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WHAT DOES *MADE IN THE USA* MEAN?

Shenanigans in Town of Billerica as They Try to Restrict Public Bids on Fire Hydrants



North Andover Businessman Scott Lindquist (Water Line Supply Co.) makes fire hydrants in China (left), while The Mueller Company makes their identical hydrant (Centurion) parts in China and assembles them in the U.S.A. So, why is Billerica OK with buying the Chinese made Centurions but not OK with buying a less expensive hydrant from Water Line Supply?

SEE STORY ON PAGE 7

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VALLEY PATRIOT OF THE MONTH

WWII VETERAN: CORPORAL WILLIAM T. POULIOS, U.S. ARMY

Helen Mooradkian
VALLEY PATRIOT VETERAN COLUMNIST

Nineteen-year old Corporal William T. Poulios, of Chelmsford, 87th Infantry Division, 347th Regiment, swept across France, Belgium, Luxembourg, central Germany, to Czechoslovakia—in 154 days of combat! From December 6, 1944, to May 8, 1945 (when Germany unconditionally surrendered), the 87th drove relentlessly from Metz, France, to Plauen on the Czech border in the liberation of Europe.

They captured fortress-like cities... crashed the Siegfried Line with its "dragon's teeth"... crossed rivers at flood stage, including the treacherous Rhine... slogged through knee-deep mud, heavy snow, sleet, and fog in the Ardennes

Forest... survived sub-zero temperatures during record cold waves that winter of 1944-1945... endured pneumonia and frostbite... escaped the deadly accurate 88mm artillery, which swiveled and fired in any direction. Bill Poulios called it "the finest in the world."

For the Lowell-born youth who had never traveled beyond Dracut, it was a baptism of fire. "My parents, who came here from Greece, gave full allegiance to America. My mother told the judge, when applying for U.S. citizenship, 'If Greece and America were at war, I would fight for America!'" All four brothers fought for the U.S. in Europe, Guadalcanal, and Korea.

HERO: PAGE 36



Corporal William T. Poulios, U.S. Army, 87th Infantry Division, 347th Regiment, 2nd Battalion, stormed across France, Belgium, Luxembourg, into central Germany up to the Czechoslovakian border in 154 days of combat! They endured some of the bloodiest battles, the most brutally cold winters in the Ardennes Forest, and crossed the treacherous Rhine River, swollen at flood stage. The "Golden Acorn" Division was part of General George Patton's Third Army. Highly decorated for his WWII battlefield service, he was awarded two Bronze Stars, Legion of Merit, four Battle Stars, Presidential Unit Citation, and several campaign ribbons. This past April, the French Consul General presented him with France's highest honor, the French Legion of Honor-Chevalier, in gratitude for liberating their nation.

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Detroit, USA: A Monument to Democrat Policies

Dr. Charles Ormsby
VALLEY PATRIOT EDITOR

Detroit has imploded. Like the giant oak whose innards were consumed by thousands of termites, Detroit has finally collapsed. Its productive core can no longer support its own weight.

The Democrat Party and its allies in big-government unions should be congratulated. Their criminal thievery, made technically legal because it was executed through the auspices of government, has finally succeeded in bankrupting Detroit.

In the 1950s and early 1960s Detroit was on top of the world after being led by Republicans for forty four of the previous fifty years. Detroit was home to the three largest automobile manufacturing companies in the world and an entire second tier of parts suppliers, paying some of the country's highest wages to industrial workers.

The last Republican Mayor of Detroit, Louis Miriani, left office in 1962 and the Democrats have been in charge ever since. Miriani's successor, Jerome Cavanagh, embraced government-sector unions and the big-government programs coming out of Lyndon Johnson's Great Society and his War on Poverty. Half a billion dollars flowed to Detroit in an attempt to make a nine-square mile section of Detroit a Model City. Cavanagh also introduced a commuter tax and a city income tax.

Cavanagh replaced free markets with socialist central planning. Private property rights were disregarded in favor of government re-distribution. The destruction of Detroit was off to a fast start.

Six more Democrat mayors have followed in Cavanagh's wake, all embracing the statist policies championed by the Democrat Party. Of course corruption was not far behind. Padded government pay-rolls and sweet heart union contracts, all supported by rising taxes, was the constant prescription of the Democrat party. Detroit took the Democrat poison for 50 years



Getty/TMZ.com Composite

and now the consequences are evident for everyone to see.

