

Hey Guys, Sequester This!

Jeff Katz

VOTED AP's BEST RADIO TALK SHOW HOST

It has been nothing short of fascinating to read, watch and listen to the histrionics currently being visited upon the American people by the current occupier of the Oval Office. The end is near, the oceans will once again rise, teachers will be kicked in the shins, people will be turned into soylent green and oh, the end is near! The Dear Leader continues to shout that the sky is falling and it's all the fault of those damned Republicans. It is the usual Obama rhetoric but something interesting is happening. For the first time in the past

four years, it appears as if the main stream media water carriers are just a little tired of the moaning.

Now, let me be clear. There has been a valiant effort made by the White House staffers currently stationed at MSNBC, but many of the usual Obamatons seem paralyzed and unable to channel their inner Alinsky this time around. Even as the smartest president in history has badly mangled that whole Jedi Vulcan thing, the usual ego boosting suspects have been sitting fairly quiet on the sidelines.

If I were the president I'd be wondering what a guy needs to do to get a little love

from these faux journalists. They used to fawn all over him in passionate attempts to assuage their heartfelt feelings of guilt, but now...not so much. Time was all that the former junior senator from Illinois had to do was to blame the mean, nasty evil Republicans and he could get a little kiss, but not on this sequester thing. Maybe those phony reporters have noticed that even with the sequester firmly in place everything seems to be rolling along just fine. I don't know what color the sky is in their world, but at least it has not fallen.

What seems to be happening is that real people living in the real world, far away from the Potomac bubble have figured out that asking the bloated Federal government to cut 2% out of the rate of growth is hardly a crisis no matter how much bloviating is occurring at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Real people are dealing with real unemployment close to 15% and family size jars of peanut butter which now sells for \$8.00. Of course one of the major problems with trying to blame the sequester thing on Republicans, is that it was a White House plan from the very beginning. It has got to be difficult to be the leader of the left and find that now something as insignificant as the truth has become a stumbling block in ginning up yet another phony crisis. Don't worry Mister President, Hollywood and the Nobel Committee still love you!



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: visionaccomplished.net

The Valley Patriot is published monthly before the tenth of each month by the Valley Patriot, Inc., 75 Main St., North Andover, MA 01845. All contents Copyright (c) 2012, Valley Patriot, Inc. All rights reserved. Subscriptions are \$50 per year and sent via U.S. Mail.

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

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

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

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

Local daily news updates are online at facebook.com/valleypatriot

PHONE: (978) 771-4091
www.valleypatriot.com

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

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

Editorial Board:

President/Publisher: Tom Duggan, Jr.
VP/Director: Ralph Wilbur
Editor: Charles Ormsby
Copy Editor: Linda Lemerise



Armed Citizen Training



For when you are forced to act

Providing the education & training necessary to all individuals interested in Firearm Safety, Concealed Carry & Personal Protection

Mass LTC Courses Offered Monthly at 355 Merrimack St., Lawrence



**NRA Certified Instructor
MA State Police Certified Instructor
Sig Sauer Certified Instructor**
**LIKE us on FaceBook at
Armed Citizen Training LLC
(Schedule of classes posted)**



*Contact Scott Jenkins,
Certified Firearms Instructor
(508) 523-5105
armedcittraining@aol.com*

THE PAYING ATTENTION! RADIO PROGRAM
980AM WCAP - SATURDAYS 10-NOON
podcast of every show on valleypatriot.com
Click the podcast link at the top

Methuen Village's First Annual

BASKET BONANZA

Thursday, March 21 | 6-8 PM

Join us for a fun evening sponsored by



**The Friends of Methuen Village
Caregivers' Fund**

\$5 donation at the door provides guests with a raffle ticket for our grand prize drawing. Silent auction bidding for incredible basket displays of all kinds donated by local Methuen businesses. Enjoy delicious appetizers, decadent desserts, and beverages including beer & wine.

The Friends of Methuen Village Caregivers' Fund was recently established by the family of Eva Suzedelys, who lived at Methuen Village for three years, to gratefully acknowledge the dedicated caregivers who provide compassionate and loving care to all residents. The fund will provide financial aid to deserving Methuen Village caregivers to further their education. At this first Friends event two \$500 scholarships will be awarded!



**4 Gleason St, Methuen MA, 01844
978.685.2220 | MethuenVillage.com**



**1/2 PRICE ENTREE
BUY 1 GET SECOND 1/2 PRICE
(VALID WITH COUPON)
EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE FOR
1/2 PRICED ENTREE.**

NOT VALID FRIDAYS OR SATURDAYS NOT VALID WITH OTHER OFFERS.
NOT VALID ON 12/31/2012 AND 2/14/2013
EXPIRES 03/28/2013


CHAMA Grill
Experience, Quality

OPEN
Monday - Thursday
4pm - 10pm
Friday 4-11
Saturday 3-11
Sunday 3pm - 9pm

**Italian Restaurant
Brazilian Steak House**



Phone: (978)258-2238 | Fax: (978)258-1931

www.chamagrill.com
115 Main St, North Andover MA - 01845

FROM 1: BEACON HILL REVOLT ON PUBLIC RECORDS

Department rents for their central offices on Essex Street, and have done legal work for the city’s Workforce Investment Board as well as being the attorneys for the Greater Lawrence Sanitary District. The DiAdamo’s also represented Mayor Lantigua and his Economic Development Director Patrick Blanchette on personal matters before the court.

Despite the fact that M.G.L. Ch. 66 mandates public records be turned over within ten days, The Valley Patriot is still waiting for a court resolution to our demand for public documents because there is no penalty in the law for those (like Lantigua) who refuse to comply with it. Secretary of State Bill Galvin’s Office and a court order from Essex Superior Court Judge Thomas Murtagh both compelled Lawrence Mayor Willie Lantigua to release the records, but Lantigua has so far refused with impunity.

LEGISLATORS FIGHT BACK

“The problem with this law is that when an elected official or a holder of public records simply refuses to comply with the law, like Mayor Lantigua is doing in Lawrence, there is no penalty. All the Secretary of State can do is send them a nasty letter, and as we have seen in the case of The Valley Patriot that doesn’t work,” Jim Lyons said.

“So in affect, we have merely a polite suggestion to public officials to please make public records available, but if they don’t want to, that’s OK. Well that’s not OK! This is madness, these are our documents, our tax money paid to produce them, the information contained in those documents reveal the actions of our government, and the public has the right to know what is in them. How can you have a law with no penalty for breaking it? Only in Massachusetts.”

Lyons is leading the charge in the House, (with his party right behind him) calling for the highest penalties for public records law violations: jail time for repeat offenders.

Massachusetts Senate, Minority Leader Bruce Tarr, (R) Gloucester, says that he has been fighting for years to get transparency in the state’s public records law, but to no avail. Tarr says he is committed to getting the law changed and also said he is more hopeful that changes are coming.

“I know we are going to try and find meaningful penalties so that the folks that are withholding information pay a consequence for violating the law, and doing what appears to be a flagrant disregard for the law. That is not acceptable. If the law is going to have integrity it has to be enforceable and it has to be respected,” the Senator added.

Republican House Minority Leader, Brad Jones said he agrees with Senator Tarr and supports changes in the law as well. “Having been a local official, I think there are a lot of ways in approaching whether it’s a fine on the person who is specifically standing in the way of getting those records out. Particularly when it has already been indicated the people are entitled to those records.”

“I think Bruce [Tarr] is right, one of the things we are very fond of in the legislature is passing more laws. But often times, we have laws on the books that we are not taking advantage of and putting teeth behind to get the results we desire.”

“So, I think you have a commitment, from me ... to look at this and try to come up with greater ways to putting more teeth [into the law], and quite frankly giving more tools to the people in charge of enforcing the law.”

Republican Representative Brad Hill (Ipswich) said that some legislators have tried to discuss adding penalties for violations of the state’s public records law, but the Democrat Leadership in the House wouldn’t even let them speak on it.

“I [said] in my comments [previously] that we need more transparency and a more balanced approach in the legislature so that we can actually debate these types of issues,” Hill said at a press conference last year.

“For too long there are ideas out there that aren’t even allowed to be debated on the



State Senator Bruce Tarr, (then) candidate Karin Rhoton, House Republican Minority Leader Brad Jones and Republican Representative Brad Hill held a press conference last year where they spoke of making changes to the state’s public records Law.

floor of the house. This is one of those.” Every Republican state legislator the Valley Patriot spoke with said that the Democrat party leadership in both the House and the Senate has blocked their attempts to make the law more effective.

Newly elected State Representative Lenny Mirra (R) West Newbury, said he supports changes in the law and will vote to add penalties to MHG Ch 66.

“Many voters lack trust in Beacon Hill because of actions like this where public officials are able to skirt the law. These fines will hopefully put some teeth into our laws and provide the transparency and accountability that the public demands and deserves.”

“I have always believed strongly that the public should have instant access to public information, and the information public officials use to make decisions. I am someone who believes that we need to work hard to restore people’s faith in government. Part of how we do that is to make all information and how we make our decision as public officials available on-line and as accessible as possible.”

State Senator Jamie Eldridge (D)Acton

attorney fees. My hope is that it will increase pressure on an agency to provide public information in first place.”

Eldridge also submitted bills that would force all public agencies covered under law to put public documents on-line. The Eldridge bill would add the state’s administrative courts to do on-line records. “This would ultimately mean that there would be reduced costs for the public, there would be less of a need for copying documents, and it would reduce the amount of man hours needed to research the information someone requests.”

Eldridge recently authored a bill changing the Senate rules so that all votes in the State Senate are posted on-line for public

days. This is not as harsh as the Lyons Bill which calls for higher fines, but Ives says that on the issue of imposing penalties for violations of the law “it’s vital to having transparency in government. I don’t care whose bill gets passed, as long as we have an effective law that can be enforced, right now we don’t have that.”

KEEPING HER PROMISE

Democrat State Representative Diana DiZoglio (D) Methuen, also a newcomer, said she ran on transparency in government and says she is committed to keeping her promises to the 5,000 people whose homes she visited during the 2012 campaign.

“If citizens are not able to gain access to public documents, we cannot claim that there is transparency in government. If we don’t have some kind of penalty, there is no enforcement and people are not going to comply ... This is what I ran on, public accountability, transparency in government; this definitely has to be done.”

DiZoglio filed her own legislation similar to the Ives bill calling for daily fines for any public servant who refuses to turn over public records and attorney fees for members of the public who seek court action.

DiZoglio defeated fourteen year incumbent David Torrisi in the Democrat primary last year. Torrisi did not support changes in the law.

A WELCOME REVOLT ON PUBLIC RECORDS

State Representative Jim Lyons says he is pleasantly surprised that there are Democrats willing to buck their party leadership to stand for changes in the public records law. “Having Democrats beat this drum is wonderful, I wish more of them would do that. With a little help from rank and file Democrats we can send a clear message that the way it is now, is simply unacceptable. I welcome any help and I will work with anyone who is sincerely interested in holding our public officials accountable. I believe the timing could be right on this one and we might be able to get real meaningful legislation passed. I think at the end of the day what you will see is whether it’s my bill or someone else’s is a revolt on Beacon Hill. A revolt where the members say to the leadership something has to be done here, this has to stop... and the leadership will have to listen.”

“There is absolutely no need for The Valley Patriot or anyone else out there to fight this hard to find out what our government officials are up to. But at least now we can do something for future cases and make sure things like what is going on in Lawrence will not happen again.”



Tom Duggan is the publisher of The Valley Patriot, a former Lawrence School Committeeman, and hosts the Paying Attention! Radio Program on WCAP, 980AM, every Saturday from 10am-noon. You can email your comments to valleypatriot@aol.com



inspection. A ROOKIE TO THE RESCUE Joining Eldridge in the senate and the Republican leadership in both houses is newly elected State Senator Katie O’Connor Ives (D). Considered a liberal “left wing” Democrat, Ives surprised many during the primary election in 2012 when she declared (during a Valley Patriot debate) that she was committed to imposing financial penalties on anyone who violates the state’s public records law.

“People have the right to see those records and if there is no penalty in the law I believe we need to correct that.”

Asked how she would handle pressure from the party leadership who has long blocked changes in the law, Ives said that any opposition she encountered on the issue would make her work harder to get the changes passed.

“I believe we need to shine the light of day on what our government is doing and if my party doesn’t agree with that, I will just have to work even harder to make sure that there is transparency and openness in our government, because it is our government,” she said in an interview after the debate.

The Ives Bill calls for a \$50 a day fine on any public official or public employee who fails to turn over public records within ten

Rafferty Fired, Rehired as North Andover Football Coach

Mark Behan

VALLEY PATRIOT SPORTS REPORTER

He's back! And we are not talking Arnold Schwarzenegger and his next Terminator movie.

John Rafferty is back as North Andover High's head football coach – nearly two weeks after being fired by Principal Dr. Carla Scuzzarella and Athletic Director Jon Longley on Jan. 25. North Andover residents and football supporters are happier than Super-Bowl-winning Baltimore Ravens fans to have “Raff” back – as well they should be.

But can someone please explain why the classy 12-year coach was not rehired in the first place but instead made to look like Charlie Brown landing flat on his back after Lucy pulled the football away just as he attempted to kick it?

Scuzzarella and Longley not only fumbled the old pigskin on Jan. 25, but have made Bill “It is what it is” Belichick seem as loquacious as David Letterman when it comes to disseminating information on the issue with their we-don't-comment-on-personnel-matters mantra.

Rafferty, who has an 81-49 record at North Andover, was reportedly fired because he didn't follow school protocol when disciplining two football players involved in underage drinking last fall. I don't know if the disciplined players' self-esteem was damaged or their families were embarrassed more than the Patriots were in their second-half performance against the Ravens in the AFC title game. And if that is the case – good – and I hope they learned a lesson. But it seems a specious reason not to rehire Rafferty, who by all accounts represents everything you'd want in a high school coach.

“I was so impressed by him in the inter-

view,” said Terry Holland, a member of the interview committee that hired Rafferty a dozen or so years ago. “I felt this is the guy I wanted my kids to play for. From the perspective of a longtime high school coach – yours truly – this is the ultimate compliment. It's a sentiment which, based on the amazing show of support Rafferty received from the community after he was fired, is shared by legions.

This overwhelming support was evidenced by a Facebook Page (“Support Coach Rafferty”), signs dotting the town (“Bring Back Raff”), and pro-Rafferty petitions (signed by hundreds). A School Committee meeting turned into an extremely respectful pro-Raff event attended by about 200 people, including current and former Scarlet Knight padded gladiators as well as parents and North Andover football fans who spoke glowingly of the coach.

“He is quite a guy on and off the football field. A class act,” said Holland, of Rafferty who has been coaching since 1987 and whose squad finished 4-6 this past season – its first as a member of the Merrimack Valley Conference. Holland was the former North Andover Booster Club president and owns Stachey's Pizza in North Andover and Salem, NH.

“There didn't seem to be any basis (for firing him),” said Michael Laorenza, who spoke at the School Committee meeting and whose youngest son was a captain of the 2011 North Andover football team. Laorenza owns an insurance company in North Andover. “He was more than a coach to so many of the guys, and the kids were devastated when he was not rehired. The kids really made the difference (in getting him rehired); they represented Raff by the way they presented themselves at that school committee meeting. They were respectful and came dressed up to

the meeting like it was game day.” Laorenza said several former Rafferty players currently coach with him on the North Andover staff.

“That's a huge sign of respect and loyalty,” Laorenza said.

“Respect” and “loyalty” – those are words not often associated with a coach who was fired for trying to instill some discipline into a program that at times lacked it before he arrived at North Andover.

When he is not shepherding North Andover's student-athletes, Rafferty, 59, of Reading, works as a full-time senior case worker at the Billerica House of Correction. Rafferty is like a “guidance counselor” in working with the inmates, Holland said.

His former boss, Jim Cain, said Rafferty took his job seriously, was excellent in helping inmates formulate discharge plans and excelled in setting behavioral limits.

“John worked really well with the young inmates,” said Cain, who called Rafferty an excellent role model.

A former football captain at Syracuse University, Rafferty is regarded as the best football player in Wakefield High history. He was inducted into the school's Hall of Fame in 1994. A 1971 graduate, he led the undefeated 1970 Warriors team to the Middlesex League Championship and was named an All-Scholastic by the Boston newspapers.

Rafferty became head coach at North Andover in 2001 and is credited with turning a then-struggling program around. He steered the Scarlet Knights to Cape Ann League Championships in 2005 and 2010, and a co-championship in 2006. His fellow coaches named him Cape Ann League Coach of the Year after the 2005 and 2010 seasons. Not a bad resume.

Rafferty thanked supporters in an open letter to the North Andover Football Community on the “Support Coach Rafferty” Facebook

page:

“We are grateful for the opportunity to coach your sons again. It is an honor and a privilege. Simply stated, your actions have allowed me to do what I love – coach football at North Andover High. The words, THANK YOU, just don't feel like they are enough to express how truly grateful, humbled, and overwhelmed I am right now.”

Rafferty continued: “During these past two weeks, you've demonstrated the core beliefs of the North Andover Football program: Respect, Perseverance, Passion and the belief in HARD WORK. You have believed in and brought to life the concept of teamwork.”

Laorenza said he is proud of Superintendent Dr. Kevin Hutchinson and the School Committee for being proactive in the rehiring of Rafferty. “Everybody seemed to know what was at stake at the (School Committee) meeting,” Laorenza said. “In terms of the Superintendent and the School Committee it came down to them either having their fingers in the dyke or their fingers on the pulse (of the community).”

“All things considered, I am very happy with the way things turned out,” Laorenza said.

Me. too. But a class act like John Rafferty shouldn't have been made to look like Charlie Brown flat on his back.

Mark Behan may be contacted at behanms@aol.com



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

Notices From the North Andover Senior Center

The North Andover Senior Center is being recognized by “Benchmark Senior Living Community” as the Senior Center of the Month. Congratulations to the Council on Aging Board of Directors and the staff of the North Andover Senior Center. Come celebrate this achievement on March 28 at the North Andover Senior Center when Ashland Farms sponsors a PIZZA Party for our older adults. Please sign up with reception (limited to the first 35 North Andover seniors).

Traditional Corn Beef and Cabbage
Lunch: Thursday March 14th at noon. Tickets for the entertainment and lunch are \$10. Sign up with reception by March 11.

2013 Boston Flower Show: Friday March 15th. Bus departs @ 9:30. \$22 for tickets

and transportation (limit 12), \$17 without transportation. Lunch on your own.

Community Education Lecture: Depression or Dementia? Thursday, April 4, at 1:00pm. Special guest speaker Doctor Janice Funk. Limited seating so sign up with reception.

Tax Season is Here! Call the Senior Center to make your appointment. You will need to bring last year's Federal and State tax return, water and sewer bills, real estate tax bills, Form MA 1099HC and rental receipts.

Indoor Flea Market: Saturday, March 16, 2013, 9-2pm. Call the Senior Center if you would like to reserve table space. We have 4, 5ft tables left at \$15.

Mystery Ride: Thursday, March 21st. Visit a local Senior Center and have lunch. Lunch and Transportation \$5.

TheFix 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.

TRIAD Meeting: The group will meet March 19th at 11 am. All are invited.

DONATIONS NEEDED: The Center is collecting used cell phones and New yarn. Please help us out with your donations.

LECTURE SERIES: Takes place every Monday starting at 10:00. On March 4th, Character actor Ted Zalewski will portray the Postman Roulin who captures the spirit of van Gogh, the man and artist. Please sign up in advance as space is limited.

BOWLING GROUP: For more information stop by Academy Lanes Wednesdays at 11:45 am, \$8 week. Contact person Arlene Coon.

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, 12-3. Call center for an appointment.

Foot Care: RN Catherine Languedoc, Foot Care Specialist, will be available on the third Friday of every month from 9-12. Upcoming dates are, March 15th and April 19th. Dr. Connolly is available on the second Wednesday of the month from 1-4. The next dates are March 13th and April 10th. Please call to schedule an appointment.

Volunteer Medical Transport 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.

ZUMBA WITH TALLIE!



**Mon 3:30-4:30 Zumba Basic (Mary),
Wed 3-3:45 Zumba Gold w/Tallie,
Wed 4-5 Zumba Fitness w/ Tallie, Thu
4:30-5:30 Zumba Fitness w/ Tallie, Sat
9:30-10:30am Zumba Fitness w/ Mary.**

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.

REASONABLE RATES FOR HIGH QUALITY REPRESENTATION

THREATENED BY FORECLOSURE?

**Criminal Defense
Divorce & Custody
Bankruptcy
Wills & Trusts**

**HARVEY, KLEGER
& THOMAS**

Call for a consultation today!!

184 PLEASANT VALLEY ST.
METHUEN, MA 01844

TEL. 978-686-9800
attorneyharvey@hktlaw.net

Ides of March in Andover

Fat Letters DO Nothing to Fight Obesity

Anne Knowles
VALLEY PATRIOT ANDOVER COLUMNIST

The month of March does not have much in mind as all the other months of the year.

No summer at the beach, no Merry Christmas upon the lips, no Turkey to make ready for the family and no lazy days of fall to admire the colors and enjoy rides through the countryside.

No, it can be a cruel month with snows, sleet and cold days and nights. Your bills come due, you might still need an extra sweater when you go out and for goodness sake, wear your heavy shoes or boots.

Remember even Caesar was warned about the Ides of March when things could be done to ones determinant.

But, on the other hand, friends come back from Southern Places with stories and tans and pictures too, if you want to see them.

But, people who live here during the winter months can revel in the stories of how cold it was, how difficult to get around and on the positive side, what a wonderful winter it was.

On a positive note, Andover and its citizens did rather well. Property taxes went up, but not too much from last year. As a well-managed town, management had a 6.99% increase for 2013.

A most important Town Meeting will take place on May 6, May 7, and possibly Wednesday May 8, 2013. Sometime soon, The Town Manger budget will be available on-line in its entirety at: www.andoverma.gov.

The Budget Review Sessions are held in open meeting sessions at the Selectmen's Conference Room at 7:00pm, the meetings are also listed at Town Hall.

Four major expenditures for 2014, Bancroft School, Andover Youth Center, Ballardville Fire Station, and the Municipal Services Facility.

Tracey Watson
NORTH ANDOVER SELECTMAN

This recent week has brought much media attention to my family. This attention has come due to the fact that my son Cameron received what has recently been dubbed a "fat letter".

These letters are sent to the homes of children throughout the state of Massachusetts under a mandate set forth by the State Department of Public Health. These letters state height, weight and BMI percentile. They then go on to label our children into categories. One of those categories is obese while at the other end of the spectrum it speaks to the child being in the anorexic category. These labels are based solely on the BMI measurement method. And therein lays the problem.

As far back as the 1960's the BMI measurement system has come under fire when used for individual diagnosis. Nevertheless, due to its simplicity, it has come to be widely used for just this purpose despite its inappropriateness. For instance our own New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady would be deemed overweight using only the BMI measurement system. Arnold Schwarzenegger, at the height of his bodybuilding career, would have been deemed morbidly obese. You get the picture.

As a point of reference in 1998, the U.S. National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention lowered the normal/overweight cut-off from BMI 27.8 to BMI 25.

This had the effect of redefining approximately 29 million Americans, previously healthy to overweight. The MA Department of Public Health has recently issued a report which states that 32% of all school aged children in the state are obese. I ask the question, would these same children be labeled obese if their measurements were taken in 1998?

I also question why these skewed statistics are being used to make sweeping changes within our schools. We are the state that banned bake sales after all. Our younger students can no longer enjoy a cupcake when a friend celebrates a birth-



day and forget about the fun filled holiday parties. School lunch portions have shrunk based on these skewed statistics as well. And as any parent of a high school athlete will tell you...those kids need calories.

To a degree I see this poorly designed test propping up a false narrative to increase fear about an epidemic of obesity among our children.

However I do not dispute or argue the fact that we are a "fast food" nation or that there may be an issue with weight in our country I do dispute and I do argue the method of labeling our children in this manner. Especially since these labels are put upon them due to the use of a flawed method of measurement.

I have no doubt that the Department of Public Health thought they were well intentioned when

creating this mandate and I do believe they wanted to educate families about the health related issues associated with being overweight but is this the best we can do? Four times out of a child's school career we measure them and send home a corresponding fat or skinny letter? The irony here is if another child called their classmate fat or obese they would be reprimanded for "bullying" but we're going to the let grown-ups do it?

The honest truth is that a fat kid knows they are fat and a skinny kid knows they are skinny. So don't their parents. A letter home stating the obvious does nothing to help the situation. And on the flip side a letter home stating something that is utterly untrue can cause great harm to a child at their most vulnerable ages.

I do think we should be talking about health and weight but we can and should find a better way to educate our kids about being healthy and eating healthy. For me I think sometimes the old ways are the best ways.....maybe we should bring back home economics! Teach the kids to cook with healthy foods. Keep them moving throughout their day. Give them more recess time and more physical education time.

I don't have all the answers but I do know we can do better and I hope our State Legislature sees it this way too when House Bill 2024 comes up for a vote.

Time to Think Back

Anne Knowles
VALLEY PATRIOT ANDOVER COLUMNIST

Lately, I have had the very great opportunity to visit with and speak with citizens of Andover, who had the great adventure of being able to listen to people who were "retired" tell them about the "old days".

It is quite an education. First because of the things they talk about are either first hand remembrances or something they have lived through.

Beginning about 100 years ago, think Downtown Abbey, if you will, the famous Bread and Roses strike of 1912. What was it? Well, it became in Lawrence, MA. It was a strike by the men, women and children who worked at some of the largest factories in Lawrence.

This year on Labor Day 2013, there will a day of events about Bread and Roses.

One lady had an interesting story about

cutting ice from local lakes and ponds. A horse drawn sled would be taken out on the ice and men and boys would cut slabs/ blocks of ice to be sold in warmer months to the housewives for their ice boxes.

In the 1900's there were several men who had served valiantly in the Civil War. Family and friends who were fortunate to have these soldiers as friends or members of their family were able to hear firsthand about their service.

It is somewhat sad that more of their stories haven't been written down for the ages.

We are fortunate to have a vital and amazing Historical Society in our town. It is located at the Amos Blanchard House, 97 Main Street, Andover, MA 01810

The phone number is 978-475-2236.

For a wonderful trip through the ages, contact the society. They are a treasure trove of interesting information.



FIND US ON
FACEBOOK

ValleyPatriot.com

Get Daily News Updates, Read Previous Stories,
Download Prior Editions, Search Our Massive News Archive!

Uncontested Divorces starting at \$799.00*



Recently voted #1 in Legal Services by WCCM.

For more than 20 years, Dick Consoli and Krista Wilshusen have worked to help couples make a fair and reasonable settlement of their affairs without unnecessary heartache, headaches or expense.

978-682-9643 ~ www.consolilaw.com
30 Massachusetts Ave. North Andover, MA
Exit 43 off Rt. 495 ~ Hablamos español
* plus court fees

Consoli & Wilshusen
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



Haskmukh (HAS-MU!) Does it Again! Another \$1Mil Ticket

Nancy Reardon

Hasmukh Vora owner of Rte. 110 Convenience store on East Street in Methuen has the Luckiest store in the state according to the Mass State Lottery Commission. Vora’s store sold its Fifth one million dollar scratch ticket on January 30th to Bruce Ahearn of Lawrence.

Facts from the State lottery have determined that this store is the only store in the Lottery’s history that has sold as many million dollar tickets. Not even Ted’s Mobile, which has overall the highest volume over Vora’s customers, has sold this many million dollars tickets.

Hasmukh receives \$10,000 for each winning ticket sold, but he was more elated that he made 5 people millionaires. He has many loyal customers who have won anywhere from \$25.00 to \$1000.00. Many of whom have won several times at his store. He has a spot already reserved for his 5th ticket.

Next time you want to try your luck, this may be the place to go.

184 Pleasant Valley St. Suite 1-102, Methuen



Dave Guselli

Office:
(978) 689-8006

www.firstchoicerealtygroup.com



FIRST CHOICE REALTY GROUP

Conveniently Located AT Exit 46
off 93 AT 1111 Riverside Plaza,
Methuen.
978-208-4347



Irish cottage
RESTAURANT & PUB

TRADITIONAL IRISH RESTAURANT & PUB

Open 7 Days A Week for
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.
Live Irish Entertainment on
Saturday Nights

The Merrimack Valley Irish Connection

1st American Saint Patrick’s Day Celebration

Diane Severance, Ph. D. and Dan Graves, MSL Christianity.com

Jack Doyle, County Sligo
VALLEY PATRIOT IRISH COLUMNIST

On, March 17, 1737, the Charitable Irish Society of Boston held a St. Patrick’s Day celebration; it seems to have been the first in America. Since then, St. Patrick’s Day celebrations across the United States have been full of leprechauns, the wearing of the green and the celebration of all things Irish. In all the fun and frolic, the true Patrick (who probably died between 455 and 493) can easily be forgotten.

