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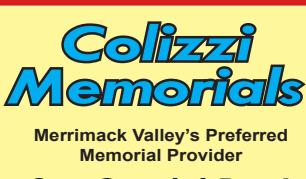
"Congress shall make no law..."

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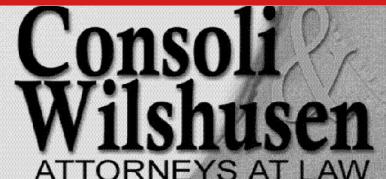
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MA to Debate Animal Abuser Registry

GOP Lawmakers are Pushing Tough Penalties for Animal Cruelty

Animal lovers like State Senator Bruce Tarr (R) Newbury, are pushing legislation to create an animal abuser registry and very stiff criminal penalties for those who are convicted of cruelty to animals. Tarr is a major supporter of dog rescues and adopted his dog "Shamrock"



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JEFF KATZ

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Puppy Girl
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Briefcases
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VALLEY PATRIOT OF THE MONTH

HERO IN OUR MIDST: CORPORAL GEORGE A. FLIBOTTE, U.S. ARMY AIR CORPS

Helen Mooradkhanian
VALLEY PATRIOT VETERAN COLUMNIST

Nineteen-year old George A. Flibotte, U.S. Army Air Corps, now of Tewksbury, was with the Ninth Air Force stationed across the English Channel from Omaha Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944. As part of the 1925th Ordnance Ammunition Company, he was loading bombs onto convoys of trucks to supply the B-25s and B-26s. These medium bombers provided support to the amphibious landings and ground troops during the invasion of Normandy, while the Eighth Air Force heavy bombers, B-17s and B-24s, flew bombing raids into Germany.

Early on the morning of June 6, the skies filled with thousands of paratroopers dropping behind enemy lines. A mas-

sive naval armada continuously bombarded the beaches. Loaded "Higgins boats"—LCVP or landing crafts, vehicle and personnel—carried thousands of troops who would hit Omaha Beach in multiple assault waves. The Ninth Air Force medium bombers—B-25s, B-26s, and Douglas A-26 Invaders—flying as low as 12,000 to 15,000 feet—strafed the enemy gun emplacements and coastal areas. Fighter planes swept beyond the beaches to flush out enemy planes.

"How our men scaled those cliffs at Omaha Beach, I'll never know, with the Germans hidden on the cliff tops, waiting for them, ready with machine guns and mortar," George recalled. "On the second day after the invasion, the

HERO: PAGE 43



Corporal George A. Flibotte, U.S. Army Air Corps, Ninth Air Force, 1925th Ordnance Ammunition Company, supplied bombs for the B-25s (made famous by Gen. Jimmy Doolittle) and B-26 planes during D-Day invasion of Omaha Beach, as well as the P-51 Mustangs and P-47 Thunderbolts that escorted the heavy bombers, B-17s and B-24s, into Berlin. His ordnance ammo company leap-frogged across Europe, racing to Berlin with General George Patton's Third Army. From D-Day and the Normandy Campaign they advanced steadily toward the German frontier through airfields in the LeMans-Chates area to northern France, then into Belgium and Germany. George received the Victory Medal and the European African Middle Eastern Theater Campaign Ribbon.

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Broken Fountain a Symbol of Lawrence's Leadership

In September of 2006 The Valley Patriot wrote an editorial calling out Lawrence DPW Director, Frank McCann and Lawrence Mayor Michael Sullivan for their failure to repair one of Lawrence's most famous landmarks: The Vietnam Veterans' Fountain located at the gateway to the city on Winthrop Avenue and South Union Streets.

Since then, Sullivan and McCann have come and gone, yet the once functioning fountain still sits crumbling in disrepair. In a way, the broken fountain is a symbol of how little Lawrence leaders really care about Veterans and the city they live in. Ironically, it's also a symbol of Lawrence's failed leadership at the hands of petty tyrants who care more about who gets credit than doing what is right for the city.

A few years ago Sal Lupoli of Sal's Pizza, and City Councilor Roger Twomey



put together a proposal where Lupoli would donate the labor and materials to fix up the fountain and once again honor the Vietnam Veterans with a beautiful water fountain more than 20 feet high, visible to all who enter the city from Andover or North Andover.

But Willie Lantigua and the Lawrence City Councilor refused that free help. Why? Because Lantigua wanted his name scrawled across the fountain and didn't want anyone else to get credit for it.

So as you read this editorial, the broken fountain sits in disrepair with nobody's name on it, not even the Veterans' it is supposed to honor.

You would think with the \$35 Million Lantigua borrowed (and didn't use for cops and firefighters), or the hundreds of millions of dollars that have flowed into the city of Lawrence from the state and federal government that a few thousand dollars could have been set aside to beautify the city's gateway.

Which is a great metaphor for The City of Lawrence. They both have at their disposal: a lot of potential, a ton of political resources, plenty of opportunity, hundreds of millions available and yet continued failure because of lack of honest leadership.

Lawrence City Councilor Marc LaPlante has tried year after year to get funding allocated to restore the fountain to its once heralded beauty.

But as long as the person calling all the shots is more interested in having his name on things than he is fixing problems, it's never going to happen.

We never could have imagined when we wrote our editorial in 2006 that we would still be writing about the fountain in 2013.

But, then again, we never could have imagined Lawrence getting any worse than it was in 2006.

Yet here we are.

Police Officers Deserve Cheers Not Jeers!

Jeff Katz

VOTED AP's BEST RADIO TALK SHOW HOST

It should be a great time to be a Boston police officer according to all of the spin that I'm reading about the more than 25% pay hike which is supposedly going to come their way. I've heard the nasty whispers about "those greedy cops" and the ugly rumblings asking "what makes them think they deserve that?"

First, let's be honest about the type of person who becomes a police officer. As an ex-cop myself, I know that these are good, decent honorable men and women who want to make a difference. They are motivated by a sincere desire to help their

community and all they ask is to be fairly compensated. People don't become police officers to get rich and this pay raise will not change that. Even with the pay increase which the Boston cops may get as a result of the arbitrator's ruling not a single cop could be considered wealthy.

Please don't forget that nobody calls the police when they are having a good day. There's not a single example of someone who won the lottery, headed home to bake cookies and then decided to ask the local officers to come over and help celebrate. When someone is being punched or kicked the cops get called, not Domino's. If you're being stabbed or shot, you'll want to reach out for someone on that

thin blue line. The junkie who breaks in to your house and soils your kitchen table and himself results in a call to your local constabulary, not MaidPro. Those heroes in the cruisers don't have the choice of answering yes or no when they are told they are needed to deal with the drunk who has puked on himself. Sorry, no chance to pull a vanishing act when you're dispatched to Boylston Street because two cretins decide to show their love for America by blowing up small children with pressure cooker bombs. In what other profession can someone suit up for the day, go to work and not know if they are going to come home at the end of their shift? Each of these brave men and women puts on a uniform that makes them an easy and visible target but does not endow them with any super human strength.

For twenty years Tom Menino has been the Mayor of Boston and for twenty years he has demonstrated his ongoing contempt for Boston's finest. As a matter of routine, Menino has refused to bargain in good faith with the Boston Police Patrolmen's Association. Over and over and over again, Menino has made sure that he's stood in the way of honest negotiations. I don't know why. Maybe he doesn't like BPPA President Tom Nee. Perhaps he got popped for speeding? I suppose it's possible that he actually explained it, but none of us were able to decipher those mumbles.



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

Don't blame the cops or their union. This is Menino's true legacy. Who knows, maybe the next mayor will see fit to negotiate in good faith with the boys in blue. In the meantime, remember that we owe our police officers as much as we can afford to pay them. And also remember that no matter how much we pay them, it will never fully compensate them for what they do or the sacrifices they make.

May G-d bless and keep all of our cops safe.

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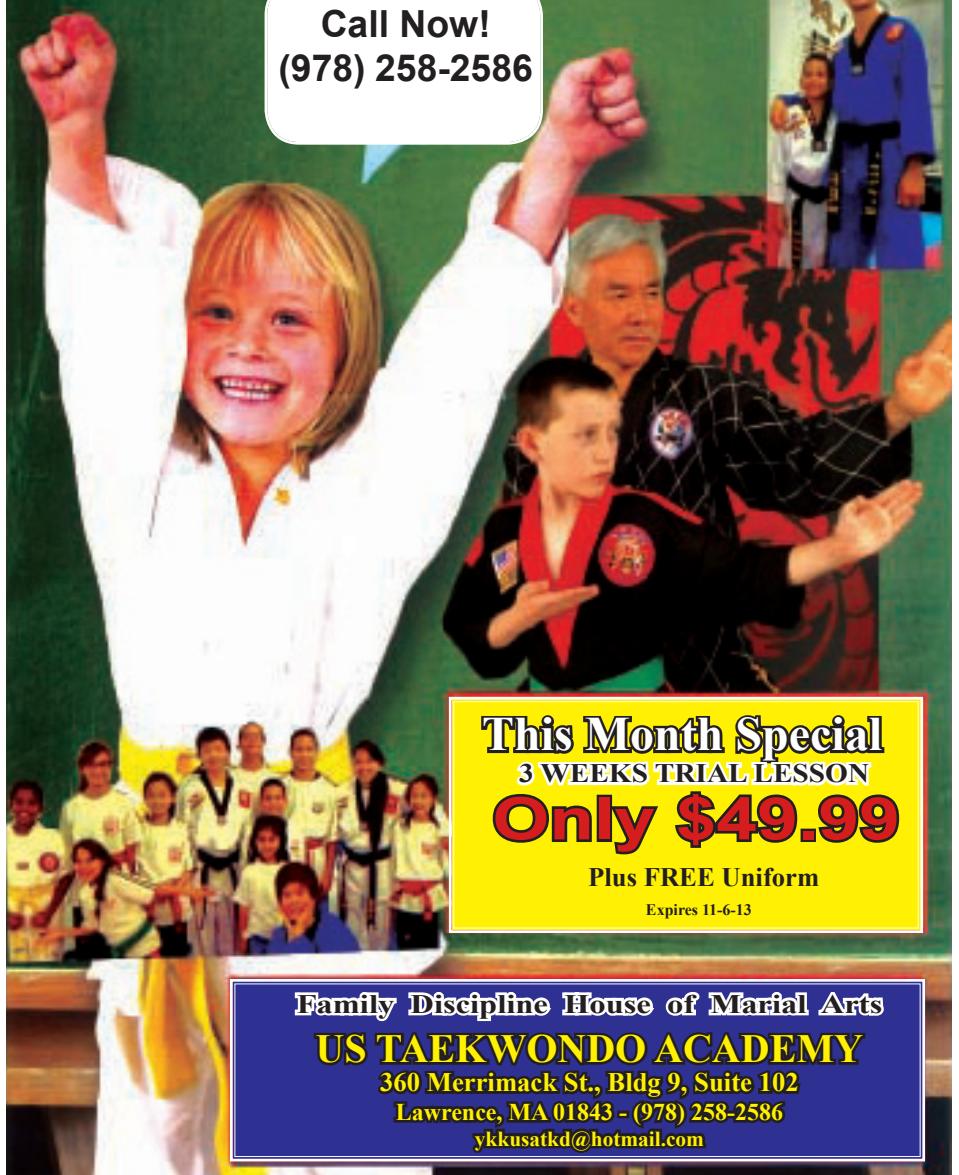
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Anne Knowles' Andover Notebook

Anne Knowles

VALLEY PATRIOT ANDOVER COLUMNIST

October is a great month to look into the many activities and programs sponsored by Memorial Hall Library. Harvest season on October 17, at 7pm is explored with John Forti, curator of Historic Landscapes from the Strawberry Banke Museum, Portsmouth, N.H. Mr. Forti will speak on the challenge and enjoyment of using edible plants as landscaping plants in and around your gardens. Home grown vegetables and fruits can be interesting and decorative in gardens. Since the earliest settlers in Essex County, local produce has sustained the population with a variety of produce.

A visit to the annual Farmers Market, held each year at the Andover Historical Site on Main Street would encourage using produce and fruits, around even small plots of land. It can be a very interesting hobby as well as having "fresh from the garden" produce on your table.

A Harvest Eve Concert by Aine Mi-noque will be held Sunday October 20 at 2:30 pm. She will present ancient Irish and Celtic music through harp and vocals. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear this music from ancient times.

Please visit the Memorial Hall Library website for additional programs and activities for October. The library is indeed one of Andover's treasures.

Leaves are changing color, pumpkins are ready for pie and Halloween jack-o'-lanterns, and Andover has a variety of things to do this season. The senior Center, or the Center at Puchard, located at 30 Whittier Court, has many programs and activities for seniors. From now until October 31, the crafts corner welcomes those who would like to make items that will be available for the Holiday Fair on Friday December 6. Supplies are provided at cost, and ideas for projects are always welcome. Crafty people are welcome for fun and socializing. Contact the Center at 978-623-8321 for more information.

For seniors who would like to sharpen their skills at the computer, there is a Computer 101 class on Wednesdays,

October 23 and 30 at 1:30. The cost is \$3.00 per class. Please call the center for reservations.

Bright Ideas Round Table will meet on November 12, at 11:30 am and is free with a RSVP to the center. This discussion group will be an informal sharing of ideas on donating items you may no longer need or want. The group members may bring a lunch or take part in the lunch offered by the center's chef. A donation of \$2.50 is suggested and reservations must be made the day before your meeting.

On Tuesday October 22 at 1:30 pm, author Andrew Coburn who has worked as a crime reporter and city editor of the Lawrence Eagle-Tribune, will talk about crime reporting and the criminal underworld. He has written short stories and 13 novels, three are movies that were made in France. A \$3.00 fee is required and reservations can be made at the center. His novel Sweetheart, is a suspense mafia film set in Boston. A screening of this film will be shown Thursday October 17, at 7pm.

Notice! There will be a Masquerade Dance for seniors on Sunday, October 27 at the Old Town Hall. On Sunday December 15, the Holiday Dance will be held. This program is supported by the Andover Senior Community Friends, Inc., a non-profit organization that supports activities for Andover's 60+ community. The staff at Puchard Center would encourage support for this organization, as they have many opportunities for working on programs for seniors in this community.

Anyone who is interested in the many programs, socializing and activities of the center is welcome to visit the center during the week. A newsletter announcing the calendar of events each month can visit the center's website at www.adoverseniorcenter.org.

Halloween is coming and there is so much to do. On October 23, a "Wicked Kids Halloween Party" will be held at the Blanchard House on Main Street.

From 3:30-5pm, a "frighteningly fun" afternoon will feature stories of Hallow-

ANDOVER: PAGE 20

Notices From the North Andover Senior Center

Why get vaccinated? Influenza "flu" is a contagious disease that spreads around the United States every winter, usually between October and May. Flu is caused by the influenza virus and can be spread by coughing, sneezing and close contact. Anyone can get the flu, but the risk for getting the flu is higher among older adults and children. Symptoms come on suddenly and may last several weeks. They can include fever, chills, sore throat, muscle aches, fatigue, cough and headaches. The flu can also lead to pneumonia, and make existing medical conditions worse. Each year thousands of people in the United States die from the flu, and many more are hospitalized. Flu vaccine is the best protection we have from the flu and its complications. The flu vaccine will be distributed on Tuesday, October 15th from 8:30-10:30 at the North Andover Senior Center. Please bring your insurance cards with you to qualify.

Medical Transport Volunteer Drivers are needed! You can see your own Senior Center for more information. Speak with Cahla at 978-688-9560 for application and assistance.

S.H.I.N.E. Volunteers: (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) Free, confi-

dential counseling on all aspects of health insurance to North Andover residents on Medicare; 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. The next date is October 18. Dr. Connolly is available on the second Wednesday of the month from 1-4. The next date is October 9. Please call to schedule an appointment.

UPCOMING TRIPS & EVENTS:

Second Flu Shot Clinic: October 15, 8:30-10:30 at the Senior Center

Monthly Supper Club: October 17, Cheesecake Factory. Bus \$4 Departs 4:30, sign up first Wed. of the month-Wednesday Oct. 2.

Keep Moving Program-Fall Regional Walks- Free! Thursday October 10, Houghton's Pond Recreation Area, Milton Ma. Bus Departs at 9 am. Pack a lunch, apply your sunscreen and wear appropriate clothing and footwear.

Lecture Series: Every Monday @10 am. Fall speaker schedule to be determined.

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



Tewksbury Selectmen: Scott Wilson, Chair Jim Wentworth, Doug Sears. Dracut Selectmen: Cathy Richardson, Chair Tony Archinski, Andover Selectmen: Brian Major, Paul Salafia, Alex Vispoli, Chair.

Andover, Dracut, Tewksbury Selectmen Meet to Perambulate the Towns' Boarders

Andover, Dracut, Tewksbury MA...Saturday morning, September 28, at 9am, Selectman from Andover, Dracut, and Tewksbury meet at a town boundary stone "witness marker" from 1908 to conduct the required Perambulation of the Town boarders.

The requirement for this ritual goes back over 200 years to ensure that the towns' bound markers have not been moved.

It's an ancient tradition - and legal requirement - in which officials of neighboring towns meet once every five years to walk their town boundaries to ensure nobody has moved the boundary stones

The selectmen from the 3 towns met at a witness marker from 1908: The 4' high, 12" square granite marker is located 20' from the bank of the Merrimack River. This witness marker is recognized due to the actual town line (center) is in the Merrimack River.

As required, the attending selectmen painted with black paint the year, 2013, and on the Andover side an "A", on the Dracut side a "D" and the Tewksbury side a "T".

After determining that the boundary was in the correct place and secured, the selectmen toasted to a successful perambulation, with sparkling water.

Mass General Law Chapter 42, Section 2: The boundary markers of every town shall be located, the marks thereon renewed, and the year located marked upon the face thereof which bears the letter of the town locating its boundary, once every five years, by at least two of the selectmen of the town or by two substitutes designated by them in writing. The marking shall be made with paint or other suitable marking material.

Andover Selectmen began the process in Andover, starting with North Andover selectmen representatives: Rosemary Smedile, Chair and Richard Vaillancourt, on Saturday, September 14th.

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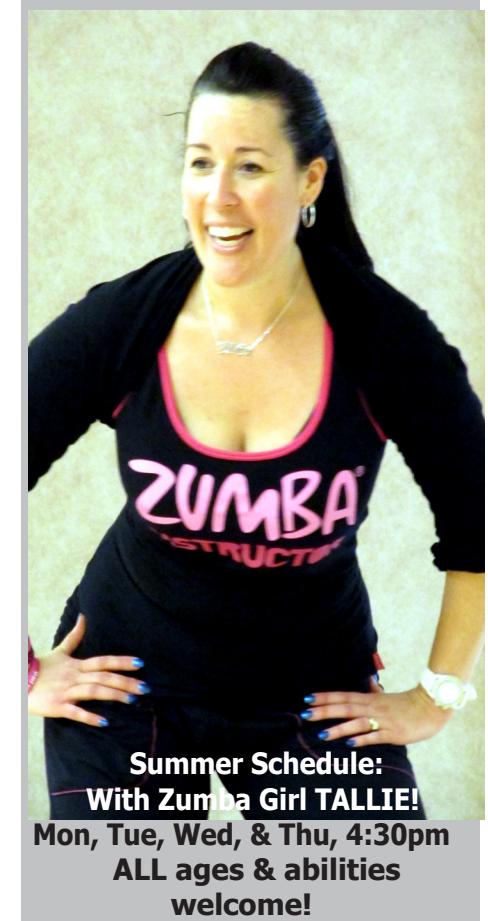
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Good Food for the Soul this Fall

Rebeccah Pearson

VALLEY PATRIOT NEWBURYPORT COLUMNIST

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Andiamo Restaurant and Bar in Newburyport, where Italian food is influenced by the Mediterranean. Each dish begins with the freshest of ingredients - mozzarella, pasta, and bread - made in the Andiamo kitchen on the day of your dinner.

Produce is selected from local farms in season, and rich meats, fresh fish and poultry are hand-picked each day. Andiamo's 5 Star chefs create layers of salt, sweet, crunch and snap to build every stunning entrée, bringing unexpected pairings and decidedly different flavors to Italian cuisine.

Let Owner/Chef Jim Rogers welcome you as you sit, sip and swoon over Old World flavors made new again. At Andiamo, your event is an occasion worth celebrating. It's more than tables and chairs and a menu, it's a moment that will make memories for you, your friends and family. That's why we provide you with an event planner and personalized menu planning with Chef/Owner Jim Rogers.

Whether you want an intimate fireside dinner, a sit down dinner in a private dining room, a party on our Summer Patio, cocktails for ten, or room for 130 guests, together we will make the moment uniquely yours.

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Their flavored oils are great for those who want to add a little more to the dishes they are cooking, or for dipping bread! The California Garlic or Tuscan Herb are perfect bread dipping oils and perfect for adding to vegetables for an extra kick. Like spicy? Try the Chipotle or Harissa EVOOs. Or if you want something extra special, our specialty oils are to die for. Try the White Truffle Oil on top of pizza, french fries, or popcorn! Every oil is stored in a stainless steel "fustis" which keep the oil sealed from the light and air, keeping it fresh as possible. Each bottle is filled in store and always available to be tasted before you buy. They also carry a whole line of Balsamic Vinegars from Modena,

Italy. The balsamic vinegars begin with a traditional red and premium white unflavored and then spread into both red and white flavored balsamics.

From Sicilian Lemon to Black Mission Fig and all the way to Aged Pineapple, there is a flavor for everyone. Each balsamic is aged to perfection and only get better with age, unlike the extra virgin olive oils that are only good for two years from their crush date (this date is listed on every fusti in the store).

Try them out today and plan your fall cooking with the true olive oil that will make your taste buds sing. The worst thing about the holiday season is trying to find a gift for someone that has it all or is just impossible to shop for. Who doesn't like food? Their extra virgin olive oils and balsamic vinegars make a great gift for anyone and everyone! They also have a variety of soaps made with olive oil, Stonewall Kitchen products, local honey, spices, chocolates, popcorn and butter olive oil, or their variety of dishes and serving boards!

Fall Recipe to soothe your pallet

Brought to you by Andiamo Restaurant and Bar in Newburyport.

Swordfish with Butternut Squash

Risotto and Cranberry Vinaigrette

Recipe for 4

Risotto, 1 cup Arborio Rice, 1/4 cup Olive Oil, 1/2 minced white onion, 3-4 cups chicken stock, S&P to taste

Sauté onion in Olive Oil until translucent over medium heat, stir in rice for a few minutes then slowly add chicken stock and stir for 20 minutes until rice is el dente.

Squash Puree, 2 cups diced butternut squash, 1 cup heavy cream, 1 cup whole milk, 1 cinnamon stick, S&P to taste

Bring squash and cream to a boil with cinnamon stick, then turn to low heat and simmer until squash is tender. Put all the ingredients (except cinnamon sticks) in a food processor, puree until smooth and season with S&P

Cranberry Vinaigrette

1/2 cup Fresh or Frozen Whole Cranberries; put cranberries on a sheet pan and cook for 15 minutes in a 375 degree oven.

Place cranberries in a bowl and drizzle in 1/2 cup of olive oil and season with salt and pepper.

Grill or pan sear 4 - 8 oz. portions of Swordfish, season with salt and pepper on each side.

Put risotto and squash mixture in a sauté pan cook together add 1/4 cup of grated parmesan cheese right at the end.

Place risotto down on the plate first then swordfish and then top with cranberry vinaigrette.

Garnish with Brussels Sprout leaves that have been sautéed in Olive Oil

-Sam Adams Stein Hoisting Contest: October 4, 6-8pm

-Shorty Live Music: October 4, 7-9pm

-Take Two Live Music: October 5, 7-9pm

-Chuck Walker Jazz Quartet Live Music:

October 11, 7-9pm

-Ian Fitzgerald Live Music: October 12,

7-9pm

-Joe Hanley Live Music: October 18, 7-9pm

-Carl Cacho Live Music: October 19, 7-9pm

-Joe Young Live Music: October 25, 7-9pm

-Liz Frame and the Kickers Live Music:

October 26, 7-9pm

Halloween and October Events in Newburyport 2013

October 13 & 14, Fall Harvest Festival.

Held Sunday & Monday of Columbus Day weekend. Enjoy great live music, art, fine crafts, food from Newburyport's best

Running for Mayor in November

Richard Sullivan Jr.

Rebeccah Pearson

VALLEY PATRIOT NEWBURYPORT COLUMNIST

Richard Sullivan runs for Mayor

In September the people of Newburyport voiced and voted their opinion and a new man has stepped up to the plate to run for mayor. Richard Sullivan Jr. will be hitting the pavement and talking with locals in the weeks ahead to gain your support for the vote for Newburyport Mayor in November. In a fantastic interview Mr. Sullivan answered some great questions of concerns that you the voters wanted to know, all questions were provided by the public, and Mr. Sullivan answered them! So here you go!

Q) What changes would you concentrate on making on your first year in office?

A) The changes I would concentrate on would be saving the taxpayers money by better controlling costs and working to increase revenue. Donna Holaday is not a hands-on Mayor. She does not participate in contract negotiations. She allows her Administrative Assistant, HR Director, and City's Attorney negotiate contracts. From the legal stand point these are billable hours, a huge cost to the taxpayers. I have a very good understanding with regards to labor contracts both in business as well as being a city employee. The former Kelley School needs some much needed updating if we are going to keep it. Right now the figure to bring Kelley up to code is estimated to be around \$900,000.00. At this point it makes more sense to offer the building and grounds for sale and put it back on the tax roles.

Q) What are your views on the proposed waterfront development?

A) My vision for the central waterfront is to expand the current park on both the west and east side; add a single story addition to the harbormaster's office. The harbormaster currently does not have a bathroom in the building. At the same time we will better serve the visitors coming by boat by offering showers and laundry facilities. Which brings up your next question. Parking.

Q) The new paid parking has affected the local businesses. How do you intend on proceeding forward with the paid parking to help businesses regain sales?

A) When we take parking off the waterfront, we will need to have a facility to send those vehicles to. I as Mayor will work with New England Development to secure State and Federal funding to build a parking garage to the west of the downtown. New England Development turns over the parking garage to the city to maintain and derive the revenue, thus helping to finance the creation of a larger park and maintenance of the downtown. I believe we would be able to leave the time restrictions on parking so visitors to town can



Richard Sullivan Jr. and Diann of Brass Lion Gift Store in Newburyport

relax and enjoy their stay here. Merchants complain that the three hour time limit has shoppers constantly looking at the time and not enjoying their time here.

Q) Since Newburyport relies on tourism, visitors have not been as strong as years in the past. How would you try to increase tourism in the City of Newburyport? Would you entertain the appointing of a commission for tourism?

A) I believe commissions take authority away from elected leaders to make decisions. So no. No commission on tourism. I think the down turn in business was due largely from a bad economy and other local issues, but I will work closely with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and business leaders to come up with ways to increase business for the downtown stores.

Q) Education is very important and according to many people I have spoken with, the price of transportation to and from school on the bus is very high. Do you have any thoughts or plans on how you will be able to help low income families in the area be able to afford transportation to and from the school system?

A) I believe public education is the most important social program we have. I served on the Newburyport School Committee from 2002 to 2006. During that time is when fees for sports and transportation came into play. I argued against fees. I don't believe we can call it public education when we have people who cannot afford to pay a fee. I was told then we have waivers for people who can't afford the fee. Hang around the schools when students are arriving and leaving school for the day. Traffic around schools is crazy. Many people have been driving their children to and from school, mostly because of the fees. I would like to see the fees eliminated but I don't think that will happen for a while.

Q) What are your thoughts on taxes in Newburyport? Do you plan on raising them, keeping them the same, or decreasing them and why?

A) I will work to keep taxes at the same level as they are now. Ultimately, I would like to reduce the tax burden on city residents. As I work to reduce the costs of run-

SULLIVAN: PAGE 38

September Schedule for Newburyport Entertainment and Arts

Firehouse Center for the Performing Arts, Market Square, Newburyport MA, 978.462.7336

-Boston Comics: Sat, Oct 5. Get ready to LOL with two of Boston's finest comedians: Brad Mastrangelo & Stephen Bjork.

- The Ghost Army: Thurs, Oct 10. Rick Beyer's amazing documentary film of the secret WWII unit that duped Hitler's army.

- Chelsea Berry & Sarah Blacker: Fri, October 11. Two of New England's premier singer-songwriters join for one intimate and compelling evening.

- Livingston Taylor: Fri & Sat, Nov 1 & 2. A favorite of Firehouse music lovers, singer-songwriter Livingston Taylor returns for 2 nights.

17 State Street Café, 17 State Street, Newburyport MA, 978.948.3456

restaurants!

October 19, from 6-9pm in Market Square: Newburyport Pumpkin Lighting Ceremony. Families are encouraged and invited to bring a carved pumpkin that will be lit and placed on the stage in Market Square for all to enjoy!

Each family will receive a votive candle that will be lit all at once at dusk - approximately 6:15 pm. After the lighting, attendees are encouraged to stroll the downtown and Tannery to "ooh and aah" at all the pumpkins designed by local businesses! At the end of the evening families are asked to take their pumpkins home for safe keeping.