Detroit has been sacked by the Democrats.

Detroit in its heyday was actually called the Paris of the West. It reached a peak population of two million in the mid-1950s when it was our 5th largest city. Since then, the U.S. population has doubled. If Detroit had kept pace, it would have a population of 4 million. Maybe that is unrealistic but, excluding Detroit, the population of the nine largest U.S. cities grew by over 18% during that period. Had Detroit's population kept pace with the other large cities, it would have a population of 2.4 million and today would be our fourth largest city. Instead, thanks to the socialist policies of the Democrat party which has ruled Detroit for the last 50 years, Detroit has lost two-thirds of its residents. It is now ranked near 18th in size with a population of seven hundred thousand, and declining.

Detroit is an unmitigated disaster! It is now \$18 billion in debt and it has been reduced to a third world city. Many of the

victims of Detroit's statist policies have fled, thus the population decline, and they are prospering elsewhere. Congratulations to them!

Those who were on the gravy train, the looters, have remained, and they are getting what they deserve. These looters, led by Detroit's government workers and welfare moochers, along with those lenders that facilitated Detroit's reckless fiscal behavior, Detroit's bondholders, will be getting the shaft.

Say goodbye to the fake jobs, bloated pensions and easy money. Poof, they're gone!

Reality has come home to roost. But will we learn from Detroit's example or will we merely repeat it on a national scale?

It took fifty years for Detroit to be transformed from prosperity to poverty. Could the Democrats have delayed Detroit's collapse?

The free market doesn't disappear when the government passes laws or develops regulations that abridge private property

rights. Productive economic activity either operates in the gaps between these laws and regulations, where sufficient freedoms still remain, or it picks up and moves to freer pastures.

In most totalitarian societies the gaps are too small for free markets to function and the market forces that encourage productive behavior disappear, leading to abject poverty and even starvation. But Communist governments survive longer than one might expect because they erect walls to keep their people from leaving. Slaves in Soviet Russia had few alternatives but to find some way to survive.

Maybe Detroit should have a wall to keep its citizens from leaving! Certainly, the good of the community would justify such a policy. How dare those productive people leave Detroit and neglect the needs of the moochers! Don't they know that people have a right to jobs with above-market wages, 35-hour work weeks, 6-week vacations, and family leave? And what about guaranteed early retirement, free education, free healthcare and, if you prefer relaxation to productive effort, a no-show government job or a steady stream of EBT cards?

Clearly those that have abandoned Detroit have violated the human rights of the needy. It is time to force everyone that has lived in Detroit during the last 20 years to return. Then put up the wall and bring out the whips. It is time to give the Democrat's philosophy a chance to work.

It worked for East Berlin ... why not Detroit?



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



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Parole Officers who Freed Cop Killer Reinstated

It's simply sickening. An arbitrator has reinstated two of the parole officials responsible for the release of cop killer Dominic Cinelli. At this point we believe everyone who contributed to the release of Cinelli should be purged from the public payrolls. If that can't be done these individuals need to be moved into jobs where they can never do harm to our public safety again.

THE CASE
Dominic Cinelli was in prison serving THREE life sentences for attempted murder, had shot one man, robbed dozens with a gun, and escaped. While on the run, he willfully committed more violence and was eventually caught ... again.

But what happened next was outrageous. Dominic Cinelli, a hardened, violent criminal was put back out onto the streets once AGAIN by Deval Patrick's hand-picked parole board.

This time, while he had the blessing of Deval Patrick's parole board to prowl the

streets yet again, Cinelli shot and killed Woburn Police Officer Jack Maguire.

A death we put squarely on the heads of Deval Patrick and those in charge of our prison and parole system who make excuses for evil, criminal minds.

Thankfully, Cinelli was himself shot and killed by Woburn Police the night he took Maguire's life, some might say his death too, is on the hands of Deval Patrick and his pie-in-the-sky approach to crime.

If you read Cinelli's parole reports, the evidence shows that it is the belief of this administration and those who create parole standards, that violent people commit crimes because they just don't know any better; that violent people who do evil things can be simply taught to behave themselves.

This kid of dangerous thinking is a real threat to our public safety.

All over the report it cites the "causative factors" that lead to Cinelli's previous violent crimes... it's sick to read how they

excuse his violent behavior and then pat themselves on the back for rehabilitating him through "programs".