Dates and details in Patrick’s life are not known with certainty. He was most likely born between 372 and 390, possibly near present day Glasgow, Scotland. His parents, Calporniun and Conchessa, were leaders of the Christian community in the still unidentified village of Bannavem Taburniae. Patrick did not take the Christianity of his parents seriously and enjoyed having fun with his friends. One day, when he was sixteen, he was amusing himself near the sea when Irish pirates captured him. They sold Patrick as a slave to an Irish chieftain named Milchu. His job? To care for the chief’s sheep.

Alone in the fields with the sheep, Patrick remembered the Christianity of his parents, and he accepted it as his own. He later wrote,

“I was sixteen years old and knew not the true God; but in that strange land the Lord opened my unbelieving eyes, and although late I called my sins to mind, and was converted with

my whole heart to the Lord my God, who regarded my estate, had pity on my youth and ignorance, and consoled me as a father consoles his children... The love of God increased more and more in me with faith and the fear of His name. The Spirit urged me to such a degree that I poured forth as many as a hundred prayers in one day. And even during the night, in the forests and on the mountains where I kept my flock, the rain, and snow and suffering which I endured, excited me to seek after God...”

Six years later, Patrick managed to escape and returned to his family. In a dream, he saw Irish children pleading with him to bring the Gospel to them. “O holy youth, come back to Erin, and walk once more amongst us.” His heart longed to return to his former captors and share with them the gospel of Jesus Christ. He trained for the ministry and returned to Ireland where, despite fierce opposition, he spread the story of Jesus among the pagan tribes in the Irish language he had learned while a slave.

From the seventh through the ninth century, legends and myths gathered around Patrick’s name. The best-known is that he drove the snakes from Ireland. From the start, he was regarded as a saint and has long been venerated as the patron saint of Ireland. His feast is held on this day, March 17.

Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig: Happy St. Patrick’s day

CONGRATULATIONS ON
PUBLISHING FOR 9 YEARS!
HAPPY 9TH ANNIVERSARY

Sean Fountain
WEST END DISTRICT COUNCILOR - METHUEN



The Claddagh Pub & Restaurant Inc

399 Canal St, Lawrence
978-688-8337

Great food, Music and Atmosphere.
Great Charity Event Packages Available.

Private Functions
Up to 600
Accommodated.

Call Paul
978-423-1001

Best Party Packages
in the Merrimack Valley

Trivia Nights Wednesdays

#1 Party Package
in Merrimack Valley

Private Room
40 to 80 people
Hint of Italy Buffet
Sound System and Mic
(Includes Weekend Access to Live Entertainment in Main Room)



www.thecladdaghpуб.com

Methuen Native Brings Out the Best in Event Photography

Ron Mushow had a passion for photography for over 15 years, when his daughter was born it grew more and more and gave him a passion to capture those candid shots. He learned so much through the years and as time went on people were asking him to come to a birthday party, wedding or a reunion and always asked if he could take photos. Ron never turned this down since he has a passion for this art so he would always say yes.

As years have gone by he finally decided to make this into a business since he was spending a lot of time on photos and editing. He has shown a great churn through his Facebook fan page over the past few years and has grown this business into an amazing adventure. Ron also stated he has been very fortunate to be helping non-profit organizations for free because he cares a lot for people in need. One of the non-profit groups he has helped out in 2012 was the Tough Warrior Princesses which is based out of Amesbury, MA. He dedicated months of preparation creating a calendar for them to sell for the non-profit. This was done all for free to help people in need and give back to the community. Many of the photos in Amesbury are with the Mayor, Chief of Police, Chief of the Fire Depart-



Methuen Native Ron Mushow of Ron Mushow Photography does digital event photos for all occasions. Ron.Mushowphotography@gmail.com - (978) 609-2807

ment and local veterans, plus the local school faculty.

Last year from January through June Ron Mushow Photography gave 5% to the Tough Warrior Princess group and 5% to The American Cancer Society of his profits in that 6 months. His total was a great gift to each group to help them with

He has also taken photos at The Casino Ballroom with such artists like Bret Michaels, Quatela and Uncle Jack. Ron has even taken photos of a sporting event at Gillette stadium of the first boxing match.

He works numerous hours to make his image look as perfect as possible for the clients.

The one thing Ron Mushow Photography has is reasonable prices, the reason why is because he doesn't charge for photo albums or print enlargements. What he does is after doing a photo shoot he does all the editing and then gives his client the photos on a memory stick so they can get the photos fast and also have them developed at their own leisure. In this day of the future anyone can print photos online, so why charge extra for the products when the customer can buy at a cost they can afford. We are in a recession so why not help out the client and make them happy at the same time?

Another thing Ron Mushow doesn't have is a studio, so with a lot of thought process he came up with the idea of going to the client's home. This gives them the opportunity to change outfits or even set up the background they are looking for. We asked Ron Mushow why this would be

MUSHOW: PAGE 18

Councilor LaPlante's Answer to Lantigua's State of the City Address

Tom Duggan
VALLEY PATRIOT PUBLISHER

Lawrence City Councilor Marc LaPlante spoke with the Valley Patriot last week after Mayor Willie Lantigua's State of the City address. LaPlante represents the South Lawrence East District ("F") of the city and long been Mayor Willie Lantigua's only real critic on the city council.

We asked LaPlante what he would have said if he could deliver an official response to the Mayor's Address.

Economic Disaster Under Lantigua's Term as Mayor

"The first thing I would say is what I said during public participation, that our property taxes are increasing, while our house values are dropping in Lawrence, while services are being reduced for our citizens. According to the DOR (Mass Department of Revenue), our average tax bill in Lawrence increased 19%, and house values dropped by 27%.

I was looking at the Mayor's past State of the City addresses and they are on-line, all he did was just regurgitate old speeches and make them sound as if they are new. There was nothing new here. Nothing new at all.

On Economic Development it was

really disappointing because the mayor talked about all these additional housing developments in the city, but that's not economic development. Economic development is jobs. Where are the jobs being created? Look at the economy of Lawrence, that's economic development. So he fell pretty short on that one."

More Hidden Cameras in Lawrence to Quell Illegal Dumping

LaPlante said he was not completely critical of Lantigua's speech, citing a few things he did like.

"The one thing I did like about the mayor's speech was an issue that I worked hard on, and that was the issue of illegal dumping in the city. I think the mayor's talk about illegal dumping was important and I agree we need to be more aggressive in addressing illegal dumping in Lawrence. The key way to take initiative on this and to take it more seriously, is to pass legislation that puts more significant teeth into the law and increase the fines for illegal dumping.

"The legislation died in Boston, but just today State Representative Marcos Devers sent me a revised change to the legislation that he thinks will pass the Ways and Means [committee] and get to the governor's desk."

"He did make mention during his speech that crime was the lowest in ten years. That's not the case. It's actually a 36% increase in felonious crimes since Lantigua has been in office. That increase was on his watch. That translates to 665 felonious incidents above average. That's a huge impact on the people and the families in our city. In fact, if you look at the real numbers, over that 10 year period the mayor talked about, the highest three years of crime in the last ten years were during his three years as mayor. This includes felonies like, murder, rape, armed robbery, aggravated assault, auto theft, burglary, larceny over \$250."

~Lawrence City Councilor Marc LaPlante

Currently the law in Massachusetts calls for a \$300 fine per incident if someone is caught illegally dumping. The new law would have those fines go up to five times whatever it cost to clean up the mess left behind.

"So if you did dump illegally and you left a big mess behind and it costs our DPW \$1,000 to clean it up, under the new law, you would be fined \$5,000. That's pretty significant. I think that makes it more of a deterrent and the best part of this legislation is that the money we collect in fines will go into a dedicated account that can only be used for illegal dumping issues. It would go to buy equipment, cameras and pay personnel, things like that."

During Lantigua's address he mentioned

LAPLANTE: PAGE 18

PEST-END, INC. EXTERMINATORS

We Make Ants Say "UNCLE" (978) 794-4321 (800) 287-4321

- General Pest Control For Over 40 Pests
- Residential Interior & Exterior Services
- Home Protection Plan (Yearly Interior & Exterior Agreement)
- Exterior Protection Plan (Yearly Exterior Agreement)
- VA & FHA Wood Destroying Insect Report (Received Day Of Service)
- Bee, Wasp, Hornet & Yellow Jacket Treatments
- Sentricon Termite Elimination System
- Termite Treatments
- Preconstruction Treatments
- Mold Prevention
- Squirrel Trapping
- Food Processing Facilities

We Specialize in BedBugs

5mm

VISIT OUR LOCATIONS IN MA & NH

15 PELHAM STREET, METHUEN (978) 794-4321

82 PLAISTOW ROAD, PLAISTOW, NH 603-382-9644

92 WEST BROADWAY, DERRY, NH 603-425-1995

Quick, reliable service since 1977

Specializing in the control of

- * ANTS * COCKROACHES * TERMITES
- * FLEAS * SILVERFISH * RATS * MICE
- * BEES, ETC

Mayor Announces Tattersall Farm Improvement Project

Last month, Haverhill Mayor James J. Fiorentini announced the improvement project of the Tattersall Farm.

The Farm located at 542 North Broadway in Haverhill was owned and operated by the Tattersall Family when they purchased the property in 1898. In 1999, Alice Tattersall willed the family's 150 acre farm to the City of Haverhill, imposing specific conservation and open space preservation restrictions to maintain the Tattersall Farm and ensure that it would be preserved and maintained in as close to its present state and condition for years to come.

This project will build a playground on the Tattersall Farm in a part of the City that has not had one in the past. There will be a playscape with a water component, an outdoor learning area, improved and expanded trails with educational signage added to the property. Additionally, the infrastructure will be improved with additional water supplies and expanded parking. This shared endeavor will enhance the facility with improved public access and usage through a community

garden program. The goal of the restoration is to increase the available space on the Farm and to adequately provide for the public's agricultural utilization. The project will also allow for hosting major events, activities and educational programming.

The City of Haverhill and the Tattersall Farm Charitable Trust are committed to developing a range of partnerships to develop Tattersall as a place which connects the residents of Haverhill to nature, helping children and adults discover the beauty and promise of the living world.

The City is required per the grant to allocate the total cost of the project of \$572,000, but it will be reimbursed \$388,960 (68%) through the Parkland Acquisition and Renovations for Communities Grant (PARC Grant) through the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Tattersall Charitable Trust reimburse the City \$50,000 and the City will pay \$50,000 with the remainder being paid for by Public Works, Water and Wastewater Divisions.

"I want to thank the Patrick-Murray Administration and Secretary Richard

Sullivan at the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs for offering a grant to cities to share in the cost to support the preservation and restoration of urban parks through the Parkland Acquisition and Renovations for Communities," Mayor Fiorentini said.

"Without the continued support of State Representative Brian Dempsey and State Senator Kathleen O'Connor Ives, this project would only be a dream, they have made it a reality.

"The residents of our City will be the beneficiaries of the new project and our children will enjoy a new playground to create memories," Fiorentini concluded.

Secretary Richard Sullivan said: "Investing in land conservation and the improvement of public parks is a key priority of the Patrick-Murray Administration, especially in our Gateway Cities, like Haverhill", said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rick Sullivan. "This project will not only contribute to the economic well-being of Haverhill, but it will help residents discover what nature has to offer right in their own backyards. It is a perfect example of the strategic



investments that the Governor believes we need to make as a Commonwealth in order to help Haverhill grow and be a great place to live, work and play."

Methuen Track Star O'Donnell Tearing Up Indoor Ovals

Mark Behan

VALLEY PATRIOT SPORTS REPORTER

Methuen High track coach Roger Fuller vividly recalls the spring track practice when his star distance runner showed up with a cast on his leg. After a moment of disbelief in which Fuller's "face turned white," the runner removed the cast and told Fuller he was just kidding.

"It was the best April Fool's Day joke I've ever played," said Methuen High senior Mike O'Donnell.

"I told him, 'Don't ever do that to me,'" said Fuller, who has been coaching at Methuen High for 42 years. "I've got a bad ticker."

Along with a sense of humor, the reserved O'Donnell also possesses the physique and skill set of a champion middle-distance runner. At 5-foot-10, 150 pounds, he appears to run effortlessly.

"As quiet as he is," said Kevin Alliette, Methuen High assistant track coach, "when he races, he's an animal."

On the heels of a championship cross-country season, O'Donnell has elevated his performance this winter on the indoor ovals across New England. He has smashed school records and captured track-and-field's marquee event – the one-mile run – at both the MIAA Division 1 Meet and All-State track championship Feb. 23 at the Reggie Lewis Center in Boston.

In addition O'Donnell recently signed his National Letter of Intent to attend the

University of Connecticut on a track and cross-country scholarship.

"After visiting UConn, I felt at home there," said Mike, son of Jim and Eileen O'Donnell.

O'Donnell opened his indoor season by winning the 2-mile in 9:31.26 at the Winter Festival in Boston – a harbinger of what was to come this season. A week later he broke the Methuen High indoor record for 800 meters, posting a speedy 1:55.25.

Not bad for a former soccer player and life-long skier who has been running competitively only since his freshman year.

"As a freshman he came out for the team (indoor track) about three weeks after the season started," Fuller recalled. "The distance kids were running a workout, so I told him to jump in the back. After a few reps, he was running right up in the front."

O'Donnell raced sparingly that first winter. But come spring time he was blossoming like the crocuses. He broke Methuen High freshman records for 800 meters (2:00.27) and the mile (4:38.23). And Fuller knew that the youngster who used to participate in middle school meets wearing a ski jacket was a prodigious running talent.

"I said, 'There's a kid that will keep me around for another four years,'" said Fuller. "Soon after, we (the coaching staff) met with Mike's parents to discuss a long-term plan. His parents have been so supportive."



Photo by Chuck Martin at website: ma.milesplit.com

O'Donnell has neither over-raced nor over-trained. His times have progressively improved as have his overall strength and endurance.

"I am doing about 50 miles per week," O'Donnell said, noting that he does a lot of "little things" – pushups, crunches, core work, stretching, weightlifting and drills – "which add up."

One thing he has not done this winter is ski.

"This is the first year I have not skied," said O'Donnell, who started skiing when he was two. "It's been tough. But this is my senior year. I am focused on running and I feel it has paid off."

O'Donnell garnered national attention on Jan. 27 when he won the 1,000 meters at the Coaches Elite Meet in Boston. His time – 2:27.22 – was not only a meet and school record but it was the then-fastest time this year in the country for the event.

He then raced the boys' junior mile at the New Balance Indoor Grand Prix in Boston. He placed fifth in a then-season's best 4:17.20.

"Mike has a gift," said Fuller, "for the bigger the moment and the bigger the competition, the more he likes it."

O'Donnell won the Division 1 Meet mile in 4:18.01 with a 60.9-second closing quarter mile. By virtue of his time at the Division 1 Meet, O'Donnell entered the All-State meet as the number-one seed.

"I looked at it like any other race," O'Donnell said. "I try to go the line (feel-

ing) relaxed. Once the gun goes off, I get serious."

Racing the mile requires a blend of speed and stamina and strategy. O'Donnell's strategies vary depending on the race.

"It's not my strategy to lead (from the start), but I expected it might happen," O'Donnell said of the All-State race.

O'Donnell towed the field through opening quarters of 62.09 and 66.48. He ran 64.50 for the third quarter to open up a gap. With two laps remaining, O'Donnell was like a Formula One Car on the open road, sprinting his final quarter in 62.43 for a time of 4:15.81 and a three-second victory.

"I felt strong," said O'Donnell, who will compete in the mile at the New Balance Indoor Nationals on March 10 in New York City.

"As for goals at Nationals, the big one is to become an All-American (top-6 finish)," O'Donnell said. "And I'd like to run sub-4:10."

Mark Behan may be reached at behanms@aol.com



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

Broadhurst Tabit LLP ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Arthur J.
Broadhurst

45 OSGOOD STREET
METHUEN MA 01844

(P) 978-327-5128
(F) 978-327-5144

email: broadhursttabit@broadhursttabit.comcastbiz.net



VALLEY MONUMENTS

BUILDING MEMORIES THAT LAST FOREVER

MONUMENTS
CEMETERY LETTERING
MARKERS
CARVINGS
SCULPTURES, & ETCHINGS
MONUMENT CLEANING
LANDSCAPE GRANITE
ACCESSORIES

ANY DATE (EXAMPLE: 2012)
ENGRAVED \$75

SIMILAR SAVINGS ON
ALL ENGRAVING

Translator available by appointment

1111 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, METHUEN, MA 01844
EMAIL US AT INFO@VALLEY-MONUMENTS.COM
PHONE: 978.685.8500 - FAX: 978.685.8510

BUSINESS HOURS: MON-FRI: 9-5PM, SAT: 8-12PM
OR ANY TIME BY APPOINTMENT.
WWW.VALLEY-MONUMENTS.COM

A FAMILY BUSINESS FOR FIVE GENERATIONS

COLIZZI MEMORIALS



Michael A. Colizzi: President
217 Merrimack Street, Methuen, MA 01844
(978) 674-7035 * Fax: (978) 674-7037
Colizzimemorials@comcast.net
www.colizzimemorials.com

Colizzi Memorials is committed to helping families capture the spirit of their loved ones by building beautiful, lasting tributes that will stand the test of time.



Merrimack Valley's Premier Memorial Provider

MONUMENT SALES
CEMETERY LETTERING
BRONZE, MARKERS
CIVIC MEMORIALS
MAUSOLEUMS
COLUMBARIUMS
MONUMENT CLEANING



Quality Craftsmanship
at Affordable Prices

We are independently Owned and Operated.
NOT affiliated with any other Corporation




CHAMA Grill
Experience quality

Now Open!

Italian Restaurant
Brazilian Steak House

www.chamagrill.com
115 Main Street | North Andover
Phone: (978) 258-2238 | Fax: (978) 258-1931

See our Ad on Page 4



Michaud Insurance Agency, Inc.

105 Haverhill Street
Methuen, MA 01844
978-685-2549
1-877-233-2275

Auto ~ Home ~ Umbrella ~ Business

For over 30 years we have been bringing Merrimack Valley families, individuals and businesses superior products and customer service.



For more information check
out our website
www.bestinsurancemerrimackvalley.com



Safety Insurance
AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS

Heal Lawrence Networks to Help Fire Victims Pt. 1

Tom Duggan
VALLEY PATRIOT PUBLISHER

The Great City of Lawrence may no longer be the arson capital of the world but the family devastation left behind by weekly house and apartment fires in the Mill City continue.

Often times with just the clothes on their backs these families have to start rebuilding their lives from scratch.

"I came up with the idea of using Heal Lawrence, a nonprofit group, as an on-line register, like a wedding registry, where we can find out who needs help, what kind of help they need and then network with the different organizations and individuals in the area to fill that need," said Wayne Hayes, president of the Mount Vernon Neighborhood Association and fonder of Heal Lawrence.

"When a family is the victim of a fire they have to find a place to stay and it's really hard to find out where they are and what their needs are," said Lawrence Fire-fighter Manny Gonzalez one of the Heal Lawrence coordinators.

"Through Heal Lawrence we set up a website where we can identify what they need and put a call out to the community to go to the website and let us know what they can give. Then we match it up to what the victims need and make sure we can get things to people"

Hayes and Gonzales say they have received a tremendous amount of response from members of the community who have donated hotel stays, put down their

credit cards to extend hotel stays, and donated furniture, restaurant and grocery store gift cards, curtains, blankets and sometimes transportation.

"The Red Cross pays for three nights at a hotel or motel and then they are pretty much on their own. Through Heal Lawrence we have been able to offset that and give people a little more time to start putting their lives back together."

Hayes says that they don't receive and do not encourage cash donations as gift cards and services are easier to track and help avoid any kind of fraud.

"When my house burned down on Lafayette Street near Christmas time we needed a lot of help, and a lot of things we never even thought we would need," said Rose Matias whose mother and three siblings were instantly homeless last December when their home was destroyed by fire.

"Juan from Heal Lawrence got our number from a news station and called us and started scheduling reporters to come speak with us so that we could get some help. They asked us to make a list of what we needed, so we made a list turned it over to Wayne and he sent the list out on the internet through Facebook and their website. People from all over started calling," she recounted. "All of a sudden there was a lot of people calling with other stuff they had for donation, Wayne got a garage, came over with a couple of guys and they showed up at my house to drop off the items. It was amazing.

HealLawrence.org

heallawrence@aol.com
(978) 258-7575

We are so grateful for them and all the people who reached out, but it wouldn't have happened at all if it wasn't for Heal Lawrence."

Rose, an 18 year old college freshman at Daniel Webster College, said that at one point a good Samaritan heard that she was in college and needed a laptop after the fire. "One of the Heal Lawrence people donated a laptop so I could do school work, I really can't say enough for them. It was really nice."

Hayes and Gonzalez said that they took a U-Haul truck and through the database registry they set on the Heal Lawrence website they were able to deliver exactly what the Matias family needed.

"We just got a bunch of guys and moved in all the furniture and items that were donated based on the need that they had."

When asked why they spend so much of their free time helping victims of Lawrence fires Hayes and Gonzales told the Valley Patriot that it's really just to make a difference.

"Sounds cliché but it's really out of the goodness of our hearts because we both live here and we see every day that there are so many people who want to help but don't know how to and so many more people who need help but don't know how to get it," Hayes said.

"Personally, my thought was just to be giving back to the community," Gonzales added. "I personally know what it's like for these people suffering because I was out of my house for 12 days when my house flooded in the Bennington Street area. Back then I was the recipient of people's generosity. So, I thought fires in Lawrence happen all the time and those people need the same kind of help. As a Fireman there's really nothing we can do for these families except put out the fire. So I got together with my good friend Wayne and we started working together.

Gonzales says he is pitching the United Way with an idea of combining their resources with Heal Lawrence's on-line registry of what is directly needed at any given time.

So, What's Good In The "Great" City of Lawrence?

Peter Larocque
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

In spite of all that may be wrong with the City of Lawrence, including all the negative press surrounding the State and Federal investigations concerning allegations of wrong doing by Mayor Lantigua and his administration, in spite of it all, there's Good in Lawrence. How do I know this? Very simple, because of the people!

In spite of all that our Mayor, The Divider in Chief, and his administration have done to keep the citizens separated by ethnicity, this paradigm for the most part has been rejected by the people!

How do I know this? I know this because the one thing that is Good and Strong in my opinion in the Great City of Lawrence which has not surrendered to the influence of City Hall are The Neighborhood Associations!

In spite of all that may be going on in the City of Lawrence, the one thing the Mayor has not been able to divide and conquer are The Neighborhood Associa-

tions. As far as I know we have five strong Neighborhood Associations, there may be even more, but there are five that I am aware of that are doing well.

So, note to all Lawrence Citizens, it would do you and your families good to be members of one of these Neighborhood Associations. What is good about these Neighborhood Associations is the dissemination of information dealing with the City of Lawrence. Major City Department Heads like Police and Fire attend these meetings and share current, important information with the members that is for their benefit. Also City Elected Officials and State Representatives attend these meetings on a regular basis and also share information, but just as important, the members get to share with them what is important to them. Another benefit that being a member has and probably the most important is finding out who your neighbors are and meeting them and getting to know them. So as far as I am concerned, joining one of the Neighborhood Associa-

tion is a win, win for you and your family.

The following information, to the best of my knowledge, list the names and contact information for these five Neighborhood Associations.

#1, The Mount Vernon Neighborhood Association: Mr. Wayne Hayes, 978-688-2942.

#2, The Colonial Heights Neighborhood Association: Mrs. Susan Laplante, 978-683-6910

#3, The Tower Hill Neighborhood Association, Mr. Dan Clark, Cell# 978-902-0595.

#4, The Prospect Hill/Back Bay Neighborhood Association, Mrs. Gloria Schwarz, 978-688-7731.

#5, The Sacred Heart/Brookfield Street Neighborhood Association, Mrs. Brenda Rozzi, 978-590-3715.

I highly recommend to all citizens of The Great City of Lawrence that they become a member of one of these Neighborhood Associations as soon as possible. This coming Spring, Summer and Fall will be our City's Elections for Mayor, City

Councilors, City Councilors-at-Large and School Committee. Belonging to one of these Neighborhood Associations will afford to you information concerning the candidates, candidate forums and debates.

Finally, these Neighborhood Associations present to you a wonderful avenue for you as a citizen of Lawrence to get involved with the goings on of the city. There really is no excuse for not knowing what is happening in your neighborhood. Neighborhood Associations with many members help make safe neighborhoods.

These Neighborhood Associations are what make this City Great! They help in making the positive attitude of the glass half full rather than half empty a reality!

God Bless you and God Bless the Great 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

Save money on your heating bills!

KANNAN & PRICONE
PLUMBING & HEATING INC.
COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL • RESIDENTIAL
978-685-0880

www.kannanpriconeplumbingandheating.com

**From Leaky Faucets
to a 10 story building!**

- * Gas Piping
- * Radiant Floor Heating
- * Sprinkler Systems Installed & Repaired
- * Custom Additions & New Construction
- * Water Heaters (Same Day Service)
- * Bathroom Remodeling & Repair Work
- * Replacement Boilers & Furnaces
- * High Efficiency Boilers & Hot Water Heaters (with rebates)

Serving New Hampshire,
MASS & the Merrimack
Valley Since 1985

**FULLY
INSURED!**
**Senior Citizen
Discount
10% off
Labor!**

Northern Essex hoops team winning on and off the court

Mark Behan
VALLEY PATRIOT SPORTS REPORTER

Wilfredo Andujar is married with four children. He works the night shift at Joe’s Crab Shack in Methuen. He attends Northern Essex Community College. The 30-year-old Lawrence resident also plays forward on the men’s basketball team.

In the season finale, an 83-59 win over Holyoke, Andujar was Wilfredo on-the-spot as he netted a dozen points.

“I don’t think he’s missed a practice in two years,” said Knights assistant coach Joe Tardif. “He’s the type of guy who will be a successful member to his community.”

While this talented 2012-2013 team – which started the season 6-2 – failed to make the playoffs, both Tardif and head coach Darren Stratton are buoyed by the academic success of his squad’s seven sophomores – which equates to seniors

at four-year colleges. They include tri-captains Matt Sifferlen, Kyle Davis and Junior Veras, along with Desmond Obi, Jarvis Castro, James Morgan-Thames and Andujar.

“As for goals we always want to make the playoffs,” said Stratton, whose squad finished at 11-15. “But we are more proud of the fact that all these guys are graduating. That’s what it’s all about at the junior college level.

“A lot of them had been written off before they got here,” Stratton continued. “We give them another opportunity. If we can help one kid, it’s all worth it.”

Twenty-four-year old Davis of Haverhill is the team’s leading scorer and rebounder. The 6-foot-6 forward averaged 16 points and 9 boards per game. Upon arriving at Haverhill’s college on the Kenoza two years ago, Davis possessed a boatload of basketball talent. But hang-



PHOTO: SUE MACAVOY

ing over his head was a prison sentence at Middleton House of Corrections for marijuana distribution.

Prior to NECC, Davis entered Haverhill High as one of the most ballyhooed prospects in years. The Nettle School graduate, though, was already “drinking, drugging and hanging out with the wrong crowd.” And school was not a priority.

He dropped out of Haverhill High as a sophomore, eventually earning his GED in 2007, the year he was supposed to graduate.

Stratton said there was hesitation about allowing Davis to join the NECC team. He was aware of Davis’s pending legal troubles and knew Davis would miss time from school as he served his sentence.

“If he (Davis) was coming here just to play basketball, then that was a no-go,” Stratton said. “But if he was coming here for academics and to change his life, then we would support him 100%.”

And they have. And in turn Davis has been a model citizen.

He has never once tested us,” Stratton said.

“For Kyle this was his last chance,” Tardif said. “He has a 3.3 grade-point-average and is planning to attend a four-

year-university. Coaches are recruiting him for next year. It’s a great story.”

Indeed.

“It’s been a rough road and I am still clawing my way back,” said Davis, who ended his career on a winning note. The Knights defeated Holyoke, 83-59, and Quinsigamond, 59-47, in their final two games with Davis collecting 31 points and 22 rebounds in the victories.

“But from where I’ve been, every day is a blessing,” Davis said. “I am having a lot of fun. We are like a family. Coach Stratton has been more than a coach to me.”

Davis and his girlfriend have started a family of their own. About 16 months ago, his girlfriend gave birth to the couple’s daughter, Ava Marie.