October 30, Downtown Trick or Treat: Join Downtown and Tannery merchants as they celebrate Halloween! Stop by in costume for a trick or a treat! This event is

intended for small children accompanied by an adult. October 30, 4-5pm.

Saturday, October 19, Body Slams for Breast Cancer. Atlantic Pro Wrestling brings you a fun filled night of wrestling where the main focus will be raising money for Breast Cancer.

Each body slam that night will raise money in the fight against cancer. There will be 50/50 raffles, and part of the ticket proceeds will be donated as well! APW continues to bring you a family fun wrestling night with a great way to help in the battle against cancer.

Tickets are \$7 before the event and available at Express Video in the Tannery at 50 Water Street in Newburyport, or \$20 at the door of the event. 3 Morgan Ave., Newbury, Ma 01951.

Town Manager Neil Harrington's Angry Rant, Attacks 'Citizens for Change', Tomaselli Sisters, Valley Patriot ... and Free Speech

"I wanted to read the following because I think it is important; and I think members of the board received an email from me last Friday that deals with the subject that I am going to mention next and that is, I want to bring to the attention of the public the existence of an article recently printed in a publication called The Valley Patriot, which I understand has been circulated among certain Salisbury residents by an organization called the Salisbury Beach Citizens for Change.

The article concerns the Tomaselli sisters who have waged an unsuccessful legal battle against the town for over ten years over the issue of a sewer betterment which they never paid for the property that they bought several years ago on North End Boulevard.

This article in the Valley Patriot portrays the Tomasellis as innocent victims of some sort of conspiracy by the town that will soon result in the loss of their property for non payment of taxes. I would like the public to know that this article is replete with inaccuracies, false statements and outrageous charges against the town, printed as gospel without even the courtesy of a phone call having been made in advance to me or any other official of this town from the valley patriot to check on the accuracy of the Tomaselli's claims. The most outrageous charge in the article is that the federally mandated sewer project at the beach which took place more than 20 years ago was completely paid for, they are stating, through state and federal grants and that the town issued fake betterments charges

to beach residents to pay for the local share of the project for which the Tomasellis claim, did not exist.

And they claimed in the article that when they filed their initial court case against the town, the town in retribution filed in land court to take away their property; they also claim that the town has lied in Land Court, the Appellate Tax Board, the Appeals Court, and the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

They claim the entire court system is incompetent and that they are innocent victims.

I want the citizens of Salisbury to know that these claims are false and slanderous. That the Tomasellis haven't paid a cent to the town in property taxes in over a decade which is the real reason the town has moved to take their property.

They have cost the taxpayers of this town tens of thousands of dollars in legal fees.

They owe the town more than ¼ of a million dollars.

And have lost every single court case they have filed against the town over the years.

I wrote a response to the Valley Patriot article on the publication's website but



I am not confident that many Salisbury residents will see it because I don't think that many people in town read The Valley Patriot.

That is why I am making this public statement at this time.

I am calling on the Salisbury Beach Citizens for Change to repudiate this article and for citizens of this town to disassociate themselves with this organization if they do not

do so.

The people of Salisbury need to know that their local government will not be intimidated by this ongoing campaign of lies by the Tomasellis and their allies but will continue to fight to represent the hard-working taxpayers of this town against the efforts of a small group of self interested zealots who are trying to mislead them.

I think it was important, Mr. Chairman, that the public understands what this article is all about and that the town government vehemently denies all these charges as they are simply not true. I will not stand by as the people, such as the Salisbury Beach Citizens for Change, attempt to mislead people about what has been going on with the Tomasellis and their court cases against the town over all these years.

Henry Richenburg: I appreciate that Mr

Harrington. Questions, comments from the Board?

Freeman Condon: I am in complete agreement. Well said, well read. It is very disconcerting; it's very disappointing and is not unexpected from the Tomasellis but it is kind of unexpected from a group like the Salisbury Beach Citizens for Change who promote themselves for being so proactive and so concerned about the community, so I think you did a good job with it.

Donald Beaulieu: I agree wholeheartedly with the response.

Fred Knowles: The response was strong, and I think it had to be stated.

Ed Hunt: They went through the process and the outcome has not been favorable for them. What more can be said.

Richenburg: I am in total agreement with everyone and the selectmen with what they said. This has gone on too long. Hopefully we will get to the end of this and get through it. It is very painful but its also very painful to think of the untruths that are coming out and I say thank you to Mr. Harrington for stepping up and for reading this tonight and for responding to the article.

Freeman Condon: If I may one of the most significant things that Mr. Harrington pointed out is the cost it has been to the people who live in Salisbury to the taxpayers here it has cost us a fortune to put up with this and it is virtually frivolous.

Henry Richenburg: Thank you again Mr. Harrington.

Harrington: You're welcome.

Memo to Manager Neil Harrington and The Bobblehead Board of Selectmen: Documents Speak Louder than Grandstanding



Paying Attention! WITH TOM DUGGAN

We chose to tell the Tomaselli's story first in this ongoing series because the only story the people of Salisbury have ever heard on this matter is the story told by Neil Harrington, the town of Salisbury and the daily newspaper.

Neil Harrington himself has had his say at public meetings for years. He has told his "side" through the local daily. He even had a chance to have his say at hearings and court proceedings, but at the ATB he sat and remained silent while the DPW director and Town Counsel spoke for him.

It must be tough for Town Manager Harrington.

Long after he thought he had the local press on board to paint the Tomasellis as crazy, old ladies who are trying to screw the town, along comes the Valley Patriot daring to tell the other side of the story.

You see Mr. Harrington, the entire purpose of the Valley Patriot is to tell the stories nobody else wants to tell. Our mission

is to give people in the community a voice when they feel they have been shut out by the rest of the media and are treated unfairly by public officials.

And while I have no dog in this fight, your unprofessional behavior at a public meeting was very alarming of a public servant.

First, you attacked a couple of elderly women who were not there to defend themselves. Then you attacked Salisbury Beach Citizens for Change as if they had anything to do with this, and then you attacked a newspaper that you clearly know nothing about.

In the following months we will be publishing documents and giving a voice to anyone else who wants to have their perspectives known on the matter. We



have even transcribed your angry, public diatribe and published it above.

Mr. Harrington, you are always free to send us documents proving the final cost of the Salisbury sewer project was \$80 Million, or documents showing when the betterment was filed with the Registry of Deeds, or any other relevant information you think our readers should know about.

I am happy to publish them.

It's not the same as grandstanding in a public forum with your board bobbling their heads, I know. But it's a hell of a lot more meaningful for the people of Salisbury to have their questions answered.

Our sources in Salisbury, however, say you cannot produce those documents because they do not exist. If true, Mr. Harrington ... that would mean you really don't have a side to tell.

Otherwise why didn't you just send us documents in question and prove once and for all that these are just a couple of "crazy" women trying to rip off the town. You had two weeks before your little speech and yet you never did.

Wouldn't that have been an easier way to put this all to rest? It's puzzling that you chose not to do that, and continue not to do that today.

It is, and has always been my experience that when public officials go on the attack, start name-calling and grandstand, they usually have an awful lot to hide. But I'm game Neil, are you ready to put your documents where your mouth is?



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

The Broken Window Fallacy and the Corresponding Fallacy of Beneficial Government Spending

Dr. Charles Ormsby
VALLEY PATRIOT EDITOR

A student recently stopped by my office and opined that the destruction caused by war has positive economic consequences because of the demand generated to rectify the resulting damages. He claimed that post World War II Europe proved his point.

My student's misguided belief is an example of the broken window fallacy exposed by Frederic Bastiat in 1850. Bastiat told the tale of the baker's son who breaks the bakeshop window. The crowd that gathers discusses the consequences and concludes that, all in all, it is a good thing since it generates a never-ending chain of economic activity. The baker pays the glazier to repair his window; the glazier can then use the money received for a suit of clothes, which enables the clothier to buy something, etc., etc.

But a correct analysis considers both the "seen" – the economic activity just described – and the "unseen" – the economic activity that would have taken place if the window had not been broken.

Had the window not been broken, the baker could have spent the money he used to replace the window on a new oven, and the oven maker spent the additional revenue on a new forge, and so on. An equivalent stream of economic transactions occurs in BOTH cases. The difference is that in the first case the baker and society has lost forever the value of a window, just what common sense would tell us.

The acceptance of such fallacious economic reasoning by our ignorant electorate is threatening America's economic wellbeing.

Bastiat's broken window fallacy was re-popularized by Henry Hazlitt in his 1946 book "Economics In One Lesson." Hazlitt exposed numerous economic fallacies and showed how distorted economic reasoning often turns common sense upside down. Only a fuzzy-headed economist can tell you, contrary to common sense,

that wonton destruction of valuable property will cause greater prosperity.

Why is economics so plagued by persistent fallacies while the hard sciences – such as physics, chemistry and mathematics – immediately shun such fallacies when logic or experimental evidence demonstrates they cannot be valid?

The answer is because powerful special interests benefit from acceptance of these economic fallacies, a situation that rarely occurs in the physical sciences (Global Warming being a prominent exception – a discussion for another day).

If acceptance of an economic fallacy serves to promote a policy that provides one group an economic advantage, that group will spend considerable sums to promote that fallacy. If a policy makes one percent of the population substantially richer every year while the rest of society is rendered just slightly poorer, that one percent will spend considerable sums to hoodwink the electorate while the 99 percent will not bother to mobilize.

Similarly, some policies may yield short term benefits for many while imposing substantial future burdens – typically on individuals not present to vote or to enjoy the immediate benefits.

As a result, Hazlitt suggests that, "The art of economics consists in looking NOT MERELY at the immediate, but at the longer effects of any act or policy; it consists in tracing the consequences of that policy (both seen and unseen) NOT MERELY for one group but for all groups."

Have you noticed how the statists, who seek to control every aspect of our lives, consistently try to divide us into special interest groups? Government programs impact distinctive groups differently, so such divisions provide fertile soil for mischief.

What groups do you belong to? A particular ethnic or racial group? Are you a homeowner? A public employee? A union worker? A business owner? A taxi driver? A student? An unemployed worker?

It is not a problem that we are those things. It is just that the statists have a

strategy to use these group identities to their advantage. They propose policies that provide significant advantages to each group – one at a time – at the expense of everyone else. Since the target group in each case is much smaller, its benefits can greatly exceed the costs imposed on society's remaining individuals. A motivated target group is easy to mobilize while the greater population sleeps. As a result, the proposed policies become law.

Of course, once this strategy has worked its magic for every group, we are all poorer because the advantage we gain from the policy targeted to help us is vastly outweighed by the sum of the costs to us for all the policies targeted to all the other groups ... a sum that is rarely if ever appreciated or understood.

And, of course, it is not a zero sum game. Each policy comes with significant additional costs. Each comes with the cost of government overhead: thousands of government workers to provide enforcement. Each imposes economic uncertainties and inefficiencies that discourage productive economic activity. And, each comes with a diminution of our human liberties.

Society has only so many resources that can be directed towards productive activity. When the government spends a dollar, it exhausts one dollar's worth of society's resources and that dollar can no longer be directed by that dollar's original owner.

Government expenditures do not add to productive expenditures; they merely eliminate an equal expenditure of resources elsewhere. As such, they cannot create jobs. Why? Because they destroy at least one job for every job they create. Government spending doesn't create additional wealth because it eliminates at least an equal value of private, wealth-creating investment.

But, of course, the expropriation of private capital by the government to fund government projects is not a zero sum exchange. Instead, it represents an extraordinary engine of wealth destruction – destruction that lowers the standard of

living and life expectancy of all Americans regardless of income level.

What are the mechanisms of this destruction? Here are just three:

1. Government spending, to state it kindly, is poorly directed. It is not difficult to understand that you are more careful at investing your own money than Congress is. Bad investments destroy wealth. Just look at the hundreds of millions of dollars the federal government has lost/wasted on solar energy companies that went bankrupt.

2. The only reason to invest capital is to make profits. Government spending requires taxation and taxes reduce net profits. Reduced rewards equal reduced incentives to take risks and invest, and thus less wealth is ultimately created.

3. Finally, capital lost due to poor investments and investments that are avoided is lost forever and the loss is cumulative. How many trillions of dollars of capital has government spending destroyed? Capital that could be generating additional wealth every minute but isn't.

The next time you hear Obama, Pelosi or Reid tell you what wonderful things they can do if we let them spend more money, hold on to your wallet and run. Then send them a copy of Hazlitt's book (*Economics In One Lesson*) and ask them to learn something about economics before they spend another nickel of your money.

It's time we elected some competent people to represent us in Washington who have at least a rudimentary understanding of economics if we are going to survive as a nation.



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

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Birds of A Feather Flock Together!

Peter Larocque
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

The city of Lawrence is never at a loss for interesting situations unfolding in front of everyone who has eyes to see. Last month, give or take a few days, produced some events that if they were to take place outside of Lawrence, one could conclude that they were all a part of a fiction novel. But since they did take place in Lawrence, coupled with the in your face style of politics of our dear leader, Mayor Lantigua, one could summarize that birds of a feather DO flock together.

Please allow me to elaborate, first on Tuesday August 27, 2013; Attorney General of Massachusetts Martha Coakley sues Mayor Lantigua over alleged Campaign Finance Violations. Then on Monday September 16, 2013, the same Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley makes her announcement of a run for Governor of Massachusetts. Next, on Tuesday September 17, 2013, the Lawrence city primary elections took place where Mayor Lantigua topped the ticket and won a spot on the November general election ballot to be re-elected as mayor. He will be running against Dan Rivera who came in second, which likewise won him a spot on the ballot in November. That same evening when the candidates for mayor along with their supporters filled City Hall, it was during Mayor Lantigua's



The Lantigua "FAMILY" celebrates on election night 2009: Melix Bonilla, Nelson Silva, Jay Jackson, Lorenza Ortega, Lenny Degnan, and Israel Reyes. Bonilla and Degnan have been indicted and are awaiting trial for corruption, Reyes has already plead guilty to corruption charges. Jackson has been relieved of duty.

turn when he was seen side by side as he addressed his supporters with none other than indicted Lawrence Deputy Police Chief, Felix Bonilla who is on paid leave. (This is the in your face politics I referred to earlier.) It is so obvious that our Mayor has absolutely no respect for the law!

Then, three days following her announcement of running for governor, on September 19, 2013, A.G. Martha Coakley makes the City of Lawrence one of her first campaign stops. Could this be just a coincidence? I ask this because just one day after this, September 20, 2013, another Mayor Lantigua ally is indicted

for parking garage theft and campaigning for the mayor while on the city clock. One would think that the top law enforcement officer for the state had to have been privy to this indictment and that it was coming the following day of her appearance in Lawrence, don't you think? It appears to me that this is either a huge disrespect for the law or this is just a campaign mistake or maybe even just bad timing? I find myself asking the obvious question, Martha, Martha, what are you doing in Lawrence at this time?

For those of you who are biblically inclined, there is a wonderful verse of scripture in 1 Thessalonians 5:22 that states, "Abstain from all appearance of evil." Notice it says that God would have us to abstain not just from evil, but from all appearances of evil. This is very good advice especially to those in public service!

Due to all of the above, it's abundantly

clear that we, the Lawrence voters, need to elect Dan Rivera as our next mayor of Lawrence. Dan Rivera isn't perfect and I guarantee that Dan will most probably make a few mistakes along the way. But on the other hand, I do know this; Dan will not stand for or have his administration associate itself with any corruption in City Hall. He will root out any and all corruption from City Hall, it will be reverted back to what it once was which is the people's house! How do I know this? Well that is simple; Dan is a man of upright character and principle. Dan is a military veteran of Desert Storm/Desert Shield where there was no tolerance for such foolishness. I have absolutely no problem with placing the future of the Great City of Lawrence in his capable hands, and quite frankly neither should you! All of

LAROCQUE: PAGE 12



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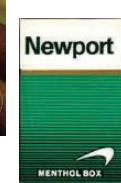
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Lantigua Pushes Candidate on Ballot Against Her Will

Lawrence's municipal elections were held today in preliminary races for mayor, city council and school committee.

Lawrence at-large candidate for city council, Cara Martiloni tells the Valley Patriot in an exclusive this afternoon that she is fuming and she is ready to take on Mayor Lantigua for printing up ballot stickers with her name on it and telling his supporters to put her up as a final election candidate against District "F" Councilor Marc LaPlante.

"They are passing out stickers with my name and my address on it. They are giving them to all their cronies at each poll in my district. They are telling people to put my name up as a challenger to District "F" Councilor Marc Laplante. I never met Willie Lantigua, I never authorized to have my name be part of any campaign for district council. I have my own at-large campaign to run, which he just destroyed. This has ruined my name."

Martiloni is a new to the City of Lawrence, she moved to Lawrence from Haverhill two years ago. She said she took the entire summer off to knock on people's doors across the city to find out what was important to voters. Martiloni is a lawyer and said that she is saddened and a bit furious that "Mayor Lantigua and his cronies have called yet another election into question and he is using my name to do it."

"Well I will tell you this," she said angrily. "I know he thought that because I don't know anyone in politics that I wouldn't find out. Or that if I did find out I wouldn't be able to do anything about it because I have no political connections in

Lawrence. But, he picked the wrong girl. I am filing a complaint right now. I am walking it down to the Lawrence election department. I already talked to City Clerk Billy Maloney and he said there is nothing I can do. Well you watch, I am doing something."

First, Martiloni says she is filing a complaint and demanding her name be stricken from all ballots in the District "F" race. She also said that she is calling for a recount on all ballots in District "F".

"I called election division and tomorrow I am filing a complaint with Attorney General Martha Coakley and we can add this to the other investigations into Lantigua's campaign illegalities."

"We are supposed to be teaching our young people what is acceptable. This is America. We are supposed to be preserving the integrity of our election process and all this guy wants to do is destroy it. It is a sad day for democracy."

For his part, Lawrence City Councilor Marc LaPlante has no primary opponent. If any voter gets 50 write-in or sticker votes in the District "F" race in today's preliminary, Laplante will have to campaign for his seat against that person in the November final election. Martiloni says that her name will not be a part of any challenge to Laplante in November and she is willing to take the city to court if comes to that.

"If I wanted to run against Marc Laplante, I would have run against him. But I like Marc, and I think Marc is doing a great job in this district, that's why I am running at large."



Former Mayoral Candidates Unite Against Lantigua – Endorse Rivera for Mayor

Tom Duggan
VALLEY PATRIOT PUBLISHER

Three of the four failed candidates for Lawrence mayor: James O'Donoghue, Juan Gonzalez and Marcos Devers stood with Lawrence City Councilor Dan Rivera Friday, at the end of the Casey Bridge to endorse Rivera's candidacy against Lawrence Mayor Willie Lantigua.

Nestor DeJesus, who finished in last place in Tuesday's preliminary, did not attend the endorsement rally.

Mayor Lantigua finished in first place with 5,725 votes. He will face Dan Rivera in the November final election.

"During the campaign you really get to know your opponent, especially during the debates," said James O'Donoghue who placed fifth Tuesday night with 305 votes.

"When Dan Rivera was answering the questions he wasn't only articulate, he was very intelligent and easy to get along with and he's someone you say, 'gee, I like this guy.' You almost wonder why you are running, because you want to vote for him," he said laughing.

O'Donoghue said he believes Dan Rivera, not current Mayor Willie Lantigua, will "turn the city of Lawrence around so it can be independent and have its own sources of revenue to pay for its schools, police and firefighters, etc., and I believe that and Rivera is the person who, as the mayor in charge, he will make Lawrence prosper. [SIC] And that is why I am supporting Dan Rivera."

Lawrence Firefighter and former mayoral candidate Juan "Manny" Gonzalez said that he too is endorsing City Councilor Dan Rivera after placing fourth on Tuesday.

"Dan, we are behind you 100%. I told you before that I am a man of my word, and you got it. I truly believe that Dan Rivera represents the young people of Lawrence, the up and coming. We all want change for Lawrence, and that's what we stand for. I look around and I am humbled by how many people are here. And this is just the beginning," Gonzalez said to a crowd of about 50 people.

Gonzalez vaguely addressed Mayor Lantigua's dirty campaign tactics saying, "We know what is coming our way, we know how dirty it can be but that's not how we play."

When State Representative Marcos Devers was introduced, the crowd cheered loudly as he took the microphone. Devers paused for a few seconds and then he spoke loudly.

"We want a change!"

"I am immensely pleased and honored to see all of you, the real melting pot," Devers said. "I am Dominican, I am American, I am a Lawrencian, and I

LAWRENCE Primary Results

William Lantigua 5,725

Dan Rivera 2,799

Marcos Devers 1,907

Juan Gonzalez 1,058

James O'Donoghue 305

Nestor DeJesus 165

am a fraction Puerto Rican and I have a beautiful family that has it all."

"What we see here is what we are really looking for. We need a city for all of us not just a little group, or an egotistical person. Not just for a little circle. This is our city. The City of Lawrence, and we need to find and look for healing, love, and unity.

"Humbly, I want to tell you that the only way forward is to find a candidate that satisfies our wishes and our objectives, our goals. And I see that in my dear friend Danny Rivera."

Rivera thanked each of the former candidates for mayor individually.

"We're going to make this city better not just because we want to make it better for me, or for one of us, or two of us, but for all of us. You know, we want to make the streets safe for all of us. You know, when people break into somebody's car or somebody's house, they don't care if their last name is Gonzalez, or Smith, or O'Brien. So, we have to make sure the streets are safe for all of us. You know, when I talk to ten people and seven of them are out of work, it doesn't matter, that unemployment is not discriminating," Rivera said.

"When kids are failing in school, it does not discriminate. We have to fix the schools for all of us."

"We are going to take the fight to this mayor because he thinks he's done a good job and it's not true."

Rivera did address the math from Tuesday's preliminary election saying that if the election were held today, Lantigua would lose.

"When someone talks to you about the number of votes this mayor got [in the primary], you just say to them, 'don't you talk to me about 5,700 [votes]. Talk to me about 52! Fifty-two percent of the people who went out to vote, voted against this mayor. If we had that election today, he would have lost by 600 votes. Twenty-thousand people stayed home. We had four teams working in different directions," he said referring to the other four campaign teams for mayor.

"Now we are going to have one team, working in one direction and we are going to get this done."

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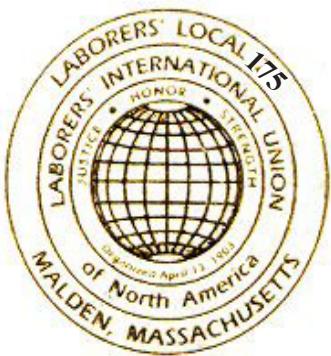
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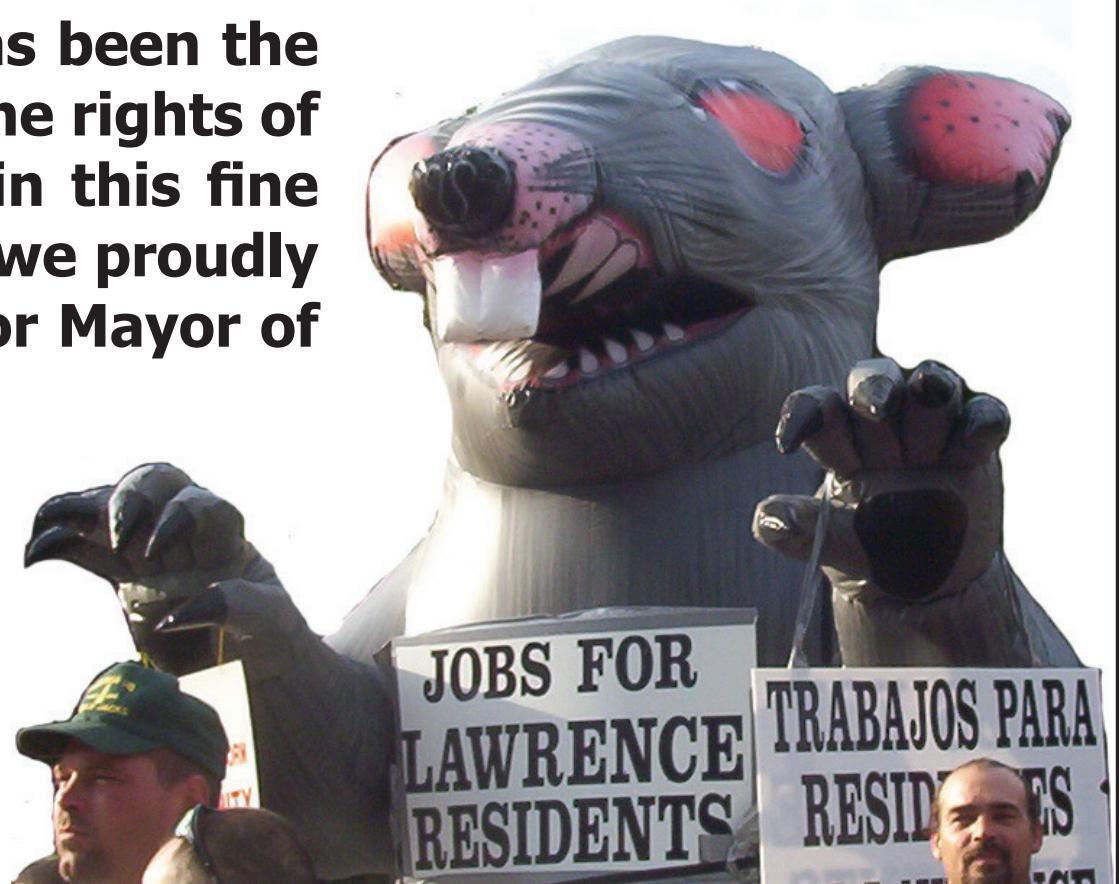
Lawrence Mayor Willie Lantigua stood with the union workers on the Lawrence High School Project and other projects in the city to protect union jobs. He was also able to change Methuen City Councilor Jen Kannan's vote on the City Solicitor with his letter to the Methuen Council, proving he is a leader not just in Lawrence but the Entire Merrimack Valley.



Mayor/Alcalde Lawrence

"Mayor Willie Lantigua has been the one man to stand up for the rights of all Lawrencians to work in this fine city! That's why this year we proudly endorse Willie Lantigua for Mayor of Lawrence."

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



A One on One Interview with Superintendent-Receiver Jeff Riley

Part 1

Valley Patriot Publisher Tom Duggan sat down with Lawrence Superintendent/Receiver Jeff Riley of the Lawrence Public Schools for a one on one interview. Riley was appointed Receiver of the Lawrence Public Schools by the Massachusetts Department of Education after an 81 page report detailed the lack of leadership of the Lantigua administration and Lantigua's refusal to appoint a replacement for Superintendent Wilfredo Laboy. The Schools were deemed "chronically underperforming".

TD: How long have you been here?

JR: A little over 18 months. I came in at the end of January of 2012.

TD: Going through the state report, the lack of leadership of Mayor Lantigua was the primary reason for taking over the schools. Was there more to that?

JR: "I'm not sure. I try to stay out of what happened in the past. When I first came on board, people told me to look at the school committee meetings. But I wanted to look at it [the school district] with a fresh set of eyes.

When I first came here there were so many people who said blow up the school system, turn it all into charter schools. I just kind of wanted to stay out of it and do my own assessment. So, from the end of January to June [of 2012] what we did was, we just looked very carefully at everything and try to create a plan.

The plan is very different than has been done in your typical state government plan, we are decentralizing the power. We cut a lot of people out of this building (central offices) a third of the people are gone. We put the money down at the schools, and put the local control down at the school level.

I spent a lifetime as a principal evading and ignoring the central office in Boston. It shouldn't have to be that way. You know, sometimes a central office takes on the function of compliance, and command and control, these huge bureaucracies; everyone thinks their own little department is the most important thing in the world.

When you are a principal in the field you don't need that stuff. You need people who are going to support you and help you, so we tried to pivot this place away from that kind of command and control, compliance organization to: 'we now work directly



Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan does a one on one interview with Lawrence Superintendent/Receiver Jeff Riley, who takes Duggan to task for some previous stories written in The Valley Patriot.

for the schools; 95% of my job is to make their lives easier. There's always going to be some state and federal compliance stuff you have to do, but most of our work should be about helping them to do the work that they do because that's where it all happens.

My fundamental orientation is as a school principal, and when they asked me to come here I was very clear; we are not going to go with the game plan of doubling the size of central office, command and control, I'm Darth Vader, and let's tell everyone what to do.

You know that's the same cookie cutter model that has proven over and over in education not to work. Over and over, yet they still keep doing it and I just didn't believe in that.

Then you have people saying you have 1,000 flowers blooming in the field and you have to have some structure. We've got some light structures in place, we do. There are efficiencies when you order food and supplies. That we can do, to be helpful to the schools here. But some of the other stuff is unnecessary, and is not a good use of what I would say, is the taxpayers' money.