But Dominic Cinelli was smarter than they were.

He paid close attention as he saw other inmates getting out by completing silly, meaningless classes and programs that have nothing to do with the reasons he committed his crimes.

Because of this mindset of coddling criminals, Dominic Cinelli had been able to take advantage of every level of our naive criminal justice system and then managed to talk his way out of a prison cell, we say again ... while serving three life sentences.... to roam our streets and commit more crimes.

How did he do it?

How did he prove to our out-of-touch Parole Board that he was no longer violent and was ready to reenter society without posing a threat?

The parole report says that prior to his

release, Cinelli had recently ceased to commit violence while he was in prison. This was contrasted in the report to his violent behavior in the decades prior.

Also cited in his parole report, officials said Dominic Cinelli should be freed because he had given lectures to Toastmasters, (a public speaking club in prison), and he had worked hard to get his GED. He even attended twelve step substance abuse and anger management recovery programs.

Though we know we are wasting our time, we are publicly calling on Governor Deval Patrick, (a man who willingly tried to free an admitted cop killer in the past), to fire, move, reassign or find some other way to make sure every person who had a hand in Dominic Cinelli's release, never has that kind of authority over people's lives again.

We do so for the family of officer Maguire, and the next Officer Maguire yet to be killed at the hands of another Deval Patrick parolee.

They've Done It Again!

Jeff Katz

VOTED AP's BEST RADIO TALK SHOW HOST

If you felt a little extra tug on your wallet recently that's because our Beacon Hill payroll patriots decided that you just were not doing your part. It seems that you were not paying your fair share, so the profiles in courage who sit in our General Court decreed that you would pay more at the pump. Never mind that under the reign of Barack Obama, gasoline prices are now close to four bucks a gallon. The Obamatons under our golden dome decided to tack on an additional three cents per gallon. In years past, there would

at least be some sort of a decent dog and pony show provided. The usual suspects would employ the usual rhetoric and then do exactly as they were told. This year, they did exactly what they were told, but without any of the oh-so-enjoyable political kabuki we've come to expect.

Sure, there was the make pretend slap fight with our part-time governor who really wanted to whack we peasants even more severely, but aside from that bit of State House puppetry, this whole process of pillaging and plundering was a foregone conclusion. I know that the additional cost to me will only be the same as



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

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a sandwich or two, but when you couple it with the extra taxes on other items along with the fact that Governor Mini-Me never did provide a lick of property tax relief, well pretty soon you've got yourself the cost of a hefty buffet. The sort of spread filed with food, glorious food usually reserved for the State House cafeteria.

Please don't be surprised at this. The assorted Democrat bottom feeders, trust funders and other rich guilty liberals have once again taken steps to enrich and enable those who are never asked to do any more than cast a reliable ballot for the party of division and class warfare. Ask no questions and they will still tell you some lies!

As we all pump our gas, feel good knowing that hacks and flacks will continue to provide the exemplary service we've all come to expect from state government. Rest assured that those who hate America will continue to get payouts and payoffs. Even as you struggle to fill your car, bask in the warm glow provided by remembering that the Massachusetts Democrat Party continues to work over time to provide illegal aliens with subsidized college tuition. Beam with pride as you recall that our Commonwealth's leadership is doing everything they can to get those illegal aliens enrolled as voters. Yes my friends, it is another proud day here in Taxachusetts.

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An Inside Look From State Rep. Diana DiZoglio

If there is one thing that I have learned during my first term representing you on Beacon Hill, it's that things don't always appear as they seem and that the legislative process can be a real head scratcher.

Witness recently when Governor Deval Patrick vetoed a transportation bill that significantly raised taxes on gas, cigarettes and computer software.

Vetoing legislation that unfairly increases these types of taxes, especially on working people, while making things even harder for state border communities here in the Merrimack Valley appeared to be the right thing to do, right?

It did to me. That's why when these tax raising measures came before the House I voted not once, but twice, against the increases.

Unfortunately, the House still passed the tax hikes. The first time it passed by a vote of 97 to 55. The Senate then voted to increase revenues even more, and returned their version of this tax package back to the House for a vote.

This time the tax package passed by an even larger margin of 105 to 47. In the Senate it passed by a whopping 35 to only 5.

Notice a trend here?