“She’s been the best motivator for me,” Davis said of his daughter.

Added Tardif: “Kyle’s primary focus is his daughter. He wants his daughter to be proud of her dad.”

As for the Northern Essex family, it starts at the top. Both Stratton and Tardif are NECC graduates, and assistant coach Nick Nofi rounds out the staff.

If life is like a box of chocolates, and

NECC BASKETBALL: PAGE 29



PHOTO: MATT GINGRAS

“Serenade in Blue” A Musical Celebration at the Methuen Memorial Music Hall

192 Broadway, Methuen, MA 01844 - Call 978-657-3968 for tickets and information

On Saturday, April 6, Bova Productions will present “Serenade in Blue”—a special musical revue featuring Maria Anderson, Peggy Ryan, Tom Edmonds and Tony Bova, singing amazing renditions of classic songs. Produced and directed by Tony Bova. Doors open at 6:45.....Pre Show at 7:15... Show at 7:30.

The mastermind behind Bova Productions, Tony Bova is a resident of Methuen. His roots began in Malden and then he resided in Wakefield and Wilmington. For over 25 years, he has been presenting music showcases throughout New England including many benefit performances for the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children raising thousands of dollars.

The event is a musical celebration and farewell to Tony Bova as he steps out of the spotlight. After many years entertaining, as well as producing and directing, he will bid farewell to the stage.

Maria Anderson, Bova’s daughter of Wilmington, has emerged as a leading vocalist in the region and will captivate

the audience with such dynamic tunes as “When October Goes” and “Why Was I Born”.

Peggy Ryan of Somerville is a tried and true belter with an incredible dynamic range delivering with zest such classics as “Come Rain or Come Shine” and “Everything Must Change”.

Beverly resident, Tom Edmonds, possesses a booming voice while immersing himself in songs such as “I Hear Music” and “The Way You Look Tonight”.

Along with other wonderful selections, this is sure to be a memorable show.

“SERENADE IN BLUE” a Musical Celebration and farewell to Tony Bova will be presented at the Methuen Memorial Music Hall, 192 Broadway, Methuen, MA on Saturday, April 6. Doors open at 6:45.....Pre Show at 7:15.....Show at 7:30. Tickets are \$30 pp. For tickets and more info, call 978-657-3968

If you’d like more information about this topic or to schedule an interview with Tony Bova, please call Tony Bova at 978-884-4400 or e-mail Tony at Bovapro@aol.com



Northern Essex Community College Body of Light Exhibit

The Haverhill Public Library hosted the “Body of Light” Exhibit representing the efforts and outcome of the NECC Beyond Basic Photography Continuing Education classes. Through a series of projects, students are challenged to reach out of their comfort zone and interpret light as a compositional tool.

Each class is held for 6 weeks and instructed by Jody Sammons Feil and David Petty. Since this program started two years ago, because of the popularity of this program, there is usually a 6 week waiting list. Classes are held at the NECC Campus on Merrimack St., Lawrence at the Riverwalk. Those interested can contact Mary Shattuck, Program Director for all Continuing education classes at Northern Essex.

The exhibit started with a reception on February 18th and continued until February 28th.

These classes are designed to accommodate adults who are looking to expand their photography skills and to work around a busy life schedule.



FIND US ON FACEBOOK

ValleyPatriot.com

Get Daily News Updates, Read Previous Stories, Download Prior Editions, Search Our Massive News Archive!



EMILY'S BAKERY

We are open: Monday - Saturday: 6AM to 5PM * Sunday - Closed



Now Available at
the Meat House



223 Lincoln Ave, Haverhill, MA. 01830 * phone/fax: (978) 374-9603
Write us at: emilys@comcast.net

Attorney Ellen C. Shimer-Brenes



33 Walker Road, Suite 23
Brookmeadow Office Park
North Andover, MA 01845
Tel: (978) 225-6197

LICENSED IN MA & NH

472 NH Route 111
Village Square Mall
Hampstead, NH 03141
Tel: (603) 819-4940

Employment Law

- Unemployment Benefits
- Sexual Harassment
- Wrongful Termination
- Age/Race/Gender/Religion/Disability Discrimination
- Representing Employers & Employees

Family Law

- Divorce/Separation Agreements
- Custody/Visitation
- Child Support/Alimony
- Contempts/Modifications
- Guardianships/Adoptions

Criminal Law

- Motor Vehicle Offenses
- Assault/Battery
- Drug Charges
- Probation Violations
- Larceny
- Embezzlement Cases
- Operating Under the Influence



Email: eshimer@shimerlaw.com Website: www.shimerlaw.com



Voted Best Mortgage Company 2009, 2010, 2011



FIRST INTEGRITY MORTGAGE, LLC

Andover, North Andover, Methuen, & Lawrence

354 Merrimack Street, Sal's Riverwalk, Lawrence, MA 01843



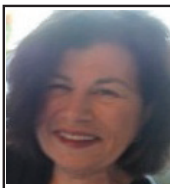
Anne Marie Concemi
Chief Mortgage Planner/Owner
MLO 3527
Helping Borrowers since 1987
aconcemi@firstinteg.com
Cell (978) 852-9707



Steve Sirmaian
Chief Operations Manager/Owner
MLO 3520
Helping Borrowers since 1988
steve@firstinteg.com
Cell (978) 771-2906



Robert Sharpe
Reverse Mortgage Specialist
MLO 37451
Cell: (978) 382-0716
24-hr.
Helping Borrowers since 1988
rsharpe@firstinteg.com



Judith Maselli
Sr. Mortgage Consultant
MLO 48786
Cell: (978) 886 1737
24-hr.
Helping Borrowers since 1988
jmaselli@firstinteg.com



Bill Englehardt
MLO 48923
Sr. Mortgage Consultant
Tel. 978.685.9700
* Fax 978.685.9701
Helping Borrowers since 1997
Benglehardt@firstinteg.com



Donna Weinberg
Sr. Mortgage Consultant
MLO 89241
Cell: (978) 273-8416
24-hr.
Helping Borrowers since 1979
donna@firstinteg.com



Robert Irving
Reverse Mortgage Specialist
MLO 19086
Cell: (978) 686-0394
24-hr.
Helping Borrowers since 2001
rhirving@gmail.com

OUR STRENGTH COMES FROM OUR EXPERIENCE... Visit our new branch office, 297 Main St, Salem NH (next to Mike's Red Barn)

Now, more than ever, our name speaks for itself

MA Mortgage Broker #MB 1964 - Licensed by the NH Banking Dept.

978-685-9700 * www.firstinteg.com

ME Lic. #CSO11110. NMLS 1964



The junior class at Austin Prep collected \$1,800 for Operation Thank You. Operation Thank You Chairman Robert Page (center) is pictured with Austin Prep junior officers, from left, President Timothy Connelly of Peabody, Secretary Meghan Phelan of Lynn, Public Relations & Community Service Coordinator Catherine Charry of Melrose and Vice President Jonathan Saurman of Pelham, N.H.

Austin Prep. Students Raise \$1,800 for Operation Thank You in Lowell

The junior class at Austin Preparatory School in Reading raised more than \$1,800 for Operation Thank You in Lowell.

Operation Thank You is a nonprofit organization that serves veterans of the United States military. It was established in May, 2009.

To raise the money, juniors hosted a schoolwide Dress Down Day, where students paid \$5 to spend the day out of uniform. The class officers – President Timothy Connelly of Peabody, Secretary Meghan Phelan of Lynn, Public Relations & Community Service Coordinator

Catherine Charry of Melrose and Vice President Jonathan Saurman of Pelham, N.H. – collected more than \$1,800.

According to Operation Thank You’s chairman, Robert Page, the group visits local nursing and veterans homes and hosts a pizza party for the residents. The group tries to visit one home very six weeks, and each resident is given a gift bag at the end of the party.

Each party costs between \$300 and \$1,000 and Operation Thank You relies solely on donations, Page said. All of the group’s members are volunteers and every penny raised goes toward the population they serve.

Lowell Gets \$365K Grant for English Language Learners

LOWELL -- As part of Gov. Deval Patrick’s Gateway Cities Education Agenda, the Lowell Public Schools were awarded \$365,000 in grant funding last week that will directly benefit students.

Lowell was awarded a \$325,000 English Language Learners Enrichment Academics grant that will be used to fund a summer ELL academy aimed at providing additional support to ELL students in grades 5-12.

Four hundred ELL students will participate in the Summer English Learning Academy five days a week, six hours a day for four weeks this summer. The Lowell Public Schools serve 4,195 ELL students.

“I am very appreciative for the work of staff that secured the grant funding that will provide direct services to children,” said Superintendent of Schools Jean Franco, who began her education career as an ELL teacher. “The ELL grant is designed to provide direct summer support to ELL students. There will be a full day summer school offering to students that will provide experiential learning and a variety of academic support.

“The Summer English Learning Academy will be implemented alongside the existing LPS’ summer program and will utilize and share facilities, custodial staff and utilities, and transportation” she added. “The districts’ goals are to leverage the resources of all the programs to reduce duplication of services and to maximize the services and funding for students.”

In addition to the ELL grant, the LPS was also awarded a \$40,000 Career Academics Planning grant, which will be used to redesign the district’s alternative high school program, resulting in the creation

of a 4-year Career Academy High School targeting the students most at-risk of dropping out of school. The academy will be created in partnership with Middlesex Community College and the Lowell Workforce Investment Board.

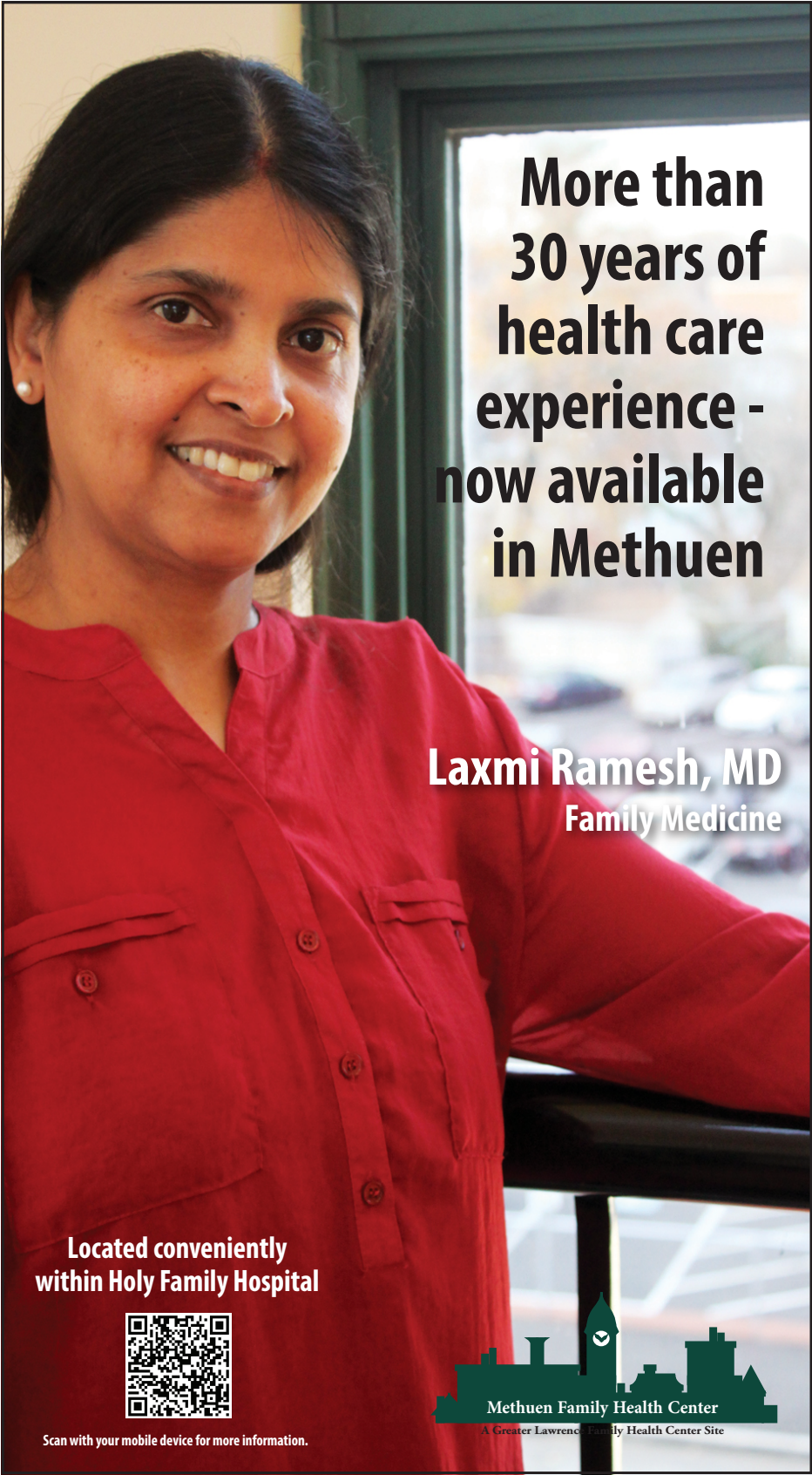
“The school will be based on a non-punitive culture with Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) as its frame work. Academics will meet all common core standards, however, be taught in a project and experiential based learning environment,” said Franco. “Students will be introduced to career exploration opportunities including job shadowing, internships and externships. The overarching goal of the Career Academy is to help struggling students engage in education in a different way, become academically successful and connect with career and college pathways after high school.”

The initial freshmen class of approximately 40 students will enter the doors on August 27, 2013.

Massachusetts Secretary of Education Matthew Malone announced more than \$3.4 million in grants to 19 urban school districts last week.

First proposed by the Gov. Patrick in November 2011, the Gateway Cities Education Agenda aims to eliminate achievement gaps that disproportionately affect students living in poverty, students of color, students with disabilities, and students who are English language learners in the Commonwealth’s 24 gateway cities.


A gateway city is defined as one with a population between 35,000 and 250,000, with an average household income below the state average and an average educational attainment rate (Bachelor’s or above) below the state average.




More than 30 years of health care experience - now available in Methuen

Laxmi Ramesh, MD
Family Medicine

Located conveniently within Holy Family Hospital



Scan with your mobile device for more information.



Methuen Family Health Center
A Greater Lawrence Family Health Center Site



Robert Irving
Reverse Mortgage Specialist

MLO 19086

Cell: (978) 686-0394
24-hr.

Helping Borrowers since 2001

www.firstinteg.com



FIRST INTEGRITY MORTGAGE LLC

354 Merrimack Street, Sal's Riverwalk, Lawrence MA 01843

rhirving@gmail.com

354 Merrimack St., at Sal's Riverwalk
Lawrence MA 01843

Tel. 978.685.9700 x15 * Fax 978.685.9701

MA Mortgage Broker #MB 1964
Licensed by the NH Banking Dept.
ME#CSO11110 * NMLS ID 1964

*** HELP WANTED * HELP WANTED ***

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE Job Category: SALES

Job Description: POPULAR, WELL ESTABLISHED, INDEPENDENTLY OWNED MERRIMACK VALLEY RADIO STATION, IS SEEKING A SELF-MOTIVATED, ENERGETIC SALES PERSON TO JOIN ITS BUSY SALES TEAM. 980 WCAP HAS BEEN THE RADIO VOICE OF THE MERRIMACK VALLEY FOR MORE THAN 67 YEARS AND NEEDS TO EXPAND ITS SALES FORCE TO MEET INCREASED ADVERTISING DEMANDS.

Experience: SHOULD BE STRONG COMMUNICATOR, SELF STARTER AND ABLE TO WORK INDEPENDENTLY. ABILITY TO WORK DIRECTLY WITH CLIENTS, NEGOTIATE, OVERCOME OBJECTIONS AND THINK “OUTSIDE THE BOX”. WILL WORK COLLABORATIVELY WITH TRAFFIC, PRODUCTION, ON-AIR TALENT AND THE SALES TEAM. MUST HAVE RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION, VALID DRIVER’S LICENSE AND FAMILIARITY WITH THE AREA. KNOWLEDGE OF WORD, EXCEL AND OUTLOOK MOST HELPFUL AS IS FAMILIARITY WITH MEDIA SALES AND MARKETING. VERY GENEROUS COMMISSION STRUCTURE, WITH STRONG OFFICE SUPPORT, INCENTIVES AND LARGE POTENTIAL CLIENT BASE. EXPERIENCE PREFERRED BUT WILL TRAIN APPROPRIATE APPLICANT. PLEASE SEND COVER LETTER AND RESUME.

Other Info: MERRIMACK VALLEY RADIO/980WCAP IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER AND ENCOURAGES APPLICATIONS FROM WOMEN, MINORITIES, VETERANS AND RECENT COLLEGE GRADUATES. (978)454-0404

Contact Information:
SAM POULTON
MERRIMACK VALLEY RADIO/WCAP
243 CENTRAL ST, LOWELL, MA 01852

The Massachusetts Broadcast Industry is an Equal Opportunity Employer and is committed to the goals of workplace diversity and nondiscrimination.

Ye Gay Ol' Valley

The Stench of Hate

D. B. Langevin

VALLEY PATRIOT LESBIAN COLUMNIST

I was angered the other morning, while eating my breakfast and watching the early morning news, to hear about the hate crimes that had been committed last month at Oberlin College in Ohio. According to the New York Times, "The incidents included slurs written on Black History Month posters, drawings of swastikas and the message 'whites only' scrawled above a water tank. After midnight on Sunday morning, someone reported seeing a person dressed in a white robe and hood near the Afrikan Heritage House." Oberlin is touted as one of the most accepting, progressive and all inclusive institutions of higher education in the United States. It was the first college to accept black students back in the late 1800's. The campus, to say the least, was angered, shocked and threatened by these incidents.

I do not understand hate, its origin or its motivation. It clearly comes from and is fueled by fear, but fear of what? It turns perfectly rational, intelligent people into irrational, ignorant, reactionary animals. Hate is what puts nasty, hurtful words into people's mouths and causes them to fly out with a fiery vengeance. It's what makes girls become catty and shallow bullies,

excluding old friends from social venues lowering self-esteem and confidence, some times to the point of suicide. Hate is what makes boys beat up a peer whom they see as less masculine. Some of those boys they target have been beaten to death. Hate puts guns into people's hands and makes them point and shoot at something or someone they see as a threat whether it is real or perceived. It shoots up shopping malls, school campuses, churches and parking lots. Hate blows up buildings, neighborhoods and flies planes into sky scrapers. It fuels wars, drops bombs on innocent people, sends suicide bombers into market places, calls for ethnic cleansing and makes it all seem all right if it's draped in the flag of your country or pulled out of some isolated line from your religious text. Hate swallows people whole and passes out something covered in so much of its own excrement that no amount of good deeds will ever wash the stink off of the crimes they've committed when fueled by that awful four letter word.



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

MORALITY MATTERS

Two Women, One Trend: A reflection of our culture today

Paul Murano

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

This past month saw two stories in the news that speak volumes beyond their headlines. Not surprisingly they were about sex and death respectively, and they focused on two women, one young and one elderly. Their names were Melissa King and Lorraine Bayless. One gave up her title as Miss Teen Delaware after being outed for making a pornography video, while the other was left to die because no one wanted to give her CPR. These two stories tie together as cause and effect as an illustration of the values of our age, although virtually no one will see this due to the difficulty of seeing the forest through the trees. These two stories manifest clearly the age of hypocrisy in which we live and its inevitable consequence: disdain for human life. In short, symbolically Melissa King ends up in Lorraine Bayless.

We live in a world of contradiction when it comes to social standards that would make former logic teachers roll over in their graves. Why was it that Miss Teen Delaware had to give up her title? Wasn't she caught doing something that is both legal and popular, in which a very large percentage of people indulge in via the internet and cable tv?

What is it that pressures her to give up her title, a title that represents the girl next door, if chances are the girl, and guy, next door indulge in porn themselves? Is the moral standard now that it's okay to indulge in porn as long as one doesn't present themselves in front of a camera? What if she performed the same activities with someone off camera, would she still be the wholesome girl next door, worthy of her Miss Delaware title?

What exactly is a "wholesome" girl today? If it is just the public aspect of this that makes it unacceptable, what if a third party taped her without her knowing it and put the sexually explicit acts on the internet for the world to see? Would she then also have to give up her crown? The truth is there is no rational consistency about moral standards today because sex has been taken out of its proper context of marriage.

As any liar knows, once Pandora's Box is opened one must continue to cover one's lies with other lies. Societies are no different. Girls are now pressured to have sex with their boyfriends because they're told they're supposed to, while pretending to be virginal because they're told they're supposed to. Sandra Fluke is called a "slut" even while it is well known that many if not most single women today use contraception to uphold their lifestyles. We stop short of referring to most western women by such a description because it would be too much for us to handle. And if we are

so confused as to what 'wholesome' means how can we possibly have a grasp on the meaning of its opposite? The contradictory mental gymnastics that are practiced today in order to uphold the selfish lie imbedded in our culture are utterly confusing to anyone who's not in a state of denial.

Confusion and deadening of the conscience has its social consequences. If we don't revere and respect the people-making process (sexual union) how can we expect to revere and respect the product of it - human beings?

The most obvious example of this is the common practice of prenatal homicide (abortion), about which I have written on numerous occasions; but the connection most people aren't making yet is between this confusion and Lorraine Bayless, a woman who was left to die because legal technicalities kept competent people from attempting to save her life. The 911 operator pleaded with a staffer who claimed to be a nurse to give Mrs. Bayless CPR, but she refused. She also refused to get anyone else to do it. Mrs. Bayless died before the EMT's got to her. To top it off her daughter said it was alright that no one tried to save her elderly mother.

This story ran on news outlets because it is not yet too politically incorrect to express shock at the killing of the elderly. O'Reilly called it barbaric, and other media outlets expressed their dismay; but in a few years you won't be seeing this kind of alarm. There will be a concerted effort to tweak the language to persuade the masses that allowing older people to die when they could easily be saved is a "compassionate" thing. As baby-boomers become elderly and their 1.4 children along with all the illegal immigrants we allow in to take up the slack are unable to shoulder the expense, this will become more and more clear.

Two women, one message: Abusing love abuses life, for life and love are one. In other words acceptance of illicit sex always leads to a culture of death, for no society can respect and revere human beings while disrespecting the act that brings them into existence. Civilization is measured by how much the most vulnerable members of society are cared for. As O'Reilly alluded to, we need to soberly assess whether we deserve to call ourselves civilized anymore.



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

FIND US ON
FACEBOOK

ValleyPatriot.com

Get Daily News Updates, Read Previous Stories,
Download Prior Editions, Search Our Massive News Archive!

www.abwoodflooring.com

HARDWOOD FLOORS - HANDCRAFTED INLAYS - INSTALLED - SANDED - FINISHED
CUSTOM DESIGN INSTALLATIONS - FREE ESTIMATES - FULLY INSURED
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL

SINCE 1934

978-681-1098

www.abwoodflooring.com

Bob Joncas



CATERING TO ALL YOUR NEEDS

*Political Functions *Retirement

*Graduations *Special occasions

Come
watch
the B'S!615 South Union Street, Lawrence, MA
Phone: 978-687-9321 - Fax 978-687-9162
Across the street from the Valley ForumWide
Screen
T.V.

Call or visit our website @ www.jbrians.com



Carol's Pet Care

Professional All Breed Grooming

126-1 28 Main Street North Andover, MA 01845

978-794-0744 carolspetcare.com

Celebrating 33 Years in
North Andover

Service By Appointment



But Wait ... What About the *Children*?

Christine Morabito
GREATER BOSTON TEA PARTY

Prediction: Massachusetts lawmakers will be consulting their tattered play-books to make a 50 cent tax increase on cigarettes more palatable. Every time this increase is proposed, politicians declare the new revenue is for the children, who will benefit from smoking prevention and smoking cessation programs.

When it comes to funding such programs, states have a long track record of failing our children. Based on data collected since the 1998 State Tobacco Settlement, most states have broken their promise to dedicate collected funds to alleviate some of the public health problems caused by tobacco use.

States are due to collect \$246 billion over the first 25 years of the settlement. It is important to point out that this money is in addition to the billions in revenue collected by states from tobacco taxes (\$2.51 for a pack of cigarettes in MA).

Given the amount of money available, there is no excuse for states to be neglecting these programs.

The Commonwealth is among the worst states, (rated number 36), spending a mere 4.6 percent of the Center for Disease Control's recommended amount on tobacco prevention programs.

Of the \$821 million in tobacco generated revenue for fiscal year 2013, Massachusetts will spend only \$4.2 million instead of the \$90 million recommended

by the CDC. This is according to a report issued by the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, American Heart Association, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Lung Association, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights.

Massachusetts began its Tobacco Control Program (MTCP) in 1993, funded by a cigarette tax increase of 25 cents a pack which passed as a ballot initiative. In 1996, Howard K. Koh, who served as Commissioner of Public Health, reported, "The tax has since generated millions of dollars for tobacco education and control programs, leading to acceleration of the decline of tobacco consumption in the state."

This program was later supplemented by the above tobacco settlement funds. By 2003 the program suffered devastating cuts and was almost eliminated. In FY2008 funding increased to \$12.75 million -- along with a dollar tax increase for a pack of cigarettes. Since then MTCP has been slashed again by 65 percent.

Other states are not doing much better. Only two states -- Alaska and North Dakota -- fund prevention programs at the recommended level and three states -- Delaware, Wyoming and Hawaii -- fund programs at 50 percent of the recommendation.

In 2013, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina and Ohio spent no state money on prevention programs. Inciden-



tally, most of the tax revenue and settlement money received by the states goes directly into their general fund.

In Massachusetts an estimated 6,700 children under the age of 18 become new smokers every year and about 14 percent of high school kids smoke. According to the CDC, young people are especially sensitive to nicotine and often become dependent earlier than adults. Three out of four teen smokers end up smoking into adulthood. Clearly, we can do more to protect our children from these dangerous statistics.

The state has the money, but not the priorities. Besides the aforementioned funding, the state receives additional money from Washington to prevent our children from picking up the habit. The Commonwealth has been given 2.6 million federal dollars from the Food and Drug Administration, from CDC grants and from the Affordable Care Act, specifically for tobacco prevention and control. What happened to all that money? (Here's a hint: The state's \$24 billion unfunded pension liability

ain't gonna pay for itself.)

Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of disease and death, costing U.S. taxpayers \$96 billion a year. The estimated annual health care costs in Massachusetts directly linked to smoking are \$3.54 billion. When the Obamacare debate was raging, politicians testified that their biggest priority was saving lives and making health care affordable. Either we are serious about lowering health care costs and protecting our children or we are not. I would hate to think all that partisan rhetoric was just about the money.

Massachusetts already has the ninth highest cigarette tax in the country. Thankfully I am not a smoker, but if I was and Beacon Hill asked me to reach into my almost empty wallet, I'd ask them if they plan to keep their promise to our children.



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



Steve
Sirmaian
Chief Operations
Manager/Owner
MLO 3520

Steve@firstinteg.com

24-hr. -Cell: (978) 771-2906



**FIRST
INTEGRITY
MORTGAGE** LLC

www.firstinteg.com

354 Merrimack St., at Sal's Riverwalk
Lawrence, MA 01843

Tel. 978.685.9700 * Fax 978.685.9701

MA Mortgage Broker #MB 1964
• Licensed by the NH Banking Dept.
ME#CSO111110 * NMLS ID 1964

DEMOCRAT CORNER WITH MARA DOLAN

HUNGER IN THE LAND O' PLENTY

Mara Dolan

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Turning on CNN after a lovely Valentine's dinner on the town with the blossoming young woman who is my daughter, I was appalled at what I saw. Hundreds of people stranded on an ocean liner, their vacation ruined, while news cameras recorded every moment for a rapt nation, grateful to be snug in their homes. What appalled me even more than the plight of the stranded vacationers was the amount of news coverage they were getting. So I tweeted.

"I am really sorry a lot of people had a bad cruise. In Massachusetts, one out of every 9 children goes hungry. Cover that, CNN. #carnival"

Over 1,385 retweets later, I'm glad to know I'm not the only one appalled. Massachusetts! We're the Athens of America, the home of Harvard and MIT. We're the state with the highest number of college graduates, the best public schools, and the lowest divorce rate. We sent Elizabeth Warren to the United States Senate to fight for the middle class. But Massachusetts is near the bottom of the country on income inequality. In a state where our 8th graders come in second in science and sixth in math test scores, not just in the nation but in the world, one out of every 9 children is going hungry.

Massachusetts is also the state where a

Wellesley father just made front page news for paying his daughter \$200 to give up Facebook. We're the home state of Grover Norquist, who grew up in wealthy Weston, and who magically thinks that if only the government didn't collect taxes all of America would be rich like Weston, and no one would go hungry.