We get the fact that more than 95% of the money that's coming to Lawrence Schools doesn't come from here. It's the taxpayers across the state. They are footing the bill for this place. So, I've got a fiduciary responsibility to make sure that we are spending it the right way, and I think the right way is by putting the resources down at the school level to add things like more time (on learning).

for a long time. But, I've got to give Lawrence a lot of credit. It's a whole new ball game here as far as the conspiracy theories and all that other stuff goes. Listen, some of it is probably warranted. There's been a lot of negative stuff going on here. My understanding is you had the previous superintendent, that wasn't a good situation, obviously. But we have tried to be pretty open in our process, and I would dispute this 'lack of transparency' thing.

Because of state receivership, I have the ability to have the authority of the school committee and the superintendency and not meet with the school committee.

Instead, I chose to meet with the school committee. I don't have to do that. I could stop that tomorrow if I wanted to. But, I've chosen to meet with the school committee. I have chosen to give them information. But people still, probably for their own political reasons, want to paint it as a lack of transparency.

Tom, you sent us a public records request as soon as we got here. We gave you that stuff right away. We are willing to give records. We're not here to hide anything. We are here to do the work for the kids. If people have questions, we want to answer them. We put the budget on line. You know, there are people who throw stones just to thrown stones. And some of it is for their own political gain. But the reality is,

RILEY: PAGE 45

TD: Talk about transparency. We hear complaints that you and central office are just not telling people what is really going on, which gives way to conspiracy theories about what is really happening over here. Address that.

JR: [Laughs} Conspiracy theories run really wild in this town, I'll tell ya. I thought I was pretty politically savvy. You know I have been in the trenches in Boston

and see the many campaign signs supporting the mayor. As a homeowner, I ask what are these people thinking of?

In conclusion, we hear in baseball something called the magic number. Currently the Boston Red Sox have reached theirs and will have home field advantage throughout the playoffs. In Lawrence our magic number is 52%. This is the number of voters who voted against Mayor Lantigua in the primary election in September. This number plus the fact that more people are expected to turn out in November for the general election encourages me that there is still hope for the Great City of Lawrence. I guess by now you all know what I am praying for!

God Bless you all and may God continue to 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

LAROCQUE: FROM PAGE 9

us working together with Dan will make Lawrence better.

November 5, 2013 is a very important day for all Lawrencians. That's our general election for the city. That's when we the citizens decide what direction our city is to go in. Either we stay exactly where we are or we change for the better! Currently we have a mayor who basically has the state doing his job.

In reality we are paying \$100,000.00 a year for someone who is being baby sat for. To this date, he refuses to partake in the political process by debating his

opponent, Dan Rivera. He communicates and campaigns only on Spanish speaking radio to reach his base of supporters. To be honest, if I were a part of this group, I would be demanding more from my candidate. But due to the ignorance of many of his supporters of the American political process, along with their ignorance of the rule of law mixed with their belief that all opposition to the mayor is classified as a witch hunt, Mayor Lantigua continues to get a pass from his supporters.

I still find myself shaking my head and wondering why as I drive through our city

and see the many campaign signs supporting the mayor. As a homeowner, I ask what are these people thinking of?

In conclusion, we hear in baseball something called the magic number. Currently the Boston Red Sox have reached theirs and will have home field advantage throughout the playoffs. In Lawrence our magic number is 52%. This is the number of voters who voted against Mayor Lantigua in the primary election in September. This number plus the fact that more people are expected to turn out in November for the general election encourages me that there is still hope for the Great City of Lawrence. I guess by now you all know what I am praying for!

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Fire and Brimstone, Budget and Fiscal Cliff Diving

Linda Dean Campbell

METHUEN STATE REPRESENTATIVE

First off, I wish to pay a sincere compliment to my Republican colleagues in the Massachusetts House of Representatives and Senate – it is a privilege to work with you: your motives are honorable; you have the best interests of your constituents at heart; and, I often agree with you. I am also certain that you would never play the game of Russian Roulette with the general welfare of Massachusetts. The results speak for themselves. We are leading the country out of this recession, have the highest bond rating we have ever had, and are one of only four or five states in the nation with substantial reserves.

While the Republican Party nationally has long advocated for “less government,” most Republicans our generation fondly recall, like Eisenhower, Goldwater, Reagan, and George H. W. [The Elder] Bush were “true believers” in the United State’s Government. While most of those named wanted government to be smaller, more so, they wanted it to be effective and, after that, more efficient. I’m sad to tell my Republican friends that nationally their “Tea Party Russian Roulette” faction is running the table to the great detriment of their Party and for their country generally.

To Tea Party Republicans, please prayerfully consider that THIS NATION IS STILL AT WAR, we have our military in contact WITH OUR ENEMIES, still engaged in fighting the LONGEST WAR in American History, the one in Afghanistan. It is the war a president of your party started with Congressional approval, and whenever more money was needed to support our troops, the Democrat major-

ity Congress provided it because to do otherwise would be derelict. And, what did our last President bring us? Eight years of very bad and ineffective government. I heard Vice President Dick Cheney estimate that the War in Iraq was going to cost us \$60 Billion to wage – about three or four trillion off?

Please do not mistake me, our Armed Forces have been magnificent and they have unfortunately paid a very high personal price for “muddled” political wishful thinking that Jeffersonian Democracy was going to “break out like the measles” in Afghanistan, where the most important criteria for democracy – literacy – is absent; or in Iraq – a land of totalitarian governments since the dawn of history.

Those who shall be hurt in all this are the 99%. The middle class portion of us all will shrink some more, and the poorer among us will get poorer. It will affect our State budget in a very negative fashion and punish those states with fiscally responsible governments, like ours. Time flies, and so many of us trying to do the right thing and become self-sufficient in retirement and otherwise are just now breaking even from the last cliff-crisis imposed, as is the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Speaker Boehner – Will you lead the House of Representatives in a manner that ensures the general welfare of America as a statesman? Or, is disarray and anarchy the small price we pay to absolutely ensure you remain Speaker awhile longer?

Linda Dean Campbell is a State Representative representing Methuen and Haverhill Massachusetts. You can contact her at office at 617-722-2305 or Linda.Campbell@mahouse.gov



Sean Fountain Ken Willette George Kazanjian

Voters to Choose Two in West End

Once thought to be unbeatable, incumbent West End City Councilor Sean Fountain now has a fight on his hands to be re-elected.

With Jeanne Pappalardo unable to run for re-election because of terms limits, voters will have to choose two of three very popular polls.

Sean Fountain: Fountain is a firefighter in North Andover and is seeking a second term on the Methuen City Council.

He served as Council President for one year, and has been active in youth sports as well as advocating for seniors. For sure, Fountain has been one of the most proactive councilors in recent memory. He voted to remove City Solicitor Peter McQuillan and initially voted for Richard D’Agostino to replace him. When that vote failed and it became clear that McQuillan had sabotaged the hiring process, however, Fountain refused to support a fellow councilor’s motion to investigate the shenanigans of McQuillan, angering those who expected him to follow through and call for accountability.

Fountain has been one of the biggest supporters of fire and police, and under his leadership the Joe Solomon lawsuits were settled and the animosity that existed between the public safety officials and the city council no longer exists.

He has also been unfairly targeted by the Eagle Tribune for not playing ball with their reporters and as such has been victimized by several slanted stories (some not true) designed to hurt his candidacy.

Unlike his colleague Jamie Atkinson in the Central District, Fountain does not defend political hacks behind the scenes and says he is committed to being the voice of voters, not political insiders.

“They want to go along with status quo, and I’m one who thinks things need to be changed. Obviously, we need more voices and more participation out there to move the city forward, but that’s not easy when people inside are doing everything they can to keep everything the same. I think what I was surprised about the most when I first took office was discovering that Methuen is a very cut-throat arena for politics. It’s very unforgiving and dangerous.”

ous to try and make changes. That’s what you are up against if you want to make change and I am willing to take on that fight, but a lot of people get discouraged and you can hardly blame them given what goes on behind the scenes.”

Kenneth Willette - Willette has served as an at-large city councilor, and a school committee member topping the ticket city wide each time he ran. Funny thing about Willette is that he rarely raises any money for his campaigns and spends almost no money at all defying conventional wisdom. He runs a grass roots organization of a handful of friends and family members, but is loved by seniors in Methuen for his conservative, anti-tax agenda.

As the former legislative aide to Former Representative Arthur Broadhurst, Willette understands not just municipal and school budgets, but he also understands the process of state funding, state grants to municipalities and has contacts at the state house.

Willette has attacked the current city council saying they failed to take measures to save the taxpayers money and says if he is elected he will be the fiscal watchdog voters know him to be.

“Many reform proposals have collected dust over the past two years,” Willette says. “Joining the GIC, partnering in a regional 911-dispatch center, outsourcing the IT department, etc. These proposals would have collectively saved Methuen taxpayers millions of dollars. A new city council, sworn into office January 2014 and hopefully composed of a majority of reform-minded and fiscally conservative leaders, will immediately tackle these proposals once again within a 100 day window before the FY 2015 budget deliberations. We are failing the taxpayers by not fulfilling regionalization, consolidation, outsourcing and efficiency benchmarks.”

George Kazanjian - A former member of the school committee, Kazanjian is an accountant by trade, and says it’s his accounting background that the city needs on the council.

Kazanjian says that the current city council does nothing but argue, get

WEST END: PAGE 18

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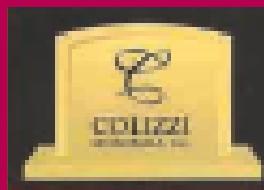


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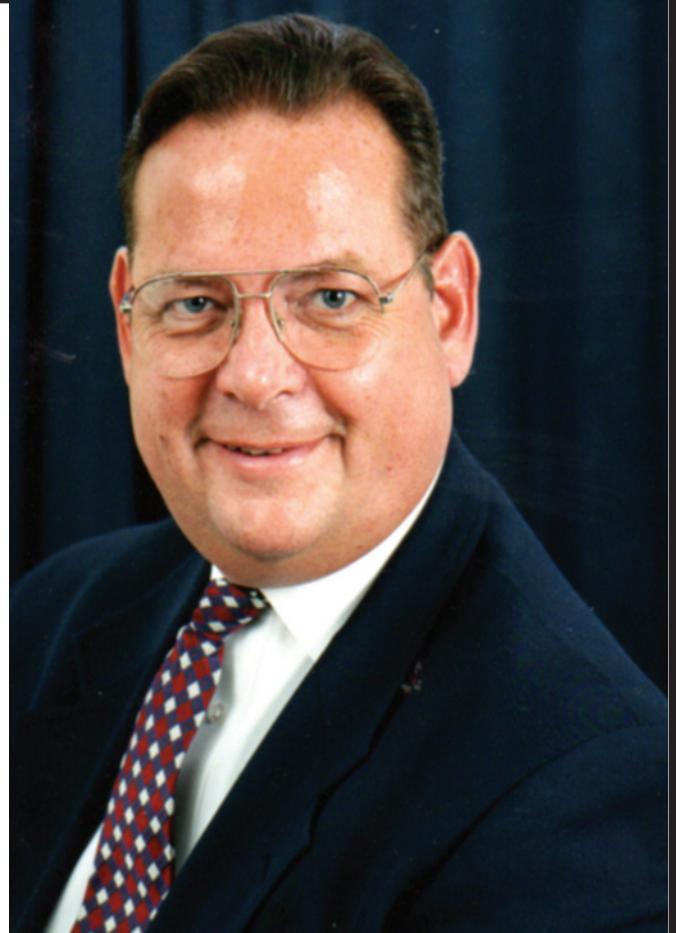
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Who Will Lead Methuen? Zanni, Kannan Want Your Vote!

Tom Duggan
VALLEY PATRIOT PUBLISHER

Two years ago Methuen Mayor Steve Zanni (then an at-large city councilor) had a tough fight on his hands to win the mayor's race against businessman Al DiNuccio.

The difference between Zanni and DiNuccio back in 2009 could not have been more stark. Zanni was an institutional Democrat with support from the party, while DiNuccio was a Tea Party conservative (as a side note, DiNuccio got no support from the Tea Party).

After a close vote on Election Day and a recount, Zanni defeated DiNuccio by only 34 votes and took office as mayor in January of 2010.

One of the issues that helped Zanni defeat DiNuccio was his opposition to privatizing the city's ambulance service, a promise he kept.

This year, in his first bid for re-election, the one term mayor faces a different kind of opponent in At-Large Councilor Jennifer Kannan, who is also a Democrat.

Critics of Zanni say his move to try and privatize the city's internet and technology department would have been bad for the city, a move that his opponent Jen Kannan and the majority of the city council blocked. Zanni said it would have saved the city thousands of dollars.

"I am running on the results of my administration," Zanni told Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan on 980WCAP's Paying

Attention Radio Program.

"I am running for re-election based on my accomplishments, basically because results count. One of those accomplishments, is of course, the high school, number one. The high school as you know when I came into office was \$6M over budget. It took me four months but I changed contractors, as you know we went from the company that we had to Consigli which is out of Medford, Mass. They in turn came in last May, we went to a two phase operation as opposed to a three, which means they are working around the clock. In turn, they will have the school done on time, on budget and by May of 2014 ... which actually is supposed to be July of 2014 ... but as I went through last week, they are actually ahead of the final schedule. It will have a performing arts center. It will have a state of the art science lab, 17 to be exact, and we will rival any high school in the state when this is complete. It's a tremendous building for education for our kids."

Asked about complaints by city councilors about lack of communication with the council when events happen in the community, Zanni said councilors are not communicating with his office.

"Some of the events have been ribbon cutting and all the councilors have been invited. Some have been done by the chamber of commerce; if they don't reach out to them, that's up to them. We just had an event where we opened the Santana Ray, a brand new Mexican restaurant, the



Methuen Mayor Steve Zanni



Methuen Councilor Jen Kannan

councilors had been invited and only one showed up. So, I can't be on them, they get the information on time as far as emails that are sent to them, and sometimes are called; but it's given to them once and I don't know what their schedules are like, but I try to inform the councilors as much as possible.

The other thing is that when we have manufacturers come in, those are time sequential, sometimes they occur in the morning, sometimes they occur later in the day, but I think for the most part they have been notified. The other part is, I have an open door policy. Some of the councilors appreciate that, and some others never come by. So, if they come I can tell them exactly what is going on during the course of the month, and what might be coming up. All

of them do know that I have an open door policy, they are welcome to come in and discuss any issue."

"Gearing up for these last four weeks of the campaign, the biggest thing I had done is go door to door, and that's very important. For a mayor to ring doorbells after they get elected is something that most mayors will not do. So what I am doing is getting a pulse of the people, what their comments are in the community, and most people feel as though I am moving the city in the right direction.

The lawsuits have stopped, I've taken care of the high school; with the health insurance costs, I have saved over million dollars. I have set up an economic develop-

METHUEN: PAGE 20

Why I am Running for Methuen School Committee

DJ Deeb
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

As most Valley Patriot readers already know, the Methuen Municipal Elections are scheduled for Tuesday, November 5th. I am running for the Methuen School Committee because I want to give back to the community that I have made my home.

The Methuen Public Schools are a good school system. The teachers and administrators in Methuen are dedicated professionals who care deeply about the well-being of their students. At the same time, however, there are some concerns that I have as a career educator about current trends.

Methuen needs to develop a Capital Improvement Plan to plan future maintenance of its buildings. By law, school districts are allowed to carry up to 5% of budget over from year-to-year and we need to start working toward that goal to plan for future building and grounds needs. This will save Methuen taxpayers a significant amount of money for future expenses.

Over 200 students have been sent back to Lawrence since 2011 because they were not Methuen residents. The current School Committee and Superintendent deserve credit for being proactive here. We need to continue to ensure that all students attending reside in Methuen.

8% of Methuen's School budget (\$32,500 per student) is being spent on out-of-district placements. We can save money by reducing some of these out-of-district placements.

Methuen spends far below state average on instructional materials and technology as well as on Professional Development for teachers. We need to increase professional development offerings and available technology for teachers to improve their content knowledge and meet student needs. Computers and Smart boards when used effectively in the classroom can cater to all student learning styles resulting in increased student performance. I use these in my classrooms regularly with much success and they serve to motivate at-risk students.

Class sizes are above state average in

Methuen. Methuen is 15:1 compared to the state average of 13.5:1. We need to make it a priority to reduce class sizes and the student/teacher ratio in order to improve student learning.

According to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Methuen lags behind state average and surrounding towns statistically with the number of students who graduate from high school in four years. Methuen has a 79% graduation rate. We need to focus more on student retention and increase our graduation rate. The low-income population in Methuen is below state average, but still the most likely to drop out. We need to do a better job identifying and addressing their needs and retaining these students. Failing to do so will be much more costly later on.

As an energetic public high school teacher, college instructor, and leader in our community, I have the experience to make sure that our tax dollars produce better results for Methuen's students.

We need to improve Methuen's MCAS and SAT scores, reduce the student drop-

out rate, increase the graduation rate, deal more effectively with student discipline problems, and develop a Capital Improvement Plan to maintain the structural integrity of our building resources. To address these issues, we need to: (1) Attract and retain quality teachers and administrators; (2) Reduce class sizes; (3) Expand remediation programs for at-risk students; (4) Increase Professional Development opportunities for teachers and support staff; and (5) Provide more instructional materials and technology.

I will work to ensure accountability, promote cooperation between city officials and the school department, look to attract and retain quality teachers and administrators, and develop a Capital Improvement Plan to help maintain our facilities. Let's work together, develop a plan, and make sure that we are providing the best opportunities we can for our students.

I want to make sure that the children of Methuen get a quality education at a price that taxpayers can afford. I will balance the needs of students, taxpayers, and par-

DEEB: PAGE 18

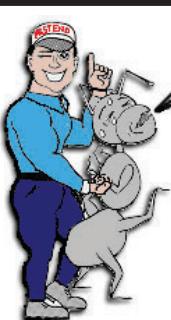
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Voters Will Pick Three Councilors in At Large Race

In the Methuen City Council At-Large race, voters are asked to elect three city councilors to represent the entire city. With At-Large City Councilor Jen Kannan running for mayor and Mike Condon announcing his retirement from politics, there is only one incumbent seeking re-election in the At-Large race:

JOYCE CAMPAGNONE - Campagnone says she is proud of her record on both the School Committee and the City Council with the expansion of the elementary schools, the new high school project, and the library renovation. Campagnone is an elected member of the Greater Lawrence Sanitary District Retirement Board. She also says that one of her proudest accomplishments was to be a councilor and participating in the buy-back of the Searles Building.

Campagnone has served intermittently on the School Committee, the City Council, and raises money for our veterans through organizations like the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

She is a staple at events in the community to help veterans and seniors, and works at the Greater Lawrence Sanitary District.

SHARON BIRCHALL - Hailing from Lawrence, this is Sharon Birchall's first run for public office. She is the president of the Lawrence Exchange Club, works for the Metro Federal Credit Union, was the official hostess of the Valley Patriot's 9th Anniversary Bash and says if she is elected, constituent services will be her number one priority.

"Obviously the budget is important, and making sure that the cops and firefighters are fully funded is always a priority," Birchall said. "But, to me this job is about serving the voters. Making sure there is someone to answer people's questions and represent their concerns at the council table, paying attention to the issues in their neighborhoods...that's what I think a city councilor is supposed to do and if I am elected, that is what I am going to do."

"Methuen needs new blood. I don't owe anything to anyone and I am my own person. I know if the people of Methuen give me a chance to represent them on the council they will be happy with the service they get from me."

DANIEL GRAYTON - "Honestly, the way I do it is, good old fashioned politick-

ing; going door-to-door to people's homes. I have been doing it since June. I'm trying to meet as many people as possible and let them know I am a different kind of candidate in this race and I can provide them with some new ideas and a fresh face. You know Mike Condon in your article (that he is retiring from politics) said it best. He said it was time for new blood and some fresh faces. That's what I bring to the table in this race and people have been very receptive so far."

"Some of my opponents, I always say they are trying to have an alumni reunion at City Hall. You know, they represent the past, they are all part of the Methuen political machine. Not all of them, but there are more than a few that are trying to get back in the game and I am making the case as I go door-to-door that I am really the only new candidate. I am the new guy on the scene of Methuen politics. So they can all echo it but at the end of the day, only a few of us can actually make that case."

JAMES JAJUGA - Jajuga is a former state senator, former state commissioner of public safety, a former Massachusetts state police officer, and a former United States

Marine.

Jajuga says if he is elected, he will make drugs his number one priority. "I provide a different kind of leadership than what you have on the council now," Jajuga says.

I've spoken to many law enforcement folks and they will tell you it starts with abuse of prescription pills. And when they can't get the pills, it leads to the purchase of heroin.

If you read the arrests on a daily or weekly basis, you see tons of out-of-state people coming to our region to sell or buy their heroin.

So it makes sense to have a regional approach to this problem. There are folks in Methuen addicted who need help. We need to look at regional treatment facilities, intervention facilities; we need to look at law enforcement treatment and intervention as a region. We can possibly get some grants to help these people."

ROBERT LEBLANC - A former Methuen town manager under the old form of government, Leblanc is an attorney and no stranger to controversy. His is the former assistant city manager of Cambridge,

AT LARGE: PAGE 30



Tom Ciulla



Ron Marsan



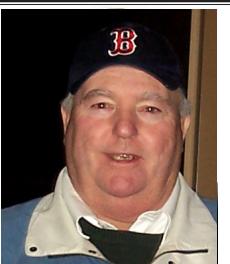
Tom Firth



Jamie Atkinson



Lisa Yarid Ferry



John Cronin

Elect Two in East District

Tom Duggan
VALLEY PATRIOT PUBLISHER

Voters in the East End of Methuen have a choice between three candidates for two open district seats on the council.

Incumbent Tom Ciulla is from Everett and very active in the Democrat party. He is finishing up his first term on the city council representing the East End.

Ciulla says that constituent services are his number one priority and isn't impressed with flashy grandstanding by some of his fellow councilors.

"I'm a regular guy," Ciulla says. "I don't get involved with the inside baseball stuff. I'm here for my constituents. I am here to lower taxes and vote against excessive spending."

"I am very proud that I voted to replace City Solicitor Peter McQuillan with Attorney Richard D'Agostino, and I was really disgusted by the way some of my fellow councilors behaved during all that. Imagine, you had a fired city solicitor texting members of the council at an open meeting, telling them what to say, and nobody ever got to the bottom of it? Everything was swept under the rug. I called for a full investigation and the council preferred to look the other way because it was an election year."

"If I am re-elected I will continue to speak out on issues like the solicitor, and I will keep my pledge to root out corruption and be a watchdog for the taxpayer's money."

RON MARSAN - Also a first term city councilor running for re-election, Ron Marsan is very low key and says his conservative approach to city government is an asset to the East End of Methuen.

Marsan said his number one priority is to stop taxes from rising in Methuen and create a business friendly environment to attract more companies to the city.

"I'm running for re-election because think I can still be an asset on the council and help my city. I am not looking for anything. I'm not doing this as part of any agenda."

"I have kept my word to fight for lower real estate taxes. I feel we need to work more toward a balanced budget for the city. We need to strive for that. I was on the high school building construction committee and it's very important that we keep the project on schedule, on time, and on budget."

Asked about his relationship with Mayor Zanni, Marsan said, "We don't get along all the time but we treat each other with respect. We conduct business together, you have to work with people and get the city's business done. The mayor has made the effort to work with me, and he does. I respect that. It's not always pleasant, but its business and we have respect for each other."

Tom Firth is a former member of the Methuen School Committee and is also very conservative. He has worked on dozens of campaigns and has been on several boards over the past few decades.

Elect Two in Central District

Central District voters will vote for two of the three candidates for district council and this year's election. Two incumbents are running for re-election (Atkinson and Ferry) and the former district councilor (Jack Cronin) is running for his old seat after being term limited from running two years ago.

Cronin topped the ticket each year he ran for Central District City Council.

JAMIE ATKINSON - Atkinson is finishing his first term on the city council. He was heavily embroiled in the city solicitor scandal where he was getting information and questions texted to him by the fired City Solicitor, Peter McQuillan.

Atkinson was publicly interviewing candidates for city solicitor asking irrelevant and embarrassing questions to sabotage the process to replace McQuillan, in an effort to resubmit the fired solicitor's name for reappointment.

He came in second to Lisa Yarid Ferry two years ago.

LISA YARID FERRY - Lisa Yarid Ferry is a very popular city councilor who doesn't get involved in controversy or shenanigans behind the scenes. She topped the ticket two years ago and has aligned herself with mayoral candidate Jen Kannan.

She voted against Attorney Richard D'Agostino to replace fired City Solicitor, Peter McQuillan. But she didn't

seem to be involved in the shenanigans that took place in that controversy. She conducts herself with civility and treats other councilors with respect whether she agrees with them or not.

JACK CRONIN - Methuen City Councilor John Cronin has been on and off the council for more than twenty-two years. Despite being targeted by Mayor Manzi and the political insiders for defeat in 2005, he topped the ticket beating out six other candidates.

When he returned to the council eight years ago, Cronin was one of the most outspoken critics of Mayor Manzi and his handling of the police department, in particular Police Chief Joe Solomon and his management style.

Insiders say he is only running for the seat again to continue his campaign against Solomon; but with Mayor Manzi no longer in office and the controversies with Joe Solomon put to rest by the current city council, Cronin will have no platform to do so.

He has been a strong advocate of public safety for decades and chose not to take his city council pay in 2009 when cuts were being made to the city budget.

He has the endorsement of his former colleague and City Council President, Phil Lahey, and Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan as well as several former and current elected officials.

Family Plan Kannan

Konflict Kannan Kannot...



Kannot

- * Negotiate the Police Department Contract
(Son is a Patrolman)
- * Negotiate the Fire Department Contract
(Brother is a Fire Department Lieutenant)
- * Negotiate the School Department Contract
(Daughter is a Teacher's Aide
at the Marsh Grammar School)

(Sister-in-Law is a Teacher
at the Marsh Grammar School)

Maybe Konflict Kannan Kannot Be Our Mayor!!!!

Paid for by Laborer's Union Local 175

PROUDLY ENDORSED BY LABORER'S
UNION LOCAL 175



Tom G. Ciulla

East End District Councillor * Methuen *

Paid for by Laborer's Union Local 175

WEST END FROM PAGE 13

involved in petty personal beefs, and doesn't seem interested in cutting the budget or lowering taxes.

Asked how he would lower taxes and maintain services in town with health care costs, gas, energy and other essentials getting more expensive every year, Kazanjian said it's a matter of being "diligent at budget time."

How do we do it? How do we make the increases and improvements we need and guarantee continuity for senior services and public safety? That's the process of analyzing the budget; ripping it apart piece by piece and getting to what is really there. I'm an accountant and I have gone thought the budget process as a school committeeman. I know how to do it. My experience and education is in that area. I understand money and budgets and I can find things that area sometimes buried in budgets. That's why I think the

voters should elect me."

OVERVIEW

There's no telling what the voters in the West End will do. Outgoing Councilor Jeanne Pappalardo was very popular with voters, topping the ticket each time she ran, revealing that voters in the West End like her maverick style of challenging whoever is in power. She is campaigning hard against Fountain whom she served with, and that is going to hurt him at the polls. But, Fountain has the endorsement of a very popular School Committeeman, Evan Chaisson who has put his political capital behind Councilor Fountain and Former Councilor Willette.

Conventional wisdom says Fountain probably pulls off a win on Election Day with Willette and Kazanjian fighting very closely behind him fighting for second place.

DEEB FROM PAGE 15

ents at Methuen Public Schools.

Please make sure you vote on Tuesday, November 5th and spread the word to family/friends I ask for your vote for D.J. DEEB for Methuen School Committee on Tuesday, November 5th. Thank you.

D.J. Deeb is a Methuen resident. He served as a member of the Dracut School Committee from 2005-2008 and the Greater Lowell Regional Voc-Tech School Committee from 1997-2009. Deeb is an

Adjunct Professor of History/Government at Bunker Hill Community College and an Adjunct Political Science Instructor at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. He teaches Social Studies full-time at Reading Memorial High School. He is the author of Israel, Palestine, and the Quest for Middle East Peace (University Press, 2013).

184 Pleasant Valley St. Suite 1-102, Methuen



**Dave
Guselli**

Office:

(978) 689-8006



firstchoicerealtygroup.com



**Linda Dean Campbell
State Representative**

15th Essex (Methuen & Haverhill)
Room 237, The State House

Boston, MA 02113

www.statereplindacampbell.com

Representative.linda.campbell@gmail.com

Linda.Campbell@mahouse.gov

617-722-2305

The Merrimack Valley Irish Connection

Early Christian Monasteries 380-12AD

**Jack Doyle, County Sligo
VALLEY PATRIOT IRISH COLUMNIST**

Christianity spread across Europe at the end of the Roman Empire in the 4th century, possibly reaching our shores by 380 A.D. While 432 and St. Patrick are normally given as the start in Ireland, it must be remembered that St. Patrick was sent to be Bishop over the Christians already in the country, and also he went to meet St. Declan in the southeast. There was a major climatic downturn in 540 A.D. This event caused a major upheaval in society and a loss of knowledge of what had gone before. We can not be sure how early Christianity came to the Keash area. The churches that survive in the area are all, as would be expected, of a much later date. The early churches would have been wood to be replaced on the same site during the Early Christian period by other wooden or simple stone churches; these were in turn replaced by the medieval structures we see today. Early monastic enclosures were circular, some with subdivisions, as at Carrown temple, Templevanny, Dand Kilmorgan. There are other indicators at Toomour, Templevanny and Knockbrack, formerly Drumrat, that these have their origins in early Christian times.

Toomour church is in a small sub-circular field, an indication of an early date. There is an altar here with four cross-marked stones of early Christian date. The slab on the ground in front of the altar has three bullaun depressions in it, again a feature of Early Christian date. The bullaun depression was, not for the saint washing his face, nor from having put his knees on it, but for crushing precious materials. On the altars there is a slab with a unique cross design and a number of rounded praying stones. Toomour was known as Cill Easpai Luidhigh. This Bishop Luidhigh is credited with having ordained St. Kevin. St. Kevin is patron saint of the Chapel in Keash, but it is not certain that he was the St. Kevin of Glendalough.

Templevanny Lake on a closer look can be seen as the focus of a settlement in early Christian times. The graveyard has indications of having been circular, and metal slag has been found in it. Below it in the lake there is the suggestion of a crannog,

or like dwelling, and there are a number of ring forts in the fields not far from the lake. The people tilled the soil and grew grain, and had it ground in the mill that was powered by the river that drains the lake. On the outflow, where Carrown temple mill still stands though in a ruinous state, we feel that there was an early combined Christian horizontal mill. Combined, these suggest to us a thriving early Christian farming and religious community.

Mention of horizontal mills may seem speculative but there are pieces of the horizontal mill from Knocknacroy in the National Museum of Ireland. The horizontal mill is one where the mill wheel turns horizontally on a vertical axle, and many date to the 8th century. Another possible mill location is at the outfall from Lough Na Leibe above the early Monastic sites at Greenan and Toomour.

Knockbrack, formerly Drumrat, was founded by St. Fedhin, nationally famous for his founding the Fore in Coolaney and Colooney in the 7th century. He founded other Sligo monasteries, Ballisodare, Kilnamanagh and Drumrat now Knockbrack, and also Omey off the Galway coast. The circular pattern is just detectable at Knockbrack in the grave plot layout, and a number of early cross-marked stones are known from the site. The landscape surrounding the early Christian & Medieval site at Greenan has many indications of agriculture, practiced down the centuries. An early date for Greenan known as Temple Ultan, is suggested by the early Christian pillar stone, which has a cross on either side and is reputed to be a cure for the backache.

Battlefield seems to have had an early origin. A bullaun and some metal slag suggest an early date and there is a cillin here also. On the 1838 Ordnance Survey map a mill complex with a kiln and fishery is marked to the west of the church, these could be the successors of much earlier activities at a monastery here. The bullaun at Knockbrack gate came from Tommy Redican's land in Cullygarra, in Cloonshandballa to the south of Culfa. *

KEASH AND CULFADDA, A LOCAL HISTORY, 2001, pgs. 16, 17, 18, 19.

D.J. DEEB
Methuen School Committee



Experience, Integrity, & Independence

VOTE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH

Paid for by the Committee to Elect DJ DEEB

***Vote Ken Willette, Jr. ***

"Working Together, We Can Improve Our Government"

*Ken is the ONLY candidate who consistently voted against tax increases as a former City Councilor at Large.

*Ken is the ONLY candidate who consistently voted against inflated municipal budgets and one-time revenue gimmicks.

*Ken wrote the strongest and most effective residency enforcement policy in Methuen Public Schools history, which has resulted in the removal of 105 out-of-district students and saved taxpayers over \$1.2 million.

*Ken has consistently been a strong advocate of Methuen joining the GIC health insurance system, which is estimated to save taxpayers \$2 million annually.



KENNETH R. WILLETT JR.
COUNCILLOR AT LARGE

Methuen West District Councilor



Methuen Mayoral Candidate Jennifer Aziz Kannan received endorsements from both the Methuen Police Patrolmens Association and the Methuen Police Superior Officers Association. Shown with Kannan are Officer Thomas McMenamon, Jr., president of the Patrolmen's Association, and Police Lt. Frank Korn, president of the Superior Officers' Association.

Patrolmen and Superior Officers' Union Endorses Kannan for Mayor

Methuen Patrolmen and Superior Police Officers' Unions have come out in full force in support of City Councilor Jen Kannan's candidacy for Mayor against incumbent Steve Zanni.

"We have endorsed Jen because she is willing to listen," Said Lieutenant Frank Korn, president of the Superior Officer's Union.

"When it comes to problem solving, she is willing to hear both sides, look at the facts and make her decision for the

good of Methuen. Jen has been a successful business woman and the most popular Methuen City Councilor at- Large. That type of success doesn't happen by accident.

It takes place due to a lot of hard work. Jen is able to communicate with a wide range of people from varied economic and age groups. As Mayor, I believe that she will make reasonable and rational decisions that will benefit the City and the Citizens of Methuen."



SAINT MONICA'S SILVER ROSE

Saint Monica's Silver Rose Event Program was held last month. The event was lead by the Saint Michael the Archangel Columbian Squire Circle 5539 of Methuen. The Circle was formed two years ago. Pictured in the photo are from left to right are as follows: FRONT ROW: Ben Mailoux, Samuel Mailoux, Patrick Bernard, Julian Mancini, Zachary Doherty. BACK ROW: Calvin Harrington and Chief Squire Michael R. Walsh. For more info on the Squires, visit: squirescircle5539.vpweb.com

METHUEN ITALIAN FESTIVAL!

By Linda DeCola

When a group of people get together, and ideas start flying, there is no telling where it may lead. Methuen's first annual Italian Festival is proof of just that. Upon discussing that most surrounding cities & towns have annual fairs or festivals, some lasting one day, some even longer, we came to the realization that Methuen had no such event. It has come the time to change that!

With only two months to plan, Methuen will be holding the first ever Methuen Italian Festival on the grounds of Saint Lucy's church 254 Merrimack St. Methuen , on Saturday, October 19th from 10:00 AM – 3:30 PM.

The fun is presented by the Methuen Sons of Italy, Saint Lucy's & St. Monica's, with the proceeds to be split between the three.

Among the many events will be Mama's Meatball Contest, pony rides, face

painting, pumpkin decorating, rides for the kids, games, a bocce tournament, and a plethora of food vendors.

There will also be day long live music, including Liz Bills (a former contestant on American Idol), local bands Interrobang, High School Skinny, Watts, and Cover Me.

Following the festival, there will be a full pasta dinner, beer & wine available, at 5:30 downstairs at Saint Lucy's for only \$10.00 per person.

To become a contestant or judge for the meatball contest, enter the bocce tournament, or if interested in being a vendor, email Methuenitalianfestival@gmail.com.

This much anticipated event was generously sponsored by Salem Cooperative Bank & Commonwealth Motors.

LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR METHUEN MUNICIPAL OFFICES (candidates listed in ballot order; *denotes incumbent)



MAYOR (one to be elected)

Steve Zanni *
70 Sevoian Drive

Jennifer Kannan
10B Grandview Road

COUNCILLOR-AT-LARGE (three to be elected)

Joyce C. Campagnone *
2 Currier Avenue

Sharon Birchall
8 McKinley Avenue

Daniel Grayton
31 Varnum Avenue

James P. Jajuga
146 Forest Street

Robert Crowley LeBlanc
2 Plumwood Drive

EAST DISTRICT COUNCILLOR (two to be elected)

Thomas Ciulla *
375 Merrimack Street #16

Ronald Marsan*
10 Hawkes Brook Lane

Thomas E. Firth III
1 Currier Street

CENTRAL DISTRICT COUNCILLOR (two to be elected)

James Atkinson*
7 Cochrane St.

Lisa J. Yarid Ferry*
534 Prospect St.

John A Cronin
33 Richard Avenue

WEST DISTRICT COUNCILLOR (two to be elected)

Sean J. Fountain*
1 Pelham Street

George J. Kazanjian
55 Sevoian Drive

Kenneth R. Willette, Jr.
2 Canobieola Road

SCHOOL COMMITTEE (six to be elected)

Mary Jean Fawcett*
344 Pelham Street

Lynne Hajjar Kumm*
180 Old Ferry Drive

Richard Beshara
9 Marshall Street

Dennis D.J. Deeb
50 Conrad Street

Jana DiNatale
170 Bay State Road

Thomas L. Grondine
4 Moody Avenue

Bryan P. Sweet
206 Pelham Street

Robert F. Vogler
95 Currier Street

HOUSING AUTHORITY (two to be elected)

Frank P. Gallo
59 Myrtle Street

Kenneth A. Henrick
22 Jewel Circle

Richard M. True
37 Greendale Street

NEVINS LIBRARY TRUSTEE (two to be elected)

Josephine M. Napolitano*
55 Ayer Street

Arthur Nicholson, III*
2 Boxwood Drive

GR. LAWRENCE TECH. (two to be elected)

Barbara Pierog Grondine
4 Moody Avenue

VOTE !!

NOVEMBER 5th
If you do not vote you are part of the problem!

Polling Locations in Methuen

Precinct 1, 2, 6, 10
TIMONY SCHOOL,
45 Pleasant View Street

Precinct 4, 5
PARK GARDEN APTS.
(Community Room),
10 Burnham Road

Precinct 3, 7, 9, 12
TENNEY GRAMMAR
SCHOOL,
75 Pleasant Street

Precinct 8, 11
MARSH GRAMMAR
SCHOOL,
311 Pelham Street



State Rep. Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen) observes Michael J. Ryan of the Office of Jury Commissioner for the Commonwealth as he engaged Hunking Middle School's eighth grade class in a mock judicial hearing.

DiZoglio Kicks Off Merrimack Valley Civic Education Tour at Haverhill Hunking School

(MERRIMACK VALLEY) – As part of her initiative to engage and educate students across the Merrimack Valley about the democratic process, State Rep. Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen) visited Haverhill's Hunking Middle School on Friday, October 4, marking her first stop on a Civic Education Tour.

Invited to the event, held in the school's gymnasium, was Hunking's eighth grade class. The program covered the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government and, through interactive exercises, was designed to educate students about what it means to be a citizen and how to participate in the democratic process. During the event, students had the opportunity to partake in mock legislative and judicial hearings, the latter conducted by Michael J. Ryan of the Office of Jury Commissioner for the Commonwealth.

"I was delighted and honored to be among so many smart and talented Hunking students as I delivered a presentation on how ideas become laws and engaged the students in an interactive mock committee hearing," said DiZoglio, who has sponsored legislation to establish a comprehensive student civic education program. "I look forward to visiting other schools across the district in the months to discuss the legislative process."

"In a time with an ever-growing cynicism about government, this was a great opportunity for the students to learn that, at its core, our government is still for the people and by the people," said Jared Fulgoni, principal at Hunking Middle School. "One of our greatest charges as both a school and as a society is to educate our young citizens to be able to sustain our democracy. The students got to not only learn about government but actually got to participate in it and experience it in action."

"Rep. DiZoglio gave us a lot of information," said Iyana White, an eighth-grade Hunking student who portrayed the committee chairwoman in the mock legislative hearing. "Rep. DiZoglio and Mike Ryan were really cool. They were like regular people. I had never met a state politician before."

"It was a very creative way of learn-

ANDOVER FROM PAGE 6

een, games, crafts and spooky snacks. Children are encouraged to wear their Halloween costumes. Cost is \$10.00 per child and registration is required. Check the Andover Historical Society website for details.

For the grownups: on October 26, "History on Tap", a vintage Halloween party will be held at the Old Town Hall, Main Street, Andover Center. A full evening of music with DJ Ted Teichert, Victorian fortune telling, and a tasting of seasonal ales provided by the Ipswich Ale Company will be a part of the evening's fun. Costumes are encouraged but not required. Tickets can be ordered for the evening through the Historical Society

ing," said Ryan Garrett, an eighth-grade Hunking student. "It wasn't just 'facts,' I actually had to do it myself. My friends were the lawyers, jurors and witnesses and it was really fun to learn about the judiciary courts this way."

"I liked the displays that Mr. Ryan had," said Jared DiBella, an eighth-grade Hunking student. "He made it really fun. Rep. DiZoglio gave us some booklets and information and really wanted us to contact her with our questions. She made us feel like we really are an important part of the democratic process."

"In class, learning about the three branches of government can be kind of boring, but this was interactive and helped us to really understand it," said Vincente Nolet, an eighth-grade Hunking student. "The government may be shutdown in Washington, but today in Haverhill it was alive and kicking!"

In many of today's high schools, civic leaning is often only offered at the end of a student's studies, in twelfth grade. On the most recent national civics assessment, administered in 2006 by the National Assessment Governing Board, two-thirds of students scored below "proficient." In 2010, more than a quarter of college students reported they did not register to vote because they did not know where or how to do so.

"All too often, our classrooms lack a strong civic education program to inform students about what our state government has to do with our daily lives," said DiZoglio. "It is so important that youth begin to genuinely grasp these basic concepts to ensure that they are able to actively participate and engage in the process as they are entering into adulthood."

"It is critical for students to have an understanding of our judicial system early on, given they should be prepared to serve jury duty as soon as high school," said Ryan.

The next stop on the DiZoglio's Civic Education Tour will be Methuen High School on Friday, October 18. The Representative is in talks with Lawrence and North Andover schools to also hold Civic Education Days in those locations.

website.

Readers are asked to check the many programs and events that the Historical Society offers. A "Blanchard House Blog" can be assessed through the AHS website. Josh Dallai is the author and has an excellent column on the history of Andover and the importance of the agriculture based economy. His take on the evolution of Andover from a farming community to present day Andover, is a very interesting story of the major transition of the Town of Andover over the past decades. It allows his readers to follow the many changes of society from our past to the present.

METHUEN MAYOR'S RACE: FROM 15

ment strategy, a group which, as you know Century Box was going to move to North Carolina, they are now staying. There will be 100 brand new, good paying jobs coming up this year and they are building another 54,000 square foot building.

So, those are the things I have accomplished, as far as the difference between the two candidates (Zanni and Kannan) results do count here. I stand on my record of what I have done over the course of the last two years in bringing our city forward and including all people. I am only holding on to the seat for the people. When I am done, I hope to make it just a little bit better than what it was when I came into office.

Zanni said he is not having any fund-raisers in the final weeks of the campaign, saying he already raised more than \$20,000 back in June. He said he is putting a lot of his own money into the campaign because he doesn't want to owe people down the road. I am my own person, I am very independent. When you run a campaign and you hold a fund raiser or four or five events in a row, you are going back to the same people over and over so, to me I think people have to run on their records.

Methuen has 48,000 people, it's 27 square miles, and people throughout the community know what is going on. I think that is an important part of this.

I grew up in the city of Lawrence; I know that people work hard and they can't afford to just keep giving."

COUNCILOR JEN KANNAN: Kannan received the endorsement of the Methuen Police Patrolman's Association and the Methuen Superior Officers. The Methuen Firefighters Association did not endorse any candidate in this race.

Jennifer is married to Bill Kannan, owner of Kannan & Prcone Plumbing and Heating, a Methuen based business. They have three children: Billy and his wife, Meghan, Brittney and Farrah, and they also have a granddaughter, Tessa Rose Therrien, all of Methuen.

Kannan attended Methuen Public Schools, AREA Real Estate Academy and is currently enrolled in UMASS Lowell's Bachelors of Arts in Political Science with concentration in legal studies.

She has been employed for 11 years at Methuen based Coco, Early & Associates Real Estate Company where she has received numerous awards for her perseverance in business.

She Served as councilor at-large for three two year terms, was chairman of the city council in 2012, elected by unanimous vote, was Vice-Chair of the City Council in 2009, was Chairman of the City Council Consolidation Committee in 2010 and 2011, a member of the Finance Committee (2010-2011) was secretary of the Forest Lake Association (2009-2012) was an Ashford School PTO- Volunteer, (1991-1993), CGS PTO- Volunteer, (1994-2009) and Methuen Girls Softball- Volunteer coach, (1999-2000).

"I am running because I have the ability to consensus build. I have the ability to listen to people and I will listen to department heads and the people who serve this city as well as the voters. The current mayor is not doing that. I am the kind of person who likes to listen and then sit back and digest it all and then deal with each problem in a fair manner."

"Steve Zanni had the support of a lot of the unions in last elections, but I was endorsed by both police unions this year. He was very good to them as far as money, but they don't want to work with him because they don't find him as open minded as they find me. We have different personalities. The police unions said they want to work with someone they feel has Methuen's best interest at heart.

I also feel Steve Zanni is running his

campaign on results that were the efforts of other people. He is running around, giving false positives about his results. Those results were from the prior administration. Bill Manzi got the the high school back on track, not Steve Zanni.

"As for me, I sell the City of Methuen every day in my job as a realtor. Every day I hear what people want when they are thinking about moving into a community. I want what they want."

"I want to improve our standing in the schools and make sure the teachers have the right tools. I don't know what he has done there, because right now we are ranked in the bottom 11 school districts in the state.

I want to improve the education, the learning environment, give teachers the tools to bring those numbers up. I want to focus on improvement. We have a beautiful building that Zanni is taking credit for. But I want to improve what is going on inside that building.

As for the city's losing it's bond rating, again, Mayor Zanni says that's its not his fault. But there was no plan. There was no communication. There was no discussion of solving the problem. For me, it's about having a plan, and when I'm mayor it will be a plan everyone will see. I will put it online. I will pass it out at council meetings. Nobody will ever wonder what my plan is, it will be out there for all to see."

"And I promise the people this: any results I tout as mine will be mine. I will never take credit for what other people accomplish. I am the candidate that truly will work for the people and everybody knows it. I return 100% of the phone calls I get from constituents."

"Mayor Zanni wants to change the number of city councilors from nine to five. Why? So you only need three votes to get your own way instead of five? In Methuen there are nine councilors for checks and balances. The charter commission met for 18 months and I can't imagine why, now he says we need to change the council to five members. He didn't bring this up back then."

"I've knocked on doors, heard people's concerns about the issues in the this city that the mayor never even addresses. The increased drug deals in the central district, where is the mayor on this issue? We need more cops and a safe community so businesses will want to come here. He has been mayor for two years and he has done nothing about it."

"We funded new cruisers at the council level and we have to keep asking him where they are. We need to give these cops the equipment they need so they can be safe while they are trying to keep us safe. Where is the leadership?"

"At the end of the day, as far as being a mayor, I am the mayor that people can count on. I am the mayor who is willing to make sure our community is safe, to make sure it's running efficiently and effectively and not creating hostility between people so Methuen can get work done."

"If you look at the whole bond rating fiasco, the city council never knew about the bond rating reduction. We had to read about it in the paper. My question is, why did I have to bring that to the Valley Patriot and the rest of the press to inform the public when that's the mayor's job. And even after you guys at the Patriot published the story, he still didn't release a statement on what happened until people called him for comment. That's not leadership. You have to tell people in the community what's really going on, and he doesn't do that."

"I will do that, I am doing it now. And if people vote for me to be the next mayor, they will see the difference between taking credit for other people's results and someone who actually produces their own."

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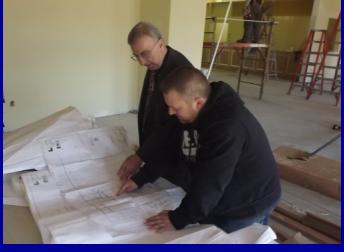
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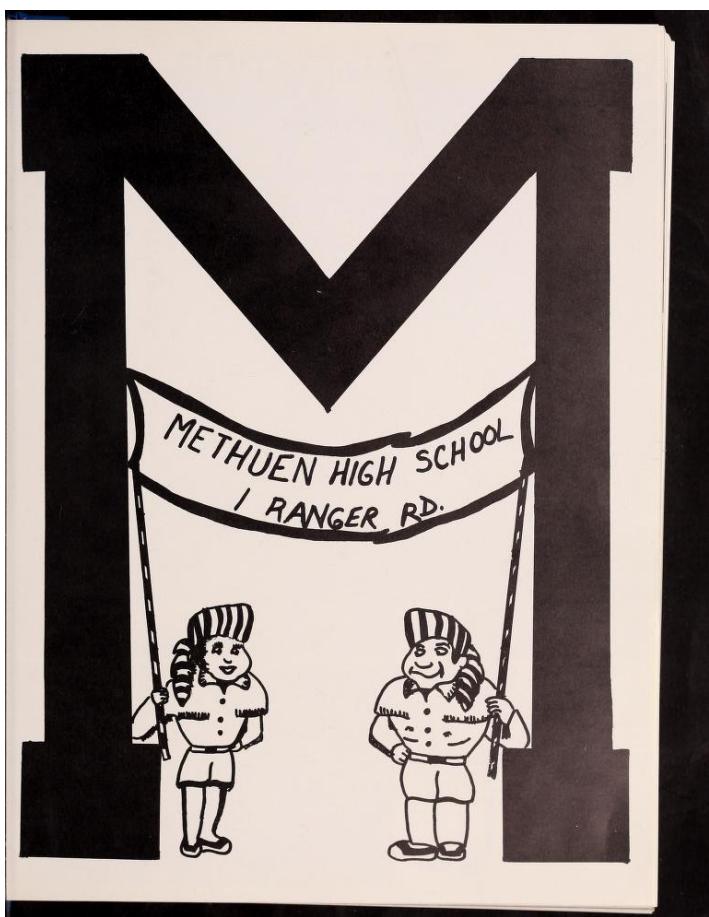
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3D Barbershop Grand Opening

The 3-D Barber Shop had their grand opening two months ago and the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce was on hand last month to congratulate them with an official ribbon cutting ceremony, complete with a really big pair of scissors.

SEE THEIR AD ON PAGE 8



Methuen's TIP Healing Garden

The Trauma Intervention Program of Merrimack Valley, Inc. (TIP) is a group of specially trained citizen volunteers who are called by police officers, fire fighters and hospital personnel to provide on scene, emotional and practical support to child and adult victims of traumatic events in the first few hours following a tragedy co-founded by Dr. Jayan Marie Landry.

Dr. Landry would accompany Brenda Waller, a TIP volunteer, during her chemotherapy treatments at Massachusetts General Hospital, and they came to appreciate the Hospital's Ulfelder Healing Garden. Here the seeds for a Merrimack Valley Community Garden to benefit police, fire, emergency, citizens, & victims was born. Brenda lost her ten-year battle with breast cancer in November 2006, and since then, the TIP Team, including Brenda's daughter Lindsay Waller and Dennis Larocque continue to raise money to support the garden.

Along with Dr. Jayan Landry and Lindsay Waller, former Methuen Mayor Bill Manzi was instrumental in helping this dream become a reality as the garden was cleaned and six granite memorial benches overlooking the Merrimack River were installed in phase one. Ruth Ann LeHane of Methuen picked up the ball and continuing to work closely with Joe Giarrusso and members of the Methuen conservation commission, moved the project to its final stages including the garden labyrinth completion.

After 20 years of providing support to over 20,000 citizens, TIP is pleased to offer this special public healing garden for all those to enjoy in our Merrimack Valley community.

Donna Johnson and grandmother, Obeline Biron celebrated Oberline's 107th birthday on Sept. 14th. She was born in Windsor Locks, CT and moved to Lawrence when she was a teenager. We understand she is a big fan of The Valley Patriot and the Boston Red Sox. Happy belated birthday Oberline, we are hoping for many more!

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Methuen East District Councillor

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'PAWS Act' will Create Animal Abuser Registry Senate Republicans Fight for Animal Cruelty Law

Compelled to take legislative action against those who abuse animals, the Senate Republican Caucus has filed legislation that would increase the penalties, and create safeguards against those who commit horrendous acts of abuse against animals, and are calling on their colleagues of both branches to make the bill a bicameral, bipartisan effort. On August 31, "Puppy Doe" was euthanized after she had been discovered in a Quincy park suffering from long term, irreversible damage to her body, which included a stab wound to her eye; the splitting of her tongue to look like a serpent; dislocated shoulder, elbow, wrist, and ankle; burned, and starved.

"Our laws are woefully outdated regarding the subject of punishing those who abuse animals," said Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester). "As a society, we need to stand up against those who would inflict pain so ruthlessly and coldheartedly, and tell them these actions cannot and will not be tolerated."

The legislation, which is titled "An Act Protecting Animal Welfare and Safety" or the "PAWS Act", raises fines and penalties, and creates an animal abuse registry. Highlights of the bill include:

- Establishing an anonymous animal abuse tip hotline;
- Expanding the use of the Homeless Animal Prevention and Care Fund to include the rehabilitation and care of abused animals, and increasing the size of the board that administers the fund to include a special state police officer from an animal humane organization, and a member of local law enforcement;
- Imposing a fine of up to \$1,000 on any veterinarian who knowingly and willfully fails to report a suspected act of cruelty to an animal;



- Increasing the penalties associated with cruelty to animals, or maliciously killing, maiming, disfiguring, or exposing them to poison from \$2,500 to between \$2,500 and \$10,000 (current law also includes imprisonment in the state prison for not more than 5 years or imprisonment in the house of correction for not more than 2 ½ years);
- Increasing the penalties for a second or subsequent offense from 5-10 years state imprisonment and a fine between \$5,000 to \$20,000;
- Increasing the penalty for a hit and run conviction on a cat or dog from a \$50 fine to up to \$2,000 fine and/or up to 60 days in a house of corrections;
- Creating a statewide registry of convicted individuals of animal abuse crimes, and requires all animal shelters, pet stores or animal breeders to check the registry prior to offering, selling, delivering, or giving an animal to any individual; and
- Creating a 9-member commission to review the state's animal cruelty laws,

many of which date back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

"Abusing or torturing an animal is a heinous crime and those who commit these crimes need to be held responsible for their actions," said Senator Robert Hedlund (R-Weymouth). "As a state and as a society, we need to ensure our laws are designed to adequately punish those who choose to abuse animals."

"This long overdue legislation will provide vital updates to the Commonwealth's animal cruelty laws," said Senator Richard Ross (R-Wrentham). "It is imperative that we take a stand to protect all those living in the Commonwealth. By sending the message that these atrocious examples of abuse will not be stood for, we are reinforcing the safety of our communities as a whole."

The bill, which includes a key provision from H.1243 sponsored by Democratic Representative Linda Dean Campbell (D-Methuen), allows district attorneys to file a petition to the courts ordering a defendant to post a security or bond for the care of animals that have been impounded as a result of abuse or cruelty.

"Sadly, many of the animals seized by the MSPCA and other humane organizations require extensive rehabilitation and sometimes a lifetime of treatment, which can become extremely costly," said Representative Linda Dean Campbell (D-Methuen). "I am thankful to Senator Tarr and his caucus for working so diligently to offer this legislative measure, and it is my hope that as a legislature we can pass this commonsense bill expeditiously."

* Below is a section-by-section summary of the bill.

An Act Protecting Animal Welfare and Safety (PAWS) – Section by Section Summary

SECTION 1. Authorizes the Homeless Animal Prevention and Care Fund, which consists of revenues received from a voluntary tax check-off, to collect and expend money for the care and protection of abused animals.

SECTION 2. Requires the State Police or their designee to establish and advertise a toll-free telephone hotline and website for reporting suspected cases of animal cruelty.

SECTION 3. Imposes a fine of up to \$1,000 on any veterinarian who knowingly and willfully fails to report a suspected act of cruelty to an animal. Also requires that the veterinarian be reported to the Board of Registration in Veterinary Medicine.

SECTIONS 4 & 5. These sections amend, respectively, MGL Chapter 266, Section 112 (maliciously killing, maiming, or disfiguring any animal or exposing them to poison) and MGL Chapter 272, Section 77 (cruelty to animals) by expanding fines and jail time for repeat offenders or cases involving aggravating factors. (NOTE: The penalties associated with these crimes were last increased in 2004.)

Under current law, offenders who violate either one of these two sections of the General Laws are subject to: imprisonment in the state prison for not more than 5 years OR imprisonment in the house of correction for not more than 2 ½ years OR by a fine of not more than \$2,500, OR by both a fine and imprisonment.

Under the proposed bill, first-time offenders would be subject to the same jail time AND a fine of between \$2,500 and \$10,000. For a second or subsequent

offense, the penalty would be 5-10 years state imprisonment AND a fine of \$5,000 to \$20,000.

The court may, at its discretion, expand these penalties for up to 5 additional years imprisonment and an additional \$10,000 fine based on a finding of the existence of aggravating factors, including but not limited to:

- the number of animals involved;
- the degree of premeditation or planning;
- whether the abuse occurred in the presence of a child;
- whether the abuse occurred as a result of acts undertaken for financial benefit (i.e., dogfighting); and
- whether the abuse was systematic or isolated.

SECTION 6. Increases the hit and run penalty for motorists who strike and injure or kill a dog or cat and fail to report the accident to the animal's owner or the local police. Current law imposes a \$50 fine for a violation of this section, but this bill would set the penalty as imprisonment for not more than 60 days, a fine of not more than \$2,000, or both.

SECTION 7. Improves the judicial process involving the cost of caring for abused animals during the time the animal is held and being cared for until the case is adjudicated. It allows a district attorney to file the petition for bond and acknowledges the substantial expenses and unexpected events that can be incurred before a judicial determination.