I know Weston. I live two towns over, and I campaigned there when I ran for state senate last year. Weston is a lot like Lincoln, and I campaigned there too. Sitting in a stunningly beautiful multi-million dollar home nestled on impeccably, artfully landscaped grounds, I explained my platform on jobs, healthcare, and education. When I finished, the hostess looked at me quizzically and asked, "But how would that affect me?" These are not the people who go on Carnival cruises, let alone get a chance to see how the bottom 20% don't eat.

I don't think she didn't care; I think she didn't know. How could she, with CNN thinking a stranded ocean liner is Big News? What was so compelling about this story? Why on earth is a group of good people suffering for a few days a bigger story than the one out of five American households with children going hungry? Or the 260,000 good children going hungry in one of the leading states in America? Isn't it a bigger story that despite Massachusetts' advances in education, health care, technology and marriage equality we can't

Isn't it a bigger story that despite Massachusetts' advances in education, health care, technology, and marriage equality we can't put food on all our children's tables? If it's this bad in Massachusetts, it's much worse in other parts of America. Why isn't CNN covering that?

put food on all our children's tables? If it's this bad in Massachusetts, it's much worse in other parts of America. Why isn't CNN covering that?

Over 50 Million Americans are hungry. In Mississippi, almost one out of every five people is hungry. Texas and Arkansas are close behind. Hunger is a solvable problem, but not if we spend hours covering a dysfunctional cruise ship instead of showing the good people of affluent America how the other half really lives.

I did not mean my tweet to make light of the suffering of the unfortunate people who set sail expecting a wonderful week of vacation on the open sea, only to find themselves living without basic facilities, finding their trip anything but fun-filled and relaxing. It must have been awful, and I hope they get their money back, their vacation days restored, and all the hot showers and full plates they want.

Shouldn't everyone in the richest country in the world have that? Don't we have enough to go around? Actually, we do.

Across America, hunger isn't caused by a lack of food, but by poverty. Massachusetts Congressman Jim McGovern is trying to change all that. He's called upon the White House to end hunger now, and to host a conference on food and nutrition. The White House has not convened a summit on hunger since Richard Nixon did so in 1969. Closer to home, Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick wants to raise \$1 Billion to invest in transportation and education. By doing so, we'll lay the foundation for long-term prosperity, and provide good-paying jobs that will help to end childhood hunger in the state.

Was the stranded ocean liner news? Yes. But the real story isn't the hunger of cruise passengers facing empty buffet tables, challenging though that must have been. The real story is that in one of the leading states in the wealthiest nation in the world, one out of every nine children goes hungry, and it's much worse in Mississippi, Texas, and Arkansas. Americans are going hungry, and we can solve this problem. Cover that, CNN.



Mara Dolan is an attorney, a former candidate for State Senate and the producer and host of "Twilight Talk" on WCAP, Mondays 7-9pm. You can follow her on Twitter @MaraDolan. You can email her at mara@maradolan.com



DiZoglio Participates in Read Across America to Promote Literacy

March is "Read Across America" month and hundreds of school children throughout the Merrimack Valley participated in sponsored reading events, by the National Education Association in celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday. Read Across America is an annual reading inspiration and awareness program, calling for every child in every community to rejoice in reading. Active members of each community come out to engage with and read to the children.

State Representative Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen) was one of many elected officials in the Merrimack Valley who contributed as a reader. "All children deserve a mentor to motivate them to ensure they are exploring and advancing their young imaginations. As a new member of the Education Committee in the House of Representatives, I am thrilled to participate with schools throughout the Merrimack Valley to help carry on this great tradition—getting children enthusi-

astic about reading," said DiZoglio.

Rep DiZoglio chose Dr. Seuss' "Horton Hears a Who!" as her selected reading for the day at North Andover's Kittredge Elementary School. She explained the role of a State Representative in a Q & A with Ms. Desmond's and Ms. Orhn's third grade classes. She used the book's storyline to convey a mini community involvement and civics lesson. "I wanted to reach them at their level and encourage them. No matter how young they are, just like the tiny "Who" that saved his town in the book, they can make a big difference in their communities," said DiZoglio.

The Read Across America campaign is the nation's leading reading celebration with more than 45 million people contributing in schools, libraries, and community centers around the country, to emphasize the significance of developing a love for reading at a young age.

FROM PAGE 9: MUSHOW



the best solution for example for a Holiday card. He said; well would you want a holiday card taken behind a fake fireplace backdrop or the one in your own home?

At this point he is taking photos on the road and driving to his customers to save them the time by going to a local Mall or franchise and he realized the customer is always comfortable in their own home, none the less when kids don't feel like waiting at a local Mall to get their photo

taken he brings all his portable gear to the client. He also goes to a local park, beach or recreational area, or even a local landmark to suit the customer's needs.

This is definitely a new era in the way photography is going and he is becoming a master at this. Ron does many types of shoots including HDR, weddings, newborn, Concert photos, Fashion shots, Family photos and many other ideas that he can come up with.

FROM PAGE 9 LAPLANTE RESPONDS TO LANTIGUA SPEECH

state grants to get more cameras in the City of Lawrence to catch illegal dumpers, we asked LaPlante if he was concerned about civil liberties with all the new secret cameras Lantigua is having installed all over the city.

"Well, the Commonwealth does have that kind of initiative to lend cameras to communities and it works pretty well. What we want to do is follow their example, but I'm not going to say where we are putting the cameras because this is in place to catch people who are illegally dumping. If people know where the cameras are they will just dump somewhere else and what we want to do is catch them. I understand the argument of ever expanding government but this is a kind of enforcement that's really necessary."

Crime and Unemployment up Under Lantigua

Despite what LaPlante says he liked about Lantigua's State of the City Address, the South Lawrence City Councilor says that what was not in the speech was far more telling

"Unemployment in Lawrence is the highest in Commonwealth at 14%. He didn't talk about that, and it's a major issue for the people of this city. What has he done?"

"He did make mention during his speech that crime was the lowest in ten years. That's not the case. It's actually a 36% increase in felonious crimes since Lantigua has been in office. That increase was on his watch. That translates to 665 felonious incidents above average.

That's a huge impact on the people and the families in our city. In fact, if you look at the real numbers, over that 10 year period the mayor talked about, the highest three years of crime in the last ten years were during his three years as mayor. This includes felonies like, murder, rape, armed robbery, aggravated assault, auto theft, burglary and larceny over \$250."

"Part of the problem is that while he is misrepresenting the truth about the crime in Lawrence, the citizens of Lawrence and

the surrounding communities that are paying our bills are paying for two indicted police officers a combined \$200,000+ to stay home. That money could be used towards paying officers patrolling our streets protecting us and reducing crime."

Lantigua Must Resign

Councilor LaPlante called for the resignation of the Mayor last year, the only city councilor to do so and one of only two elected officials to do so in the city. Asked if he still believed Lantigua needed to resign LaPlante laughed.

"What? Yes. I still think he should resign. He should have resigned yesterday. He has done little to help out the people of the City. Lawrence still has a very dark cloud hanging over us. We are asking our state delegation to represent us and do the best they can for us by way of bringing in money and helping us fix the problems in Lawrence, meanwhile they are afraid to do anything to give Lawrence assistance while Willie is in office."

I mean he mentioned distractions during his speech, basically pointing to the people who criticize him and his administration, but those 'distractions' as he calls them, are all self-inflicted. When you decide that you're not going to follow the law and not pay your fines for campaign finance violations like everyone else, when you decide not to report the money you raised for your campaign, when you are hiring friends and family and staff the city with unqualified people because they worked on your campaign, yes, most of the criticism he received on that stuff is self-inflicted. What we need is someone to get beyond the surface and get governing

this city. That's hard to do when you are shooting yourself in the foot every single day."

LaPlante said that a back handed swipe Lantigua took at former Lawrence Veterans Services Director, Francisco Urena was uncalled for. Though the Mayor didn't mention him by name, he did say during his address that until Jamie Melendez (the current Veterans Services Director) inherited a mess where Veterans were

being ignored and nobody was reaching out to them. Urena is now the Veteran's Services Director for the City of Boston under Mayor Menino.

"The last thing the Mayor should be doing is bad mouthing the caliber and dedication of Francisco Urena. If that was his intention, shame on him. I am not taking anything away from Jamie Melendez; he's doing a good job. The Mayor could have praised the Job Melendez is doing without pulling down the person he replaced, that would

have been the professional thing to do. Francisco did an amazing job representing the Veterans, so much so that Tom Menino hired him in Boston."

More Questions than Answers in Lantigua Address

"As I said in my remarks at the public participation portion of the meeting, there are a lot of questions that Lantigua didn't bother to address. Like: what are we doing to bring some stability and tax equity to the citizens of our city? Even with paying more taxes our Police Department remains understaffed. When the Mayor took office

we had about 145 police officers now we are down to 120.

Understandably, the crime rate was still high in 2012 with the understaffed police department. Crime is still higher than what it was before 2010. We are paying the salaries of 4 officers even though they are not working.

The mayor can suspend without pay two officers that are indicted, but he is paying them, or rather we are paying them. Why isn't he doing that and saving the city \$200k? Unemployment is over 14%. I have to yet hear the Mayor talk about his plan to help our neighbors who are unemployed and looking for work. What is the signature economic development initiative in 2012?

How many jobs were created in 2012 due to the city's initiative?

What is the game plan to retain the fire department personnel when the safer grant expires?

What is the game plan to more fully staff our police department?

What is the game plan to utilize the empty and abandoned Bailey Street and Ames Street fire stations?

Last summer, the Community Development Department met with interested stakeholders and citizens to work on reviving the Canal Street area. What has happened with that project?

The Mayor has embarrassed our city repeatedly. In 2012 he has continued hiring unqualified supporters to key DPW positions. What is being done to repair the city's image, and to stop making our government the laughing stock across the state?"

"I am not going to say that everything Mayor Lantigua has done is wrong or bad but when you weigh out the good things going on as the result of his efforts as Mayor, with the additional problems he has created for the city it's pretty clear he has done far more damage and made the conditions of the city far worse in his three years as Mayor."

M.E.T.H.U.E.N.
FAMILY
RESTAURANT

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY

NEW ENGLAND BOILED DINNER
Red Corned Beef, Cabbage,
Boiled Potato, Carrots & Beets
Served with soup or salad
\$10.50
Served all day, as well as every Thursday

246 Broadway, Methuen MA 01844
978-683-7050
www.facebook.com/methuenfamilyrestaurant



**Dean Silva
Plumbing & Heating**

Quality & Courtesy
Licensed & Insured
24-HR Emergency Service

- Full Service Plumbing
- Drain Cleaning
- Pipe Repairs
- Install Gas Lines
- Boiler Service
- Water Heater Service

Commercial & Residential
(978) 204-7337
www.SilvaPlumbing.com
Serving the Merrimack Valley
and Surrounding Area

Hablamos Español

 **OMNI**
Digital Printers

92 South Broadway, LAWRENCE, MA 01843 287 Appleton Street, LOWELL, MA 01852
Tel: 978.686.3875 • Fax: 978.683.9941 Tel: 978.459.2109 • Fax: 978.452.8879
Email: lawrence@omnidp.com Email: lowell@omnidp.com
MON-FRI 8AM-6PM & SAT 9:30AM-2PM MON-FRI 8:30AM-5:30PM

FAST B&W or Color Prints Graphic Design Services
Mailing Services Stationery, Brochures, Flyers
B&W or Color Scanning Business Cards, Postcards
Binding & Finishing

Blue Prints, Color Posters, Outdoor Signs & Banners
Wedding & Special Occasion Invitations
Local FREE Pick-Up & Delivery and much more!

Mention this ad and receive 10% OFF your order.

VISIT US ON THE WEB
www.omnidp.com

FOR ALL YOUR ESTATE PLANNING NEEDS

DIANNE M. O'BRIEN
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

I am a very well-qualified Estate Planning attorney who will make the process quick, easy, and convenient for you – meeting with you in your home if you wish.

- Wills
- Trusts
- Health Care Proxies
- Powers of Attorney
- Living Wills
- Probate

COMPLIMENTARY INITIAL CONSULTATION

Former Officer in the U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate General Corps – 8 Years
www.attorneyobrien.com



800 Turnpike Street, Ste. 300
North Andover, Ma 01845
978-794-5515
Flat Fees
For Estate Planning Services

WHOLESALE PRICES TO THE PUBLIC
New in HAVERHILL.... Get all your supplies locally at:

Quintana
Wholesale Outlet

Free delivery for local businesses! Monthly Billing!

ATTENTION CLEANING COMPANIES!!

- * Lowest Paper Prices
- * Lowest Chemical Prices In-Stock

Janitorial Supplies
Commercial or Household use:
* cleaners * floor strippers * waxes
* brooms * mops * dusting rags * sponges * buckets * gloves * soaps/detergents * ice melt



*** OPEN SATURDAYS!!!**

Open: Mon-Fri 9AM to 5PM, Sat: 8:30AM-1PM
558 River St., Haverhill *800-499-1000 > Next to Ralph Pill & Giovanni's

LAWRENCE FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION

Relief's In - 1 Market Street, Lawrence, MA 01843
(978) 687-9053



Private Outing Grounds &
Function Hall Rental Available
Big Screen TV's
Lottery, Keno
Nightly Entertainment
Pool & Dart Leagues

TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK

LOCAL SPORTS

This month you might have noticed something new in the pages of The Valley Patriot, LOCAL SPORTS! Since almost the very first edition back in 2004, readers have been asking for local sports coverage. This month, on our 9th anniversary, The Valley Patriot has been fortunate enough to bring on board a talented and seasoned veteran writer named Mark Behan. Behan once worked for the Haverhill Gazette and is a New England Press Association Award winning journalist. This month Mark contributed three local sports stories: Coach Rafferty in North Andover, Track in Methuen and Northern Essex Community College basketball. As I was flipping through the paper during the editing process it was hard not to notice how perfectly his material fit in and how he has singlehandedly delivered exactly what we needed to inform our readers better. WELCOME ABOARD MARK!

IVES ON YOUR CORNER

Senator Kathleen O'Connor Ives will be hosting office hours in Haverhill on Friday, March 15 between 1:00 and 2:00 pm. Office hours will be held at the Haverhill Public Library, Milhendler Room. Appointments are not required. For any questions, please contact her office at (617) 722-1604 or by emailing Christopher.Power@masenate.gov

In Methuen - Friday, March 15 between 3:00 and 4:00 pm. Office hours will be held at the Nevins Memorial Library, Trustee's Room. Appointments are not required. For any questions, please contact her office at (617) 722-1604 or by emailing Christopher.Power@masenate.gov

Amesbury on Friday, April 5 between 1:00 and 2:00 pm. Office hours will be held at the Amesbury Senior Center, Library. Appointments are not required. For any questions, please contact her office at (617) 722-1604 or by emailing Christopher.Power@masenate.gov

In Merrimac on Friday, April 5 between 3:00 and 4:00 pm. Office hours will be held at the Merrimac Public Library, Meeting Room. Appointments are not required. For any questions, please contact her office at (617) 722-1604 or by emailing Christopher.Power@masenate.gov

In North Andover - on Friday, April 19 between 1:00 and 2:00 pm. Office hours will be held at the North Andover Senior Center, Conference Room. Appointments are not required. For any questions, please contact her office at (617) 722-1604 or by emailing Christopher.Power@masenate.gov

LAWRENCE CHESS CLUB

Lawrence Chess Club will meet on Wednesday, 20 March 2013 from 6-8pm At the Lawrence Public Library, corner of Haverhill & Lawrence streets. This is always a FREE event, third Wednesday each month. Please bring a friend and a chess set. ALL ages and abilities welcome. Play, learn and help teach. We can teach anyone to play in about 20 minutes, but it requires a lifetime to master. English is not required.

VOTERS DON'T SUPPORT DEVAL TAX HIKES

WAKEFIELD - The Massachusetts Fiscal



Lions Clubs International Director Harvey Whitley is shown presenting the keynote speech to the District 33N Lions. At their "Sold Out " Saturday Night Banquet recently at The Andover Wyndham Conference Center In Andover, Director Whitley (From Monroe S.C. is one of 34 Lions Clubs International Directors in the world. His address centered on Lions Clubs "How To Give Back To The Communities.... That We Live, Serve And Work In.

lions-33n.org

Alliance made the following statement last month regarding a WBUR's poll that shows nearly 50% of voters "strongly or somewhat oppose" the Governor's budget plan. The cross tab data may be found on WBUR's website.

The data shows that nearly 40% of Democratic, 74% of Republican and 52% of un-enrolled voters strongly or somewhat oppose the Governor's plan. The poll shows when asked if cutting state taxes should be a high priority, nearly 43% of Democratic, 49% of Republican and 52% of un-enrolled voters believe it should be a high priority. Jobs and the economy remain hot button issues, in which 96% of Democratic, 90% of Republican and 93% un-enrolled voters agree should be a high priority.

"Clearly this poll shows that voters from all parties want to see our elected leaders support efforts that create more jobs, improve our economy and cut our taxes," stated Paul D. Craney, Executive Director of Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance.

"Higher taxes and more state spending don't seem to be the will of the voters at the moment. Massachusetts continues to rank as one of the least friendly states to do business and the cost of living is high. We need to do more to provide relief for these two categories," concluded Craney.

LAW ENFORCEMENT RIDE

The new 2013 Law Enforcement Ride & Run to Remember website is live and registration is open! This year, we're excited to announce that the event will include a 55-AND 30-mile bike ride on Oct. 12, as well as

a 5K run on Oct. 13. It's never too early to get started celebrating law enforcement.

In fact, now's the perfect time to register! Whether you are a law enforcement officer, know someone who is, or simply respect the work our officers do to keep us safe — this event is for you. The Law Enforcement Ride & Run to Remember is your opportunity to join us for a fun, community-oriented athletic event and honor the contribution and sacrifice law enforcement officers make every day.

Register for the Ride & Run to Remember today to get a jump start. Law Enforcement Ride & Run to Remember

901 E Street NW, Suite 100

Washington, DC 20004-2025

202.737.7134 • info@rideandruntoremember.org

PROGRESSIVE POLICY CONFERENCE

Progressive Massachusetts to Host first Annual Policy Conference Progressive Massachusetts will host their first annual policy conference, bringing progressive thought-leaders in the fields of education, energy, progressive fiscal policy, business development, health care, good government and criminal justice together for a day of policy discussions and practical ideas to implement progressive policy in Massachusetts. March 24th, 9am – 4pm at Lasell College, 1844 Commonwealth Ave, Newton, MA

NOTABLE SPEAKERS Include: Brian Rosman, Research Director, Health Care for All, Lisa Guisbond, Vice President, Citizens for Public Schools and Policy Analyst, Fair Test, Barry Bluestone, Director, Dukakis

Center, Northeastern. Gregory Bialecki, Secretary, Massachusetts Department of Economic Development & Housing. Harris Gruman, Executive Director, State Council, SEIU. John Larivee, Executive Director, Community Resources for Justice. Jake Sullivan, City of Boston, Office of Intergovernmental Relations, Liaison to Mayors Against Illegal Guns. Sonia Hamel, Senior Associate, Center for Climate Strategies. John Bonifaz, Executive Director, Free Speech for People. Brenda Wright, Vice President, DEMOS. Nick Nyhart, President and CEO, Public Campaign. Steve Grossman, Treasurer of the Commonwealth PRESUMED CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR 2014. Don Berwick, Former Director of Medicare and Medicaid - DECLARED CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR 2015

BALLROOM DANCING

Every Sunday evening (weather permitting) from 7:30 PM to 11PM at the Fireman's Relief Building, 1 Market Street Lawrence, MA. 978-687-9053. Admission: \$11 (coffee and dessert included) singles and couples welcome plenty of free parking. Sponsor: Alive After Five Group Info: 603-382-8964 Ballroom Dancing to Live Bands

HEALTHY LIVING WORKSHOP

Chronic Pain Self-Management Workshop at The Liberty Room at Harvard Vanguard

When: April 16 – May 21. (Workshop held once a week for 6 weeks) Time: 1:00-3:30, the class on 5/21 will be 12:30-2:30. Workshop is at "No Charge" Pre-registration is Required.

For more information or to register please call 978-946-1260. Or visit our website at www.healthyliving4me.org

LAWRENCE EXCHANGE CLUB NOTICE

The 23rd annual charity Fight Night is coming up on April 12th at the Wyndham and you can buy tickets online on our website (www.lawrenceexchangeclub.com) under Events; in late May The Lawrence Exchange has their Book of Golden Deeds program (send any unsung hero nominations to Rick Blain at RRBlain@aol.com), and their own past president, Bruce Baril, will be inducted as New England District president this May (at the Resort and Conference Center at Hyannis at the NE District Spring Convention).

CELEBRATE EASTER AT ATRIA MARLAND PLACE

Hop on over to Atria Marland Place for a delightful Easter celebration. Have your picture taken with the Easter Bunny! Refreshments will be served. The event will be held Saturday, March 23 at 10 a.m. at Atria Marland Place, 15 Stevens Street, Andover, MA. To RSVP call 978-475-4225.

ATRIA MARLAND PLACE HOSTING LITTLE BLACK DRESS EVENT

A unique program that combines floral designs and fashion accessories Atria Marland Place will host "The Little Black Dress," a unique program that combines floral designs that compliment interesting fashion accessories. Bill Graham, one of New England's leading floral design professionals will present the program. Graham is the owner

NOTEBOOK PAGES 42-43

184 Pleasant Valley St. Suite 1-102, Methuen



Dave Guselli

Office:
(978) 689-8006

firstchoicerealtygroup.com



LLG
LONGO LAW GROUP
— P L L C —

"Se Habla Espanol"

**Personal Injury, Car Accidents
Immigration & Real Estate**

A full service law firm concentrating on personal injury litigation
Serving clients in Massachusetts and NY



300 Brickstone Square, Suite 201
Andover, MA 01810
Tel/Fax: 617.379.0279 (MA)
Toll Free: 855.LONGOLAW
www.mlongolaw.com
info@mlongolaw.com

Scott Jenkins
Merrimack Automotive Technicians

355 Merrimack Street
Lawrence, MA 01843



Scott Jenkins

(978) 686-9983
Fax (978) 687-2928

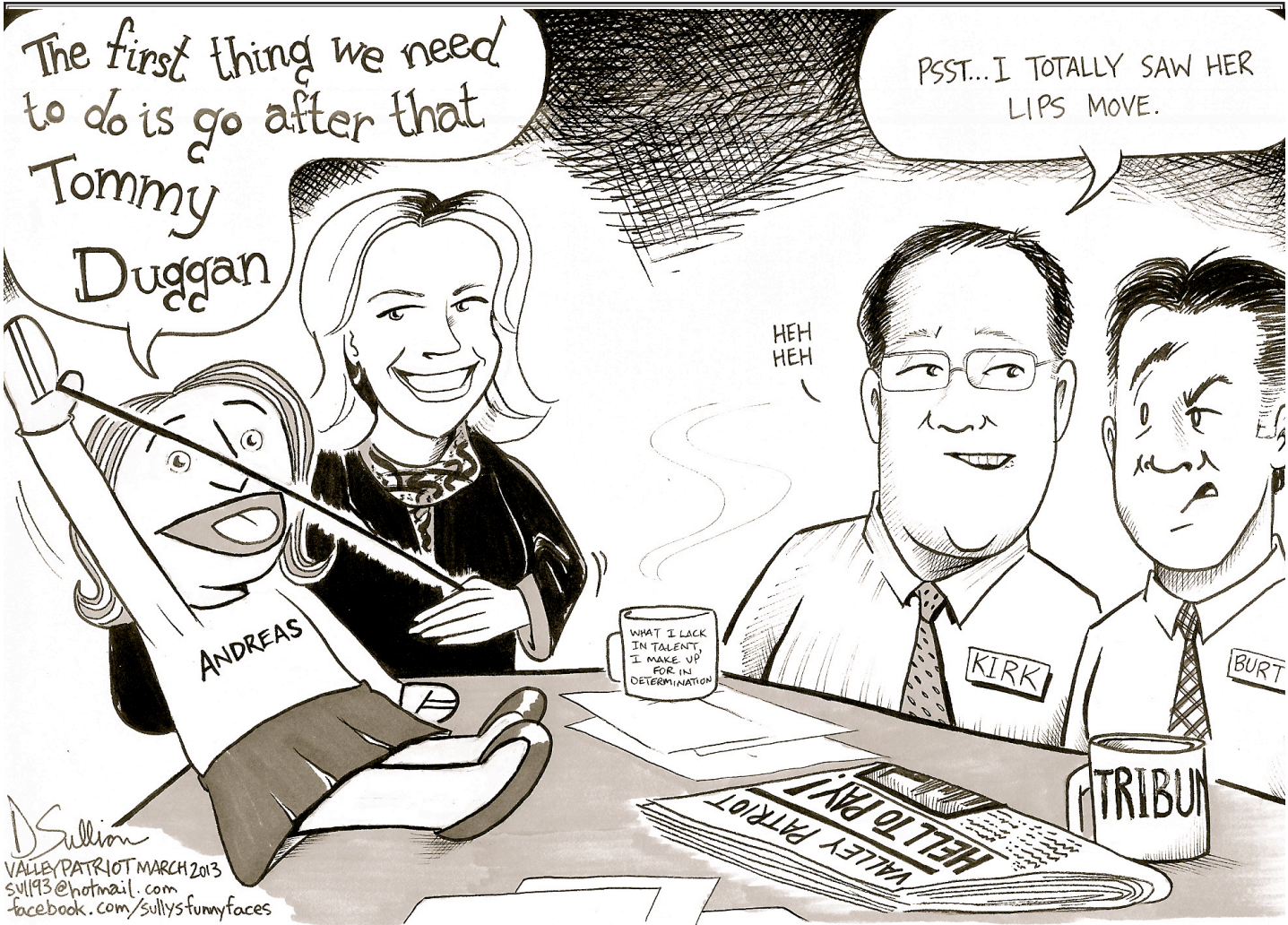
Lantigua Slams Getler, Happy Publisher Fired

Lawrence Mayor Willie Lantigua issued a statement last month regarding the firing of Eagle Tribune publisher Al Getler saying that Getler was not ethical and that the man who ran the Eagle Tribune newspaper for six years purposely tried to discredit the image of the City of Lawrence. Getler has been fired as the publisher of Eagle Tribune Publishing and replaced by former VP Karen Andreas.

The day after Getler was axed, Mayor Lantigua issues a statement saying Getler's departure brought "great hope" for city residents. "It is with great hope that I inform the residents, business owners and those who care so deeply about our Great City of Lawrence that a new day may be on the horizon for all of us." Lantigua's statement leaked to the Valley Patriot stated.

"Today Eagle Tribune Publishing Company announced the abrupt departure of publisher Al Getler. For the past six years, Al Getler has worked to discredit our community, our residents and our image as a whole from behind his desk in North Andover," the letter continued.

Lantigua closes his letter, yet to be released, saying he will "reach out" to Karen Andreas the new publisher and thanked all those who have "taken the time to write and reach out to "the powers that be" calling for equality and ethical journalism...."



New Chabat Coming to North Andover

Rabbi Bronstein and his wife Muski have been working very hard to try and bring a new Chabat House to the Town of North Andover. "We are moving down to North Andover in near future as soon as we find place to begin," said Borenstein. "We are going to bring various youth programs, Hebrew school, and we are partnering with Chabat House of Andover.

"There's no synagogue in North Andover or in the Boxford Middleton area. We will be opening a branch of Chabat to give adult education day programs chabat services.

For more info visit chabadmv.com



PEABODY UPSET

Political newcomer Leah Cole has pulled off an election upset against Greg Bunn for the special election to fill a vacant state senate seat in Peabody. Cole beat Bunn (the state party's candidate), she says, by running a grass roots campaign "going door to door" rather than just buying print and media ads. "I started out with no name recognition in Peabody," Cole told the Valley Patriot the night of her primary win. "I just knocked on doors because I like meeting people, and I like to hear directly from them what they want from their government. Cole says the waste, fraud, and abuse that goes on at the state level needs to be addressed and if she is elected she will do just that. Cole did outraise Greg Bunn to secure the Republican primary. She says that while Bunn had the advantage of robo-calls being sent out by Scott Brown endorsing him, "We spent our time talking to the voters directly. We did do a number of mailings but I spent the bulk of my time talking to people in their homes. Cole was recruited by State Representative Jim Lyons (R) Andover. Next month Cole will face City Councilor Dave Gravel, the Independent in the race. Cole says he has already committed to caucusing with Democrat party. The other Democrat in the race is School Committeeman Beverly Griffin Dunn.