SECTION 8. Creates a statewide registry of individuals convicted of animal abuse crimes, to be administered by the

Department of Criminal Justice Information Services and made available to animal shelters, breeders and pet stores. Requires all offenders to register within 10 days following either the date of judgment or their date of release from incarceration, whichever is later. Also requires out-of-state residents convicted of an animal abuse crime to register within 10 days of moving to Massachusetts.

Individuals who fail to register within 10 days, fail to verify their registration information, fail to provide notice of a change of address, or knowingly provide false information would be subject to imprisonment for up to 2 ½ years in a house of correction, a fine of not more than \$1,000, or both for a first offense. A second or subsequent offense would be punishable by imprisonment in the state prison for not more than 5 years.

Any animal shelter, pet store or animal breeder that fails to check the registry or knowingly offers, sells, delivers, gives or provides an animal to any individual registered on the registry would be subject to a fine of not less than \$1,000 or imprisonment for up to one year for a first offense. Each subsequent offense will be punishable by a fine of not less than \$5,000 and imprisonment in a jail or house of correction for not more than five years.

SECTION 9. Adds two members to the Homeless Animal Prevention and Care Advisory Board, one officer from a local police department and one officer from a humane society. **SECTION 10.** Creates a nine-member commission to conduct a systematic review of the laws pertaining to animal abuse and welfare, with the

intent of assessing the adequacy, effectiveness, and necessity of these laws, many of which date back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries and have not been updated in decades. The commission will consist of:

- the Attorney General or a designee;
- the Colonel of the Massachusetts State Police or a designee;
- the Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources or a designee;
- the President of the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association or a designee;
- the President of the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation or a designee;
- 1 representative from the Massachusetts Bar Association; and
- 3 members appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be from a humane society, animal rescue or sheltering organization; 1 of whom shall be an animal control officer or representative of an animal control association organized in the Commonwealth; and 1 whom shall be a veterinarian or member of a veterinary medical association organized in the Commonwealth.

The commission will report back to the Legislature with its findings and legislative recommendations within 90 days of the bill's passage, including any potential changes which would improve the state's ability to deter abuse and neglect and promote animal welfare.

PUPPY LOVE! with Kate Whitney

Eleven Commandments for your Puppy

Kate Whitney
VALLEY PATRIOT PUPPY GIRL

Where did the summer go? I don't know about you, but I am really sad that summer is almost over; I'm not ready for cold weather just yet! I am, however, ready for the Patriots to get going and kick some butt! Fall is a great time of year, and with the changing of the seasons, it's a good idea to check your pet's records and make sure they are up to date on all vaccines, heartworm pills, and flea/tick preventative.

For this month's column, I'm changing it up a little bit. What I have decided to share with you isn't a "column" at all; it's a pet's eleven commandments. The animal control officer for Ipswich, Matthew Antczak, shared this with me and I wanted to share it with all of you. He wasn't sure who the author for numbers 1-10 is, but the purpose of it being sent to him was to keep it circulating. If anyone knows who wrote it don't hesitate to email me so I can give credit to the author. Matthew added number 11 to the list. These are just so good I wanted to share them with you all.

A Pet's 11 Commandments:

1. My life is likely to last 10-15 years. Any separation from you is likely to be painful.
2. Give me time to understand what you want of me.
3. Place your trust in me. It is crucial for my well-being.
4. Don't be angry with me for long and don't lock me up as punishment. You have your work, your friends, your

entertainment, but I have only you.

5. Talk to me. Even though I may not understand your words, I understand your voice.

6. Be aware that however you treat me, I will never forget it.

7. Before you hit me, before you strike me, remember that I could hurt you, yet I choose not to scratch or bite you.

8. Before you scold me for being lazy or uncooperative, ask yourself if something might be bothering me. Perhaps I'm not getting the right food, or I've been in the sun too long, or my heart might be getting old or weak.

9. Please take care of me when I grow old. You too will grow old.

10. On the ultimate difficult journey, go with me please. Never say you can't bear to watch. Don't make me face this alone. Every thing is easier with you there, because I love you so.

11. Please don't take me shopping with you, especially on those hot days, and leave me in the car for a "MINUTE" while you run in. It gets very hot and uncomfortable. I'd rather be left at home and come running to greet you at the door when you return.

Take a moment to let those thoughts sink in. They are all very important, don't ever forget them. Print them out and hang them on your refrigerator or someplace where you can see them every day, so you can be reminded of how your pet wants to be treated. A pet is a special thing and should never be thought of as "just an animal." Responsible pet ownership is something you should take very seriously.

On another note...I want to tell you



about a really exciting opportunity that was presented to me. A good friend of mine, who also happens to own the restaurant in Andover called "Glory", emailed me to let me know about a really great thing she is doing. She is having currently "celebrity bartending" every Tuesday and Thursday through November. From 6-8pm at the bar, 10% of sales and a percentage of tips will go towards the "celebrity's" charity of choice. So

hang on to your hats...I, along with my best friend, Dana, will be bartending at Glory on Thursday October 7th from 6-8pm and donating the money to One Tail at a Time Rescue (obviously). There will be a fashion show put on by Intermix immediately following our "debut" as bartenders. So please come out, enjoy some great food and company, and help out a really great cause!

Let's save some dogs!!!

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Lt. Colonel Allen West: Race, Poverty, and the Dependency Culture: PART II

Transcribed by Kathleen LaPlante

Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan (TD) and Greater Boston Tea Party President Christine Morabito (CM) interviewed Lt. Colonel and former Congressman Allen West (AW) during at the Nashua City Republican Committee's annual Steak-Out in August. This is part two of that interview.

TD: When we have Tea Party rallies I often talk about using the language of the media or the language of the Liberal. Those of us on the conservative side always seem to talk about budgets, welfare fraud from

AW: I know exactly where you're going. Liberals make the emotional connection. Now, this is all based upon lies, and it's really irrational, but they do make the emotional connection. They always say "We care about you. We're out there for the middle class. There's a war on women and all this stuff."

We need to be able to, as in Judo, take what they see as their perceived strength, counterbalance it, throw it against them, and take their language and use it against them. We need to make the emotional connection. I'll give you a great example. In the Presidential election, Mitt Romney should have gone into Detroit, and this is the commercial. You show a picture of Detroit when his dad was Governor of Michigan. And you show Mitt standing in Detroit today, and you talk about the failures of their policies, what they're doing. "If they really care about you, then why is this happening?" And then you put liberal Democrats on the defense to try to live up to their own rhetoric. And if you read "Saul Alinsky's Rules for Radicals", that's one of the rules. It's to make the other person live up to their own principles. Well, we never do that. We never put them on the defense. They always put us on the defense. We've got to talk about what we're for and not what we're against, and that's the biggest way that you will be able to win this.

TD: How do we get Republicans to do that, because as a Republican, I get frustrated watching our candidates not do any of the things that need to be done in order to win. When we win it's only because the other guy blows it.

AW: It's leadership. It's leadership. Right down the road in Boston, you've got the RNC Summit meeting going on. You know, what would be the grand strategic vision that comes out of that? What is going to be the message? What's the marching orders that we can send down to the state GOP's, to the county chairman, so we can get everyone operating on the same sheet of music, attacking them on the broad front?

That's what is missing right now. Ronald Reagan talked about in his CPAC speech; bold colors not the pretty pastels. If we believe, that we can only win by being a lesser version of the other side, we're never going to be successful. You cannot be a lesser Democrat than a Democrat. We don't want people to say, "At least I know what this person (the Democrat) is standing for. I don't know what you're standing for. You've got to come and stand for something."

You know, people always talk about the tent. Well, I lived in tents for a few years in my life, and the thing about a tent is that if you don't stake it down, it's going to blow away. It's going to collapse on you. So, we need to stake our tent down with principles, and make sure it's sturdy and it can withstand any type of adverse conditions, and people will come into it, and they'll find shelter. But, first of all they've got to see that that tent is sturdy.

CM: Thinking about how powerful, black, conservatives have been treated by the Left. Clarence Thomas, Herman Cain...

AW: Condoleezza Rice, Michael Steele....

CM: Right. Do you feel, as a black conservative, that you're held to a higher scrutiny by those on the Left?

AW: We're a bigger threat because, if all of a sudden the black community goes back and understands the basic principles of Booker T. Washington on education, entrepreneurship, and self-reliance; if all of a sudden the black community goes back and understands that we're failing as far as 28% of our children having mothers and fathers in the home.

The great society and the war on poverty haven't given us what it was supposed to.

It made us less of what we are. If they start to listen to voices such as what you just articulated, that's a big problem. If all of a sudden in the national level elections, 20% to 25% of the black community does not vote with the Democrat party, that's a torpedo on their broad side. So, when you are a conservative and you are Black, Hispanic, or female, they come after you, because they cannot have that voice out there. They cannot have that image out there. They cannot have those faces out there. And furthermore, when you eliminate conservative voices that are Black, Hispanic, female, Asian, from the equation, then they can come back and say, "See, they're just a party of rich, old, white guys."

That's why they go after them. If you're complaining about the Obama rodeo clown, then you can't come out and call Allen West an Oreo, an Uncle Tom, a sellout, and all these things they say to label and stereotype conservative minorities. Where is your outrage about that? So, we have to be able to show the hypocrisy.

TD: That goes right in line with my next question. It seems that any time someone who is a conservative says something that could be taken out of context, it's a fire storm of racism allegations. But then when liberals say things, or do things, that are blatantly and overtly racist, there's no one on our side calling them out. There's no one on our side issuing press releases, going to MSNBC in the belly of the beast, and saying, "Well, wait a minute. This is a standard you set for racism three nights ago on Al Sharpton's show. Now, I want to see you hold them to the same standard, and if you're not going to do it, we're going to do it. We're going to call him a racist. We're going to issue press releases, call for boycotts. It seems like there's no will on our side to do that. Well there's a very few, like you, but other than that..."

AW: But, we've got to show that you can have courage, and you can fight through this, and that was one of the things that I looked at. All these people that came down to Florida, marching, and making all these riots and protests over the Treyvon Martin case. Yet, you just had the three black teenagers that beat up the one white teenager in Florida on the school bus, and we hear zip about that.

So I put out a Facebook post about it, because no one was really talking about the fact that this young white kid turned these guys in because they were selling drugs. And first of all, who told those three black kids that that was the person who did it? Who allowed them to get on that bus?



Lt. Colonel (ret.) Allen West with Valley Patriot columnist Christine Morabito, President of the Greater Boston Tea Party.

That was not their bus. So, there is some adult culpability, but you know, when you look at what is happening in Chicago, when you look at that incident, when you look at the two black teenagers that shot a white 13-month old baby in the face in Brunswick, Georgia; we've got to shame them, and that's why I said on Cavuto's Show this past Monday. We have to call out the hypocrisy. When Joe Biden can stand up and say that Barack Obama is clean, and articulate, well, I guarantee you if a Republican said that about me, they would be up in arms. They would be apoplectic. Let's call them out on that. Let's get people to understand, when you hear folks talking about this whole thing about having an ID, to go and vote, that's just the same as a poll tax and all of these things. Well, guess who established poll taxes, and literacy tests to vote? The Democrat Party. Who's the party of the Ku Klux Klan? The Democrat Party.

TD: I cover Lawrence, Massachusetts. 80% Latino, mostly Dominican. They hold Dominican elections in the Dominican Republic for their President, but they set up polling places in the City of Lawrence, Massachusetts, because of the high Dominican population. They have to show a voter ID in the very same polling place in Lawrence, Massachusetts, in the Arlington School, where we are not allowed to ask them for a voter ID, when they're voting in American elections, in the same booth, in the same school. They have to have an ID to vote in their Dominican elections or they can't vote.

AW: Well, think about this. You could not get into the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, last August, without a picture ID. So, is that suppressing people going in to participate in their convention? Again, it comes back to the courage to be able to call people out on this.

TD: How do you stimulate the Right, because we're not a very courageous party in the last 20 years? We were beaten down by the media, beaten down by Hollywood, beaten down by the different groups. How do you get these guys who want to do the right thing, run for Office, they're conservative, but they're also petrified of being called a racist, or a hate monger, or a homophobe. So they walk the line.

AW: Well, as long as people know they

can put you on the defense by using the "R" word, they will use the "R" word, and until you finally test their fortitude to push through that, they're going to continue to put you into a box. You know, that's one of the things we want to do with our Guardian Fund, is to get people that will be out there, that aren't worried about name calling. They're worried about the country, and they'll push through that, and until we get courageous leadership, you're going to continue to see, you know, the wishy-washy, mealy-mouth woosification of the Republican Party. We can't have that. America needs us to stand up. America needs us to be America's party. America needs us to be the loyal opposition. America needs us to show that we will be the bold visionary leaders to get this country back on the right track, so that the promises of better opportunities for each and every one of us, and for our children, our grandchildren, will be sustained.

CM: You have said that Republicans need to start playing chess instead of checkers. Could you elaborate on that?

AW: Chess is a strategic game, you're thinking about the second and third move, before you make your first move. That's what we need to be able to do. We don't do that very well. You know, checkers is fun. It's like bada baba...bam. And that's what we get caught up in. We really need to sit down and have that bold, strategic vision that is laid out, and you have to have contingencies. There's no doubt about that. But you know, hopefully, coming out of this RNC Summit meeting, they can say; "Here's the plan." Not this autopsy report that's basically sticking a hot poker in your eye, but to say this is the direction we're going in. These are our tent stakes, and we're going to make a sturdy, strong tent for people to come in and find shelter from this failing economy, from this failing Affordable Care Act. We're going to do something about energy security. We're going to do something about national security. We're going to restore some of these traditional values that make sure we don't have children that are being denied the opportunity because we don't have solid family units any more. That's what we have to talk about, and therefore, you'll get the American people to come to you.

TD: Tell us something nobody knows.

AW: I really love hot dogs.

TD: I was looking more for like a breaking news story, but that'll work.

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"How extreme can my party get? Kennedy would be sick..."

Lonnie Brennan

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

"You up for a quiz?" my friend Tim gruffed as he shuffled egg bits around on his plate, once again, in a reflective mood as it had been months since we had caught up at the local breakfast nook called Theo's (best omelets around) right off Central and Main streets in Georgetown. Sometimes the place is my second home, but then weeks go by and summer zooms, and well, it's good to be back.

"Yeah, I've been making a simple list, you up for it?", Tim interrupted my thoughts as he pulled a thick bundle of heavily folded, blue lined, white paper from his 'briefcase', with lots of pencil marks and lots of cross outs, and smoothed the pile on the counter as the waitress topped his coffee. She knew I would be there for awhile. Tim usually begins slowly like this, then charges on non-stop.

"Here we go, and you should number these" he emphasized as he pushed his left index finger into the pile to make the point.

1. "Do you want the government to get a cut, 3.8% of the sales price, if you sell your home?"

2. "Do you want the government to charge a company 6.25% for any software or computer services they invoice someone for? I mean, they already charge sales tax, and their employees have to pay all kinds of payroll taxes, and they have to pay income taxes and property taxes and phone taxes and fuel taxes and all that, but what do you think, do you stand with demanding the gov't gets another 6.25% cut of whatever the computer or software provider does?"

3. "Do you agree with spending millions on special benefits that have proved to be wasteful such as EBT cards, free cell phones, free AAA memberships, and such for almost anyone who finds a way into Massachusetts? No documentation required, and you can use your EBT card to buy a sub at Subway, or lobsta' at Market Basket?"

4. "Do you want to raise the payroll tax? Do you know what that is? It means you'll make less. The government will make more."

5. "Do you want to give discount and free college tuition to illegal aliens, but not to your own relatives who live in New

Hampshire, or Maine, to attend Mass schools?"

6. "Do you think the government should spend hundreds of thousands of dollars hosting parades, balls, and seminars promoting 'alternative' lifestyles, and focusing on these lifestyles in schools?"

7. "Do you think we should take taxpayer money and use it to pay abortion clinics, but not give a penny to pregnancy care centers who urge women to choose life?"

"How you doing", Tim asked as he flipped through some pages, uncrumpled/ smoothed them out on the counter, and almost spilled the sugar container. "I've just written down a few things from the headlines, nothin' too tough for you," he said as I caught him winking at the waitress.

8. "Are you for more part-time jobs, working 2-3 jobs with no benefits, but you'll get on government health care, and get an EBT card if you ask for one?" he continued.

9. "How about guns? How about a 50% tax on all ammo. That will show those gun owners we're serious about shutting them down," he gurgled between coffee sips.

10. "Gas, gas, we only charge 44.9 cents a gallon now in taxes, state and federal, so how about we increase that even more to save the environment, you agree with that?" he barked.

"O.K. Tim" I interrupted, "what's the point of this, it looks like you have about 20 of those things written down there, I said.

"More like 87", Tim replied. "Each one you say yes to, means you vote or propose laws the way the Democrats in the state house have been acting these past few years with Deval Patrick, you remember him, the guy who said he was going to reduce our property taxes, but didn't tell us the way to do that was to increase the cost of these eggs here, my coffee, the gas for truck, and just about everything else he can touch."

"I'm telling you," Tim said, "Kennedy and my dad would be rolling in their graves if they knew what happened to our party. Hijacked I tell you, by extremists, and liars."

"Not my party, Tim" I said. "I woke up a long time ago; thought you had too. Oh, and since I'm so used to paying for you Dems, I'll pick up the tab, you can leave the tip."

184 Pleasant Valley St. Suite 1-102, Methuen

**Dave
Guselli**

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Georgetown Gross Earnings 2012

Superintendent of Schools, Carol Jacobs, came out on top of the Georgetown taxpayer-funded earnings listing once again with \$180,362.81 in gross earnings for 2012.

Now retired light department manager, Wayne Snow, grossed \$130,097.00, and was followed closely by Chad Cunningham of the light department, with gross earnings of \$113,432.05.

Georgetown had 17 employees tip the \$90K and over scale, and most will receive up to 60% of these wages every year when they retire. (For those short on math skills, as we continue on the current trajectory, most of these top wage earners can expect to take home \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00 each and every month when they retire. So, remember, it's not about the salary; it's about the retirement and other benefits. Stay tuned to this column next month for a complete listing of taxpayer wage earners.

At-Large Continued from Page 16

former town manager of Salem, NH, and city auditor of Fitchburg.

Leblanc also hosts a radio program on 980WCAP in Lowell and is a Democrat insider who campaigns for, and promotes only Democrat candidates for state and federal offices.

Leblanc says that there is enough fraud,

waste and abuse in the city budget that he believes taxes can be lowered and services can be increased by going through the budget line by line and slashing duplication of services, and trimming city expenses with a regional approach to purchasing goods and services for the city.



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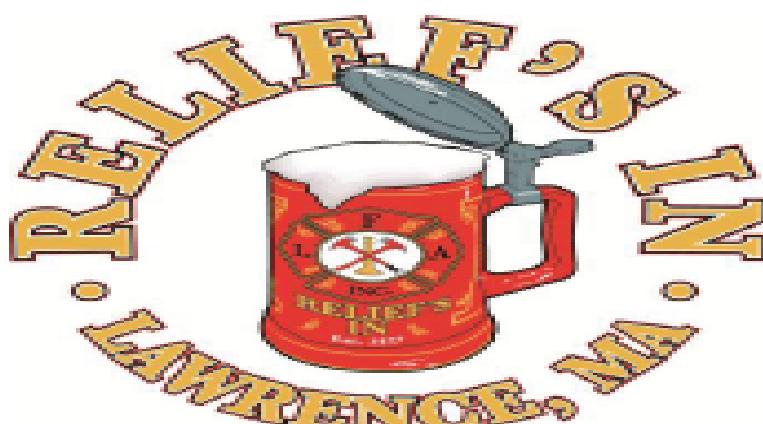
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We Can't Lose Our Water Independence

Senator Katy O'Connor Ives
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Last week, I gave testimony before the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture in support of two important pieces of legislation before the committee. I spoke in support of House Bill 695, "An Act Preventing the Disposal of Hydraulic Fracturing Wastewater" and House Bill 707, "An Act to Regulate Hydraulic Fracturing."

I gave public testimony because I wanted to express my strong interest in preventing the practice of fracking or the storage of fracking chemicals in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Our state is in the enviable position of being able to observe and learn about environmental destruction and water pollution caused by fracking in other states before it is introduced to Massachusetts.

Hydraulic fracturing fractures rock by the use of a pressurized liquid comprised of water and chemicals and is injected into land borings so gas migrates into the well. This process intensely uses water to the rate of 1.2-3.5 million gallons of water per well, diverting water from other human demands. Fracking subjects people to

pollution exposure through surface spills, air pollution, the migration of gases to the surface and contaminated water.

The quality of our drinking water is of major importance. Many residents in the state use well water, while others use municipal or state water supplies, all are equally vulnerable to chemical pollution if fracking is introduced to Massachusetts.

House Bill 695 defines hydraulic fracturing and prohibits any person in Massachusetts from being permitted to collect, store, dispose of, or treat wastewater from hydraulic fracturing. House Bill 707, also defines hydraulic fracturing, as well as class II injection wells and toxic chemicals. It prohibits class II injection wells in connection with hydraulic fracturing and prohibits the use of toxic chemicals in connection with the extraction of natural gas.

I signed onto this legislation because it's more environmentally and fiscally prudent to address the matter of fracking now – before we have to respond to proposals. A June 2012 US Geological Survey study indicated the existence of natural gas, accessible through the fracking process, under segments of our Pioneer Valley. Where these reserves are smaller than those

currently being extracted in other states, Massachusetts will inevitably be vulnerable to fracking when those larger reserves are depleted. Preventing the destruction of our quality drinking water is a great deal less costly than spending public monies on cleaning contaminated land and water, or having to build and retrofit water plants to serve residents who can no longer use their well water.

It is also important to include with a ban on fracking, a ban on fracking chemicals being stored or deposited in Massachusetts. Our state is in close proximity to states in the midst of an unfortunate fracking boom and we need to take measures to discourage industry creep into Massachusetts. We cannot prevent the migration of pollution from fracking into Massachusetts waters, but we can ban fracking and the storage of fracking chemicals in our state.

The chemicals used for fracking are a slurry of elements which include water, proppants such as silica, and chemical additives. Of the 2500 hydraulic fracturing products in the industry, 650 contain chemicals categorized as known or possible human carcinogens. Over 200 of these products have components listed as a "trade secret" on their OSHA material safety data sheets. Slurry pools often sit in close proximity to the site and are an additional threat to our natural resources. In Dimock, Pennsylvania, it has been



estimated that one gas company has spent upwards of \$109,000 for methane removal systems for 14 households that were affected by natural gas seepage into their drinking water. An additional \$193,000 was spent by the company on potable replacement water for residents in the affected areas over the course of two years.

In 2004, an accident at a hydraulic fracturing well in Colorado caused seepage of natural gas into the West Divide Creek, a major watershed for the county. Two years after the initial accident, the company reported paying upwards of \$350,000 to replace residential water in a two-mile radius of the site.

We have heard the pitch from this relatively new and burgeoning industry that

IVES: PAGE 39

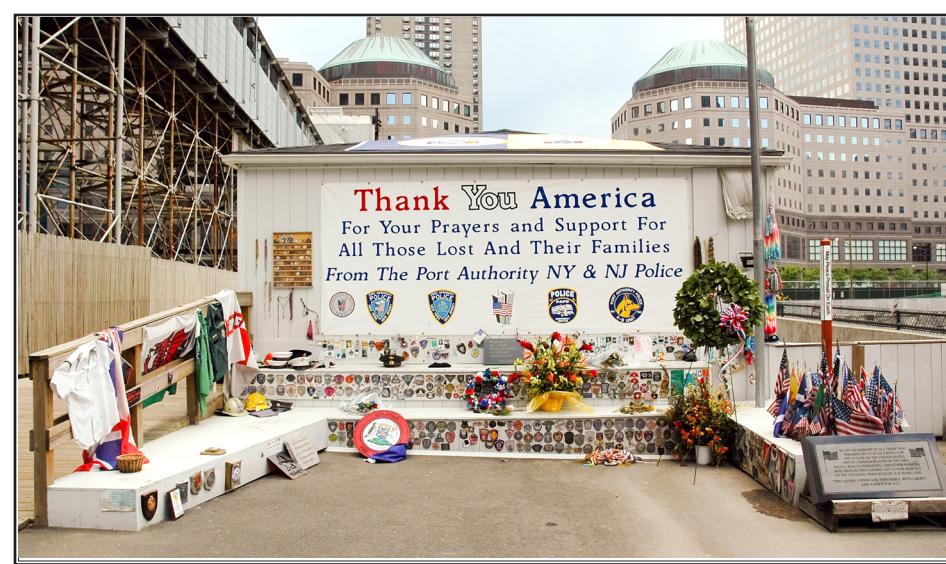
Disney Shuns Film About 9/11 to Protect Clinton Legacy

Christine Morabito
PRESIDENT, GREATER BOSTON TEA PARTY

I used to think government censorship of free speech only occurred in countries run by intolerant dictators.

That was before I watched the uncensored version of what is now considered the most controversial mini-series in television history, "The Path to 9/11." The five-hour ABC docudrama, starring Donnie Wahlberg, Harvey Keitel and Patricia Heaton, originally aired on September 10 and 11, 2006, to an audience of about 25 million. But, not before it was severely edited, almost banned, its director and producer physically threatened, and members of its cast intimidated, all thanks to the destructive power unleashed by Bill and Hillary Clinton.

Written and produced by Iranian-American, Cyrus Nowrasteh, and directed by David L. Cunningham, the film examined the historical events leading up to 9/11. Much of the work was based on the 9/11 Commission Report, which was expanded upon since the document only went back to 1998. It is now well known that the first World Trade Center bombing and the Black Hawk ambush in Mogadishu, both occurring in 1993, had direct connections to Al Qaeda. Moreover, Osama bin Laden went on television, promising death to



America eight times between 1996 and 1998.

The mini-series was full of promise. Top brass at ABC and its parent company, Disney, were thrilled upon its completion, and it was slated to be shown every year on the anniversary of the terrorist attack. Americans were supposed to gain clarity about how we arrived at this dark day in our nation's history and hopefully learn from past mistakes; the biggest of which was not taking threats from Al Qaeda seriously. The docudrama pulled no punches, exposing mistakes made by 2 administra-

tions.

Michael Scheuer, former CIA chief of the bin Laden unit, has testified that President Bill Clinton blew at least 10 opportunities to capture or kill bin Laden. Not a big fan of criticism, Clinton unleashed his attack dogs to destroy the film and everyone involved in it. The narrative was that "The Path to 9/11" was a right-wing conspiracy. The ex-president not only phoned Disney CEO, Robert Iger, a life-long democrat and loyal Hillary Clinton supporter, but, in true despotic fashion, encouraged five U.S. senators, none of whom even saw the film, to write letters threatening Disney's broadcasting license.

In the ensuing controversy, the media and the Hollywood left piled on. The bullying became too much for Harvey Keitel, who cowardly denounced the film he once proudly starred in. Disney succumbed to pressure, and although they refused to scrap the mini-series entirely, agreed to Clinton's substantial editing demands.

According to the Citizens United Productions documentary about the controversy, "Blocking the Path to 9/11: The Anatomy of a Smear," if more people involved in the film had come forward, the public would have learned that many key players were liberal democrats. In fact, it was suggested during filming that President Bush might be upset by the movie. The Bush administration took no official

position on the matter. The docudrama's research assistant, Mark Tapson, and editor, Mitchell Denton both claim to have voted for Bill Clinton 2 times. The man most responsible for the film, Quinn Taylor, Senior Vice President of Movies and Miniseries at Disney and an outspoken liberal, was forbidden to publicly defend the movie.

The film's writer/producer, Nowrasteh, whose parents fled Iran and Islamic terrorism, claims his only agenda was to tell the story for the families and the American people. The movie was held to extremely high standards, every scene scrutinized by a team of network executives and attorneys.

Ironically, the artist organization, PEN, whose mission is "to defend freedom of expression domestically and internationally," failed to defend Nowrasteh, an award-winning member of the group. Crickets were also heard from the Director's Guild, the Writer's Guild and the Screen Actors Guild.

Since its airing in 2006, ABC/Disney has abandoned "The Path to 9/11" completely, refusing to release it on DVD despite heavy demand and repeated requests from shareholders. Disney executives have also refused offers to sell the picture. It seems unlikely that will change without significant public pressure; at least as long as Hillary Clinton is a future contender for president.

In a piece for Big Hollywood, Lawrence Meyers writes "Quasi-High Art such as 'The Path to 9/11' has value that transcends politics. Consequently, ABC and Disney have a moral imperative to release this series on DVD. The studio must put the nonsense of politics aside and do the right and noble thing by giving access to this work to all Americans."

Disney should hear from us. Americans deserve to see this film.



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

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TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK



WE WILL MISS YOU TJ MCEVOY
Recently retired North Andover Police Officer TJ McEvoy passed away just a few days before we went to print on this edition.

TJ was a good friend of my family and was very good to me over the years. Our hearts go out to the McEvoy family and the fine men and women of the North Andover Police Department.

FERRY AND CRONIN MAKE A GREAT TEAM – In Methuen's Central District City Council Race voters have a chance to unseat incumbent Jamie Atkinson after his shenanigans in the city solicitor fiasco. Atkinson was behind the scenes, conspiring with fired City Solicitor, Peter McQuillan, to sabotage the process to replace him. McQuillan was caught sending text messages to Atkinson during the interview of Attorney Richard D'Agostino, feeding him loaded questions to embarrass him at a public meeting. Jamie Atkinson was once thought of as a defender of the taxpayers, but in less than one-term on the council he revealed himself to be the defender of political hacks at the expense of the taxpayers. In stark contrast, incumbent Lisa Ferry (who also voted against D'Agostino) conducted herself with dignity and treated the voters with respect in her dealings with the solicitor fiasco. Jack Cronin, the former Central District councilor who termed out in 2011 is also vying to return to his old seat and I am hoping the people of Methuen see Ferry and Cronin as a great team to represent the Central District.

FIREFIGHTERS FOR LANTIGUA? Lawrence firefighters have been attacked, insulted and accused of lighting fires by Lawrence Mayor Willie Lantigua. They were also accused by Lantigua of purposely taking their time going to fires, and sleeping on the job. So it was more than a little curious when the Lawrence Firefighter's Union voted to endorse Lantigua by a vote of 20-6 last month. But when you think about it, it almost makes sense. Dan Rivera supported Lantigua's layoff of 24 firefighters, closing a fire station and firing former Chief, Brian Murphy. On top of the fact that Rivera has no chance of beating Lantigua because he refuses to tackle the corruption in Lawrence, the firefighters look like they were sticking with the devil that they know.

VALLEY PATRIOT SOFTBALL – The Valley Patriot's Fall Co-Ed Softball team "The Valley Patriots" are still undefeated in the Andover league, while our Valley Patriot Bombers female softball team are still fighting for our third win in the Better Late than Never league in Methuen. Next month we will have an entire run down of both leagues



Pictured left to right are Lowell Lions Club President Dr. George R. Montminy, O.D. and Past President Marcel (Excel) Plouffe, shown greeting Lowell City Councillor and Former Mayor Rita Marie Mercier. Councillor Mercier was the invited guest speaker at one of their recent meetings and spoke on how the civic and communities leaders make The City Of Lowell just a little better to live and work in.

stats with team photos and sponsors.

TEEN TALK WITH ANA DEBERNADO – This month we are starting up our Teen Talk column with 15-year-old Ana DeBernardo of Danvers who tells us she is very excited to write about being a teenager and a Latina. We have asked Ana to write about her life, experiences and her perspectives on life. Our last Teen Talk columnist, Tyler Dumont, has gone on to work at WHDH, Channel 7, and has won an Emmy since leaving the Valley Patriot, so we have high hopes that our new Teen Talk columnist is bound for greatness.

METHUEN MAYOR'S DEBATE – The Valley Patriot and 980WCAP radio are sponsoring a debate between Methuen Mayor Steve Zanni and Councilor Jen Kan-

nan on November 2nd live on 980WCAP from 10-noon.

SANTA PARADE, NORTH ANDOVER – Saturday, November 28th, starting 12 noon at the Middle School to High St., to Main Street and ending at Sutton and Main Streets.

MASS FISCAL ALLIANCE SCORECARD - 19 Lawmakers at 100%, 2 Democrat and 17 GOP.

Boston, MA: Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance has updated its scorecard to reflect the roll call votes that took place late last week.

The votes include the tech tax repeal and the failed attempt in the Senate to repeal a provision for automatically increasing the gas tax based on inflation.

After the updated votes, 19 lawmakers



ANA DEBERANARDO PAGE 37

How's that boycott working out for you Jamie?



Jamie Atkinson
27 minutes ago

Tom Duggan posted, "rest assured if anything bad happens tonight at the Esplanade, Jill Harmazinski from the Tribune will be running away while everyone else is running to help the victims." I Suggest that all candidates for office in Methuen donate to their charity of choice any money they were going to spend in the Valley Patriot after that comment.



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received a 100% rating, including 2 newly elected Democratic House members: Carole Fiola & Daniel Donahue. The remaining 17 lawmakers are Republicans, of whom 14 are in the House: Jim Lyons, Lenny Mirra, Marc Lombardo, Keiko Orrall, Peter Durant, Shaunna O'Connell, Matt Beaton, Geoff Diehl, Ryan Fattman, Nick Boldyga, Todd Smola, Kevin Kuros, Leah Cole & Don Humason. The other 3 are the current Republican senators, Bruce Tarr, Bob Hedlund, and Richard Ross.

The highest scores for Democratic members in the Senate are James Timilty at 83%, Kathleen Ives at 72% and Michael Rush at 61%. Other than Reps. Donahue and Fiola, the highest scores for Democratic House members are Colleen Garry at 62%, James Dwyer and Dennis Rosa at 50%. Three lawmakers continue to earn a 0% rating: Angelo Scaccia, Robert Fennell and William "Smitty" Pignatelli.

"The legislature should be applauded for repealing the tech tax, but as we can see through these scores, the legislature has a long way to go if they want to improve Massachusetts' image as a friendly state to do business," stated Paul D. Craney, Executive Director of Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance. "The same week the legislature voted to repeal the tech tax, they failed to repeal the indexing of the gas tax to inflation. More can always be done to increase Massachusetts economic competitiveness and we hope going forward, lawmakers will be more aware of the image they project for the rest of the state,"

"The private sector spends countless time and energy trying to lure business into the state and it's time lawmakers did more to help our job creators," concluded Craney.

HEAD START STUDENT WINS ADMISSION TO PIKE SCHOOL

GLCAC Inc. is proud to announce Anadir Soares-Guzman, a student in its Head Start Program, has been accepted to the Pike School, a private pre-K to 9th grade school in Andover. Anadir is the 14th student from GLCAC's Head Start to be accepted at the Pike School in the past seven years.

The Pike School generously offers the students' families financial aid awards to pay for tuition and transportation expenses while they are enrolled. The GLCAC's Head Start Program provides exceptional preschool education to children of low-income families in Greater Lawrence.

"We are very proud of Anadir and all of our Head Start students. Our strong curriculum and dedicated staff enable our students to literally get the head start they need to excel in school. We are extremely grateful to the Pike School for recognizing the excellence of our students and responding with unmatched generosity," said Evelyn Friedman, Executive Director of the GLCAC Inc., a non-profit social services agency serving low-income families in Greater Lawrence.

Currently, 11 alumni of GLCAC's Head Start are enrolled in grades 2-8 at the Pike School. Last year, two Head Start alumni finished at the Pike School and one matriculated to The Governor's Academy in Byfield and the other to Greater Lawrence Vocational Technical High School. This fall, a Head Start-Pike alumna will start at Central Catholic High School in Lawrence.

LAWRENCE - Representative Frank A. Moran will be hosting office hours on October 11, 2013. The Representative will be at the Andover Public Library in the activity room from 11am-12pm. He will be at the Lawrence Public Library from 12:30-1:30pm, and at Nevins Library in Methuen from 2-3:00pm. All residents of the 17th Essex district are invited to attend to discuss any issues of concern.

Outside of office hours, residents may meet with Representative Moran or his staff by scheduling an appointment with Patrick Kerwin, his legislative aide, by email at Patrick.Kerwin@mahouse.gov, by phone at

TOP OF NEXT PAGE

617-722-2460 x 8988 or by mail to "Representative Frank Moran, State House, Suite 443, Boston, MA 02133."

NECC - Public Invited to Learn More about NECC

Anyone interested in learning more about Northern Essex Community College is invited to attend an Open House on Saturday, November 2 from 10am to noon in the Hartleb Technology Center, TC-103A/B on the Haverhill Campus, 100 Elliott St.

At the Open House, visitors can take a tour of the Haverhill campus, learn about financial aid, and explore the college's more than 70 academic programs. Topics to be discussed will include transfer options after graduating from Northern Essex, the support services available to help students succeed, and the many clubs, sports, and other opportunities available to Northern Essex students.

This Open House is geared toward high school juniors and seniors and their families as well as adult students who are considering returning to school for career or personal growth.

For more information, contact Enrollment Services at 978-556-3700 or admissions@necc.mass.edu.

SALISBURY LIONS - Salisbury Lions Club King Lion, David "Chuck" Colburn, announced today that the Salisbury Lions Club is again participating in the Anton Cleaners "Coats for Kids Project". The Lions will collect all sizes, good quality, used winter coats and winter jackets from infants to adults. The items may be left at the Salisbury Senior Center, 43 Lafayette Road (US Route 1); Wash & Wags, 8A Beach Road (US Route 1A); Tom's Disount Store, 175 Elm Street (SR 110) and Lena's Seafood Restaurant, 131 Rabbit Road.

Coats are collected and brought to Anton's Cleaners where they are cleaned for no charge and distributed through Anton's distribution partners such as Massachusetts Community Action Programs, Salvation Army, BUMC Outreach Van Project, and Catholic charities among others who will insure that coats get to those who cannot afford one during the cold winter months.

The collection has kicked off and the Lions will be collecting until Friday, January 10. Please insure the coats and jackets are without stains or rips and zippers are working

METHUEN SENIOR EVENTS

Don't miss the '60s Invasion! Saturday, Nov. 16 at the Methuen Senior Activity Center, 77 Lowell St. '60s Invasion is a show band featuring the music of the 1960's with tributes to Elvis Presley, Bob Dylan and Roy Orbison. They also perform 10-15 minute segments including music and trivia from television shows of the sixties, hits from the sixties that had connection with the seasons; fall, winter, spring & summer, and trivia & music from 1910 to 1960.

Fun! Excitement! Memories! Interaction! And Really Groovy Music! Show begins at 7pm Tickets: \$9.00/pp. The Public is invited!

The Methuen Senior Activity Center, 77 Lowell St, presents Singer & Storyteller, Davis Bates: "Celebrating New England Stories & Songs for Everyone". Wednesday, October 16 at 1pm. This program is sponsored by the Methuen Arts Lottery Council. All are invited to attend!

Join us for an informational MEDICARE TALK hosted by SHINE, ESMV, Inc. at Methuen Senior Activity Center, 77 Lowell St, on Wednesday, October 9 at 12:30pm. DON'T IGNORE YOUR MEDICARE

NOTEBOOK: PAGE 46



Salisbury Town Manager Neil Harrington seems to have a problem with free speech and free press as he attacked the Tomaselli siters for telling their story, and The Valley Patriot for letting them tell it.

MAIL! It's that time of year again! If you have a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan or a Medicare Advantage Plan (HMO, PPO), you should be receiving information from your plan by the end of September. It is important to understand and save this information because it explains the changes in your plan for 2014. The annual Medicare Open Enrollment is October 15 - December 7. Do Not Wait Until It's Too Late! Trained SHINE volunteers offer free, confidential counseling on all aspects of Medicare and related health insurance programs.

Mayor Stephen N. Zanni presents 2 informational sessions at Methuen Senior Activity Center, 77 Lowell St. Everyone is encouraged to attend!

Utility Assistance Forum: Oct. 18 at 10:30am. Linda Soucy, GLCAC, Tom Hargreaves, Methuen Veterans Agent and representatives from National Grid and Columbia Gas will be here to provide information on assistance programs available to Methuen seniors.

Tax Assistance Forum. Oct 30 from 12-1pm. Brian Lynch of DOR will meet with seniors to discuss the Massachusetts Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit. This program offers a property tax credit of up to \$1,000 for qualifying seniors who either own or rent. This event will be followed by an Ice Cream Social from 1-3pm, also hosted by Mayor Zanni.

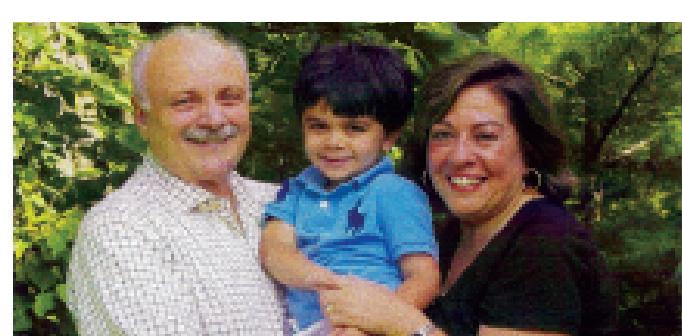
Colby-Sawyer College Welcomes the Class of 2017

METHUEN MAYOR HOSTS UTILITY ASSISTANCE FORUM

Methuen, MA – Mayor Steve Zanni has invited Linda Soucy of the Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc; Veterans Agent Tom Hargreaves; and

WWW.VALLEYPATRIOT.COM

George Kazanjian
West District Councilor



George, grandson Cole, wife Cynthia

Working for Methuen's Families



George believes that residents must receive maximum value for their tax dollars.



George believes in continuing high quality Senior services.



George believes that public safety must always be our priority.



George believes in our quality schools and continuing to keep them safe.

George BELIEVES in Methuen!

Vote Tuesday November 5th, 2013

**Call 978-686-8084 to learn more
or email gkazanjian@comcast.net**

Andover's Vispoli provides Testimony in Favor of Campaign Transparency

Andover Selectman Alex Vispoli provided testimony to the Joint Committee on Election Laws last month, in favor of more transparency within campaigns. Earlier this year, Vispoli filed House Bill H3340 that would require more disclosure from campaign committees.

"The public has the right to know about all expenditures and donations when selecting their leaders. My legislation is all about creating more transparency so voters are fully informed when they go to the polls," said Vispoli.

Vispoli legislation would require the following reforms:

- Name and address for every donation would have to be disclosed on campaign finance reports. Right now, only large donations are required to be reported.
- Campaigns would have to stand by statements by requiring a 'paid for by' line on all printed literature. This information was previously required.

• Campaigns would have to disclose who is paying for a robo call. Federal law requires candidates to state who is sponsoring a robo call. This legislation would bring Massachusetts in line with federal requirements.

• Independent expenditures would be required to disclose in a timelier manner so voters have all relevant information regarding who is funding these campaigns before the election.

• Candidates would only be allowed to expense their campaigns for mileage, not for leasing cars.

"Anonymous literature is not helpful to the electoral process. Voters have a right to know who is funding campaign mailings. Massachusetts used to require the disclosure. It is time to restore the law," said Vispoli.

"For far too long, the expensing of cars to campaign accounts has been a source of controversy. My reform will end it by only allowing for the reimbursement of mileage. Campaign accounts are not supposed to supplement a lifestyle," added Vispoli. "It is time to restore trust and we do it by letting the sun into the process."

Vispoli was first elected to the Andover Board of Selectmen in 2004. On the

Serious Problems with Unemployment Benefits Computer System

Senator Ives sends letter to Executive Office of Labor & Workforce Development for Answers

Massachusetts State Senator Kathleen O'Connor Ives sent a letter to Secretary Joanne F. Goldstein at the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development outlining her concerns with the recent IT issues that have prevented constituents from receiving their unemployment benefits, and requested more information on the status of this problem.

O'Connor Ives said, "This has resulted in undue hardship for people that have lost their jobs and are now relying on these benefits. I have received numerous calls from concerned constituents.

These constituents have gone weeks without any form of income."

One constituent reported she has not received any unemployment compensation since the end of June. This added economic stress has forced one of my constituents to

Lowell Preliminary Election Results

CITY COUNCIL	Total
Precincts Reporting	33 of 33
Times Counted	6,696/55,708
Total Votes	41,718
Number of Uncast Votes	18,546
RITA M MERCIER	3,681
RODNEY M ELLIOTT	2,764
WILLIAM F MARTIN, JR	2,748
DANIEL P ROURKE	2,704
EDWARD J KENNEDY, JR	2,652
JAMES L MILINAZZO	2,541
WILLIAM SAMARAS	2,485
JOHN J LEAHY	2,359
MARTIN MARTY LORREY	2,305
JOSEPH M MENDONCA	2,001
VESNA NUON	1984
COREY A BELANGER	1926
DEREK A MITCHELL	1908
ERIK R GITSCHIER	1906
STACIE HARGIS	1774
VANDOEUN PECH	1478
GENEVIEVE K DOYLE	1,213
FREDERICK J DOYLE	1096
MATTHEW J VIEIRA	802
DARIUS L MITCHELL	569
BRANDON WYNN NAVOM	401
RICK D MISITANO	355
Write-in Votes	66

board, he has led initiatives including: consolidation of Andover's IT organization and infrastructure, creation of the Andover Economic Development Council, 193 proposed interchange project, reduction in Town owned vehicles, and annual citizens mid-year review for major project updates, regionalization opportunities with surrounding towns.

Vispoli was also elected the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) Board of Directors and the Massachusetts Selectmen's Association (MSA) Board of Directors in 2011. He is currently the District 2 Representative (Essex and Middlesex Counties) for the MSA.

He is a member of the Governor's Local Government Advisory Commission.

Professionally, Vispoli has been in the information technology business for 25 years. He currently holds the position of Director of Business Development for a Boston-based technology company.

pay his mortgage with a credit card, while another woman faced the possibility of withdrawing her child from school due to an inability to pay for the services.

The Executive office of Labor and Workforce Development recently upgraded their computer systems by Deloitte Consulting.

"The Commonwealth should hold the at-fault company, Deloitte Consulting, financially responsible for these serious technical failings. Taxpayer dollars should not be expended to pay for mistakes with their product.

There should be an immediate stop-gap remedy so that residents can obtain their anticipated benefits during this time when Deloitte Consulting is attempting to correct their systems," said Senator O'Connor Ives.

Dracut Town & Senior Happenings

For the month of October: 8:30-9am Free Breakfast

Oct 9, 1pm Senior Citizen's Club Meeting

Oct 10, 1:30-3:45pm Nurse Nancy

Oct 11, 9am Bowling

9am Dollar Tree and Changhai in Dracut

Oct 14, CLOSED CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY

Oct 15, 9am Grocery Shopping

10am Affordable Hearing Screening

Oct 16, 11am Senior Citizens Club Harvest Dinner at Lenzi's

2:30pm DCOA Board Meeting

Oct 17, 10-12pm Veteran's Agent

10am Medicare 2014

11:30am Special Site meal

1:30-3:45pm Nurse Nancy

Oct 18, 9am Bowling

9am Ocean State Job Lot & Alfresca Ristorante

Oct 21, 10am Bereavement Group

10:30am Colleen Garry Office Hours

****CENTER OPEN UNTIL 6pm***

Oct 22, 9am Veterans Breakfast

10:30am Fashion Show Dress rehearsal

Oct 23, 1pm Senior Citizen's Club Meeting

Oct 24, 1-3:45pm Nurse Nancy

Oct 25, 9am Bowling

9am Pheasant Lane Mall & Lunch in Food Court

Oct 28, 10am Bereavement Group

Oct 29, 9am Grocery Shopping

12pm Fashion Show

NO MEALS TODAY STAFF TRAINING

Oct 31, 10-11am Veterans Agent

1:30-3:45pm Nurse Nancy

Dracut Town Happenings

Oct 9, 4:30-6:30pm Permanent Building

7-8pm Planning Board

Oct 10, 5-6pm Board of Health

Oct 16, 2:30-3:30pm Council on Aging

4:30-5:30pm Permanent Building

7-8pm Historical Commission

Oct 17, 7-8pm Zoning Board of Appeals, 7pm ZBA Meeting

Oct 23, 4:30-6:30pm Permanent Building

7-8pm Planning Board

Oct 26, 8am Flu Clinic 2013

Oct 30, 4:30-6:30pm Permanent Building

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Guselli**



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Vet to Vet, is a volunteer group of veterans helping other veterans.

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New England Veterans Liberty House (NEVLH)

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6th Floor Conference Room

Take Elevator on Ground Floor - Left through the Red Doors

First Door on the Right

Phone: (978) 258-2331



Parents (and families) of Murdered Children Hold Candle Light Vigil

Parents of Murdered Children of the Merrimack Valley (POMC) held a candle-light vigil and remembrance last month on the steps of Lowell City Hall. This was the fifth annual remembrance held in Lowell.

Former Lowell Mayor Rita Mercier, a regular attendee at the annual event, addressed the group of more than 40 people gathered to remember their murdered loved ones.

"It is an honor to be here to present to Arnie this citation today. And I wish the day would come where we never increase the number of people who have to come here and that people wouldn't be murdered," Mercier said.

Mercier presented a proclamation from the mayor's office to Arnie Muscovitz, who lost his daughter to murder and is the president of POMC.

"Whereas a homicide occurs every 34.5

minutes in the United States, not only ending the life of the victims, but forever leaving a hole in the heart of mothers, fathers, husbands, wives, siblings, and friends...

And, whereas The Parents of Murdered Children works to provide a support system for the families of victims to cope with their loss, as well as being a conduit to partner with the criminal system, and;

Whereas, as long as the survivors of homicide victims remember their loved ones and work to raise awareness of violence and to support programs to prevent violence, they will never be forgotten."

Lowell State Representative Tom Golden told the gathering that he couldn't even imagine what it is like to lose a child to murder, but recounted how he had lost his sister to cancer and promised to help in any way he could.

"As Rita [Mercier] just stated, today is such a solemn day. By the time you get in your car, come here to pay your respects and remembering your loved one, and go home, two to three people will have been murdered. That's a trend, every 34 minutes, that we need to end," Golden said.

"This is an organization that I have so much respect for because of their advocacy and what they try to do, day in and day out.

And it's not only their advocacy but their prevention and their education to try to remind people what is going on in our streets, and in our country.

Our police officers, especially here in Lowell, do a fine job. But I have to often think that the people who create these heinous situations and in some situations acts of cowardice, what is going through their heads when taking the life of one

of our loved ones. How can we stop the violence? POMC addresses that. This is a solemn day and we are all here for you because you are not forgetting.

And I want to make sure you that you know that we are not forgetting, and you are not alone."

Lawrence Resident Lee Fickenworth and former Lawrence resident Andreas Gonzalez also spoke of loved ones that they lost to murder.

Fickenworth's son Gabriel was murdered in a drive by shooting on Exeter Street in Lawrence four years ago. Her son's killers have never been caught.

Haverhill resident Colleen McCann also attended in honor of her son who was murdered in Brazil and whose body she still cannot bring home because of lack of help from government officials.

Lowell2020 Endorses 9 for Lowell Council

The following is Lowell2020's reply to a post on RichardHowe.com by Paul Marion entitled City Council and Cross Point: Pivotal Vote on Cross Point in 1994:

"Interesting post, thank you Paul.

It's not so much the make-up of the City Council as the willingness for City Councilors to collaborate per the example in this post. Dick Howe was wise to solicit support for the motion that led to the success of Cross Point Towers.

For the most part the voters got it right last Tuesday. Rita Mercier, Rodney Elliott, Bill Martin and Ed Kennedy comprised the leadership of the incumbents.

Rita Mercier is one of the City's all time great ambassadors. Bill Martin is the stalwart "voice of reason" on the Council.

Rodney Elliott displayed leadership in his courageous persistence and determination in encouraging his fellow City Councilors to move forward with eyes wide open. He consistently asks that Councilors keep open mind and consider counterpoints of view.

Joe Mendonca wins the unsung hero award for his efforts to ensure the stability of the City's finances, which has led to Standard & Poor's upgrade of Lowell's long-term bond rating from A to A+. If asked, I'll personally work on his campaign to ensure he's elected. I've only held sign once in my life, but I believe that we need Joe on the team. It's that important that he be retained. His door is always open to citizens who approach seeking advice for their ideas.

Next term will be one of the most important in the City's history. There's room for new people to join the Council. People like Derek Mitchell, Bill Samaras, Jim Millinazzo and Corey Belanger.

It may help if Rodney Elliott and Bill

Martin went out to dinner together with the wives, to get to know each other better. There's room on the Council for both points of view, in fact it's crucial for each City Councilor to seek to understand contrasting opinions among their colleagues.

One of the most difficult decisions in the City's history is now on the front burner. The talent and experience to make those decisions exists among the remaining 18 candidates.

In case you haven't noticed, I've named 9 candidates above, who in my view, represent the most capable of the 18 candidates in terms of leadership and experience. Yes, that's the slate endorsed by Lowell2020 and ComeToLowell.com, and perhaps the most formidable in the City's history by measure of pure individual capability. Can they all get along and work together to face the coming challenges faced by the City of Lowell? I believe they can.

Cautions: Several of the above candidates live in Belvidere, and several have a connection with the Lowell Plan.

I ask that all candidates to keep an open mind when considering the future of Lowell High School. Listen to the School Committee. They will soon begin the process of soliciting the input of the residents, parents, Lowell businesses and agencies, the colleges and ultimately the City Council.

All candidates should be paying attention to the School Committee's effort to chart the future of Lowell Public Schools K-12. The Lowell Plan is not running point on this issue. The future of Lowell hangs in the balance, and will depend on the outcome of the consensus building process."

There is No New or Old Lowell

**DEREK MITCHELL
CANDIDATE FOR COUNCIL**

Lowell -- In contrast to recent community commentary, I believe the perceived distinctions between new and old Lowell to be false. We are all simply, 'Lowell', with common aspirations to make our streets clean and safe, our schools inclusive and supportive, and our economy vibrant and growing.

Those that come to this city stick around not to change the city so much as to contribute to our community's long and proud legacy that has been built by so many others that were once new to the city too—the Greeks, Puerto Ricans and Portuguese; the Cambodians, Irish and French Canadians.

While we cannot change the grid-lock that is taking place at a national level, we can decide our path on a local level. I aim to represent 'All of Lowell' on the City Council by recognizing our common interest to see the city prosper is greater and more important than any differences that may be perceived among us.

We must embrace and respect ideas that come from residents who have been here for six months, alongside the ideas of those who have been here for six generations; from both sides of the political spectrum; from all neighborhoods and from all ethnicities and backgrounds. We all have something to offer. We are all Lowellians.

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THE EMPTY CHAIR - (Exposing Addiction) Public Enemy #1

Phil Lahey

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

When it comes to drug addiction, who is public enemy #1? You might guess the drug dealer, or the one who introduced our kid to drugs, a so-called friend. Maybe it is the addict himself. The fault could be the easy access to obtain the drugs. If you guessed any of the above you would be wrong.

So who is the public enemy #1? I am, and all the other parents who continue to minimize the use of booze and weed with the kids in school. Many parents feel it's no big deal when their kids experiment. The parent truly believes it's just a stage kids go through and they will grow out of it. In a majority of kids, the parent is right. Sad to say, kids are starting to experiment at a very young age. The average age kids start to use is between the ages of 11 to 14. When kids are that young they really have no fears, and are more likely to progress to stronger drugs. When they reach the stage of opiates, there is no turning back. It has now become a physical addiction.

So. How did I become such an expert you might be asking yourself? It was easy; I made just about every mistake a parent could make. I made mistakes before my daughter became an addict, and continued to make mistakes after she became an addict. When I say I was public enemy #1, I mean they should have hung my picture in the post office.

My goal for this column is to make parents aware that addiction does not discriminate. It can happen to any one of our kids. When kids are young they make mistakes, and this is one mistake that could haunt them and us for a long time.

My purpose is not to put a ban on booze, or for that matter to try and nab weed. Parents have to be made aware that when kids start using booze and weed at a very early age that they are gateway drugs, and can lead to the use of hard drugs.

All I ask is for the parent to not minimize if they suspect their kids have started to experiment. Try and notice things that may be changing in your child's behavior. Are his grades slipping? Are they hanging out with a different group of friends? Are they losing interest in other activities they use to participate in.



These and other changes you might notice do not mean your child is using, but it should send up a red flag.

Sometimes I think back to when my daughter was in school. I wonder if I would have had the knowledge then that I now have, maybe I could have prevented my daughter from a life of addiction.

In the near future, Methuen Supt. of Schools, Judy Scannel, is going to try and set up a forum where I can talk to a group of parents. My guess is it will be a very small turnout, but that's o.k. If I can get through to the parents of one kid, and prevent them from the nightmare that I went through, I will consider it a great success.

The best treatment for addiction is prevention. We have to educate the kids at an early age, but even more important is to educate the parents.

I also belong to a support group for the loved ones of addicts called The Circle of Hope. They are a fantastic group of people who have become a very important part of my life. If you would like more information on the group or if you just want to talk about addiction, please give me a call at 978-557-9235.

My daughter and I also do a series of shows at M.C.T.V. The show is called The Empty Chair. We try to cover all the aspects of addiction and recovery. You can also find our show on YouTube by searching theemptychairshow (one word), or go to Facebook and check out our link: The Empty Chair

I do hope this article at least gets you thinking about a disease that claims over 100,000 lives a year.

All too often when we realize that we need a Lawyer, it's too late.

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Protect Seniors Against Heightened Medication Risks

Celeste Begley

VALLEY PATRIOT GUEST COLUMNIST

Prescriptions can be the key to a longer, fuller life; but if not handled properly, they can also cause serious problems. To help us all use prescriptions properly and minimize risk, Right at Home has been instrumental in raising awareness in the communities north of Boston, as well as their own group of clients. Right at Home, North of Boston is addressing the need for medication compliance, for a healthy independent life at home, through a new Registered Nurse implemented medication management program called RightMeds.