STAR Pizza

FAMILY RESTAURANT

BREAKFAST SERVED!!
6am-3pm

Get a Free Valley Patriot with any food delivery!!!

(978) 683-0472
Fax (978) 689-4966

WE DELIVER!
... BREAKFAST TOO!!!

CATERING SERVICES AVAILABLE

WWW.STARPIZZAOFNORTHANDOVER.COM

Subs - Lunch - Dinners - Ice Cream - Slushies - Desserts - Hot Coffees & Sodas

15 First Street - N. ANDOVER - Across from Town Hall - Downtown

Thank You Valley Patriot for 9 Years of Independent NEWS & VIEWS!

-Author Al Zappala

*Congratulations to Tom, Chuck
and Ralph at The Valley Patriot
on your*

*9th
Anniversary!*



Lawrence School Committeeman
James Blatchford

**LENNY
MIRRA**

**STATE
REPRESENTATIVE**



**CONGRATULATIONS
VALLEY PATRIOT ON
YOUR 9TH ANNIVERSARY!**

Bell-Aire Music

PRODUCTIONS and EVENT LIGHTING

bellairemusic.com



Bell-Aire Music Productions & Event Lighting is a Mobile DJ Entertainment Company from Methuen, MA, providing professional Disc Jockey Music, Event Planning & Venue Up-Lighting for all of the New England area



**Specializes in Weddings and private events
School Events, Dances, Proms and Graduations**

***COME JOIN US AT THE VALLEY PATRIOT
ANNIVERSARY BASH, MARCH 22nd
And watch Bell~Aire Music Productions in ACTION!**

Firefighters Relief In, 1 Market Street in Lawrence from 7-11pm

Phone 978 902-7041

Email: DJRick@bellairemusic.com

- * Event Planning
- * Karaoke Entertainment
- * Lighting and Stage Productions

With over 20 years of experience in the music business, Rick Bellanti has an extensive knowledge of songs spanning over nine decades. He knows how to read a crowd and plays a wide variety of music at every event, covering the Big Band era through today's popular Top 40 music hits.

This years annual Bride's Choice Awards™

TARSHI LAW OFFICE

PERSONAL INJURY LAW

BANKRUPTCY

Free Consultation

Atty John I. Tarshi
Atty. Kenneth F. Witham
Atty. Ryan S. Loughlin

TARSHILAWOFFICE.COM

ATTY JOHN I. TARSHI

978-686-1821 24/7

510 ESSEX ST., LAWRENCE, MA 01840



Photo1 : L-R, Steve Martinelli, President of MVUA, Christine Augusta, Chase Goodwin, and David Augusta Jr.
 Photo 2: David Augusta III umpiring at Cooperstown, NY during an annual umpiring event sponsored by the MVUA

REMEMBERING DAVID AUGUSTA III

The Merrimack Valley Umpires Association honored the memory of David M. Augusta, III, who died in August in a tragic car accident, by presenting the David M Augusta, III Teen Associate Member (TAM) Award. David was entering his senior year at Timberlane Regional High School. He loved his family and was an avid outdoors-man. David, as a TAM, wore the uniform with pride. He was committed to improving his skills and earned the respect of veteran umpires, coaches, players and parents both on and off the field by demonstrating a confident command presence with a calm and polite approach. The MVUA presented this award at their annual meeting on Sunday March 3 to Chase Goodwin, of Amesbury, who exemplifies these qualities for which the MVUA stands, in the spirit of David M. Augusta, III. Chase Goodwin is the son of long time MVUA member Charles Goodwin.

Servicing All of The Merrimack Valley and beyond!
 Exit Realty Group in Newburport

DO YOU OWE MORE ON YOUR MORTGAGE THAN WHAT YOU BELIEVE YOUR PROPERTY IS CURRENTLY WORTH?

CALL FOR A FREE CURRENT PROPERTY ANALYSIS TODAY!

KNOW WHAT YOUR OPTIONS ARE IN TODAY'S MARKET. THERE MAY BE HELP THAT YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT AND I WOULD BE HAPPY TO SPEAK WITH YOU.

Come to Our Office or I will come to you!!
 Cell 978-476-1342 www.kimqreoexpert.com kimaquintana@aol.com

Specializing in REO Sales, Short Sale, Conventional Sales and Rentals

KIMBERLY QUINTANA
 Licensed REALTOR
 MA & NH

NOW AVAILABLE!
BRIAN EVANS
At Fenway

www.BRIANEVANS.COM

Deli Catering Headquarters

Daily Lunch Specials

- * Corporate Catering
- * Office Parties
- * Family Parties
- * Wedding Parties
- * Party Platters
- * Homemade Sausages
- * Calzones...

Fri & Sat
 Stuffed Artichoke
 Tripe

TheNorthEndDeli.com **North End Deli** calzonecity.com

95 Common St Lawrence, MA - phone - 978.688.3539 fax 978.688.3559

Crime soared with MA Gun Law

Jeff Jacoby

VALLEY PATRIOT GUEST COLUMNIST

In 1998, Massachusetts passed what was hailed as the toughest gun-control legislation in the country. Among other stringencies, it banned semiautomatic “assault” weapons, imposed strict new licensing rules, prohibited anyone convicted of a violent crime or drug trafficking from ever carrying or owning a gun, and enacted severe penalties for storing guns unlocked.

“Today, Massachusetts leads the way in cracking down on gun violence,” said Republican Governor Paul Cellucci as he signed the bill into law. “It will save lives and help fight crime in our communities.” Scott Harshbarger, the state’s Democratic attorney general, agreed: “This vote is a victory for common sense and for the protection of our children and our neighborhoods.” One of the state’s leading anti-gun activists, John Rosenthal of Stop Handgun Violence, joined the applause. “The new gun law,” he predicted, “will certainly prevent future gun violence and countless grief.”

It didn’t.

The 1998 legislation did cut down, quite sharply, on the legal use of guns in Massachusetts. Within four years, the number of active gun licenses in the state had plummeted. “There were nearly 1.5 million active gun licenses in Massachusetts in 1998,” the AP reported. “In June [2002], that number was down to just 200,000.” The author of the law, state Senator Cheryl Jacques, was pleased that the Bay State’s stiff new restrictions had made it possible to “weed out the clutter.”

But the law that was so tough on law-abiding gun owners had quite a different impact on criminals.

Since 1998, gun crime in Massachusetts has gotten worse, not better. In 2011, Massachusetts recorded 122 murders committed with firearms, the Globe reported this month — “a striking increase from the 65 in 1998.” Other crimes rose too. Between 1998 and 2011, robbery with firearms climbed 20.7 percent. Aggravated assaults jumped 26.7 percent.

Don’t hold your breath waiting for gun-control activists to admit they were wrong. The treatment they prescribed may have yielded the opposite of the results they promised, but they’re quite sure the prescription wasn’t to blame. Crime didn’t rise in Massachusetts because the state made it harder for honest citizens to lawfully carry a gun; it rose because other states didn’t do the same thing.

“Massachusetts probably has the toughest laws on the books, but what happens is people go across borders and buy guns and bring them into our state,” rationalizes Boston Mayor Tom Menino. “Guns have no borders.”

This has become a popular argument in gun-control circles. It may even be convincing to someone emotionally committed to the belief that ever-stricter gun control is a plausible path to safety. But it doesn’t hold water.

For starters, why didn’t the gun-control lobby warn legislators in 1998 that adopting the toughest gun law in America would do Massachusetts no good unless every surrounding state did the same thing? Far from explaining why the new law would do nothing to curb violent crime, they were positive it would make Massachusetts even safer. It was gun-rights advocates, such as state Senator Richard Moore, who correctly predicted the future. “Much of what has been said in support of this bill will not come to pass,” said Moore during the 1998 debate. “The amount of crime we have now will at least continue.”

But crime in Massachusetts didn’t just continue, it began climbing. As in the rest of the country, violent crime had been declining in Massachusetts since the early 1990s. Beginning in 1998, that decline reversed — unlike in the rest of the country. For example, the state’s murder rate (murders per 100,000 inhabitants) bottomed out at 1.9 in 1997 and had risen to 2.8 by 2011. The national murder rate, on the other hand, kept falling; it reached a new low of 4.7 in 2011. Guns-across-borders might have explained homicide levels in Massachusetts continuing unchanged. But how can other states’ policies be responsible for an increase in Massachusetts homicides?

Relative to the rest of the country, or to just the states on its borders, Massachusetts since 1998 has become a more dangerous state. Economist John Lott, using FBI crime data since 1980, shows how dramatic the contrast has been. In 1998, Massachusetts’s murder rate equaled about 70 percent of the rate for Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New York. Now it equals 125 percent of that rate.

Clearly something bad happened to Massachusetts 15 years ago. Blaming the neighbors may be ideologically comforting. But those aren’t the states whose crime rates are up.

Reprinted with permission. Jeff Jacoby can be reached at jacoby@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter@[jeff_jacoby](https://twitter.com/jeff_jacoby).

The Abuse of Restraining Orders to Gain an Advantage in Child Custody Proceedings

Christine Sullivan

GUEST COLUMNIST

A marriage of twelve (12) years is coming to an end. The couple has two young children. The husband works a full-time job, while the wife works part-time and primarily tends to the children during the weekdays. When the husband comes home from work in the evenings and on weekends he, amongst other things, spends time with the children, including helping with homework, bathing them, getting them ready for bed and participating in extra-curricular activities. The husband and wife both love their children and spend as much time with their children as possible. There has never been any physical or mental abuse in the marriage, but the marriage simply isn’t working. After a stressful weekend of arguing, the husband tells the wife that he wants a divorce. That same afternoon, the husband is served with a restraining order, alleging that he has physically abused his wife and his children. He has five (5) minutes to gather some personal belongings from his house, while being accompanied by a police officer watching his every move. Other than what he can put in a bag in five (5) minutes, the husband has only the clothes on his back and no place to go. Worst of all, his children, the ones that he loves more than anything in life and that he is used to seeing every day, have now been ripped away from him for at least ten (10) business days and he is powerless to do anything about it.

How can this happen? How can someone go from a loving, doting parent in the morning to being an alleged criminal by the afternoon, having his children ripped away without the ability to defend himself for ten (10) business days? In the story described above, as a result of the husband’s request for a divorce, the wife fabricated allegations in a local district court to obtain an advantage in upcoming child custody proceedings. Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 209A, entitled “Abuse Prevention”, is the applicable law governing the issuance of restraining orders in connection with domestic abuse. The statute permits the court to “enter such temporary relief orders without notice as it deems

necessary to protect the plaintiff from abuse...” in a domestic setting. The key here is the language “without notice”. The defendant then has an opportunity to dispute the continuation of the temporary order “no later than ten court business days after such orders are entered”. While a discussion on the effectiveness of restraining orders in preventing domestic violence is outside of the scope of this article, there is no doubt that there is a need for protection of true domestic violence victims, and the use of a restraining order in those situations can be potentially life-saving. The problem occurs when the “Abuse Prevention” statute is itself abused. Given the severity of domestic violence in today’s society and the need to protect true victims of domestic violence on an emergency basis, the courts are forced to err on the side of caution and give credence to the story of an allegedly aggrieved victim who requests an emergency restraining order. Thus, a person can simply walk into court, fabricate allegations of abuse without any supporting evidence (other than the statement of the “aggrieved” person) and obtain a temporary restraining order, thereby forcing their husband or wife out of the home and away from the children with no opportunity to defend himself or herself for ten (10) business days! While that may seem like a short amount of time, it is a lifetime for parent who suddenly can no longer have contact with his or her children for those ten (10) business days. While eventually the truth may come out, the falsely accused husband or wife will spend weeks defending himself or herself against the false allegations, not only in criminal court (where most restraining orders are issued), but also in the family and probate court where the divorce and child custody proceedings are handled. In the end, it may be months before the falsely accused parent is permitted to see or have contact with his or her children! At that point, there is no telling what type of damage may have been done to the parent/child relationship. Thus, the restraining order is often times used as a legal tactic to gain an advantage in child custody proceedings. It is a page out of the dirty lawyer’s handbook.

What can be done about this abuse of

RESTRAINING ORDERS: PAGE 43



Sullivan Agency, Inc.

- Since 1963 -

Personal & Business Insurance Real Estate

Voted 14 years in a row as “Best Insurance Agency” for the Merrimack Valley

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| LAWRENCE | METHUEN |
| 978-683-4700 | 978-681-8200 |
| NORTH READING | |
| 978-276-2300 | |
| tasullivanagency.com | |

Lyons Calls for Reform at Department of Public Health

BOSTON - This Department of Public Health is in desperate need of top-to-bottom reform,” said Rep. Jim Lyons.

“The DPH acts like bureaucratic bullies, when it deals with families and school children,” Lyons noted about the state agency mandating that so-called “BMI Fat Letters” single-out particular students. “At the same time, this bureaucracy has manifestly failed to protect public health and public safety in its disastrous lack of oversight of pharmaceutical manufacturers and its mishandling of state drug labs.”

Lyons has introduced a bill called “An Act to Protect the Privacy of Children” to begin the reform process and end bureaucratic overreach. The amendment will prevent the bureaucracy from mandating the collection of the Body Mass Index data of individual students.

“Parents started contacting me,” Lyons said. “They were concerned about bureaucratic interference in families. Mothers and fathers were asking: ‘How does this stigmatizing by an intrusive state bureaucracy help to educate our children?’”

Having worked to reform the DPH on Beacon Hill, Lyons pointed to this unfunded mandate as another example of the insensitivity to families and overall ineptness that permeates the bureaucracy. “Here is another attempt by the Patrick Administration to micromanage local communities,” Lyons said. “I am disappointed that Governor Patrick has consistently opposed our efforts to increase Local Aid, which is essential to our schools. Meanwhile, his bureaucracy burdens our

communities with additional state mandates that are neither justified nor funded.”

Lyons emphasized the need for reform at the Department of Public Health. The Andover representative noted the frequent news reports spotlighting the complete lack of oversight at the DPH. The DPH completely mismanaged the state drug testing labs, a blunder already is costing taxpayers tens of millions of dollars. This gross mismanagement puts public safety in jeopardy, because it is likely to result in overturning many criminal convictions; it simultaneously undermines the justice system by facilitating false convictions.

The Department of Public Health failed its responsibility to inspect pharmaceutical drug manufacturers in the Massachusetts. The ineptitude on the part of the DPH has cost patients across the country their health and even their lives.

“Where does an Administration that has mishandled matters vital to public health and public safety,” asked Lyons, “have the arrogance to interfere in family life and burden local communities?”

“It’s time for the Patrick Administration’s DPH to focus on its core mission of protecting public health and safety,” Lyons stressed. “It’s time to reform the agency and clean up its poor record of mismanagement.

“I think we can all agree,” Lyons concluded, “that parents, families, and local schools are far more responsible, dependable, and conscientious than this intrusive state bureaucracy.”

Defendants Pay \$4.25 Mil. Settlement for Restoring Natural Resources at Industri-plex Superfund Site in Woburn

BOSTON – State and federal officials have received a \$4.25 million settlement from the Pharmacia Corporation and Bayer CropScience Inc. for damages to natural resources at the Industri-plex Superfund site in Woburn, Mass. Contaminants from this site significantly impacted resources in the Aberjona River and the surrounding watershed.

“With this settlement, we can fund a range of projects designed to restore the natural resources for all to enjoy,” said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rick Sullivan, who is the natural resources trustee for Massachusetts. “I encourage local residents and organizations to become engaged in the public process that will take place as we solicit, take comment on, and choose these projects in the months ahead.”

From the late 1850s to the 1960s, companies manufactured various products at the Industri-plex site, including sulfuric acid, arsenic insecticides, organic chemicals, munitions, and glue. Hazardous substances disposed there degraded the Aberjona River, as well as wetlands and the Mystic Lakes downstream. These habitats are used by a variety of wildlife, including fish, turtles, amphibians and migratory birds, such as great blue herons, black ducks and kingfishers.

When toxic substances enter the environment and injure natural resources, federal and state environmental officials act as trustees for these resources. The natural resource trustees for this site are the U.S. Department of the Interior, through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, through the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). The agencies determined the extent of the injuries from the site and negotiated the \$4.25 million settlement for damages.

“The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service looks forward to working with local communities to restore the Aberjona River to a cleaner, healthier environment for wildlife and people,” said Wendi Weber, the Service’s Northeast Regional Director.

“We plan on assisting in the restoration of a watershed that has undergone years of environmental abuse,” said Dr. Ken Finkelstein, NOAA’s North Atlantic regional natural resource trustee.

“Arsenic and chromium wastes from the Industri-plex site caused major environmental contamination to the Aberjona River and nearby wetlands, ponds and floodplain,” said MassDEP Commissioner Kenneth Kimmell. “Now, we have the funding and the technical expertise to bring this ecosystem back to vitality again.”

Trustees will begin developing a plan to use settlement funds for restoring injured resources. As part of this effort, there will be several opportunities for public involvement, starting with a public meeting to explain the settlement and describe the restoration planning process.

The public will then have opportunities to submit restoration ideas, as well as comment on the draft plan. After public comment and review, the trustees will issue a final plan and begin implementing restoration projects. Restoration actions can be carried out where the contamination occurred or at other areas within the watershed. Funds can support land acquisition, habitat restoration, recreational or educational projects, or activities that restore or replace injured or lost natural resources. Potential projects include the creation of new wetlands and the restoration, enhancement or protection of existing wetlands.

Follow MassDEP on Twitter: twitter.com/MassDEP
Visit thier web site: mass.gov/dep

Local Star Anabel burning up the Airwaves

Anabel Gutierrez was born in Huntington Park, CA on December 28th 1985. She moved from California to Mexico at the age of 5, where she learned to write and speak Spanish fluently. Three years later, she moved to Waltham, MA, where she lives to this day.

From an early age, she loved the arts and in middle school and high school she pursued acting, drama, music and dancing classes.

At the age of 21, Anabel began a career as mixologist/ bartender at several bars in the Boston area. She was soon offered the chance to work with the Preston Marketing Corporation as a sales model, representing Heineken. Working in these various locales provided opportunities to meet people in the entertainment field.

In 2009, she met television and radio producer David Suazo, who offered her an intern position in the show “Tu Alegria Latina” on radio WRCA1330AM. As an on air personality, Anabel developed her voice, confidence and experience in this new field. Simultaneously, Anabel was coached by Suazo on being in front of a television camera, leading to her becoming a co-host on the show “Boston de Noche TV”. In just three short years, Anabel has interviewed artists and important figures such as Governor Deval Patrick, Los Hermanos Rosario, Rakim y Ken-Y, Arcangel, Farruko, Hector Acosta and Frank Reyes, to name a few.

In 2010, the “Tu Alegria Latina” radio show was cancelled, but Anabel’s her career in radio was just starting. She was offered a position in almost every show that WRCA1330AM radio had, and she chose to work with producer and host Alcibiades Casso on “Tropicalisimo de la Tarde”.

Julio “JullyBoy” Cabrera, famous voice for the largest Spanish-language radio station in Massachusetts-La Mega- soon offered Anabel an opportunity to work with them and she became the official female voice of La Mega in 2011.

Most recently, Anabel participated in the competition and reality TV show Miss Belleza Latina Boston 2012 -where she won the award for “Best Face”. Anabel is currently filming her first movie project ‘Fake This’, due in 2013.

More work soon followed and Anabel is now the official drop/voice-over voice for website companies, 4 different radio stations and over a dozen DJs all over the world.

Juggling between being a co-host for “Boston de noche TV”, radio personality for La Mega, mixologist for some of the best nightclubs in Boston, modeling for Preston Marketing and much more, Anabel Gutierrez does it all.

You can follow Anabel on her official web site (www.AnabelGutierrez.com) where you can buy her posters and contract her to host events! Her Facebook fan page is (www.facebook.com/ag1228).

Her twitter is (https://twitter.com/la_bella_anabel)



Chang's

TAEKWONDO AMERICA

Your Professional Martial Arts Education Center



- Preschool Classes
- After School Programs
- School Age Children
- Teens
- Adult classes
- Self- Defense
- Private Lessons



Ask about our licensed after school program! We provide transportation and accept Child Care Circuit vouchers. This an excellent alternative to day care, our professional instructors will make classes fun & exciting while helping your child excel and grow.

4 weeks for \$59

Chang's Taekwondo America

TRIAL MEMBERSHIP

Haverhill: 7 Dudley St. 978-556-1616

Methuen: 230 Pleasant St. 978-655-1473

Expiration Date: 9/30/2013

No matter what your age or physical condition, we have a program that will help you reach your goals.

CALL TODAY for an appointment

Courtesy Integrity Perseverance SelfControl Indomitable Spirit

5-7 Dudley St. Haverhill, MA/ 230 Pleasant St. Methuen, MA

www.changstkdamerica.net



COFFEE CANN CAFE

Stop by and try our Drink of the Month: Shamrock Smoothie

THE COFFEE CANN CAFÉ is conveniently nestled inside the newly renovated Riverwalk Properties, located in the historic Lawrence mills. The Coffee Cann Café offers your favorite varieties of coffee, signature muffins and many other delicious pastries.

Buy One Gourmet Cupcake & Get one

FREE

With this coupon Expires 4/03/13

FREE MUFFIN

with purchase of a hot or iced coffee

With this coupon Expires 4/03/13

360 MERRIMACK STREET | LAWRENCE, MA | BLDG 9 | ENTRY K

978-208-1907

VP

FOR ALL YOUR ESTATE PLANNING NEEDS

DIANNE M. O'BRIEN

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

I am a very well-qualified Estate Planning attorney who will make the process quick, easy, and convenient for you – meeting with you in your home if you wish.

- Wills
- Trusts
- Health Care Proxies
- Powers of Attorney
- Living Wills
- Probate

COMPLIMENTARY INITIAL CONSULTATION

Former Officer in the U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate General Corps – 8 Years

www.attorneyobrien.com



800 Turnpike Street, Ste. 300
North Andover, Ma 01845
978-794-5515

Flat Fees
For Estate Planning Services

WANTED TO BUY OLD PAPER MONEY

And Coins



Free Appraisals - Cash Settlements

Call: 978-884-6641



LONGO LAW GROUP

— PLLC —

“Se Habla Espanol”

Personal Injury, Car Accidents Immigration & Real Estate

A full service law firm concentrating on personal injury litigation
Serving clients in Massachusetts and NY





300 Brickstone Square, Suite 201
Andover, MA 01810
Tel/Fax: 617.379.0279 (MA)
Toll Free: 855.LONGOLAW
www.mlongolaw.com
info@mlongolaw.com



Steve
Sirmaian
Chief Operations
Manager/Owner
MLO 3520

Steve@firstinteg.com

24-hr. -Cell: (978) 771-2906



FIRST INTEGRITY MORTGAGE

LLC

www.firstinteg.com

354 Merrimack St., at Sal's Riverwalk
Lawrence, MA 01843
Tel. 978.685.9700 * Fax 978.685.9701
MA Mortgage Broker #MB 1964
• Licensed by the NH Banking Dept.
ME#CSO11110 * NMLS ID 1964

MERRIMACK CONVENIENCE STORE



NECCO
STUDENTS, Show ID
and get Discount!!



Lottery - NE Coffee - Deli - Sandwiches - TRIPOLI PIZZA - Pastry - Ice- Groceries
Slush - Milk - Bread - Cold Cuts - Prep. Sandwiches - Salads - Beer - Wine - Cigarettes
Cigars - Fresh Produce - KENO! - Iced Coffee - Ice Cream - Frozen Foods

500 A Merrimack Street - Lawrence - (978) 688-1226 in Sal's Riverwalk Complex Next to Merrimack Valley Federal Credit Union

Let’s Talk About Food/Addiction

Pennie Hale
VALLEY PATRIOT FOOD COLUMNIST

I hope shoveling snow counts as a high-calorie burning activity. With all the snow we got this winter, I had to have burned about a million calories. Spring is right around the corner now and I hope to get outdoors more. I want to open all the windows of my house to re-oxygenate the air. I want to drag out the treadmill and start walking again. I want to tie back all the curtains and let the sunlight in. I think the start of spring is a great time to start fresh.

How was your winter? Did you gain any weight? Did the lack of ample sunlight affect your mood? Did you feel weighed down while wearing layers and layers of clothing? I’ve always said that I’d rather be cold than hot. That is still true. But these past few months have seemed colder to me. A lot of illnesses were passed around. People were home with the flu, a stomach bug or some other ailment all winter long. A lot of my friends felt depressed. Some felt isolated and alone. Winter in New England can make a person feel all of those things. And with today’s economy and job losses, it can be hard to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Seasonal depression affects a lot of people. It’s very common. Depression leads to weight gain. Weight gain can lead to low self-esteem. Low self-esteem can lead to isolation.

There are a lot of “outdoorsy” people. Those people love the snow and all the activities that come along with winter weather. People like to ski, hike, make snow forts and snowboard. There are people who love the winter weather and

spend all their free time out in the snow. I am not one of those people. I do love the look of snow and how beautiful it is when it’s falling to the ground. I’ve made snowmen with my kids and had many snowball fights. My kids are older now and don’t have much interest in those activities any more. So when it’s snowing, I am usually inside watching it through the window, making a fire in the fireplace and stirring up the hot cocoa. Even though I like it when the weather is cold, I don’t generally spend too much time out in it. Weight gain in the winter is pretty common. So, it’s important to make weight loss a priority in the spring, right? I will if you will!



Spring can be the “warming up to the idea of summer” season. The season where we look at ourselves in the full-length mirror, accept what we see, and make plans to change what we don’t like. Getting ready to fit into that Easter dress can be a smaller challenge than getting ready for that summer-

time bathing suit.
Eat less, exercise more. That’s the weight-loss “secret”. Burn more calories than you consume. We can put post-it notes with phrases like “Nothing tastes better than being thin feels” on the fridge. We can leave out a bowl of fresh fruits and vegetables to snack on. We can join a weight-loss support group. All of these things can possibly help. Making ourselves a priority would definitely help. So let’s say goodbye to winter and hello to spring and encourage each other with our own individual goals.
If you would like to share your story about weight-loss or food addiction with me, please email me at pennielacouture@verizon.net

WALK FOR HUNGER



Project Bread’s 45th Walk for Hunger is Sunday, May 5, 2013. The 20-mile route weaves through Boston, Brookline, Newton, Watertown, and Cambridge, and includes entertainment and free snacks along the way. On May 5th, over 40,000 Walkers will step out and raise \$3.5 million to help provide those in need with sustainable, reliable access to nutritious food. The rolling start is from 7:00 to 9:00 A.M. on the Boston Common. For more information, visit www.projectbread.org or call 617-723-5000. If you or someone you know is struggling to put food on the table, please call Project Bread’s FoodSource Hotline at 1-800-645-8333.

TO THE VALLEY PATRIOT:

Thank You for everything you do to expose the corruption in Lawrence and Congratulations on your 9th Anniversary

Your Friend, Jeff Katz

TARSHI
LAW OFFICE

PERSONAL INJURY LAW

510 ESSEX ST. LAWRENCE, MA 01840
(978) 686-1821

SHEILA’S RECIPE CORNER: MUFFINS AND PEASANT BREAD

Sheila Mullins
VALLEY PATRIOT COOKING COLUMNIST

I don’t know about you, but I love a homemade breakfast. I hear you...”I don’t have time.” If you do some basic preparations the night before, it’s 3 minutes to prep, the 20-25 minutes in the oven while you get ready & these muffins can go with you or eat at the table; your choice! Isn’t it better having food made with ingredients you know & can trust? Of course it is!



Honey wheat muffins

- 1/3 c honey
- ¼ c vegetable oil
- 1 egg

- ½ c wheat germ
 - 1 c wheat bran
 - 1 c whole wheat flour
 - 1 T baking powder
 - ¼ t salt
- Preheat oven to 400°F if baking immediately. Otherwise, when you go to start in the morning, preheat oven.
- In a medium bowl, mix all dry ingredients together. If prepping for following morning, stop here & prepare pan, otherwise proceed. Add wet ingredients & mix until just mixed. Place into 10-12 muffin cups, 2/3 full. To prepare muffin tin, line either with cupcake liners or thoroughly grease each muffin cup in the muffin tin.
- Bake for 20-25 minutes or until browned. Serve &/or store.
- You may have read last month my philosophy on bread, make it good & make it fast! This certainly follows that mantra. So, I will repeat what I said last month: This is an easy mix bread. The key component to this bread is actually the mixer; you need one with both a bread hook & one with good power to handle bread dough. It’s basically place all the ingredients in the mixer, turn on, & walk away for 10-15 minutes; checking occasionally.
- This particular recipe makes an excel-



- lent bread bowl, too. What makes this bread extra special is the crunchy crust & the contrast in texture with the soft, but chewy interior.
- ### Peasant bread
- 2 c lukewarm water
 - 1 package yeast
 - 2 t salt
 - 2 T vegetable oil
 - 5 c +/- bread flour
 - 1 T + 1 t sugar
- Place all ingredients in a mixing bowl. Turn on low & once combined, scraping down sides as needed, let knead for 10-15 minutes. Turn out & make into 4 balls & place on 2 lightly greased baking

- sheets. Let rise.
- When ready to place in oven, boil a saucepan of water. Pour into a shallow baking dish/pan & place on lower rack in oven just before bread goes into oven. Put sheet into COLD oven with pan of boiling water on lower rack. Turn oven to 400°F. Let bread bake for roughly 20 minutes then remove bread from sheet & break apart & let finish baking for roughly 5-10 minutes.
-
- Sheila Mullins lives in Newburyport & is a personal cook. She can be reached at sheila_a_mullins@hotmail.com.