"Educating patients is critical for promoting healthy use of prescriptions, as people tend to see many different doctors for various conditions instead of one primary physician," said Rosaleen Doherty, Co-Owner of Right at Home North of Boston. "Seniors are at an even higher risk than most for serious side effects and other medication risks. Right at Home is trying to foster awareness to educate our clients and all seniors so they can protect themselves against these risks."

Two out of every three doctor visits result in the prescribing of a medication, with a total of 3.5 billion prescriptions dispensed every year. Prescription education is particularly important for seniors, who tend to take more medications on average—50 percent of seniors take an average of eight medications or more regularly, according to a news release from the National Council on Aging and CVS/pharmacy. Since the risk of experiencing side effects increases with the number of prescriptions taken, most seniors have a high risk. As bodies change and age, this can cause the body to react differently, so a senior may start to experience a side effect from a prescription even if they have been taking it for years without any issues.

The National Council on Patient Information and Education (NCPPIE), a coalition of over 125 diverse organizations whose mission is to stimulate and improve communication of information on appropriate medicine use to consumers and healthcare advises all prescription users to "Be MedWise" and practice safe medicine use by focusing on the "3Rs": RISK, RESPECT and RESPONSIBILITY. Right at Home recommends these top 10 best practices for senior medication safety:

1. Always keep a complete, updated list of medications, including prescriptions, over the counter medications, vitamins and supplements. Give a copy to family members and others who may need to know in an emergency, such as a close neighbor or medical proxy. Show this list to all physicians you see at every visit.

2. Use one pharmacy. People usually see several doctors to address different problems, so prescriptions can't be managed through a primary physician as they

used to be. Going through the same pharmacy for all prescriptions will create one more checkpoint to make sure prescriptions won't mix dangerously.

3. Know your medications. Read the information that comes with each medication, know the purpose and be aware of their side effects.

4. Only take medications as directed. If you feel a change needs to be made, talk to the physician who prescribed it; never self-medicate.

5. Store medications in a dry place of moderate temperature; do not store in areas where temperatures vary greatly or where it gets humid (like the medicine cabinet in the bathroom). Know what prescriptions need to be stored in the refrigerator.

6. Talk to a doctor before adding a new medication, vitamin or supplement to your routine if you are taking a prescription.

7. Do not share prescriptions with others, no matter what. Even the same medication can come in pills of varying amounts, and even a small amount of difference in dosages can make a big difference to your body.

8. Dispose of all expired prescriptions, even if you haven't used all of them yet. Prescriptions change as they age, meaning they will mix differently with your body and other prescriptions and can lead to dangerous adverse reactions.

9. Speak up—keep the conversation going with your physicians and pharmacy. Ask questions and voice your concerns. You know your body best, and when it comes to your health, there are no bad questions.

10. If applicable, use medication management tools like reminder services, electronic pill dispensers or in-home services like Right at Home to ensure that medications are taken properly. Missing a dosage, confusing pills or other innocent medication mistakes can have serious ramifications.

Right at Home is offering all families north of Boston an opportunity to have their medications managed by a Registered Nurse. Their RightMed offerings include having a Right At Home nurse fill and monitor a loved one's medications WITHOUT having to use home care services. The nurse will also take the client's vital signs on each visit. Right at Home can also offer the Philip's Prescription Medication Dispense, to make sure a loved one is taking their medications on time with reminders. If the person misses their dose, Right at Home can notify the family and help their loved one get back on track. Medication compliance is a key to healthy living for seniors. Right at Home can help families manage this important task. For more information, please call Right at Home at 877-500-CARE (2273).

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Welcome to Sir Donald Berwick's World, Pt. 2

Dr. Bharani Padmanabhan
VALLEY PATRIOT OPINION COLUMNIST

Inevitably Sir Donald Berwick's mindset ended up causing the Mid Staffs Scandal. The hospital at the center of this heart-rending scandal is Stafford Hospital, then under Sir Donald's good friend Sir David Nicholson at the Staffordshire Health Authority (part of NHS West Midlands).

Hundreds of elderly patients were made to sit in their own urine and stool for DAYS. Thousands were left unfed by staff who ticked a Checklist box for delivering a food tray, and ticked another box for picking up the food tray even though the 80 and 90 year old patients were obviously unable to eat off the tray by themselves and did not. Hundreds of elderly patients starved to death. Thousands more had to drink water out of the flower vase after they were fully ignored. In England. In 2006. The staff did not care about people anymore. They just worked there. All they cared about was meeting the Checklist criteria of Sir Donald and friends because if they did not meet the quotas, they would be written up. No one in Sir Donald's world ever got written up for letting an old woman starve to death. There was an excess of at least 1200 deaths at Stafford alone, in just four years, after his "reform".

Remember, in this world they are forcing us into, the patient's main role is to make the Doctor's numbers look good. If your sugar remains stubbornly high, the Doctor will now simply fire you. Can't let anything drag the numbers down. It is also inevitable that Clinics will lie about diabetics getting annual eye exams. Naturally none of Sir Donald's, Dr. Leape's and Dr. Gawande's Checklists have anything to do with humanity or compassion. That's why the Harvard-Cheesecake-Factory model applies perfectly to their world. A plate on a table. Removed. Done!

Numerous good people blew the whistle. They were immediately defamed as being mentally ill. One such good person (unlike Sir Donald, Sir David, Leape or Gawande) by the name of Kay Sheldon, was falsely declared in public to be a Paranoid Schizophrenic, exactly as in Stalin's time.

It is crucial to note that for Sir Donald and Dr. Leape, mental illness is purely a stigma to fling at whistleblowers. This is true for medical staff (Dr. Greg Lipshutz + Dr. Soma Stout spring to mind) at Dr. Leape's Cambridge Hospital too who are particularly happy to oblige. They still miss the time before the Wall came down. Interestingly Dag Hammarskjöld did exactly the same to Paul Bang-Jensen but that still did not save himself.

The CEO of NHS West Midlands at the time of the horrendous events was a Cynthia Bower who was rewarded for implementing Sir Donald's mindset by being made the Chief of the Care Quality Commission. Naturally! She finally went home after being publicly condemned by the British Parliament, taking \$2.2 Million as her spoils.

Sir Donald's good friend Sir David Nicholson, a card-carrying Communist till 1983 - well past Prague, Honecker, The Gulag Archipelago and Jaruzelski - who was the CEO directly overseeing Staffordshire, continues to be Untouchable thanks to Sir Donald.

When the Francis Report was released, he asked his other good friend David Cameron (the 1st Prime Minister rejected by Parliament over a war vote since 1782)

to hire Sir Donald to come up with a response to that report. Of course! Who else?! Certainly no one who would recommend that Sir David be immediately fired without a Golden Parachute. As a case of the foxes "examining" themselves over the carnage in the coop, this was a doozy!

It is apparent that the Globe's article rang alarm bells given that the staffer who wrote the piece seems to have been compelled to then put out a glowing interview of Sir Donald in a clear attempt at damage control, an interview from which no one would have any idea how the current state of affairs both in England's NHS and at Medicare reflects his mindset completely. The allegedly oh-so-noble Kaiser Family Foundation also immediately rushed out another interview calling him a "Health Quality Guru"!! It is on the allegedly nonpartisan NPR's website, where Sir Donald again, just like his friend Dr. Leape, harps on the need to not punish anyone for wrongdoing, which explains why the number of potentially fatal "Never Events" doubled after Sir Donald reformed the NHS.

None of what I have written is tea bagging from the extreme Right. Nor am I in the pay of any company, political party or even a "nonprofit" fraud. Heck, thanks to Sir Donald's friends, including Dr. Bor as well as the entirely corrupt MA Dept. of Public Health, I haven't been paid for 3 years for seeing my own patients even, in an effort to throw me out of town before I can testify in a criminal trial about massive Medicare Fraud at Cambridge Hospital. A Stalinist Internal Exile comes closest to describing it. Progressives forced Solzhenitsyn to live for years on 1 Ruble a day. To my chagrin, I cost myself more every month than the great Solzhenitsyn cost himself.

And it's all because when it comes to themselves and their Inner Party friends, Sir Donald and Dr. Leape remain adamant that no punishment is ever appropriate.

Their good friend Dr. Judy Ann Bigby for example presided over the deaths of 64 people this past year even though she had absolute authority and obligation to ensure compounding pharmacies had a prescription for each vial of medicine made. It is one of the things taxpayers gave her their hard-earned money to specifically do. Naturally her friends will ensure she goes unpunished for not doing her duty. Only then will Partners hospitals escape too for knowingly buying in bulk from a compounding pharmacy (hey! the Cheesecake Factory buys in bulk too). The singular exception being Dana Farber Cancer Institute, the exception that proves the rule.

After all Dr. Bigby is one of the best physicians to come out of Partners Healthcare, the Director of a Harvard Center of Excellence, and the very definition of an Untouchable. This is the Globe's description of her - "Because if there's one thing to know about Bigby, who is 52, it's that she has a face-flooding, eyes-light-up-kind-of smile." The Boston Globe is a newspaper as much as David Gregory is a journalist. If you think that under John Henry, with his real and understandable need to be cozy with city and state powers, the Globe will transform into an independent adversarial watchdog and protect the citizens of this Commonwealth from government and oligarchs, you are nuts.

Harvard being Harvard, an institution that gave a Professorship to Samantha Power but not to Solzhenitsyn, naturally invited the Inner Party Untouchable Dr. Bigby to lead a Forum on Leadership.

SIR DONALD: PAGE 39

TEEN TALK WITH ANA DEBERNARDO

The Valley Patriot's New Teen Talk Columnist
Introduces Herself to Our Readers

My name is Ana Montserrat de Bernardo and I am a sophomore at St. Mary's High School in Lynn. I have been reading The Valley Patriot for a while now, and I absolutely love it. It's different from the other newspapers I read, and I especially value the fact that it offers many different perspectives on a variety of subjects. I have always loved writing and I'm looking forward to having a forum where I can discuss different issues. My aim is to write in a style that will appeal to other teens as I comment on world events, social problems, music, movies, and really anything that interests kids our age. It is also my intention to make this column a venue for any young person who wants to share their thoughts with other young Valley Patriot readers, and I will do my best to cultivate a free exchange of ideas in these pages each month.

Since this is my first column in this paper, I thought it would be a good idea to say a few words about myself. At home, I grew up speaking only Spanish, even before I learned English. We still speak primarily Spanish at home. I recently had my Quinceañera, or my "Sweet Fifteen" birthday celebration. This was planned by my mother and me for many months, and I wore a special dress we bought just for the occasion. There was a Spanish Mass said for me at St. John the Baptist Church in Peabody, and my sister and I did the readings. I had my aunts and uncle there, as well as my cousins and, of course, my mom and dad. Many of my friends, from both my middle school and my high school, came to the mass. There were probably thirty of them, and it was nice to have everyone there. Some of my friends don't understand Español, but they are all Catholic and so they didn't feel disoriented, and they knew what to do and when to do it. After that, my parents threw a big, beautiful party for me, with tons of food, and we all had an awesome time together. I loved my presents, especially the ritzy new rug for my bedroom!

We go to South America every summer to visit our family for two months. I have been told that I am an artist-in-the-making, and this summer, I studied painting with a very successful South American artist named Porfirio Bustos. He has a well-known art school, and I painted my first two oil paintings while I was there. I had concentrated on drawing previously, and had some exposure to acrylic paints, but any artist will tell you that oils are a bigger challenge. They both turned out pretty well, though, and I recently entered one of them, which depicts a languid sunset river scene,



into the Topsfield Fair art competition. I'll let you know next month if I win a ribbon, but I know there are a lot of talented young artists out there.

My older sister, Lucía Beatriz, is 19 and a sophomore at Harvard. I like the fact that she is still in the Boston area and close enough for us to visit any time we want. I also have a brother, Dominic, who is 17 and is a junior at Malden Catholic High School. Dom lives, eats, breathes and dreams baseball, and plays on three different teams (indoors in the winter). I think that our family is more close-knit than most other families I have seen --at least that is how it feels to me. I also have two children named Tutti and Nala, my black and white toy poodles and those two are my little amiguitos –my buddies.

Tennis is my game. I play for St. Mary's High School, and I really enjoy it much more than other sports. I play every chance I get, usually with my friend Alessa Padilla from my old middle school. I also play the piano and if you hear a song drifting through the air from the other room, that's me. I am always singing to myself, and it keeps me in a good mood.

One last thing –and it's a bennie. I don't want to alienate my readers right off the bat, but my family roots for the Yankees. My favorite player is Robinson Canó. There. I said it. I needed to share the good and the bad, and there you have it.

This column is meant to introduce myself to Valley Patriot readers, and I hope that you have gotten to know me a little. I am really looking forward to sharing my thoughts in future editions. If anyone wants to get in touch with me, please write to me, Ana, at pm.de@verizon.net or Attention: ANA to valleypatriot@aol.com

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GMO's (Genetically Modified Organisms)

Dr. Jin Sung

VALLEY PATRIOT CHIROPRACTIC PHYSICIAN

Scientific studies are showing that genetically engineered foods, or genetically modified organisms (GMOs), can damage the organs of the body, including the liver, kidneys and brain. Researchers also found significant changes that affected weight gain, eating behaviors, and immune function.

You won't get sick from one meal containing GM corn or soy (just as you won't get sick from one pack or even 10 packs, of cigarettes), but most people have far greater exposure.

About 90% of America's corn, cotton, soy, canola and sugar beet crops are genetically engineered. You will find GMOs in fresh produce and processed foods: in such animal products as milk, meat and eggs because of GM animal feed.

The GMO industry claims its crops are safe, but even before Monsanto, the international agricultural biotechnology corporation, was allowed to plant its first commercial crop in 1996, Food and Drug Administration scientists were calling for more research. They predicted that engineered foods would contain rogue proteins that could be toxic and cause allergies, nutritional deficiencies and other diseases. Their calls for better testing were ignored.

GMO foods and crops are closely regulated in Europe. According to the European Commission, the rules are in place "to protect human and animal health through stringent safety assessment of GM food and feed before it can be sold" and "to ensure clear labeling that responds to the concerns of consumers and enables them to make informed choices."

Why is the U.S. policy so different? Food and agricultural companies spent millions to defeat California's proposition demanding better food labeling, a move that thrust GMOs into the spotlight. Many didn't know about the GMOs in their foods until that battle.

Then the Farmer's Assurance Provision (a.k.a. Monsanto Protection Act) was tacked onto a U.S. spending bill in March. It actually requires the Dept. of Agriculture to ignore a court order and allow the planting of new genetically engineered



crops while the agency conducts further review.

The best way to avoid GMOs is to buy organic foods or foods with the Non-GMO Project seal. When buying conventional foods, avoid those with corn, soy, canola, cottonseed and "sugar" (but not "cane sugar") ingredients. You can also download a shopping guide (NonGmo-ShoppingGuide.com) to help you steer clear of GMOs.

How safe are GMOs?

More often than not, unless the research is tainted by industry ties, studies into the effects of genetically engineered foods demonstrate that it is anything but safe. This isn't so surprising when you consider that simple logic will tell you it's probably not wise to consume a plant designed to produce its own pesticide, for example.

So-called "Bt corn" is equipped with a gene from the soil bacteria *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), which produces Bt-toxin—a pesticide that breaks open the stomach of certain insects and kills them. This pesticide-producing corn entered the food supply in the late 1990's, and over the past decade, the horror stories have started piling up.

Monsanto and the US Environmental

Protection Agency (EPA) swore that the toxin would only affect insects munching on the crop. The Bt-toxin, they claimed, would be completely destroyed in the human digestive system and would not have any impact on animals and humans. The biotech companies have doggedly insisted that Bt-toxin doesn't bind or interact with the intestinal walls of mammals, and therefore humans.

The research proves all such claims false.

Prior findings have already shown that Bt corn is anything but innocuous to the human system. Just last year, doctors at Sherbrooke University Hospital in Quebec found Bt-toxin in the blood of 4 of

- 93 percent of pregnant women tested
- 80 percent of umbilical blood in their babies, and

• 67 percent of non-pregnant women

Bt-toxin breaks open the stomach of insects. Could it similarly be damaging the integrity of your digestive tract? If Bt-toxins can damage the intestinal walls of newborns and young children, the passage of undigested foods and toxins into the blood from the digestive tract could be devastating to their future health.

Scientists speculate that it may lead to autoimmune diseases and food allergies. Furthermore, since the blood-brain barrier is not developed in newborns, toxins may enter the brain causing serious cognitive problems. Some healthcare practitioners and scientists are convinced that this is one mechanism for autism.

If Bt genes are colonizing the bacteria living in the digestive tract of North Americans, we might expect to see an increase in gastrointestinal problems, autoimmune diseases, food allergies, and childhood learning disorders since the advent of Bt crops in 1996, and that's exactly what's being reported. For example, between 1997 and 2002 the number of hospitalizations related to allergic reactions to food increased by a whopping 265 percent. One out of 17 children now has some form of food allergy and allergy rates are rising.

So-called "Roundup Ready" crops are another type of genetically engineered crops. While Bt crops contain a gene that produces a pesticide inside the plant itself, Roundup Ready crops are designed to withstand otherwise lethal topical doses of glyphosate—a broad spectrum herbicide, and the active ingredient in Monsanto's herbicide Roundup as well as hundreds of other products.

This way, the crop survives while all weeds are theoretically eliminated from the field... that is 'theoretically' because the overuse of the herbicide has led to the rapid development of glyphosate-resistant superweeds. It's estimated that more than 130 types of weeds spanning 40 U.S. states are now herbicide-resistant, and the superweeds are showing no signs of stopping.

Roundup Ready crops have also been linked to serious health problems—particularly relating to fertility and birth defects—as has glyphosate itself.

Top 10 Worst GMO Foods to Avoid Eating

1. Corn
2. Soy
3. Sugar
4. Aspartame
5. Papayas
6. Canola
7. Cotton
8. Dairy
9. and 10. Zucchini and Yellow Squash



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.

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**SULLIVAN
FROM 6**

ning the City of Newburyport, I can better answer that question.

Q) What is your opinion on the beach erosion on Plum Island and what part do you see the city being involved?

A) Beach erosion on a barrier island is a natural process. Plum Island is constantly changing. As public officials, we have a responsibility to protect citizen's property. We have resources at our disposal and sometimes, as we saw this past winter, that is not enough. We must do what we can to help. Open government, open door policy at the Mayor's office and a willingness to work together as a team with the City Council to solve people's problems and to improve the quality of life for all Newburyport residents.

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IVES: FROM PAGE 31

the benefits of cheaper natural gas and energy independence outweigh the risks and costs of fracking. However, I contend that if we poison our valuable and finite water supply, we are simply shifting to a new problem of no longer having affordable drinking water and water independence. We can do better and this legislation takes the bold action necessary to settle this question in Massachusetts.

I will continue to advocate for these bills so that we may put this critical legislation into law. Massachusetts can be a leader on this matter and hopefully, other states will take similar action. Massachusetts drinking water is a public resource we as residents have the right to protect. It's important to the health and well being of our families as well as our state and local economy.



PHOTO: MARYBAKERART.COM

Sir Donald: From Page 37

After the 64 died. The victims' families and others can see Neil Murthy's spine chilling introduction here -

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S29WlaH9coU> - This is what Harvard Professors call "Accountable Care."

All of the above travesties at the NHS actually happened very recently thanks to Sir Donald Berwick and his mindset. You owe it to your elderly loved ones to read the Francis Report. (<http://www.midstaffspublicinquiry.com/report>) If you think someone else is out there to protect them, remember retired State Police Colonel Thomas Foley said this after the belated partial conviction of James Bulger - "But you'd like to see processes put in place so it does not happen again."

Think about that. He did not say 'we now have processes in place so it does not happen again'. Tom is an honest policeman who knows Massachusetts all too well. And because this is a state drenched in corruption and routine conscious violation of due process much like East Europe before the Wall came down, Tom's statement was met with deafening silence.

Medicare now has adopted the world of Sir Donald and everything that led directly to the Mid Staffs scandal. When Medicare, once popular with seniors just like the pre-Berwick NHS, is made

unpleasant enough by Secretary Sebelius, Dr. Julian Harris and friends further implementing Sir Donald's mindset, it can only help drive folks into the private market where other friends like Castlight and Venrock are happily waiting.

Just like our safe pensions became 'It's Your Retirement Money! Take Control!' we will be told - "It's Your Healthcare Money! Take Control!" - most likely in the pages of the New England Journal of Medicine, present right at Harvard.

In 2008 Judith Warner wrote - "But now, the world of Wall Street has become our world; there is no outside to it, there is no other option than to pay and play. Our fortunes rise and fall together to a degree like never before, and our values are enmeshed like never before. The language of Wall Street — of cost cutting and efficiency, self-interest, using each situation to maximize profit, is the language of everyday life and social interaction. We're all losers now."

Welcome to Sir Donald Berwick's world, a world peopled by the likes of Leape, Sir David, Bor, Gawande, Harris and Stout, a world that even The Daily Mail finds squalid.

You will pray to God to take you soon.



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Free State Project: Friend or Foe to New Hampshire?

D.J. Bettencourt

VALLEY PATRIOT NEW HAMPSHIRE COLUMNIST

Earlier this year, State Representative Cynthia Chase (D-Keene) opined on a fringe New Hampshire liberal blog:

"Free Staters are the single biggest threat the state is facing today. There is, legally, nothing we can do to prevent them from moving here to take over the state, which is their openly stated goal. In this country you can move anywhere you choose and they have that same right. What we can do is to make the environment here so unwelcoming that some will choose not to come, and some may actually leave. One way is to pass measures that will restrict the "freedom" that they think they will find here."

It is highly unlikely that Representative Chase expected her comments to go viral and spark a debate over the impact of the Free State Project (FSP) and the agenda of legislative Democrats. Yet that is exactly what happened.

Since Free Staters and not unemployment or \$4.2 billion in unfunded pension liabilities are "the single biggest threat the state is facing" we must understand its nature and magnitude. What is the Free State Project? According to their website it is: "an agreement among 20,000 pro-liberty activists to move to New Hampshire, where they will exert the fullest practical effort toward the creation of a society in which the maximum role of government is the protection of life, liberty, and property." The movement is libertarian in nature and liberals see its mission as an existential threat. For realistic reasons, I disagree.

First a disclaimer, I am a lifelong Granite Stater. I am not associated with the Free State Project (FSP) and philosophically I see a greater responsibility for government than many Free Staters. Additionally, I find the tactics employed by some Free Staters to prove their point to be unacceptable, especially their attitude toward law enforcement. Rather, my dismissal of any Free Stater "threat" is rooted in reality and mathematics.

As the Union Leader pointed out in their Sunday editorial, if the FSP mission was to relocate 20,000 people to New Hampshire it has been a mathematical failure. According to the 2010 census, New Hampshire has a population of approximately 1.3 million. Had the FSP reached their goal, they would comprise 1.5% of the population. However, in 11 years only 1,000 of those 20,000 have actually relocated. Thus Free Staters represent only .000769% of our current population.

Yet despite being a microscopic minority, Representative Chase and others believe they must be suppressed. Foster's Daily Democrat penned two high handed editori-

als claiming Free Staters were a threat to "ruin our way of life" and beseeched them to demonstrate maturity.

At this point it could be concluded that, based on the numbers, the FSP is a liberal boogeyman that isn't a threat to anything political or cultural. But then there is the belief that everyone associated with the FSP is a radical, unreasonable provocateur that must be guarded against. New Hampshire Democrat National Committeewoman Kathy Sullivan believes that anyone affiliated with the FSP should disclose their connection if running for office. Ms. Sullivan did not say whether John Lynch, Paul Hodes, Maggie Hassan, and Terie Norelli should have disclosed that they were liberals from Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, and New Jersey when they brought their tax and spend values with them to New Hampshire.

Unfortunately, few have considered how many of those one thousand Free Staters are simply hardworking taxpayers or small business owners who are exercising the same choice millions of Americans make each year to move to states they believe share their cultural and financial values. Not all Free Staters are deserving of Rep. Chase's scorn and they should not be demonized.

The final claim is that Free Staters are unfit to hold public office. In reality, only a handful of Free Staters have been elected. Of those, a few have done some counterproductive things. But then there are Free Staters Keith Murphy, Dan McGuire, Carol McGuire, and Mark Warden who have been valuable and constructive members of the New Hampshire House of Representatives. They prove why generalizations about the FSP are unfair. Politics will always have its share of unreasonable people, no political party or ideology has a monopoly on them.

In the end, WMUR Political Analyst James Pindell was right to wonder, "How is it we are still debating the Free State movement? This controversy says much more about the attitude of New Hampshire Democrats toward those they disagree with than it does about the Free State Project.



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.

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

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Ron Penczak's Crime of the Month Credit Card Fraud

During the week of July 21st, a male and female suspect are believed to be involved in a smash and grab from vehicles parked at the Rockingham Mall. A purse was stolen from a vehicle and stolen credit cards were used at several locations. On July 25th at 5:13pm, the thieves purchased a Sansui television valued at \$499.99 at the BJ's Wholesale Club. The Salem Police Department is seeking the public's assistance in identifying the two individuals in the photographs. If you can identify either or both suspects, please report it to Crimeline of Southern NH and you could qualify for a reward of up to \$1,000. All tips remain anonymous. If you can iden-

tify the suspect please report it to Crimeline of Southern NH at: (603) 893-6600 or (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 Crimeline. The Crimeline phone lines do not have caller ID.

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MORALITY MATTERS

Losing Our Sanity

Paul Murano

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

There are two basic ways through which we have certitude about anything: faith and reason. In short, reason trusts the mind and faith trusts the word of another. While reason is the natural ability of all human beings to understand and discern the truth, faith trusts an authority as the medium to the truth -- a parent, a teacher, a book, the media, etc. Both faith and reason can soar beyond sensual experience to grasp transcendent immaterial truths. Each complements and purifies the other as avenues to the same truth.

What we have seen in modern times attests to the hypothesis that faith and reason are intrinsically linked: The more that faith is rejected the more we lose the ability to reason. The more faith is devalued, the more doubt is raised that we can know anything, for one must have faith in the senses as well as the mind. The scientific method is grounded in this presumption. If the light of faith does not shine on reason, however, it becomes untrusting and inoperable.

For example, without trust in our human faculties Cartesian doubt makes sense, which is the radical doubt about the existence of anything except, perhaps, "I" since "I think therefore I am." Post-modernism is marked by this kind of doubt. After all, on what solid basis can we trust that our five physical senses and limited human minds can know anything at all? Why should we trust them?

Only a trust in the primary Cause of our being could enable us to trust that our own faculties can attain truth. In other words, the ability to trust our innate human faculties has to be grounded on the fact that the primary Cause that grounds all being, which most people call God, would have to be both reasonable and good. Otherwise, there is no objective reason to trust these faculties created within us as being trustworthy. This initial act of faith transcends our faculties. And therein lies the dilemma. We must go beyond our natural faculties in order to be able to trust in them: Without faith in a God whose eternal nature is Truth (Jn 1:1, 14:6) and Love (1 Jn 1:4:8), there is no rationale for any faith in ourselves, our minds or our senses.

Take away this supernatural premise and we are left with a post-modern skepticism and cynicism that leads to nihilism (i.e. a culture of death). If there is no foundational basis for believing we can discover truth, we fall into a cultural relativism that seeks power rather than truth -- and power for the sake of promoting selfish desire rather than the common good. In democracies, power comes in numbers. Consensus becomes power and might makes right. This hollow message of secular humanism is what the two culture-molding establishments, the media and academia, have been preaching for over a generation.

This maxim is manifest in our society today. It seems to be clear that losing faith in God means losing the ability to reason. Without the light of faith, reason can only be followed to the point where perceived self-interest is located, and no further. Without the light of reason self-interest necessarily means disordered desire, since "order" is something discerned by reason. All truth-claims of any depth are then rejected as "intolerant", "judgmental", or "mean-spirited", and this is accompanied by attacking and ridiculing the messenger of uncomfortable truths. In such a culture of denial there can be no alternative to the manipulation of minds and the attacking of persons. Dialogue on the level of ideas, therefore, becomes impossible, the ability to communicate beyond the shallowest of levels is discouraged, vice and addiction become commonplace, and all sanity is lost. The rupture and dissipation of faith and reason results in the sane becoming outcasts, suffering considerably, and eventually becoming recognized as heroes and saints.



Paul Murano teaches philosophy at Middlesex and North Shore Community College and theology at Magdalen College. He is host of Beneath the Surface on WCAP radio 980AM Sunday nights 10pm-midnight, 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.

Pentucket Medical Pays Special Tribute to KIA, POW, MIA's

Veterans Assisting Veterans (VAV) and Pentucket Medical Associates (PMA), are jointly sponsoring a Black Tie Fundraising Event on Saturday, November 9 -- the first time the medical community has gathered to honor the members of the Medical Corps of the US Armed Forces and pay special tribute to those in the medical corps who have been killed, are prisoners of war (POW) or are missing in action (MIA).

The dinner will be held at Salvatore's Restaurant Olympia Function Room on Merrimack Street in Lawrence, MA, from 6-11pm with a presentation from Dr. Cameron Wright, who serves as a Colonel in the US Army Reserve (USAR) and has been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Dr. Wright is currently a visiting surgeon at Mass General Hospital serving as Associate Chief of Thoracic Surgery, Associate Program Director and Chair of Quality for Surgery. Dancing and socializing will follow.