Congratulations to

The Valley Patriot!



The

Valley Patriot

"Congress shall make no law..."

Lawrence, Andover, North Andover, Methuen

****FREE****



Volume 1, Issue 1

March 2004

16 Pages

Valley Patriot Exclusive!

School Committee Bills Taxpayers for Fine Dining

Tom Duggan

For the past three years members of the Lawrence School Committee have been billing the taxpayers for plush dining at the city's most expensive restaurant: One Mill Street.

Then School Committeemen Noah Shannon, Pedro Arce, Suzanne Piscitello, Nancy Kennedy and current member George Gonzalez all dined with Superintendent Wilfredo Laboy and his staff after school board meetings running up tabs worth over \$1,200.00.

Documents obtained by The Valley Patriot show that state taxpayers treated members of the Lawrence School Committee to more than a dozen expensive meals between 2001-2003.

Meal reimbursement receipts show School Board members helped themselves to veal, sirloin steak, calamari, pork chops, duck, steak salad, garlic shrimp, mussels, scallops, spinach chicken, assorted appetizers and other various menu items. The meals were then billed to the Lawrence Public Schools which receives 100% of it's funding from the state and federal government.

While Superintendent Laboy's \$156,000 a year contract does not include a meal allowance, he says that some of his expenses are reimbursable. "I don't have a meal allowance but it is accepted

"...the Ethics Commission should be informed about this. They should pay back every penny with interest and issue a written apology to the school children and the citizens of Lawrence."

*Michael Sweeney
Lawrence School Committee*

practice for me to be reimbursed for certain expenses as long as they are reasonable and sensible," he said.

School Committee members, on the other hand, do not have that luxury. According to the School Committee policy (B-18) "School Committee members shall receive no compensation for their services. However, upon submitting vouchers and supporting bills for expenses incurred in carrying out specific services *previously authorized* by the Committee, Committee members may be reimbursed from district funds." This never took place regarding meal receipts from One Mill Street.

Instead, some School Committee members took advantage of their position as

Continued on Page 8



Lt. Governor Kerry Healey with Maria Marasco

Andover's Marasco Campaigns for Reform

Valley Patriot Staff

Boston- State Rep. Candidate Maria Marasco (R-Andover) received a campaign boost from Lt. Governor Kerry Healey in Boston last week at her first fund raising event in preparation for her formal campaign announcement for 18th Essex State Representative. The district spans six communities, including her hometown of Andover, North Andover, Boxford, Haverhill, Methuen and Georgetown. The seat is currently held by first term incumbent Barbara L'Italien (D-Andover).

"Maria is exactly the right kind of person who will best represent her district," said Healey. "Maria has the right kind of skills to help us reshape government in an effective way," she said. Marasco supports the governor's efforts to cut waste and mismanagement in state government.

"I will stand by the Governor and Lt. Governor to make responsible reforms. As

Continued on Page 5

Syndicated Columnists



Neil Cavuto

Page 4



Thomas Sowell

Page 14

ALSO INSIDE:

Rabbi Goldstein on "The Passion"



Page 15

2003 Police Line of Duty Deaths by Craig Floyd

Page 3

Profile of Andover School Candidates

Page 13

Dr. Charles Ormsby - Thinking Outside the Box

Page 3

Paying Attention!

Page 4

N. Andover Selectman Race, Smith v. Smedile

Page 5

Senior News/Senior Centers

Pages 10 & 11

Smith v. Smedile for N. A. Selectman

Valley Patriot Staff



While North Andover School Commit-tee-man Al Perry has no challenger for his seat, Selectman Rosemary Smedile is facing a familiar face to the voters in her bid for reelection.

Joe Edward Smith, an engineer by trade and a union Democrat, says his campaign is about open government and representing issues important to the town voters. "There is a big difference between Ms. Smedile and myself," he said. "Before the voters decide who will represent them on March 30th it is important that they know what those difference are."

"I opposed the trash transfer station and Ms. Smedile supported it." Smith also said Smedile supported leasing half the airport land adding, "the people of North Andover clearly wanted it sold off. It is important to represent the people of the town and act on their behalf." Smith says he opposes \$95,000 in raises for nonunion employees "especially at a time when we are talking about laying off fire

Continued on Page 13

Sullivan: "Absent All Auto Fraud, Insurance Rates Won't Go Down!"

Tom Duggan



"...if you call the Board of Insurance today and ask them... 'if the auto fraud goes away completely (in Lawrence), at what point will the rates go down?' They will tell you what they told me last week, they won't."

*...Lawrence Mayor,
Michael J. Sullivan*

Lawrence - Mayor Michael Sullivan says that even if police investigations are capable of eliminating all auto insurance fraud in the City of Lawrence, "auto insurance rates still won't go down."

Sullivan, touting the hard work of Police Chief John Romero and the Lawrence Police Department, said that the investigations into auto insurance fraud in Lawrence were producing startling results but added, "If you call the Board of Insurance today and ask, just for example, 'if the auto fraud goes away completely (in Lawrence) at what point will the rates go down?' What they will tell you is what they told me last week, they won't."

Continued on page 7

For years, State Legislators, previous mayors and police chiefs have been telling Lawrence residents that the high auto insurance rates in the city (the third highest in the state) are the result of insurance fraud. Sullivan says that simply isn't the case.

"What we are finding out is that, what will cause rates to go down (in Lawrence) is for the rest of the cities and towns in the state to tackle fraud in their communities as well. It would have to be a statewide effort. I think the insurance companies, years ago should have been doing the investigative work that the Lawrence police are doing this year."

...on **NINE** Years of AMAZING News Coverage



**-Mike Gagliardi,
Local 175 Laborers' Union of North America**



Legislators have Ignored the State Constitution

DJ Bettencourt
VALLEY PATRIOT NEW HAMPSHIRE COLUMNIST

New Hampshire Governor Maggie Hassan’s decision to balance her proposed budget and fund the state’s infrastructure needs by assuming revenue generated by an expanded gaming proposal has sparked widespread debate across the Granite State.

While much of that debate has centered on the wisdom of assuming revenue from a source that has not yet been approved by the legislature and is currently illegal in New Hampshire, it has also spawned the first serious contemporary discussion about our infrastructure crisis. That dialogue is long overdue.

I readily admit that infrastructure health is not the most exciting issue. The public only seems to get fired up about roads when they hit those annoying potholes. Yet the economic impact of a sound infrastructure is undeniable. New Hampshire’s infrastructure badly needs improvements to ensure safety, quality and to attract new businesses.

How big is the problem? A recent federal study found our roads are underfunded by \$73 million a year and cost taxpayers \$323 annually. A 2011 study by Transportation for America found that 372 of New Hampshire’s 2,408 state and municipal bridges were “structurally deficient.” The Interstate 93 widening project is underfunded by \$250 million and more than 1,660 miles of state roads are rated in poor condition. Additionally, our roads have a huge commercial impact. \$38 billion worth of goods made in New Hampshire annually are transported on our highways.

Like all states, our infrastructure funding is greatly influenced by Washington. We receive approximately \$1 billion in federal infrastructure funding. Unfortunately, states are forced to follow antiquated federal policy goals, distribution formulas and guidelines. The results have been inefficiency, delays and many projects never moving forward. But as we will see later, New Hampshire is hardly a total victim of Washington.

To address this infrastructure crisis, New Hampshire legislative Democrats are resorting to their usual modus operandi. Ignoring suffering taxpayers, they want a 15-cent -- or 83% -- increase in the state gas tax over four years to raise \$980 million over ten years. Democrats maintain that only a gas tax increase, which presently raises \$123 million, can address our problem.

Can anything save taxpayers from an extra \$3 every time they fill up their tank? Yes, but it will take fiscal integrity. New Hampshire raises its infrastructure funds through two sources: the turnpike fund, funded by toll revenue, and the highway

trust fund. Under a 1938 amendment to the state Constitution, revenue from taxes on gasoline and diesel fuel are dedicated to the state highway trust fund and must be “used exclusively for the construction, reconstruction and maintenance of public highways...including the supervision of traffic.”


So what is the problem? Infrastructure has dedicated funding sources that should produce more than enough revenue, right? Wrong.

Over the past two decades, state budgets proposed by both Democrats and Republicans have diverted funds constitutionally raised for infrastructure. Gov. Hassan continues this misspending in her currently proposed budget. What is the impact? If lawmakers recaptured the six cents per gallon that is currently diverting from the highway trust fund, it would generate more revenue than the proposed gas tax increase.

How is it possible that constitutionally dedicated funds are being misused? Simple -- legislators have ignored the state constitution by using a broad definition of the phrase “including the supervision of traffic.” Under that provision, funds for infrastructure have been spent on non-infrastructure items. In other words, while Granite State motorists were expecting their gas tax dollars to be invested into their roads, a large portion of those funds were actually used for unrelated purposes; and now the politicians are asking them to pay more.

Should some highway trust funds be used to fund state troopers to provide supervision of the highway? Yes, but not more than 26% of the fund. Sadly, had 74% of dedicated highway trust funds over the past twenty years been used to address our infrastructure, the current crisis likely would not exist.

If Gov. Hassan cares about taxpayers and our infrastructure, she should end the tradition of diverting funds out of the highway trust fund for items not directly related to road construction and repairs. More importantly, she should threaten to veto a gas tax increase that will hobble already financially-strained 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.

NH Governor Hassan Honors Helen Bousquet

The Governor of New Hampshire issues Proclamation to Helen Bousquet, Sleep Apnea Awareness

In one of the Governor of New Hampshire’s first Proclamations, Governor Maggie Hassan has honored Helen Bousquet while bringing attention to the condition known as sleep apnea.

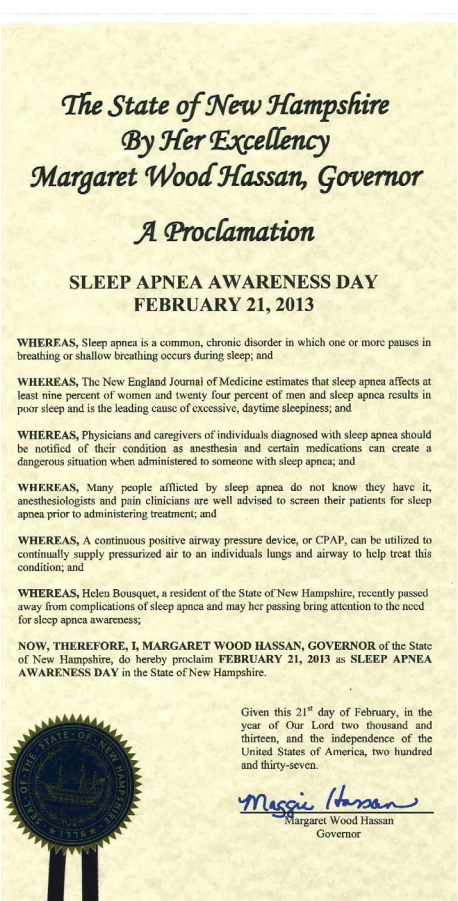
Helen Bousquet died at The Holy Family Hospital after being left in an unmonitored recovery room following a routine knee surgery, despite the hospital’s awareness that she had the condition.

“I am just glad to have this day, and that it honors my mother. There will plenty of time and opportunity for other things, and those things are coming. Believe it,” says Evans. Evans said that he would never stop pursuing the Holy Family Hospital “for the rest of my life, for what they let happen to my mother.”

“I appreciate what the Governor of New Hampshire did. Now if only our Massachusetts Governor and Martha Coakley would do something other than have fundraisers at the home of Steward Health Care System Ralph De La Torre while ignoring my complaints, we’ll be getting somewhere.”

Steward Health Care System owns The Holy Family Hospital in Methuen.

“I intend to use this first tool, this Proclamation by the Governor in New



Hampshire, in ways that will be viewed as unprecedented. It’s a tool more valuable than anyone can comprehend, and I won’t allow it to be merely ceremonial.”

Helen’s website is helenbousquet.com



Crimeline’s Crime of the Month – Stolen Phone

by Ron Penczak

The Salem Police Department is investigating the theft of a Galaxy SIII cell phone from the T-Mobile Store located at 125 S. Broadway Salem, NH. The crime took place on January 28th around 7:30 pm. The suspects were described as two Hispanic males in their early twenties. One is wearing a white Boston Celtics cap and an Abercrombie and Fitch jacket. The second suspect is wearing a red shirt under a black shirt with a black baseball cap.

The first suspect distracted the employee, while the second cut a security cord to

the phone. The store employee heard the wire being cut and asked for the phone. The suspects ignored the request and walked out of the store.

If you have any information, call Crimeline of Southern NH at 603-893-6600 or at 1-800-498-4040 or go online to www.crimelinesnh.com

Your call will be completely anonymous and you will be issued a secret Crimeline number, known only to you and Crime-line. If your tip results in a conviction you will be awarded a \$1,000 cash reward.

FROM PAGE 13: NECC BASKETBALL

you never know what you are going to get – as Forrest Gump’s mom said – then so is coaching junior college basketball.


The Knights began the season with great promise, noted Stratton, “We never had this much talent to start the season.” But before the team played a regular season game it had lost Jaylen Alicea, “one of the best guards in New England,” to a broken foot. Two other starting guards were lost after semester break.

While winning is always a goal and losing key players is frustrating, Stratton said he “is trying to mold his athletes into young men” and teach them the value of earning a degree to further their education.

Davis, who has two years’ sobriety in

February, credits the coaching staff and his teammates in helping him stay on the right path. He said if his story of redemption can help save one person, then it’s all been worth it.

“My mother called me the other day and said, ‘I am proud of you,’” Davis said. “To hear her say that brought tears to my eyes.”



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



Dean Silva
Plumbing & Heating
Quality & Courtesy
Licensed & Insured
License #30068

Commercial & Residential

(978) 204-7337
Email: Dean@SilvaPlumbing.com
www.SilvaPlumbing.com

Serving the Merrimack Valley and Surrounding Area

23

Year Remembrance...

You will never be forgotten

Lawrence Police Officer
Tom Duggan, Sr.



Killed in the line of duty
March 16, 1990

Remembering a Hero who died for our community.





A CONVENIENT HAPPY SPOT
WHERE NICE PEOPLE GO TO EAT.

**STOP IN AND SEE
US TODAY!**

A DELICIOUS MEAL AT A REASONABLE PRICE!
SERVING BREAKFAST & LUNCH.
CONVENIENT PARKING.
WORLD FAMOUS HOMEMADE MUFFINS!
\$3.99 SPECIALS MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY.
OPEN EVERYDAY 6AM - 2PM.
TAKE OUT AVAILABLE.

620 PRIMROSE STREET HAVERHILL, MA 01830

978.373.4376



LAWRENCE FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION



Relief's In - 1 Market Street, Lawrence, MA 01843

(978) 687-9053

Private Outing Grounds &
Function Hall Rental Available

Big Screen TV's
Lottery, Keno
Nightly Entertainment
Pool & Dart Leagues

Sahtaine
Restaurant
Authentic Middle-Eastern Cuisine

"Eat in Good Health"

Casual Dining or Take Out

Catering Available

978-258-2186

We Deliver !!!

Delivery in Methuen: \$3.00 / Outside Methuen: \$5.00

Minimum \$15.00

Family owned and operated since May 2010

Proud to serve you home-made, fresh, preservative free, Lebanese Food

Visit us on [Facebook](#) and at: www.SahtaineRestaurant.com

319 Merrimack Street, Methuen, MA 01844, Route 110

**Bring in this coupon for a*
Free 8 oz Hummus
with your order
of \$10.00 or more

**Eat in or Pickup orders only*
Offer expires 04/01/13

Hours of Operation:

Monday - Wednesday: 11:00AM - 8:00 PM

Thursday - Saturday: 11:00 - 9:00 PM

Sunday: CLOSED

This Hallowed Place Marks Our Hearts: Honoring Jacquelyn Ann Kastrinelis



Joe D’Amore
VALLEY PATRIOT GROVELAND REPORTER

I bore witness today to the unbreakable bond of a small community that observed the passing of a sweet soul at our place of gathering, the Congregational Church . For countless generations this place has accommodated every condition experienced by humanity ; from joy, to elation, celebration and at times a collective, inconsolable sorrow as we experienced today.

For over 300 years, this place has delivered the truth for those who , through worship, believed. It has enabled those who have sought redemption , to receive it . And , it has been a place that empowered those with a vision of a bonded community to affect it.

Therefore, at this place it was fitting to reflect on the golden life of our daughter, sister and friend Jacquelyn Ann Kastrinelis. It is her passing that enables those of us with faith to have it strengthened and those without it to contemplate its merits for a possible intervention in our lives.

As our Jackie’s soul passes through the valley that we will all inevitably visit we are reminded that life is the only human condition that is temporary.

Jackie’s young life being the most temporary form of all delivered a level of passion, energy and compassion that most of us will never fulfill even if our temporary condition is longer than hers. But yet from her life we gather clues of how to expend our limited allotment.

We should endeavor to live it completely, with purpose and commitment to

bring solace in times of sorrow and hope in times of doubt to others. We should live our lives selflessly , and existentially to bring joy to those lacking it , or increase it in those who hold it marginally.

We should serve those we love and especially those we don’t know.

And finally, we should live it with at least a faint awareness that life is a fleeting condition that is as susceptible to revert to a soulful state as dust is vulnerable to be swept away by an unexpected wind.

God’s purpose for Jackie is only partially understood. She brought inspiration and delight to many with her song. Her voice was the sound of her soul. But it will take either a leap of faith or conviction that our conjecture is validated by special insight to neatly accommodate a complete explanation.

For most of us, this will be an elusive exercise.

The reality is there are mysterious purposes for both her life, lived and her passing.

And to tentatively discover them , what we need to do is to mimic our actions, thoughts and intentions to be more like Jackie’s . In doing so, we can look back at this day and replay in our minds and let resonate in our hearts the experiences of this hallowed place , the core of our community. If we are fortunate the truth over time will reveal itself.

We will all be better for it most assuredly whether we find it or if we never do by the glorious energy exerted in attempting to do so.

Joe D’Amore
Groveland, MA

TARSHI LAW OFFICE

PERSONAL INJURY LAW

510 ESSEX ST. LAWRENCE, MA 01840
(978) 686-1821

Northern Process Servers Serving all Civil Process



Ronald Bertheim
Bonded Constable
Notary

252B Pleasant St.
Methuen, MA 01844

Tel 978-685-0093
Fax 978-689-3377

northernprocess@gmail.com

Winter is HERE Refurbish your shoes & ugg!!! Bring in this ad and get \$5 off any shoe repair

J & W Shoe Repair and Leather Service

All Kinds of Shoe & Leather Repairs

- * Pocketbook Refurbishing
- * Custom Shoe Dying
- * Orthopedic Shoes
- * Suitcase & Luggage Repair
- * All Kinds of Zipper Repair
- * Name Brand Pocketbook Repair



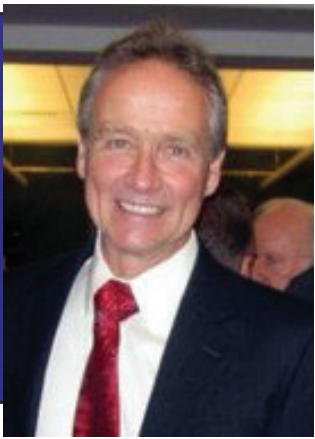
We
refurbish
UGGS

Better QUALITY
WORK than any
other shoe repair
shop BAR NONE!

139 Main St., North Andover, (978) 685-2325 - OPEN: Mon. - Fri. 8:30 - 5pm & Sat. 8:30 - 4pm

Happy 9th Anniversary

**RON
MARSAN**
East District Councilor
METHUEN



to The Valley Patriot

**CONGRATULATIONS
VALLEY PATRIOT!**

**THANK YOU FOR EDUCATING
THE PEOPLE OF METHUEN!**

... BECAUSE GETTING AN EDUCATION DOESN'T
END AT THE CLASSROOM DOOR.

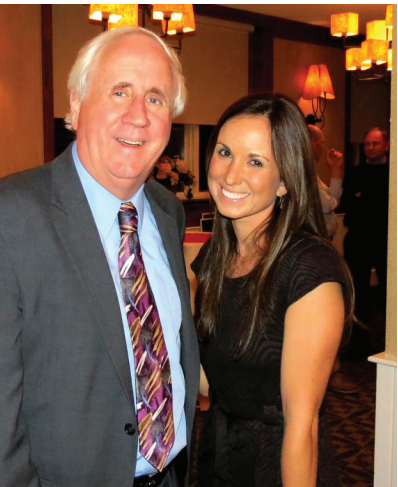
EVAN CHAISSON
METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE



9 YEARS OF GREAT REPORTING WHAT AN ACCOMPLISHMENT!

Through a lot of hard work and perseverance The Valley Patriot has proven itself to be a trustworthy and reliable source for news and information throughout New England.

I admire your style and your dedication to our veterans and public safety officers ... and PuppyGirl!



Keep up the great work!

Congratulations on Your 9th Anniversary

State Representative Jim Lyons, (R) Andover

I Remember how they Laughed.... 9 Years and 113 Editions Ago

I REMEMBER...

I remember when the very first edition of The Valley Patriot was delivered to my office in Lawrence City Hall back in 2004. I had never seen anything like it. It was a breath of fresh air for free speech in the Lawrence area! Tom, you and your team have come a long way since those days.

I remember taking my share of criticism in the pages of this newspaper, too, but it was always fair and never personal.

Mostly, I remember when you first unveiled your new vision for real journalism, how you were laughed at and mocked by the political insiders and the rest of the newspaper industry.

**CONGRATULATIONS
ON GETTING THE
LAST LAUGH!
Mike Sullivan**



(Then) Lawrence Mayor Mike Sullivan in July of 2005 at the placement of our very first newspaper box on Mt. Vernon St. in Lawrence.

HAPPY 9TH ANNIVERSARY To The Valley Patriot!

Owner's Project Managers/Advisors
Achieving Success Through Proven Expertise



A Project Management Company

NH
(603) 898-6110

MA
(978) 687-7717

www.tridentgrp.com

Selected List of Clients:

- Andover/North Andover YMCA
- City of Methuen, MA
- Hampton Falls NH School District
- Mary Immaculate Health/Care Services, Lawrence, MA
- Merrimack College, N. Andover, MA
- Pelham NH School District
- Salem NH School District
- Town of Pelham NH
- VNA – Hospice House, Haverhill MA
- Windham NH School District

A new Business in Haverhill Area

FOOD ARTS BY CHARLES

ANY FRUITS THAT CUSTOMER ASKS FOR WE'LL DIP IN CHOCOLATE

All Types of
Trays
Balloons
Grab Bags
Paper Goods



HOURS:
WEEKDAYS
9AM TO 9PM

WEEKENDS
8AM TO 8PM

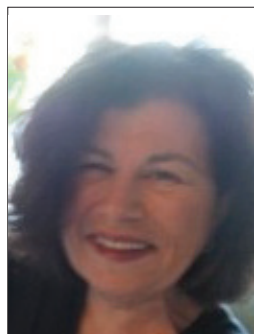
HOLIDAY HRS
9-5PM
Closed Thanksgiving,
Christmas and Easter

ORDERS CAN BE DELIVERIED WITHIN 5 MILES OF BUSINESS FREE
OUTSIDE OF THAT IS \$ 10.00 AND UP CALL FOR DELIVERY CHARGE
GO TO YP.COM for A \$5 OFF COUPON ON YOUR FIRST ORDER
10% OFF ALL CATERING

EVENT
PLANNING

WEDDING
PLANNING

362 MAIN STREET HAVERHILL, MA - 978-620-6443
FACEBOOK.COM/ediblebyCharles ediblebycharles@gmail.com -
CHARLES KLINCH OWNER/ OPERATER



Judith
Maselli
Sr. Mortgage
Consultant
MLO 48786

Helping Borrowers
since 1988

Cell: (978) 886 1737
Ext. 14 (24-hr.)

www.firstinteg.com



354 Merrimack Street, Sal's Riverwalk, Lawrence MA 01843

jmaselli@firstinteg.com

354 Merrimack St., at Sal's Riverwalk
Lawrence MA 01843

Tel. 978.685.9700 x15 * Fax 978.685.9701
MA Mortgage Broker #MB 1964
Licensed by the NH Banking Dept.
ME#CSO11110 * NMLS ID 1964

184 Pleasant Valley St. Suite 1-102, Methuen



Dave
Guselli

Office:

(978) 689-8006

firstchoicerealtygroup.com



Tracey Zysk
Bonded & Insured
wigglewalk@comcast.net
978-697-6571
wigglewalk.webs.com



Wiggles & Jiggles
Pet Care

Tracey Zysk ♦wigglewalk.webs.com ♦ 978-697-6571

Lose 12-30 POUNDS IN 12 WEEKS OR LESS

"Get In Shape For Women has challenged
me to points that I never would have
pushed myself! I have toned and lost
weight like I never thought possible!"

- Erin Lane, Franklin Client
Age 35, Office Manager
Lost 22 pounds and 12% body fat

Call Now for a
Free Week Trial!

9 Summer Street
Franklin, MA 02038

(508) 530-3072



Before After



Small Group Personal Training

Results start when you do!
getinshapeforwomen.com

Career and Franchise Opportunities Available



Carol's Pet Care

Professional All Breed Grooming

126-128 Main Street North Andover, MA 01845

978-794-0744 carolspetcare.com

Celebrating 33 Years in
North Andover

Service By Appointment



Consoli &
Wilshusen
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Are you fighting over your bills?

*Divorce your debt -
Not your husband.*

Call us today to find out how
you may be able to eliminate
your debt and restore your credit.

30 Massachusetts Ave. - North Andover
(in the Riverbank Building)
978-682-9643 ~ www.consolilaw.com

PUPPY LOVE! with Kate Whitney

Thank you Valley Patriot for Helping us Save Shelter Dogs ... One Edition at a Time!

PuppyGirl Kate Whitney
VALLEY PATRIOT PUPPYGIRL

I had just joined my dad in running our golf company called “SwingRite” when I contacted Tom about the possibility of him writing an article to highlight our local company. Without the Valley Patriot, there would be no PuppyGirl column.

Tom has given me an outlet to promote rescue and adoption and I couldn’t be more thankful for that. I still remember the first day I met with Tom.

During our meeting, I happened to mention that I had just become involved with a great puppy rescue group out of Haverhill called “One Tail at a Time.”

Well that’s all it took. Forget the interview about the golf company! Tom asked me if I liked to write and if I wanted to write a column about saving puppies for the Valley Patriot.

I thought ‘what better way to get the word out about One Tail at a Time and dog rescue?’

I also want to thank all of my readers who have been with me from the start of my column in 2007, and to those who I have picked up along the way over the past few years.

Thanks to Tom and The Valley Patriot I’ve been able to educate my readers on many different topics from: healthy food choices for your dog, to summertime pet safety tips, the importance of adopting shelter dogs and how to adequately care for your puppies.

Writing my column “Puppy Love”

is a hobby for me – and dog rescue is a passion. I can say that it’s a really great feeling to be involved with two great pastimes that provide me so much joy.

My biggest goal with writing Puppy Love is to educate and bring awareness to my readers. If you learn just one thing from reading my column, that makes it all worthwhile. One last thank you to PG, my Puppy Love column editor and my best friend. Thanks for giving me the confidence and inspiration to keep writing.

So here we are, 9 years after the birth of The Valley Patriot.

Many things have changed, but one thing remains the same- there are still over crowded shelters and millions of dogs are being euthanized every year, simply because there are not enough homes for them.

Let’s talk about an organization that is trying to help with that problem. If you have read my columns before, it’s no surprise what organization I’m talking about.

One of our amazing volunteers and intake coordinator (she’s the one who pulls the dogs from the shelter) down in Virginia, Erin Webber, remembers seeing a few very adoptable dogs at her local shelter. A few days later, she found out they had been euthanized.

Upset, she looked into why this had happened. Many shelters close for the holidays and it’s a lot easier to deal with feeding and cleaning when you have smaller numbers than a 100% packed



shelter. So the shelters “clean out” -if you will. The shelter is also packed due to the fact there are fewer adoptions during this time.

They are also preparing for the influx of dogs and cute puppies that will arrive at the shelter shortly after Christmas. Some of these dogs were given as gifts to sometimes unsuspecting recipients. Or the cute puppy that the kids went crazy over has all of a sudden lost his appeal and the novelty has worn off. Enough with the sad but true reality of the world of rescue... this is where One Tail at a Time and H4H program comes in.

One year (before she approached One Tail with the idea) Erin pulled as many dogs as she could and kept them at her house or boarded them until she found foster or forever homes for them. Last year Erin approached One Tail with the sad facts about the “happy holiday season” for shelter dogs. She also talked to her local shelters and worked out an agreement with them that they would lower the pull and vetting fees, and therefore we could reflect this deal with lower adoption fees.

We wasted no time. Meg Reynolds, the President of the rescue was on board. Our volunteer coordinators – Danielle Castignetti this year and Lisa Cerroni last year- sent out an email to our foster base and pleaded for them to open their hearts

and their homes this holiday season. I remember reading the email and within a few minutes, responses from foster homes started to flood in (myself included). People replied “count me in!”, “sign us up”, “we’ll take one!” it was truly overwhelming.

I would like to extend a big THANK YOU to all the amazing people who make up the volunteer group and foster home base for One Tail at a Time. I will give my readers an update in an upcoming column about exactly how many dogs we were able to save throughout H4H’s program.

If you want to donate to One Tail at a Time Rescue or “sponsor” one of the dogs that we save (I can email you a picture of the exact dog your donation when to), please send a check to One Tail at a Time Rescue PO Box 155 Boxford, MA. 01921. Remember all donations are tax deductible!

What’s great about donating to One Tail is that you know exactly where your money is going. It’s going to saving more dogs, paying for vet bills and buying food and toys for the dogs we save.

We are 100% volunteer, so no one gets paid for their time, gas, etc. Keep that in mind when you are thinking about charitable organizations to donate to.



Going Away on April Vacation? Book Your Pet Care Now

Tracey Zysk
VALLEY PATRIOT DOGGIE COLUMNIST

For the past five weeks, weekend after weekend we have had a snowstorm, flurries and even a record breaking blizzard. If you are as anxious as me then you are just totally ready for spring to arrive. Book that trip, why not? You deserve it! Have pets? Don’t hold back your travels because of them. Plan and plan ahead. With a little research, you will be able to find appropriate pet care to help you while you are away.

But do not wait until the last minute.....well respected and accomplished pet care businesses book quickly. Start your research now and start interviewing pet care providers to ensure you find the one that is the best fit for you, your family, your finances and most importantly your pets.

If you are looking for a pet care provider here are a couple helpful tips:

- 1. Insured & Bonded
 - 2. Registered Business with the town
 - 3. CPR certified
 - 4. Accomplishments in the industry and in the community
- Common questions to ask:
- 1. What type of animal experience does

the person have? (holding a leash doesn’t count)

- 2. How many dogs will be walked together at the same time?
- 3. Who will have the key/access to your home?
- 4. Is the business affiliated with any organizations within the pet/business industry?
- 5. References

If you are looking for a pet care provider in your area I suggest you visit this website and type in your zip code www.petsit.com. All companies on this site are insured & bonded.



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.



News from John Lenotte of the American Legion

John Lenotte

VALLEY PATRIOT VETERAN COLUMNIST

Recently I had the opportunity to travel as part of a group from Massachusetts to attend the annual American Legion Washington Conference. We were joined by other Legionnaires from across the country. There were a number of committee meetings and I attended the Legislative Commission meeting representing our state. We were given a preview of legislative priorities for the current Congressional session. Later, there was a general session where our Washington staff went over details that we would discuss with our Congressional delegation. Breaking off into teams, we went to the House and Senate buildings where we primarily met with legislative aides. Congress was in session and there were meetings for the Senators and Representatives to attend.

The topics we addressed should be of no surprise to most people. First and foremost was sequestration. This has been a topic since it was first brought up in Congress. There is enough in the news about it. Simple to say we were looking for equitable deficit reductions, not those that will cripple our military and not bal-



ance the budget on veterans, disabled and elderly citizens. Military sexual trauma is another topic and has been in the news. Lots of support for this and Congresswoman Tsongas along with others has been working on this issue. There is also discussion about changes to the military retiree health plan called TRICARE, which the Legion opposes.

The Stolen Valor Act. The Supreme Court ruled the 2005 version as unconstitutional but left the door open for a more carefully tailored law. House bill HR 258 and Senate bill S210 is legislation restoring the criminal act of lying about military service and received decorations. This would include the Medal of Honor, Combat Infantry Badge, Purple Heart and other combat related decorations. The VA is doing a good job but still falling behind in claims processing. The VA is working

on electronic processing and smoother transition of medical records from the Department of Defense to the VA. But there is much work to be done. More than 69% of claims are going over the VA target of 125 days for processing.

Small Business Verification. The federal government has set a 3% procurement goal for small business but has yet to meet the goal. The VA is taking a year to process applications. This is unacceptable. There has been progress in the area of Homeless Veterans. However it is still at about 60 thousand or 1 in 4 homeless. The VA goal is to eliminate this number by 2015, again, much work to be done.

Credentialing. There has been much progress in this area. Examples: the military trains electricians, plumbers, truck drivers, medical corpsmen. There should be some recognition of this as they transi-

tion to civilian life. National credentialing organizations are working on this as are state licensing boards. First Lady Michelle Obama and Jill Biden brought this up at a meeting of the state governors. This should be the proverbial no brainer. And it should apply to military spouses as well. It is projected that over the next 5 years, 100 thousand troops will be looking for civilian employment. The best way to say thanks for their service is to make it a little easier to apply their training to a civilian job.

As noted in most of my articles, I hope you will contact your elected representatives and let them know how you feel about these issues. Here are some resources: <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/MA> <http://www.malegislature.gov>

I am doing it please join me in making your voice heard! What a great way to express our Freedom of Speech!



John Lenotte is the American Legion, Commander, Wilbur M. Comeau Post 4 Haverhill and Vice Commander, Dept. of Massachusetts. You can Email him at JohnLDistrict8@verizon.net

Transgender Bathroom Bill Bad Policy in Schools

Andrew Beckwith

VALLEY PATRIOT CONTRIBUTOR

On the Friday before February vacation, when many families of students were making last minute travel preparations, the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education issued a shocking new policy for our Commonwealth's public schools.

The eleven-page directive is styled, "Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity: Creating a Safe and Supportive School Environment," but the reality is a far cry from the claims of the document's title.

The new policy is in fact a threat to the privacy and safety of all students. It tells schools that they must open up bathrooms and locker rooms to either sex, based on a student's claimed "gen-

der identity."

This means, that at our local middle school, an eighth grade boy, who "identifies" as female, can enter the same rest room as a fifth grade girl. Incredibly, the policy isn't even restricted to middle schools and high schools, but extends from Kindergarten all the way through twelfth grade.

The Board of Education claims that this policy is just implementing the new gender identity law, but that statement is disingenuous at best. Legislators specifically removed provisions from an earlier bill that would have included "lawfully sex-segregated facilities," and promised that the law which was ultimately passed was "not a bathroom bill."

By inserting those same excluded

provisions back into the school policy, the Board of Education is usurping the law-making authority of our elected state representatives, and bypassing both the clear intent of the legislature and the overwhelming desire of voters.

The Board has already attempted to deflect blame for this by claiming they are only acting on the advice of an expert working group, but the names in that group read like a who's who list of transgender activists.

It's clear that the voices of average parents, teachers and coaches were excluded from the development process and that this was the product of a political agenda from the start. In fact, there was likely good reason on the part of the Board's working group not to involve "too much" parental input in the policy development, since some of its recommendations undermine basic parental authority.

For example, the policy contemplates students being one gender at home and another at school. To make matters worse, if the student doesn't want his parents to know about this gender change at school, teachers could be prevented from informing them. This means a twelve year old boy named Michael could go to school, put his backpack in his locker, pull out a skirt, call himself "Michelle," and use the girls' room and his parents wouldn't even know.

As incredible as it is that the Board wants to eliminate sex differences in bathrooms and locker rooms, the policy

goes even further and also requires high school athletic teams to allow either sex on their squads, based solely on a student's self-proclaimed gender identity.

If a student can be one gender at home and another at school, what is to stop students from being one gender at home and in class and another on the playing field? What about the rights of the high school girls who will have to compete against a six foot two, 190 pound seventeen year old boy who dreams of playing in the WNBA? And what happens to those girls if they complain?

According to the policy, not recognizing a fellow student's 'gender identity' will "not be tolerated" and is ground for discipline.

This policy not only goes far beyond the letter and intent of the law, it attempts to reach in to every facet of public education. It actually encourages schools to eliminate gender distinctions for ALL students, telling schools to do away with, "gender-based garb for graduation... dress codes for prom, special events, and daily attire."

Everyone who has a child or grandchild in public school in Massachusetts knows that there are great efforts being made to curb bullying and make sure all of our children are safe at school. That, and nothing more, was the intent behind the gender identity law passed by our legislature.

Parents and legislators are outraged at the Board's actions, and rightfully so. The Board of Education must rescind this outrageous and dangerous policy.



Steve Sirmaian
Chief Operations
Manager/Owner
MLO 3520

Steve@firstinteg.com

24-hr. -Cell: (978) 771-2906



FIRST INTEGRITY MORTGAGE LLC

www.firstinteg.com

354 Merrimack St., at Sal's Riverwalk
Lawrence, MA 01843

Tel. 978.685.9700 * Fax 978.685.9701

MA Mortgage Broker #MB 1964
• Licensed by the NH Banking Dept.
ME#CSO11110 * NMLS ID 1964

A new Business in Haverhill Area

FOOD ARTS BY CHARLES

ANY FRUITS THAT CUSTOMER ASKS FOR WE'LL DIP IN CHOCOLATE

All Types of
Trays
Balloons
Grab Bags
Paper Goods



HOURS:
WEEKDAYS
9AM TO 9PM

WEEKENDS
8AM TO 8PM

HOLIDAY HRS
9-5PM
Closed Thanksgiving,
Christmas and Easter

ORDERS CAN BE DELIVERED WITHIN 5 MILES OF BUSINESS FREE
OUTSIDE OF THAT IS \$ 10.00 AND UP CALL FOR DELIVERY CHARGE
GO TO YP.COM for A \$5 OFF COUPON ON YOUR FIRST ORDER
10% OFF ALL CATERING

EVENT
PLANNING

WEDDING
PLANNING

362 MAIN STREET HAVERHILL, MA - 978-620-6443
FACEBOOK.COM/ediblebyCharles ediblebycharles@gmail.com -
CHARLES KLINCH OWNER/ OPERATER



Bill Englehardt
MLO 48923

Tel. 978.685.9700
* Fax 978.685.9701

www.firstinteg.com



FIRST INTEGRITY MORTGAGE LLC

354 Merrimack St., at Sal's Riverwalk
Lawrence MA 01843

MA Mortgage Broker #MB 1964
Licensed by the NH Banking Dept.
ME#CSO11110 * NMLS ID 1964

"Helping Borrowers
since 1997"

Benglehardt@firstinteg.com

FROM PAGE 1: POW PAUL STILLWELL, US ARMY

cans they also had more combat experience. Their Mountain Division had just returned from Norway.

More than half the Americans in one company were killed in the first five minutes. The rest were pinned to the ground by the very intense fire, unable to move. Tracers “zinged” above them “like strings of angry bees.” Some 35 men survived, including the wounded. The Germans were amazed any were still alive. They called the Twelfth the “Suicide Division.” By 10 a.m., Paul’s battalion had lost all radio contact with their division’s 43rd Tank Battalion, which was to have come to their aid. Despite repeated calls for reinforcements, no help came. Only silence. Then from the top came the command, “No retreat.”

Around 4 p.m., six Panther tanks that could maneuver over rough terrain, with their deadly long-range 75mm guns, attacked the flank of Paul’s company. There was still no trace of the 43rd Tank Battalion. “Darkness fell. Throughout the night we continued fighting in hand-to-hand combat. At midnight, the Germans launched a large-scale infantry attack that never let up. Their heaviest assault came at 4 a.m. In the Germans’ final push, about 140 Americans escaped across the Zorn River. The Germans infiltrated among our platoon positions, their white capes camouflaging them in the snow and fog.

“At dawn on January 18, there was still no word on the 43rd Tank Battalion. The

one building we were using as a command post had exploded in flames. German tanks had blasted through our command post twice. Our platoon positions had all been overrun. We had nothing left to fight with. We were forced to surrender.” Later it was reported that most of the 43rd’s Sherman tanks had been destroyed or heavily damaged. “Bloody Herrlisheim” was indeed a nightmare.

A POW in Stalags 5A and 11B



Paul was in a group of 35 Americans captured together at Herrlisheim on January 18. He and his unit marched on foot from the Rhine through Baden-Baden and on to Stalag 5A at Ludwigsberg, near Stuttgart. There he was imprisoned for 10 days in a former cavalry stable, virtually unheated. “I remember being cold all the time. There were 350 of us in the American barracks, sleeping in tiered bunks with straw ticking—and no blankets. Toilet facilities were poor. We were covered with lice but received only two delousing’s. Since we

had only the clothes on our backs, we were not able to wash them in the frigid temperatures.” After 10 days, they were transported in unheated boxcars for four days, with minimal food and water, to Stalag 11B at Fallingsbostel, 30 miles from Hanover. Temperatures at night fell between zero and 15 degrees. Everyone suffered badly from frostbite.



At the “bloody battle of Herrlisheim,” Alsace, France, in January 1945, the 17th Armored Infantry Battalion, 12th Armored Division, fires into a cluster of woods where highly experienced German troops and their deadly, heavily armored vehicles and tanks lay concealed. Contrary to intelligence reports, the German troops were far more experienced than the 17th Armored Infantry, and also greatly outnumbered them. The Americans’ courage and tenacity amazed the Germans, who called them the “Suicide Division.”

Paul remained at Stalag 11B for two and one-half months. It had about six barbed-wire compounds covering probably 10 acres of farmland. Guard towers could sweep the entire area in machine gun fire. “We were always cold—and hungry. Temperatures dropped to around zero at night. A single blanket covered the lice-ridden straw mattress. We had virtually no heat. Our feet were frostbitten.

“But worst of all was the constant hunger. It tormented us day and night. We thought of nothing but food. We talked of nothing but food. Literally. Each day we were allowed a meager piece of ersatz black “bread”—a poor imitation of the real thing. Daily rations also included a cup of rutabaga soup which literally tore out your insides, 3 or 4 ounces of potatoes, a cup of barley water, occasionally a piece of so-called margarine, actually lard. Twice we had horsemeat. In three months, I lost 20 lb. My bunkmate, who was much heavier, lost 40 lb. We used cigarettes to barter for everything, from food and pens to clothing. Twenty cigarettes could buy a loaf of bread from a German guard.

“Occasionally we were given a Red Cross package to share four-ways. We Americans would share our meager rations with the Russian POWs whom the Germans hated and mistreated, denying them food and medical care until they all died of starvation and disease. “I had an acute case of jaundice but lay helpless for three days in my bunk since only severe cases, like pneumonia were transferred to the clinic. A British medical doctor, a POW for five years who had fought in North Africa, did a great job for us with the limited supplies he had (paper bandages and whatever he could get through the Red Cross). “We were never tortured or beaten but I did witness the German guards repeatedly beating the Russian POWs, for whom they had a

long-standing hatred. They were quite open about it.”

British “Desert Rats” liberate us
Finally the captives were set free! “On April 16, 1945, the British 7th Armored Division—the famed “Desert Rats” who had fought in North Africa and in most of the major campaigns in WWII—stormed in and liberated us! On April 26 we left Stalag 11B, were flown to Oxford, England, and the 318th Hospital. On June 3, 1945, I boarded the SS Tarleton Brown for the United States.”

An emotional reunion took place when Paul Stillwell arrived home in Virginia, Minnesota on June 27, 1945. His father, a minister who had served in Congregational and Episcopalian churches in Illinois, Minnesota and South Dakota, had written to Paul several times a week, letters that could never be delivered. Although they had no chance for communication during his imprisonment, he says, “My dad told me he never stopped praying for my safe return.

He knew—he had a peaceful assurance deep in his heart—that the Lord would bring me home safely.” Fervent prayers and the power of a father’s love. It was the Father’s love that sent Jesus to the cross to open wide the prison doors and set the captives free. Jesus said, “He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives...to set at liberty those who are oppressed [bruised, crushed in spirit]” (Luke 4:18).



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



Heartbeat

Crisis Pregnancy Help

Confidential Counseling - People you can trust

781-229-7887

<http://www.pregnancyma.com>



Ward 6 Social Club

A Private Social Club

Private Bar & Function Rooms

57 Springfield St.

Lawrence, MA 01843

978-686-6066

Low Cost Memberships!

Open 7 days a week

Mon-Thurs 2 PM - 1 AM

Friday 2 PM - 2 AM

Sat & Sun 2 PM - 1 AM

Dancing Every Thurs, Fri & Sat Night!

16 Dart Boards, 3 Pool Tables and More!

3 Newly Renovated Bars and 2 Function halls!





184 Pleasant Valley Street Suite 1-102, Methuen, MA 01844

Dave Guselli

Office: 978-689-8006

www.firstchoicerealtygroup.com



FIRST CHOICE REALTY GROUP

Dr. Jin Sung
VALLEY PATRIOT CHIROPRACTIC PHYSICIAN

Chronic Lyme disease patients may face a long hard fight to wellness. People with chronic Lyme can have many debilitating symptoms, including severe fatigue, anxiety, headaches, and joint pain. Without proper treatment, chronic Lyme patients have a poorer quality of life than patients with diabetes or a heart condition.

The fact is Lyme is a complex disease that can be highly difficult to diagnose. Reliable diagnostic tests are not yet available which leaves many—patients and physicians alike—relying on the so called “tell tale signs” of Lyme disease: discovery of a tick on the skin, a bull’s eye rash, and possibly joint pain. However, ILADS research indicates that only 50%-60% of patients recall a tick bite; the rash is reported in only 35% to 60% of patients; and joint swelling typically occurs in only 20% to 30% of patients. Given the prevalent use of over the counter anti-inflammatory medications such as Ibuprofen, joint inflammation is often masked.

Based on these statistics, a significant number people who contract Lyme disease are misdiagnosed during the early stages, leading to a chronic form of the disease which can prove even more difficult to diagnose and treat. Lyme disease is often referred to as the “great imitator” because it mimics other conditions, often causing patients to suffer a complicated maze of doctors in search of appropriate treatment. ILADS is committed to the prevention of chronic Lyme disease. The following tips are designed to offer guidance and minimize the risk of contracting chronic Lyme disease.

1. Know that Lyme disease is a nationwide problem

Contrary to popular belief, Lyme disease is not just an “East Coast” problem. In fact, in the last ten years, ticks known to carry Lyme disease have been identified in all 50 states and worldwide. Although the black legged tick is considered the traditional source of Lyme disease, new tick species such as the Lonestar tick and a pacific coast tick, have been found to carry *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the corkscrew-shaped bacterium that causes Lyme disease.

Avoiding a tick bite remains the first step in preventing chronic Lyme disease. One needn’t have been “hiking in the woods” in order to be bitten by a tick. There can be ticks wherever there is grass or vegetation,

Ten Tips to Prevent Lyme Disease



and tick bites can happen any time of year. Spraying one’s clothes with DEET-containing insecticide, wearing long sleeves and long pants, and “tucking pants into socks”, continue to be the best ways to avoid ticks attaching to the skin. But don’t forget the post-walk body check.

2. Check your tick facts
Ticks can vary in size from a poppy-seed size nymphal tick to a sesame-seed size adult tick. The ticks can carry other infectious agents besides the spirochete that causes Lyme disease, including Ehrlichia, Anaplasmosis, Babesia, and Bartonella. Lyme disease can sometimes be hard to cure if these other infections are not treated at the same time.

3. Show your doctor every rash
The bull’s eye rash is the most famous, but there are many other types of rashes associated with Lyme disease. In fact, Lyme disease rashes can be mistaken for spider bites or skin infections. Take photos and make sure a medical professional sees the rash before it fades.

4. Don’t assume that you can’t have Lyme disease if you don’t have a rash
Lyme disease is difficult to diagnose without a rash, Bell’s palsy, arthritis, or meningitis, but you can still have Lyme and not have any of those signs or symptoms. Many people react differently to the infection and experience fatigue, headaches, irritability, anxiety, crying, sleep disturbance, poor memory and concentration, chest pain, palpitations, lightheadedness, joint pain, numbness and tingling.

5. Do not rely on test results
Currently there is no reliable test to determine if someone has contracted Lyme disease or is cured of it. False positives and false negatives often occur, though false negatives are far more common. In fact, some studies indicate up to 50% of the pa-

tients tested for Lyme disease receive false negative results. As a result, the CDC relies on physicians to make a clinical diagnosis based on a patient’s symptoms, health history, and exposure risks. Doctors who are experienced in recognizing Lyme disease will treat when symptoms typical of the illness are present, even without a positive test, in an effort to prevent the development of chronic Lyme disease.

6. Be aware of similar conditions
Chronic Lyme disease is called the “great imitator” because it is often misdiagnosed as another condition such as Multiple Sclerosis, Fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue, or anxiety. Misdiagnosis is a common experience for patients with chronic Lyme disease. Treatments that work for these other illnesses are not appropriate for treat Lyme disease. Currently, the only effective treatment for Lyme disease is antibiotics. Ask your doctor to carefully evaluate you for Lyme disease even if your tests are negative.

7. “Wait and See” approach to treatment may be risky

Up to fifty percent of ticks in Lyme-endemic areas are infected with Lyme or other tick-borne diseases. With odds like that, if you have proof or a high suspicion that you’ve been bitten by a tick, taking a “wait and see” approach to deciding whether to treat the disease has risks. The onset of Lyme disease symptoms can be easily overlooked or mistaken for other illnesses. Once symptoms are more evident the disease may have already entered the central nervous system, and could be hard to cure. This is one case in which an ounce of prevention really is worth a pound of cure.

8. Don’t be afraid to get a second opin-

ion
Recognize that opinions on how to diagnose and treat Lyme disease vary widely among physicians. It is worth getting a second or even a third opinion, especially if you are symptomatic and your doctor advises not to treat, or symptoms recur or persist after treatment. Keep in mind that your physician may focus too narrowly on diagnosing and treating a single symptom. For example, a physician may diagnose a pain in your knee as “arthritis”, and not see this as just one part of a larger set of symptoms that adds up to a diagnosis of Lyme disease, which requires different treatment.

9. Know your treatment options
Work with your doctor to identify the appropriate treatment option if your symptoms persist. There is more than one type of antibiotic available. Longer treatment is also an option. You should also work with your doctor to make sure you don’t have another condition.

10. Expect success
You should expect to get better. You should not accept “watchful waiting” - the practice of stopping antibiotic treatment before you are well and then waiting for symptoms to clear on their own. Some doctors advocate stopping Lyme treatment while the patient is still symptomatic and then hoping that he or she will eventually recover without further treatment. Government trials have identified a number of individuals whose symptoms did not clear when treatment was cut off prematurely. There are doctors who feel your symptoms will clear with further antibiotic treatment.

Support by Turn the Corner Foundation
Turn the Corner Foundation (TTCF) is dedicated to the support of research, education, awareness and innovative treatments for Lyme disease and other tick “borne diseases. Since its inception, TTCF has organized and supported countless programs that address Lyme disease education, diagnosis and treatment.

Source: International Lyme and Associated Disease Society

Dr. Jin Sung is a chiropractic physician who helps his patients both neurologically and metabolically to solve complex health issues. He can be reached at 978 688-6999. Or visit his website at www.DrJinSung.com.



Dr. Vaso Hatzigiannis D.D.S.
Joseph P. Beninato D.M.D., P.C.

Located at Sal's Riverwalk!

354 Merrimack St. Suite 334 (Entrance C) , Lawrence MA 01843 * Phone (978) 685- 1499 * Fax: (978) 837-6657



OPEN: Mon - Wed: 8am - 5:30pm, Thu: 8am - 5pm, Fri: 8am - 2pm, Sat: 8am -12pm, (Fall thru Spring Only), Office is closed Mon - Thurs from 1pm - 2pm for lunch

The City of Lowell and the Merrimack Valley Chapter of Parents of Murdered Children and other Survivors invites you to our 4th annual victim rights event which will held be on Monday April 22nd starting at the

Lowell Senior Center. 5-7pm Informational Tables 7:30 Candlelight walk to City Hall (weather permitting, otherwise we stay at the Senior Center)

7:45 Speeches at City Hall Steps

Live the WOW!

Identity Theft. It Can Ruin Your Life. That is Why People Living the WOW! Keep a Lookout For It and Protect Themselves From Being Affected By It. What Are You Doing to Protect Yourself?

Thomas Connors
VALLEY PATRIOT WOW! COLUMNIST

Watch television any time of the day or night and I am sure you will come across multiple commercials for the prevention of Identity Theft. It is a serious crime.

But the Identity Theft I am talking about goes far beyond anything you see on television. And it causes you much more pain than you could ever imagine.

Identity Theft has ruined the lives of millions of people. And every day it debilitates hundreds of millions more.

What you see on TV is just the tip of the iceberg. The pain caused by someone breaking into your personal papers and getting your social security number, birth certificate and other identification is nothing compared to the immense pain we allow to happen to ourselves.

The kind of identity theft that we have become all too familiar with can be corrected through better technology and simply paying attention to how and who you disclose your information to. The identity theft I am referring to attacks your individualism, your spiritual well-being and your ultimate freedom to be

whom you choose.

Don't kid yourself. YOU have been a victim already. You just don't realize it.

When they force you to keep quiet about your religion no matter what it is YOU are a victim of Identity Theft.

Our spiritual wholeness is a vital part of who we are. Take that away and you are left with an emptiness that is virtually impossible to fill.

Ask yourself this question. Why do so many Catholics refuse to discuss their religion? They don't want to give it up, yet, they are hesitant to discuss their beliefs. Now, tell me ... what message does that send to an impressionable son or daughter that their Mom or Dad pushes discussions of religion and faith aside? They don't want to be "labeled". As what? Believing in God? That's something someone should be ashamed of? People Living the **WOW!** never fall for the line of malarkey.

Just think how much YOU short-change yourself by not fully embracing your religion. Think how much we have shortchanged our children. We allowed the intellectually brilliant to take any

mention of God out of our schools. Lot of good that has done, hasn't it?

When you are intimidated into taking positions or giving up your values to go along with the crowd ... you are the victim of Identity Theft.

Go along to get along. Seems simple enough. So why do you feel so empty when that happens. Because, in your heart, you know it is wrong. You know you let somebody down. And that somebody is YOU!

That same emptiness overwhelms you when you "look the other way" because it is convenient. When you rationalize that "everybody else is doing it" it still doesn't give you any satisfaction.

All you end up doing is finding yourself sacrificing what you know to be right or wrong in order to be accepted by your friends and even family members. And the one who loses out in the long run is you.

Fight off these challenges and temptations. I know you can do it. Every time you give in you chip away a piece of who you are. Giving in and giving up your values is no way to Live the **WOW!**

When you are encouraged to take the easy way instead of working for what you want ... once again, you become the victim of Identity Theft.

I see it and hear from my professional Colleagues at American Training in case after case of wonderful people who come to us for help in getting an education and a job. Too many have been hoodwinked into believing that hard work is not necessary. That by some magic ritual they will become knowledgeable in an instant and a good paying job will land in their lap.

Real personal satisfaction. Real self

esteem and achievement occur once you change your mindset and put in the effort to make something of yourself. By taking pride in who you are and working to make yourself even better, your true sense of worth comes out. These characteristics help you form your true identity.

Get the Protection you need right now.

Commit yourself to stop Living Life halfway or with so many constraints. Be who you are; not who or what someone else wants or is trying to force you to be. Live the **WOW!** in order to stop theft of your personal identity right in its tracks. Never ever lose sight of who you are and who you want to become. Stand your ground and ward off anyone telling you Who you should be and How you should lead your Life.

Surrounded with that air of confidence that will be quite evident in the way you stand and the way you carry yourself, you will be unbeatable to those looking to break you down and steal your identity. When you do that, then you can rest assure you are very well protected.