This event will unite all of the major health care organizations of eastern Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire in tribute to the doctors, nurses, medics and corpsmen who serve our nation saving troops both during war as well as our wounded veterans once they return home.

The proceeds from this event will go to numerous grassroots veterans' organizations including:

- * Operation Thank You: whose volunteers visit veterans in nursing and veterans' homes with food, gifts, and companionship.

- * Ironstone Farm Equine Encounters Program for Veterans: which successfully treats homeless combat veterans with PTSD and other mental problems from war.

- * American Veterans with Brain Injuries (AVBI): which provides support to the families of American service members and veterans who have suffered brain injuries.

- * The American Widow Project: which



helps military widows rebuild their lives.

"Our goal is to provide the services so urgently needed by those who have survived war but are suffering from the lingering effects," according to John Sarro, Executive Director of Pentucket Medical Associates.

"This is an unprecedented opportunity for the eastern Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire medical communities to unite and honor their own heroes -- both sung and unsung," Sarro added.

Pentucket Medical Associates (PMA) -- with locations in Georgetown, Haverhill, Lawrence (Riverwalk) Newburyport and North Andover, has been providing extraordinary health care to the residents of the Merrimack Valley for over 40 years. With the latest in diagnostics, technology and research, PMA offers unparalleled acute, chronic, and wellness care to patients through a staff of 300 dedicated physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and both clinical and administrative support staff.

Veterans Assisting Veterans (VAV) is an organization of US war veterans with the goal of helping other veterans through fundraising events. Their membership has burgeoned as a result of the last two wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The VAV goal is to raise funds to help veterans and their families through concerts, motorcycle runs and other events that result in aid to their fellow troops.

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News from the American Legion

John Lenotte

VALLEY PATRIOT VETERAN COLUMNIST

As a continuation from last month, there are a few additional items of note from the American Legion National Convention in Houston, TX. One is the national oratorical champion. In addition to monetary winnings at the district/county and state level, Agnes Rieger of Kansas City received \$18 thousand in scholarship money. Very few participated from Essex County. The American Legion administers a scholarship from Samsung in which a Boys Nation or Girls Nation participant received a \$20 thousand scholarship. Again, a small number from Essex County participate in Boys State or Girls State. Scholarships are also awarded to American Legion Baseball players and an Eagle Scout of the Year. Some of the scholarship winners also get a trip to the National Convention in whatever city it is being held in. The location for 2014 is Charlotte, NC. I hope we see more participants next year. I mention this every year at this time in a fall article, but it seems to fall on deaf ears of school committees, administrators and parents. And this list does not include what is given at both the post and state levels. Given the rising costs of education, I continue to be surprised by the lack of participation.

On September 9 & 10, our 2 Past National Commanders from Massachusetts, Jake Comer, Paul Morin and myself went to Washington, DC along with about 150 other Legionnaires from most Departments. On Monday, we were briefed by the Washington Office staff and visited 2 Congressional offices. On Tuesday, we attended a breakfast at which several Senators and members of the House came to speak for a few minutes. This included Senator Barry Sanders, Chair of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi. Our new National Commander, Dan Dellerling then presented testimony to a joint session of the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees. His comments were well received. This can be seen online at www.legion.org

We then went to visit the remaining Congressional offices in the House. Representative Keating was available and spent about 20 minutes with us. In the other offices, we met with legislative staff. As in the past, Representatives Keating, Neal, McGovern and Lynch support the Flag Amendment. We are waiting



to hear where Representative Kennedy stands.

Of note was that all the offices said there was a large number of calls and emails regarding the crisis in Syria, most saying Congress should vote NOT to intervene. For me, it reinforced that when we have issues of importance, we need to contact our Congressional representatives. This is best done by calling the local or Washington office. Another option is to send email. This is faster than traditional mail, which takes at least 2 weeks to get to their DC office. Let us remember this in the future and let our voices and strength in numbers be heard.

Given all the controversy about issues like: the Affordable Care Act (also known as Obamacare), Sequestration, the budget, the Benghazi attack, I would expect you are contacting the Congressional offices to voice your opinion. I have done so. Have you? When I attended Lawrence High School many years ago, we were taught in Civics class that it was our duty as citizens to vote and make our voices heard. Sixteen million Americans participated in World War II so that we could have the right to do so. And since then and up to today, men and women in uniform still fight to protect our rights. And people come from all over the world to be in the United States, land of the free because of the brave. As before, I continue to ask, join me in making our voices heard.

May God Bless our troops and their families.



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

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FROM 1: HERO GEORGE A. FLIBOTTE

medics ran out of plasma and sent out an urgent call for blood donors. At the time, we were in the mess hall. We immediately volunteered, gave blood, put away our mess kits, and rushed back to the bomb dump, where we loaded bombs onto truck convoys for delivery to planes."

The air cover was massive. The U.S. Army Air Force reported it alone had "dispatched more than 8,000 planes on missions directly related to the invasion."

George had entered the Army Air Corps in June 1943, at the age of 18, from North Reading. While training as a radio technician at Scott Field, Illinois, his plans were changed abruptly. Two weeks shy of completing his course, he was ordered to leave for England at once. "On May 13, 1944, we boarded the SS Brazil, a converted ocean liner, and arrived at Liverpool, England on May 24, assigned to the Ninth's 1925th



Belgium 1945. Corporal George Flibotte, 1925th Ordnance Ammunition Company, Ninth Air Force.

Ordnance Ammo. Less than two weeks later, the D-Day invasion began."

Constantly on the ready as the Allies raced to Berlin, and the bombing attacks intensified, there was no opportunity for a furlough until George was discharged in 1946.

A new type of air war

The Normandy invasion opened up a new type of warfare for the Ninth Air Force. "We were constantly moving, moving, moving from one site to another throughout Europe."

While the Eighth Air Force with its heavy bombers flew from semi-permanent installations directly into the heart of Germany, the Ninth's medium bombers followed the advancing troops as they moved swiftly across France, Belgium, and Germany, following General George Patton's Third Army.

As the 1925th Ordnance Ammunition Company moved, George spent a couple of months at various sites in England from May through July 1944 while the Ninth sent out bombers and fighter-bombers during the Normandy Campaign, including the Battle of the Bulge.

By the end of September 1944, the Ninth Air Force had moved bases from England to the continent. "We flew in a C-47 from England to Nazi-occupied northern France: Fall 1944 (Senlis), December 1944 (Le Nouvion), January and February 1945 (Bohain and Vaux, north of Paris), April 1945 (Sillery, near Reims, 80 miles northeast of Paris), May 1945 (Saint Dizier and Liesse), June 1945 (Bucy). In 1945 he was in Belgium and then in Germany.

Bombs delivered on-time!

With the Ninth moving quickly across Europe, bombs were stockpiled outdoors, off-site from an air base—in case the airfield were hit—yet centrally located so as to be within a few mile radius of several airfields, accessible either by truck convoys or railcars.

"We had a dozen crews in my company, with four to six men in each. We received, stacked, stored, and shipped. Get 'em in—get 'em out! That was our slogan."

After the bombs came in by ship from the States, they were distributed by rail to various points. "Each day we went down to the rail yards to



Saint-Dizier Airfield, France, May 1945. Corporal George Flibotte (seated, left) and members of the 1925th Ordnance Ammo Company beside a B-26 Marauder medium bomber (4,000-lb bomb payload capacity). St. Dizier had been used by Germans as a base for their Bf 109 (Me 109), backbone of the Luftwaffe fighter force, until Allies seized the base in September 1944.

receive incoming shipments, using fork lift trucks, mobile cranes, and crawler tractors to unload bombs from railcars onto trucks, which then hauled them to the bomb dump. There we uncrated the bombs and stacked them by type and size: fragmentation cluster bombs (20- or 25-lb in a "bird cage"). These bombs were effective against ground troops, spraying a 120-foot area. We also stored 100-lb bombs, 250-lb bombs, 500-lb bombs, as well as 1,000- and 2,000-lb bombs. Our bombers attacked railroad equipment, ammo dumps, planes on the ground, rail terminals, marshaling yards, railroad bridges, concrete docks, and piers, as well as massive suspension bridges.

With the Ninth's bombing missions accelerating in Europe, the 1925th Ordnance Ammo Company played a crucial role in on-time delivery.

Chateaux—and "40 and 8" boxcars

As the German Army was being pushed back, George's ordnance company often slept in abandoned chateaux in France and Belgium for a month or so at a time as they moved from site to site. In December 1944 they moved into a vacant chateau outside the town of Le Nouvion in northern France, once under Nazi occupation. "It was a cold winter but we brought in a generator, hooked up some electrical wiring, made the necessary changes, and ended up with heat and electricity. The following April of 1945, we stayed for a month in another abandoned chateau not far from Reims, outside the town of Sillery, 'the champagne capital of the world' at that time, while we closed down two bomb dumps and shipped the bombs to Germany. Outside Frankfurt, Germany, we took over a partially bombed-out airbase and fixed it up to make some pretty decent living quarters."

Far removed from the abandoned chateaux George used as temporary living quarters was his three-day ride between France and Belgium in the infamous "40 and 8" boxcars. The "40 and 8" originated in France during World War I. Half the size of U.S. railcars, these boxcars measured only 20.5 feet long and 8.5 feet wide. During WWII, they transported troops to and from the front lines in Europe and North Africa. The Nazis used them to transport POWs.

Stories are told of how soldiers, in these unheated boxcars, nearly froze to death in the winter despite attempts to light fires. In the summer, the heat was unbearable. In many cases, they were known to start-and-stop, start-and-stop every 50 yards or so. Fortunately, for George, the three-day journey took place in the springtime. "Although the interior was primitive," he said, "at least the boxcars kept moving. Our mattress was a bale of hay spread out on the floor. Our pillow, the duffle bag we carried."

George Flibotte answered the call. He played a crucial role in supporting the Ninth Air Force in the liberation of Europe. Although distance separated him from his earthly father, his heavenly Father was watching over him wherever he went. As Jesus said in His parable of the talents, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things" (Matthew 25:14ff).



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

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Shawn Hansen's Sports Corner: Red Sox/Yankees 2013 Recap

Shawn Hansen

VALLEY PATRIOT SPORTS COLUMNIST

Every sport has their arch nemesis where the two teams compete season after season to see who can be the better team.

Thousands of fans bend over backwards each year to try to get the chance to buy Red Sox/Yankees tickets...before the season even starts! It has been the main rivalry in baseball for just about a century so fans have their rights to want these tickets badly.

April to September, the season ended up blurring by as the Red Sox went from a Worst Place 69-93 record sitting in fifth in the A.L. East in 2012 to a First Place record of 97-65 in 2013.

Why did the Red Sox go from the bottom of the barrel to the top is the question that baffles many minds. It doesn't baffle mine though as I told my father prior to the season that they would win the World Series...I just had no clue they would be flirting with 100 wins.

At the top of the barrel with a 95-67 record in 2012, the Yankees nose-dived to a fourth place record of 85-77 in 2013 which was identical to the record of the Baltimore Orioles, which means both teams were tied for third and fourth place in the A.L. East. Turning the tables from Worst (2012) to First (2013), the Red Sox had a home record of 2-7 against the Yankees where they were 6-3 against the Pinstripes at the Fens this year. With a 3-6 record at Yankee Stadium last year the Sox flipped that stat around adding one more win to clobber their enemies 7-3 in New York this year. Adding up the home and away records the Sox went 13-6 against the Pinstripes this year as they were 5-13 against them in 2012.

Statistically speaking, the Red Sox romped the Yankees 24-9 in homeruns, 120-85 in runs and 54-30 in doubles. Red Sox newbie Mike Napoli OWNED the American League New York franchise as he belted 7 home runs driving in 20 runs batted in.

Despite the Yankees out-hitting the Sox 164-104, the men lead by John Farrell surpassed the Yankees in the aforementioned categories.

The biggest threat to Boston this year was Robinson Cano who had 14 RBI and Brett Gardner who had 12. Alfonso Soriano was the BEST move the Yankees made in July by acquiring him from the Chicago Cubs as he hit 2 HR off of Red Sox pitching, knocking in 8 RBI.

To credit the Yankees with a little more, they stole 23 bases as the Sox stole 13. Major League Baseball should take back the 1 HR 3 RBI along with 2 SB Alex Rodriguez compiled against the Sox this year for his Jose Canseco-like manors.

Despite nursing an injury that took him out of the game from early June to Sep-

tember, Clay Buchholz had an astonishing 2013 season.

Finishing the regular season with a 12-1 record, Buchholz went 3-0 against the Yankees in 18.0 innings giving up 10 hits and 2 runs walking 7 batters and striking out 11 as he gave up one home run.

Rookie pitcher Brandon Workman earned a 2-1 record against the Yanks in his first year in the majors in 3.1 innings of work giving up 2 hits, 4 runs and 2 walks, striking out four. Koji Uehara who started the season as a reliever, struck out 12 Yankees in 8 innings pitched giving up 2 hits and NO runs.

Hiroki Kuroda (who was supposed to be lights out) went 1-4 with a no discussion against the Sox with numbers anyone can look up on trusty www.baseball-reference.com.

Rivera, who retired after 19 seasons with the Yankees went 1-0 with 4 saves against the Sox of the East.

Before the game on Sept. 15, the Red Sox had a ceremony for Rivera where they presented him with bullpen rubber, Number 42 Green Monster place card of score board signed by all of the 2013 Red Sox, a 1934 blue seat from Fenway with the number 42 on it along with a check from Red Sox owners John Henry, Tom Werner and Larry Lucchino in Rivera's name to donate to his charity in Panama.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the Boston Cello Quartet played Metallica's "Enter Sandman." In his Hall-of-Fame to be career, Rivera earned 36 saves pitching in 55 games at Fenway.

Orrillo jokingly said since they gave Rivera the Number 42 place card, that they will not be able to bring him in later in the game because there is no more number 42. He said it was a good thing for the Red Sox because he is unbelievable.

Even though Rivera didn't pitch that night, he wrote "Thanks for everything" on the bullpen wall.

Note wise – Rookie Xander Bogaerts who should be nicknamed Boggy tallied home two doubles against the Evil Empire picking up 3 RBI, hitting his first Major League home run on Sept. 7 at Yankee Stadium and stealing his first base at Fenway on Sept. 15.

Even though Rivera called it quits retiring as the All Time Saves Leader with 652, they should have considered nicknaming him Rivy. There is time however, to nickname Workman "Work" and Soriano "Sori" though.

Shawn Hansen is a Real Estate Agent at Century 21 Advance Realty in Medford, MA. If you are looking to list your home, sell your house or buy a house call him at 1-781-395-2121 extension 227. Along with The Valley Patriot, Hansen also writes for the Tewksbury & Wilmington Advocate newspapers.

BABIES AND BRIEFCASES

SAVING SUPERMOM!

Cheryl Hajjar

VALLEY PATRIOT MOMMY COLUMNIST

Having it all. That quintessential line brought on by the feminist movement that has been driven in every young girl's mind including myself over the last 25 years. Lucky us. In today's world, there are many more opportunities for women than ever before in history and we as women for the most part are forever grateful for that; but who invented the term "having it all"? The concept of having it all is an exciting and empowering message, yet a dangerous one at the same time.

Many of us define Feminism as a woman's ability to have it all. But the movement was meant for us to be able to make choices. Somewhere along the way in the liberation process, we began to buy into the belief that we could assume the role as a man, while continuing to be the nurturing mothers as well. Whose idea was that, and what an impossible feat to accomplish. We put so many things on our plate that we end up feeling like burnt out, stress filled failures mainly because, whether we want to admit it or not, our lofty ideas of emulating Wonder Woman is just not realistic.

"Having it all" is a brand that we sadly have bought into. Not only are we supposed to have that successful career, relationship, children/family, we are expected to look good while doing it. I am the first person to admit that although to some I might look like I have it all, I certainly don't nor I'm not sure I want to have it all some days. Being the sole bread winner in my household and balancing career and family is challenging to say the least. Honestly at times, I just want a break.

Men do not try and focus on building a career and raising a family, rather they for the most part have stayed in their traditional roles of being the providers. Women on the other hand, have exceeded the normal length of a to-do list and have turned it into a to-do novel. The thought of it is just plain exhausting.

It is not my intention to derail my fellow females off of the Feminist movement, but rather dump the notion of having it all and simplifying it to having what you want in life. I do believe that we, as women, can have it all; but it has to be individually designed to fit our lives. Lets look at a few ways in which we can do just that.

1. What does "having it all" mean to you? Make a list of the things in life that

are most important to you. Being at your child's dance recitals or football game, striving for that promotion at work, being home at night to make family dinners, or having the once a week date night with your significant other. By making a list of the things that are most important to you, you will quickly see how you can contour your life into a fulfilling one.

2. It's ok to say NO. We as women feel that we always have to say yes to everyone that asks us a favor. It's an engrained guilt that comes over us when we are asked to be the carpooler, or stay late at work. Saying no doesn't make you a failure or the weaker person. In fact, saying NO is the first lesson in making you a stronger one. Take control by creating the life you want, not what somebody else expects of you.

3. Start your own business. In today's economy, women are starting their own businesses at three times the rate of men. Why? Because corporate America and raising a family is a daunting task! Unless you are Sheryl Sandberg and make a salary that most women would dream of, its just not realistic. Owning your own business can be a very rewarding and exciting thing. It can also allow you to keep better hours, avoid being in an office all day, as well as be able to be present at all of your child's events. I would rather hang myself than be in a cubicle all day, but that's just me.

I am ever thankful to be a woman in today's day and age. We are blessed with choices that our former sisters simply did not have. The Liberation movement is a wonderful thing but we are women, mothers, and caretakers at heart. As we move away from the "I am woman hear me roar" attitude, lets us also leave our Super Girl capes at the door and become human once again.



Cheryl Hajjar is a lifelong resident of the Merrimack Valley. She keeps busy by fulfilling her duties as a mother to her young son. She is an entrepreneur and the CEO of Indigo Magic, an interactive children's company. One of her passions is music, songwriting and classical piano which she incorporates into all areas of her life. EMAIL: babiesnbriefcases@gmail.com

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JEFF RILEY: FROM PAGE 12

if people ask me questions, we are here for them. If you want to send me a public records request every day, bring it on. If you want to come and ask me questions I've got [the answers] for you.

TD: Well let's get into that. We have written some stories that have not been exactly positive towards you.

JR: Yeah, I've heard that. Some not factually correct.

TD: Then I guess my question is: as the superintendent/receiver why would you allow information that you think is incorrect to stay out there in the community and not pick up the phone or send an email and give us the correct information, so we can correct it with our readers? If the information is incorrect, why would you allow it to hang out there?

JR: Well, let me turn the question around on you. Why wouldn't you call us to check the veracity of some of the erroneous reports you've been getting. I mean, you have one report where you said I wasn't certified to be the superintendent. Come on! I couldn't be a deputy superintendent in Boston if I didn't have the license. I got the license five years ago and I still have license. I mean you've got people saying I've been here for three years; I've been here a year and a half. You had a report that I'm adding the size of central office. At the end of the day the truth is the truth. And if you want to call me on it, I will tell you the story. But, I don't need to go out of my way to correct things.

I'm a big boy I can take the hit.

TD: When someone write a story about me, and unfortunately that happens more than it should, If they get something wrong, I pick up the phone and tell them they got it wrong.

JR: I have a job to do Tommy.

TD: Isn't PR part of your job?

JR: Unfortunately it has to be sometimes. But, sometimes I just have to take my hits and move on and do what I have to do. Last year was a tough year for us. In 18 months we've done some pretty serious restructuring. I mean, to let go one third of the central office, to replace almost half of the principals, to look at the bottom 10% of the teachers...you know and this is important to me...so many people said turn it all into charter schools. I came and looked at it and I found that about 90% of the people here were great teachers, good teachers, or working hard to improve.

And I said to myself, I can work with these people.

We did have to make some tough decisions with some teachers who were not doing the job and not doing right by kids. But, this reorganization has been more about leadership and central office. That's where most of the pain has been. And I read all your stuff, Tom. You say I increased the central office by \$6M.

[Editor's note: Jeff Riley's budget figures

show the increase in central office was \$6M].

Had you called me and asked me about that, I would have said we are in discussions with the unions about the contract. The money is going to be paying for expanded learning time. It's not coming up here. You walk through this building now, it's a ghost town. We just have room everywhere, which is why on Tuesday, we are starting a working group with the school committee to look at the viability of this [building] lease [at central office on Essex Street] going forward. I'm probably going to ask Pavel Payano to head that committee.

TD: Are you trying to kiss my ass, now?

JR: No, no. Listen, I brought this up long before you and I ever talked. I brought this up on camera at an open school committee meeting, and you know that because you heard about this.

The first thing we did when we got here was, we got in a couple of people to support the work [we were going to do]. And the design guy who has a budget background, the first thing he says is, 'you guys are paying \$400,000 for a lease that's no longer your responsibility and hasn't been for years.'

Because, after three years the city is on the hook for paying for school buildings. So, the school district has been footing the bill for this building for years. This guy saved me 400 grand the first day he walked in the door. We have to decide within a year and a half if we need to go somewhere else, or if we need less space here.

Those are the only two options. I think this school system has paid for this building several times over.

I have a responsibility to the taxpayers. I have to make sure we are functioning at a very high level. With \$400,000 dollars I now have more money to spend on my kids, right? You see, this is personal for me Tommy. My kids go to the Boston Public Schools. City kids don't get the same education as Lexington and Sudbury do. It's not the same thing. So, it is personal for me and I want to make sure we are spending our dollars wisely.

And I am not complaining about the budget. There was no extra money that came with receivership, but we do get a lot of money to make this a better place to educate kids. So, we didn't ask for any more money for receivership. Sure, we apply for competitive grants, we will go out and ask foundations for money if we can, the Celtics came in and redid the gym floor at the Bruce School recently, we will hustle that way. But, we have to be responsible with what we do with our dollars.

What you do with your money is a statement of what you believe. And for us, what we are saying is; what we believe is that the schools are where the resources should be. It's as simple as that.

TV TALK WITH BILL CUSHING



Breaking Bad - An Appreciation

Bill Cushing

VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST



When *Breaking Bad* premiered in January, 2008 on AMC, there was very little fanfare. The reviews were good, even excellent to be sure, but the show barely made a blip in the ratings. The

show's main character of Walter White was played by Bryan Cranston, who previous claim to fame was starring the sitcom *Malcolm in the Middle*. The rest of the cast was even lesser known than Cranston. Aaron Paul, playing Jesse Pinkman, was the show's other main character.

The show centered on Walter White, a high school chemistry teacher who is diagnosed with terminal lung cancer. Fearing that he would die and leave his family with nothing, he hooks up with an old student of his, Jesse Pinkman, to produce and sell methamphetamine. He uses his chemistry knowledge to create a remarkably potent and soon to be highly sought after product.

The show's creator, Vince Gilligan, described the show as "Transforming Mr. Chips into Scarface." Walt's fascination with his "talent" and the need to be the best at it, cause him to become a power hungry, ego-driven, criminal mastermind.

As the show progressed, the buzz grew, and viewers began to take notice. Binge watching the show on services like Netflix proved a big boom to the show. Cranston would win 3 Emmy's (so far) for his role, and Aaron Paul would win 2. The series has also won a Best Drama Series Emmy award at this year's ceremony.

I'm not going to give up too many details here, for those of you who are in

the middle of watching it or who plan to watch the series. Suffice to say, that as the show drew to a close on September 29, 2013, it had become a cultural phenomenon.

Ratings for the 5th and final season of the show have skyrocketed. For example, the 4th season finale drew 1.9 million viewers. The final episode drew 10.3 million viewers, an astounding 442 % increase.

Walter White, or more precisely, Cranston's portrayal of him, became an iconic television character. A character everyone rooted for at first. Rooted for him to make a future for his family, and to beat his deadly cancer. As time went on, and Walt began to get darker, and more evil, fan's feeling changed. You weren't sure whether you hated Walt for what he had become, or still loved him for what he was, and the reason he did it in the first place.

Unlike many other series, the show left nothing open to interpretation in its closing moments. The episode gave closure, not only to the characters, but to the fans as well. It was an epic, satisfying, conclusion to what many consider to be the greatest drama series of all time. Maybe the most important show of all time as well. The show has set the bar for the next generation of television creators, showing them what's possible and daring them to do even better.

There will certainly be good shows in the future, but none as good, as well written, or as well acted as *Breaking Bad*, and the future of television will be better because of its existence.

Thank you to *Breaking Bad* for giving us 62 hours of the most riveting television drama ever created, I'm so glad I went along for the ride. If you haven't already, buckle up and take the ride too.

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NOTEBOOK: FROM PAGE 33

representatives from National Grid and Columbia Gas, to join him at the Methuen Senior Center for a Fuel Assistance Forum on Friday, October 18th.

"I hosted this forum for the first time when I was just weeks into my term," explained Mayor Zanni. "There are so many great public and private programs available to residents, and I really want to make sure as many residents as possible are aware of these great options."

The forum will provide an opportunity for residents to learn about different public and private programs that are available to reduce energy costs and provide payment assistance. While primarily focused on programs for seniors, all homeowners are invited to learn more about programs that they may qualify for.

"I know that people don't always have the time to research every potential program, and I am hoping this forum makes people aware of resources that they otherwise wouldn't have known about," said Zanni.

The forum is from 10:30am – Noon on October 18 at the Methuen Senior Center, located at 77 Lowell Street. For more information, contact Phil DeCologero in the Mayor's Office at 978-983-8506.

MAYOR FIORENTINI ATTENDS GRAND OPENING OF NEW BATES BRIDGE (ALSO KNOW AS THE GROVELAND BRIDGE)

Haverhill Mayor James J. Fiorentini attended the grand opening of the new Bates Bridge, also known as the Groveland Bridge, which has been under construction for some time.

The new bridge will be able to accommodate heavier vehicles, and will help the vehicular traffic move over the Merrimack River with less congestion. The bridge connects Haverhill and Groveland and spans

over the Merrimack River. The bridge is utilized by many commuters every day, and serves as one of many entrances to the Gateway City of Haverhill. The bridge was officially opened to vehicles last month.

FLEA MARKET - The Trinitarian Congregational Church, 72 Elm St. N. Andover, is having a Flea Market

on Oct 26 from 8-1:30. There will be a book, jewelry and bake table as well as raffles and more!!!!

Dealers wanted. 9ft table \$20

Please call Sarah @ 978-886-2191 for more information.

On October 12, the Rockingham Church will once again plant over 6800+ US flags to honor fallen heroes. **FLAGS TO HONOR FALLEN HEROES**

The planting will take place at the Rockingham Church, 90 Newton Road, Plaistow, NH at 10am. One flag will be planted for each serviceman or servicewoman who has fallen in either the Afghanistan or Iraq war. Each flag will have attached to it a personalized tag with all the information of those who have perished.

It starts with a 1/2 hour ceremony of music, speeches, etc., then the planting of the flags. This is an open invitation for all to participate. Last year, there were upwards of 350 people from the greater Merrimack Community and beyond.

The flags will be left on display through November 30 so that people can feel free to come and look, walk through them, pray, or whatever they feel is the best way to honor our heroes. Of course, we see this as a way to also honor those who have served, and those who are still serving our great country! We hope you can participate in this amazing community event.

Methuen's Deeb Publishes Another Book on The Middle East

Why did the Middle East Peace Process collapse? What issues need to be resolved? What steps are necessary to reach a lasting peace? What role should the United States play in facilitating a dialogue and permanent peace agreement between the Israeli government and the Palestinians? These are just some of the tough questions that author and Professor D.J. Deeb tackles in his new book, Israel, Palestine, and the Quest For Middle East Peace. The book is published by University Press of America, a subsidiary of Rowman & Littlefield and was released on July 16th.

After the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq, Pakistan's then President Pervez Musharraf declared: "The Palestinian front is affecting the entire Muslim world. All terrorists and militant activity in the world today has been initiated because of the Palestinian problem. This is because of the sense of hopelessness, alienation, and powerlessness." The decade following the aftermath of September 11th has only proven that a comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East and a resolve to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are a crucial necessity

to global stability.

Deeb, a Methuen resident, works as a full-time Social Studies teacher and is an adjunct Professor of History/Government at Bunker Hill Community College in Charlestown, Massachusetts and a Political Science Instructor at the University of Massachusetts Lowell in Lowell, Massachusetts. Deeb is also a columnist for The Valley Patriot monthly newspaper distributed to the Merrimack Valley. Deeb's extensive educational background includes a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice and Political Science from the University of Massachusetts Lowell, a Masters Degree in Political Science from Suffolk University, a Masters Degree in Education Curriculum & Instruction from the University of Massachusetts Lowell, and Masters Degree in History from Salem State University. Deeb has appeared in Who's Who in America in 2011, 2012, and 2013.

Israel, Palestine, & The Quest For Middle East Peace is now available for purchase for \$24.99 through Amazon.com and is now available in most major bookstores.

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