Now, that's a **WOW!**



Tom Connors is President/CEO of American Training, a diverse collection of companies committed to "Bringing Out the Best in Everyone They Touch". He believes in living life to the fullest by making the **WOW!** a regular part of your personal, spiritual and working life. You can reach Tom at Tom@AmericanTrainingInc.com or by writing to him at Tom Connors, American Training, 102 Glenn Street, Lawrence, MA 01843} © 2012. You can also visit Tom at his BLOG ... TomConnors-ThinkPad.blogspot.com

TARSHI
LAW OFFICE

PERSONAL INJURY LAW

510 ESSEX ST. LAWRENCE, MA 01840
(978) 686-1821

Windham
PROFESSIONALS

Windham Professionals, Inc. is a national debt management company with offices located in Salem, NH and Woburn, MA. We are family owned and operated, looking for professionals like you to join our winning team!

Student Loan and Commercial Collections Wanted!

RESPONSIBILITIES would include the following:

- * Contact consumers via telephone to collect outstanding debt
- * Resolve consumer disputes within state and federal regulations
- * Follow up on promised payments
- * Maintain assigned accounts

EDUCATION and/or EXPERIENCE:

- * High School diploma or general education degree (GED)
- * Related collections, telemarketing, sales experience a plus
- * High level of communications skills a must

POSITION BENEFITS:

- * Casual dress attire and flexible scheduling
- * Competitive pay and bonus potential
- * Outstanding benefits

WANT TO APPLY?

* Resumes are welcomed year round at hr@windhampros.com

380 Main Street, Salem, NH 03079 800-969-0059 EOE/AA Employer

Anne Marie
Concemi
Chief Mortgage
Planner/Owner
MLO 3527
Helping Borrowers
since 1987
Cell: (978) 852-9707
24-hr.
www.firstinteg.com

FIRST
INTEGRITY
MORTGAGE LLC
354 Merrimack Street, Sal's Riverwalk, Lawrence MA 01843
aconcemi@firstinteg.com
354 Merrimack St., at Sal's Riverwalk Lawrence
MA 01843
Tel. 978.685.9700 x15 * Fax 978.685.9701
MA Mortgage Broker #MB 1964
Licensed by the NH Banking Dept.
ME#CSO11110 * NMLS ID 1964

Congratulations!!!
on The Valley Patriot's
9th Anniversary Edition
9 Years of News Making, News Breaking, Entertaining Issues!

Now, that's a

Congratulations on
this WOW! Milestone

from American Training.



Relay For Life in Methuen

Linda DeCola

VALLEY PATRIOT CONTRIBUTOR

Relay. It's a race, right? Some sort of team thing where they pass a baton from team member to team member, until they reach the finish line. Right? At least, that's what I think that's what it is...

Well, that's almost correct. Except these "team members" are not running, but rather, walking, through the night. They are doing this for a cause and the cause is finding a cure for the "Big C" Cancer.

In Methuen, this huge event is led by an amazing, ever changing by year cast of high school students. I cannot praise them enough.

This is my third year as a team captain, but my first in Methuen. I had previously been involved in another area Relay that was run totally by adults. Before that, I had, with my children and other team members, walked for several years in "The Strides Against Breast Cancer" walk around the Charles River in Boston, in memory of my dear friend from Methuen, Maryalice, who, though, her cancer was caught early and she did everything the doctors asked, still succumbed to this terrible disease.

In 2006, it was my turn. I was diagnosed with breast cancer. I still remember

holding the phone, falling against the doorway, as I was told. I had 4 young children. I now walked for Maryalice, myself, and my young girls. The 15th year poster has a picture of me and some of my amazing team mates.

I continued the walk around the Charles until 2010, when I took a new job, and got involved in Relay. I felt I could do even more.

Relay For Life began in Tacoma Washington in the mid-eighties, the dream child of Dr. Gordy Klatt. He wanted to raise money for something he enjoyed doing ~ running marathons. He was alone at his first Relay, yet raised \$27,000.00.

Fast forward to 2013. My first Relay meeting in Methuen. The excitement was palpable. The crowd at the Marsh School in Methuen was commendable. TEENAGERS are running this, and they are doing an amazing job!!!! There was an amazing slide show of past Methuen Relays, imagine my surprise and pride, as I saw my youngest child, Colleen, a former Team Captain in Methuen, who always Relays for her mom, up on the screen. These kids are some of the top fundraisers in New England. They aim to be in the top 5 this year. I have met them. I have no doubt they will reach their goal.

Home Health Foundation Honors Rosanne DiStefano of Elder Services & Rep Dempsey

Lawrence, Mass. – The agencies of Home Health Foundation will honor Massachusetts Representative Brian S. Dempsey and Rosanne J. DiStefano, Executive Director, Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley, at the Legacy of Leading event on Thursday, April 4, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. at Andover Country Club. The evening will feature dinner and jazz entertainment by The George Farrell Group.

Each year, the Legacy of Leading pays tribute to those in our community who show great support of the health and wellbeing of the Greater Merrimack Valley communities, as well as a commitment to the mission of the agencies of Home Health Foundation.

"This April, we honor two individuals who have been strong advocates and friends of our agencies –Representative Brian Dempsey and Rosanne DiStefano," said John Albert, MBA, FACHE, President and CEO of Home Health VNA, Merrimack Valley Hospice and HomeCare, Inc. "Being able to care for

our patients is made possible by incredible teamwork. I'm grateful to these two leaders for their long-standing support and the work we have been able to accomplish together for our community."

Tickets are available for a \$125 donation per person, with proceeds directed to Home Health Foundation. For tickets, additional information and sponsorship opportunities call Lauren Galimi at 978-552-4927. Space is limited; please make reservations by March 27th.

Home Health VNA, Merrimack Valley Hospice, and HomeCare, Inc. are not-for-profit agencies of Home Health Foundation. Together they provide a complete spectrum of home health and hospice care that enables people to receive care and assistance in their home or where they call home. Currently the agencies serve nearly 100 towns including the Greater Merrimack Valley, Northeastern Massachusetts, Southern New Hampshire and York, Maine region.

For more information, visit www.home-healthfoundation.org



HEALTHY SOLUTIONS PRIMARY CARE
"MARSTON MEDICAL CENTER"

25 MARSTON STREET
SUITE 105
LAWRENCE, MA. 01841

DR. JOSE R. BAEZ
VIDAL PRIMITERIO, PA - C
INTERNAL MEDICINE
TEL: 978-258-1057
FAX: 978-258-1520

Have Your Shoelaces Become Chains?

Jeff Katz

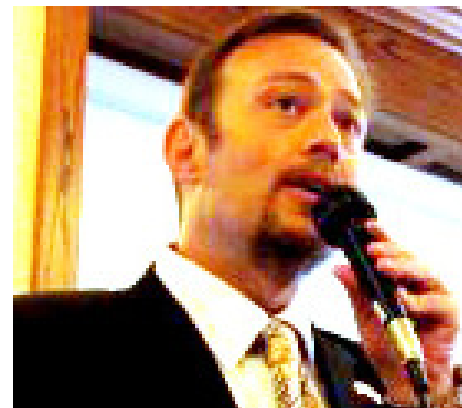
CERTIFIED LIFE COACH

VISIONACCOMPLISHED.NET

We all spend so much time thinking about the outside forces which are keeping us from reaching our full potential; we usually forget that we may be held down by our very own thinking.

I am reminded about the manner in which some large animals, especially elephants, have been trained over the years. If you scour the internet for photographs of elephants in India, you will often see a small string tied around one of the animal's ankles. It may be red or blue or yellow but it's there and it usually is not much thicker than a shoe lace. It is not necessarily tied tightly, but it is knotted and in contact with the elephant's skin. The string is not decorative; it is the mechanism by which the elephant is controlled, believe it or not.

As young calves, the elephants are chained with a very large, very heavy and very secure chain which is bolted to the ground. No matter how strong the calf, it is not strong enough to break the chain or rip the post out of the concrete. The elephant, a very intelligent creature, quickly learns that it is being held firmly in place by this anklet. After a few times pulling at the chain and attempting to break it, the elephant comes to a place of resignation and acceptance and simply stops trying to break free. At this point,



Motivational Speaker Jeff Katz is now available for speaking engagements

the trainer is able to replace the heavy bolted chain with a smaller one and then a smaller one until eventually just the shoe string becomes enough to keep the elephant in bondage.

Elephants and people are a lot alike. We both have long and powerful memories. We both are all too willing to believe that we cannot do something simply because at one time that may have been the case. I would urge you to take a look at yourself and see if your shoe laces are functioning like chains.

Break free of your past shackles, embrace your inner strength and seek your own personal goals.

Jeff Katz is a motivational speaker and is available for speaking engagements.

You can reach him at visionaccomplished.net

Keith Burdin Auto Detailing

60 Pine St. Methuen MA 01844

Buffing * Waxing * Interiors

978-685-3076

KWB23@COMCAST.NET

20 yr. Anniversary
Special -1989-2009

Drop off food & Toys for Lazarus House



Fully Insured!

Get Your Car or Truck Ready For Spring!

Blaire House of Tewksbury A Continuum of Care Facility

Offering: Long Term Care, Sub-Acute Care, Specialized Alzheimer's Care, Short Term Rehab, Respite, Hospice, Adult Day Health Center, Assisted Living Residence, Senior Transportation Services and much, much more!



Come visit our facility and see how we can help!

10 Erlin Terrace • Tewksbury, MA
Tel 978.851.3121 • Fax 978.640.0981
Visit us at www.elderservices.com
Job Opportunities Available!
Family Owned & Operated

CONGRATULATIONS ON
PUBLISHING 9 YEARS!
HAPPY 9TH ANNIVERSARY

Sean Fountain

Methuen West End Council

Best Wishes to The Valley Patriot
9 Years and Counting!



Sheehan's Towing

From Two Champs wishing another champ the best of luck for 100 more!
26 Lawrence St. Methuen, MA 01844 Phone: (978) 687-9378

Long before I ever ran for office I was a loyal reader of The Valley Patriot. Now, as the Lawrence City Council President, and a State Representative, I find it vital to keeping up with what's going on in my district. Tommy, Ralph and Chuck, Congratulations on hitting yet another milestone, your 9TH ANNIVERSARY! Here's hoping for many more!



Private Citizen Frank Moran reads the Valley Patriot in 2004

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! VALLEY PATRIOT

FRANK MORAN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

The Valley Patriot

on publishing your

9th Anniversary Edition

Best wishes for

100 more!

Jen Kannan

**Methuen City Council
at-Large**



FIND US ON
FACEBOOK

ValleyPatriot.com

Get Daily News Updates, Read Previous Stories,
Download Prior Editions, Search Our Massive News Archive!

For Nine Years the Valley Patriot has not just published a monthly newspaper but you have helped many local business networks, non profits, civic organizations, stood for free speech, honored veterans, police and firefighters, donated to scholarship funds, and brought people together who would never normally meet.

Thank YOU Tom, Chuck and Ralph for all you do to help the community!



Your Friend,
Joe Zingales

www.teamzingales.com
232 Pleasant St, Methuen, MA 01844

joe@teamzingales.com
Joe Cell: 978-360-4743
Fax: 978-794-0489

866.260.4253

Stylish loft living has never looked better. Monarch Lofts is a premium riverside rental apartment building in Lawrence, one of Massachusetts' famed mill towns. The apartments offer classic loft living: sun-filled rooms with soaring ceilings, exposed brick walls and open layouts. The residence's features include eco-conscious geothermal heating and cooling and over 4,000 square feet of amenities, including an exclusive fitness center, rooftop with green garden and WiFi, community spaces, and private underground parking. Come experience eco-conscious and eco-stylish living, convenient to Boston, New Hampshire, and the Merrimack Valley.



MONARCH LOFTS
STYLISH, ECO-FRIENDLY APARTMENTS

210 MERRIMACK ST.
LAWRENCE, MA 01843
866.260.4253
WWW.MONARCHLOFTS.COM

TOM DUGGAN’S NOTEBOOK: FROM 17

of Beautiful Things Flowers and Gifts, Ltd, located in Salem, MA. He is recognized in the floral world as a professional designer, commentator, educator, lecturer and motivator.

The event will be held March 21, 2013 from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. at Atria Marland Place, 15 Stevens Street, Andover, MA. To RSVP call 978-475-4225.

PALM SUNDAY, TENEBRAE,
AND EASTER SERVICES OFFERED
SALEM, NH:

Several services are being offered at First Congregational Church to mark the observance of Holy Week. Beginning at 10 am on Palm Sunday, March 24, there will be a palm branch processional for the children to participate in, followed by a dramatic retelling of the Passion Story.

A Maundy Thursday service will be held on March 28 at 7 pm. This is the day the church traditionally remembers Jesus’ last supper with his disciples and will feature a service of Tenebrae—a tradition that dates back to the fourth century.

“The word ‘tenebrae’ means ‘darkness’ or ‘shadows,’” explains Rev. Carolyn Keilig. “The events marking the last days of Jesus’ life on earth are shrouded in darkness. As we recall this time during the service, we extinguish candles to signify the gathering forces of evil and the approach of Jesus’ death.”

On Easter, the Sunrise Service is an annual tradition for many, and will be held on March 31 at 6:30 am at the Salem Center Park Gazebo. Casual dress is encouraged, and a breakfast will be served in Fellowship Hall at the church immediately following the service. An additional Easter celebration will be held at 10 am in the sanctuary of the church including special music featuring the youth and senior choirs. The First Congregational Church of Salem, United Church of Christ, is located at 15 Lawrence Road in Salem, New Hampshire and is wheelchair accessible. For more information call 603 893 3421, or visit www.FCC-Salem.org.

FRANK BONET NAMED
COLLEGE AMBASSADOR

Frank Bonet, a graduate student of Cambridge College’s Lawrence campus has been appointed to the Cambridge College Ambassador for the Masters of Management Program.

Mr. Bonet is an employee of the City of Lawrence and has excelled in the Master’s degree program of Cambridge College. He has a GPA of 3.82 and will graduate in the fall of 2013, announced Joseph Miglio Director of the Lawrence campus.

Frank is a retired veteran of the United States Army and is currently the Personnel Director for the City of Lawrence. He is married and has a son and daughter. His son has an undergraduate degree and his daughter is serving in the armed forces as a military policewoman. Besides attending Cambridge College, he has attended the University of Maryland – Baumholder Germany Campus, Thomas A. Edison

State College and holds an advance certificate in Human resources Management from the George Washington University.

Cambridge College will celebrate its 10th Anniversary in the fall of 2013.

The Ambassador Program is made up of the top performers of the MMG Program. As an Ambassador Mr. Bonet will be reaching out to Cambridge College students and alumni encouraging them to be ambassadors of the Lawrence campus.

LGH AND PENTUCKET MEDICAL
ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP

Lawrence General Hospital (LGH) and Pentucket Medical Associates (PMA) are pleased to announce plans to expand their regional health care services. Together, Lawrence General and Pentucket Medical will establish Andover Medical Center & Express-Care, a new medical facility to be located in Andover and slated to open in late 2013. Andover Medical Center will provide primary care, urgent care and specialty services for the local area, located close to home for residents of the Andovers and the surrounding communities.

“For several years, we have been working with our outstanding local physicians to expand primary and specialty care services right here in the Merrimack Valley,” states Dianne J. Anderson, President and CEO, Lawrence General Hospital. “This new center is only one way we are enhancing local access to high quality, affordable health care, and eliminating the need for patients and families to travel into Boston for key specialty services.”

“Access to care that is timely and convenient is an important part of medicine’s future,” says Pentucket Medical President Thomas L. Fazio, MD. “Offering the appropriate mix of health care services in a setting close to home is an important step into this future. Pentucket Medical has a longstanding relationship with Lawrence General, and this provides a sound basis for this exciting evolution.”

Richard Santagati, Chairman of the Lawrence General Hospital Board of Trustees adds, “This initiative is evidence of our Board of Trustees’ vision and commitment to a regional health care system that further enhances the quality and affordability of patient care in the Merrimack Valley region.”

Working with the Lupoli Companies, the Andover Medical Center will be located near the intersections of Route 133 and Interstate 93 in Andover.

“I am thrilled to be able to design and build in such a high profile area. The town of Andover and the officials have been integral in helping us achieve our goals,” states Sal Lupoli, President and CEO, Lupoli Companies. “I am especially proud that I have been able to collaborate and partner with Lawrence General and Pentucket Medical, but more importantly, to offer the community unparalleled medical services.”



Edward L. “Ted” Irvin,(left) treasurer and past president of the Salisbury Lions Club receives a Sight Award from the Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund, Inc., from Jonathan K. Pearson, (right) a past president of the Newburyport Lions Club and District Governor 1988-1989 of Lions district 33N (northeast Massachusetts). The plaque read “In recognition of outstanding service and dedication to the Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund Inc. We proudly recognize Edward L. “Ted” Irvin, presented this 20th day of February Two Thousand Thirteen and signed by President James A. Gracia.” Irvin was president of the fund 2001-2002. Irvin was selected by the members of the Salisbury Lions Club.

Stop in at Sahtain Restaurant on Merrimack Street in Lawrence and taste the BEST Lebanese food you have tried in years!

See their ad on page 31

Stop in and have lunch any day and while you are there you can always grab a Valley Patriot to read while enjoying your meal! ~TD



184 Pleasant Valley Street Suite 1-102, Methuen, MA 01844

Dave Guselli

Office:978-689-8006

www.firstchoicerealtygroup.com



Anne Marie Concemi
Chief Mortgage
Planner/Owner
MLO 3527

Helping Borrowers
since 1987

Cell: (978) 852-9707
24-hr.

www.firstinteg.com



FIRST
INTEGRITY
MORTGAGE,LLC

354 Merrimack Street, Sal's Riverwalk, Lawrence MA 01843

aconcemi@firstinteg.com

354 Merrimack St., at Sal's Riverwalk Lawrence
MA 01843

Tel. 978.685.9700 x15 * Fax 978.685.9701

MA Mortgage Broker #MB 1964
Licensed by the NH Banking Dept.
ME#CSO11110 * NMLS ID 1964

Servicing All of the Merrimack Valley and beyond!

Exit Realty Group in Newburport



DO YOU OWE MORE ON YOUR MORTGAGE
THAN WHAT YOU BELIEVE YOUR
PROPERTY IS CURRENTLY WORTH?

CALL FOR A FREE CURRENT
PROPERTY ANALYSIS TODAY!

KNOW WHAT YOUR OPTIONS ARE IN TODAY'S
MARKET. THERE MAY BE HELP THAT YOU
DON'T KNOW ABOUT AND I WOULD BE
HAPPY TO SPEAK WITH YOU.

Come to Our Office or I will come to you!!

Cell 978-476-1342 www.kimqrexpert.com kimaquintana@aol.com

Specializing in REO Sales,
Short Sale, Conventional
Sales and Rentals



KIMBERLY QUINTANA
Licensed REALTOR
MA & NH

VALLEY MONUMENTS

BUILDING MEMORIES THAT LAST FOREVER

MONUMENTS
CEMETERY LETTERING
MARKERS
CARVINGS
SCULPTURES, & ETCHINGS
MONUMENT CLEANING
LANDSCAPE GRANITE
ACCESSORIES

ANY DATE (EXAMPLE: 2012)
ENGRAVED \$75
SIMILAR SAVINGS ON
ALL ENGRAVING

Translator available by appointment

1111 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, METHUEN, MA 01844
EMAIL US AT info@valley-monuments.com
PHONE: 978.685.8500 - FAX: 978.685.8510

BUSINESS HOURS: MON-FRI: 9-5PM, SAT: 8-12PM
OR ANY TIME BY APPOINTMENT.
WWW.VALLEY-MONUMENTS.COM

A FAMILY BUSINESS FOR FIVE GENERATIONS



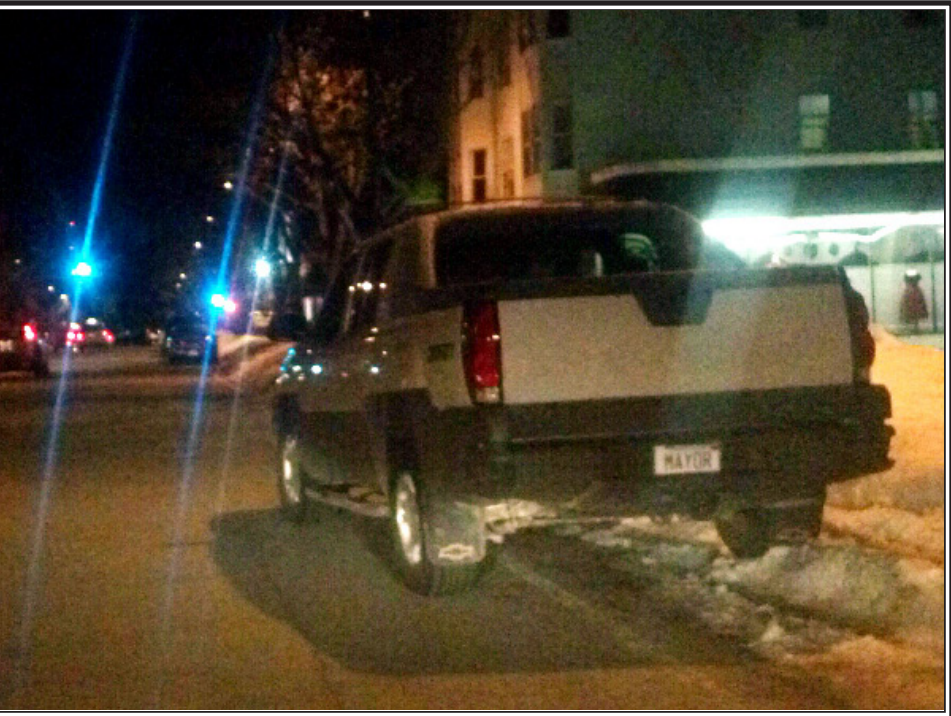
Reading Day - Massachusetts State Police Lt. Dan Richard reads to students at the Johnny Appleseed Elementary School in Leominster last month.

TSK TSK

Valley Patriot news spotters are everywhere!

This photo was taken by one of our Valley Patriot news spotters last month. It's a photo of Lawrence Mayor Willie Lantigua's White Avalanche illegally parked on Essex Street outside popular Night Club, Bali's.

It may be a small thing but Mayor, Lantigua is supposed to be setting an example for the citizens of Lawrence. Thanks to our anonymous shutterbugs!



GLCAC, INC. Creates Support System for Distressed Borrowing Under AGS Home Corps Program

Lawrence – Initiatives established as part of Attorney General Martha Coakley's HomeCorps program have provided hundreds of struggling homeowners with a range of foreclosure-prevention efforts that include free legal services, financial counseling and eviction prevention across the state.

Using the funds directed to Massachusetts from the \$25 billion national settlement with the five major lenders over their servicing and foreclosure practices, the HomeCorps program has utilized these resources to benefit affected borrowers with loan modification, borrower representation and borrower recovery.

The Massachusetts Association for Community Action (MASSCAP) was awarded a two-year grant totaling \$7.4 million to oversee a network of Borrower Recovery sites across the Commonwealth. The Borrower Recovery sites provide a support and recovery network for those borrowers who may lose their home to foreclosure.

The goal of the Attorney General's HomeCorps is to mitigate future impacts of the foreclosure crisis by providing advocacy to distressed borrowers in Massachusetts facing foreclosure. If you are facing foreclosure, or the foreclosure has already occurred, HomeCorps may be able to help by offering access to a variety of foreclosure prevention and recovery services. Contact the HomeCorps Hotline at 617-573-5333.

To date, more than 400 cases have been handled by both the Borrower Representation and Borrower Recovery initiatives. The Housing and Family Advocate Representative for the Greater Lawrence area is located at Greater Lawrence Community Action Council.

FROM PAGE 24: RESTRAINING ORDERS

the system? Plainly and simply, there needs to be law in Massachusetts that makes it a crime to fabricate allegations of abuse. There are other states that are considering this very proposal. At the time of the writing of this article, the only remedy that the falsely accused person has in Massachusetts is to commence a civil action for slander, libel and/or defamation of character against the person making the false allegations. In the majority of cases, this remedy is completely ineffective, as a civil lawsuit would take many years, cost thousands of dollars in attorneys' fees and, in the end, most likely won't be collectible, as most accusers do not have sufficient assets to cover a civil judgment. Opponents of this position argue that it will deter real victims of domestic violence from obtaining restraining orders for fear that they themselves could face criminal prosecution. This argument falls flat, however, as actual victims of abuse will have sufficient evidence to support their claims. In addition, it should be noted that the time spent on fabricated allegations of abuse actually deludes the effectiveness of restraining orders for the actual victims of abuse.

One last note-I know what you are thinking ladies; her story is so stereotypical...the husband is the one who

is making the money, and it is the wife who is falsely accusing the husband. Well, in reality, in most cases it is the wife who makes the complaint of abuse; however, in the actual case that I handled (on which this article is based), the roles were reversed-it was the wife who worked full-time and it was the husband who fabricated allegations of abuse by the wife against the children, thereby depriving the children of their mother for several weeks. Thus, no matter what your role is in a relationship and regardless of what type of relationship you may be in (whether it be a heterosexual or same-sex relationship), you may become the victim of the abuse of restraining orders unless and until the law is changed.

Christine Sullivan is the founding partner of The Law Offices of Christine Sullivan in Haverhill, Massachusetts. The firm is a full-service law firm, serving client's needs throughout Massachusetts in family, corporate/business, real estate, personal injury and criminal law. Prior to building her own law practice, Christine was senior counsel in the corporate department at a large Boston law firm for over twelve (12) years. For more information or to contact Christine, please visit www.attorneysullivanhiggins.com.

LETTERS

To the Editor:

Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries thanks North Andover residents for their longstanding support through the donation of clothing and household goods. You gave nearly 300,000 pounds of goods to Goodwill in 2012!

We hope you will get a jump on spring cleaning and donate to Goodwill today at the attended donation center at 757 Turnpike Street at the Super Stop & Shop or at another donation site near you. For the locations and hours of Goodwill stores and donation centers, please visit www.goodwillmass.org.

Your donations make a meaningful difference to the community in many different ways. They help individuals with disabilities and other barriers to employment get on-the-job training and paid work experience sorting, shipping and merchandising donated items. They give families with limited means an option to purchase high quality, low-cost clothing and household items at The Goodwill Stores. And, they allow community organizations like Pine Street Inn that partner with Goodwill to supply gently worn clothing to their guests.

Every donation supports Goodwill's mission to provide independence and dignity though work to people in our community. Now's the time to donate!

Joanne K. Hilferty
President and CEO
Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries

Pure Democracy versus Human Rights

Should our love for democracy be allowed to diminish individual human rights? Yes, if some in the Town of Westford had their way.

When Selectman Robert Jefferies of Westford said he wanted a discussion of the proposed firearms amendment to Town Bylaws to ban guns, his stated reason was to "defend democracy." His point was that the gun control debate in Westford was strictly a local Town matter. He objected to outsiders at the meeting influencing Town proceedings and he moved to withdraw the proposed amendment.

We have been rightly taught to believe in the beauty of democracy to control our political affairs. At the same time, the Founders knew that pure democracy does not protect individual rights. They used the ancient Greeks as a negative model to illustrate this point.

To quote James Madison:

"... passion never fails to wrest the scepter from reason. Had every Athenian citizen been a Socrates, every Athenian assembly would still have been a mob." (Federalist No. 55).

"... Democracies have ever been spectacles of turbulence and contention; have ever been found incompatible with personal security, or the rights of property; and have in general been as short in their lives, as they have been violent in their deaths." (Federalist No. 10.)

Unprincipled politicians use euphemisms to achieve political objectives at the expense of individual rights. "Gun control" really means "victim disarmament." (Criminals love gun control.) Schools referred to as "gun free zones" are really "target rich environments" and the crazies know it.

Politicians claim that guns are dangerous--so are cars. Why do you need a high-capacity magazine-- or BMW? Do you really need a gun? If wars are fought over religious differences, why do you need choices among religions? If the world is filled with political unrest that often leads to riots, should people have the right to gather and meet whenever they want? If you have nothing to hide, why burden the police for a search warrant?

The Founders felt so strongly about individual rights that the Constitution was ratified only on condition that a Bill of Rights would be made part of the Constitution. The proposed amendment to Westford Bylaws to restrict individual human rights was withdrawn because of political pressure from citizens who tempered passion with reason. That is why there is still hope for our Republic!

John Eaton
Stoneham, MA - Jaeton88@comcast.net



FRESHENS UP

REOPENING
OUR CHELMSFORD LOCATION
296 CHELMSFORD STREET

MARCH
—2013—

WWW.SALS-PIZZA.COM