But could my constituents take comfort because the governor vetoed the tax hikes? No, because the governor did not veto them to protect the working people in my border communities from another tax hike. He vetoed the hikes because he wanted a bill that raised these taxes even more. Specifically, he was battling for the gas tax to go up about 3 to 4 cents per gallon.

That's just crazy, isn't it? I think so. But it would have been crazier if the legislature had another chance to raise these taxes even higher for the governor to enact. So, of course I voted to override Governor Patrick's veto that would have allowed this.

Shocking to me, however, was that some of the people who voted with me against these tax hikes, actually voted with the governor to help sustain his

veto. Now, this was the craziest thing of all for me to witness out of this whole scenario.

How could this be and what were they thinking?

Well, these folks argue, that had the governor's veto been sustained then the tax hikes would not have been enacted.

...Really?

The upward, spiraling trend was clear folks. Every time there was a proposed increase, as the numbers show, the House passed it with even more votes. The governor wanted another bite at the apple and I was not about to let that happen. Had his veto been sustained, the House -- that overwhelmingly approved the original tax hikes -- would have passed new legislation to raise the gas tax by even more. That is why I voted to override the governor's veto.

Beacon Hill can be a lot of smoke and mirrors, I am learning. Back home in the Merrimack Valley, however, things are clear as day. Our communities don't deserve more obstacles and political



games. They deserve an honest answer, a level playing field and a fair shot. That's why I am committed to fighting for you as your state representative and it's why I opposed these newly enacted tax hikes.

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- *Station must be set up promptly by 9:00 a.m. Sunday morning.
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Andover 1640

Anne Knowles

VALLEY PATRIOT ANDOVER COLUMNIST

Kathleen Kent is a tenth generation descendent of Martha Carrier. What does this mean to Andover today? Well, going back to the early settlers of Andover and Essex County, Martha, a citizen of Andover was hanged as a witch; a result of the craze that swept this area in 1692.

Martha's story is told in Ms. Kent's novel, *The Wolves of Andover*. It is a very revealing, and historically true book about early Colonial life in Massachusetts. She traces the adventures of Martha and her family through the mid 1600's to early 1700's.

Martha, born in Andover in 1643, first became known to "the powers that be", because of smallpox, a terrible scourge to the early settlers. She married Thomas Carrier in 1664 and they settled in Billerica. The young family was exiled from Billerica due to the fear of the town fathers that members of her family were carriers of smallpox. The family members moved back to Andover, to live in her mother's home.

Ms. Kent's story of Martha and her family is based on both historical records which can be studied at many local archives, and her family records.

The main story of *The Wolves of Andover* deals with Martha, and how it happened that no less a historic figure than Rev. Cotton Mather, described her as an "arrant hag" and "queen of hell". Martha was a woman of strong values and sharp tongue. She had a keen sense of justice and a strong, clear mind. She was accused of being a witch and along with her sons and young daughter, was confined in Salem for trial.

There is something quite interesting in studying historical events through the contemporary writings of people who were actually present at the time. The examination of her seven year old daughter by the judges at her trial is quite chilling. Excerpts from Martha's trial, which took place on August 11, 1692, is available on line for those interested. She was hanged on August 19, 1692; quick and final judgement.

Thomas Carrier is no less interesting. He arrived in the Boston area in 1655, as is reported, as an indentured servant. He was noted for his height, well over seven feet tall.

According to records, he was a strong man who lived to be 109 years of age. He was reported to be the executioner of Charles I, of England. Accused of regicide, he escaped from England and made a life for himself and his family, first in Andover and then in Connecticut, where he died in 1736.

Author Kathleen Kent has written two books: *The Heretic's Daughter*, and the prequel, *The Wolves of Andover*. Both of which are truly interesting and well-researched books of early New England.

The culture of this era is exposed for this current generation to examine and ponder.

We can try to understand how that period of history fell for abuse, against their friends and neighbors. It would do all of us to carefully listen and read what is said and written by those who want to denigrate a group or individual, holding ideas we fail to understand.

Remember, "those who cannot remember the past, are condemned to repeat it"
- George Santayana.

Andover Boards

Anne Knowles

VALLEY PATRIOT ANDOVER COLUMNIST

There are several openings throughout the Town of Andover for a variety of town boards and committees. For those who are interested, there follows a list with the number of spots available. The Ballardvale Historic District Committee (three vacancies); Ballardvale Fire Station Building Committee (one vacancy); Cable Advisory Committee (three vacancies); Council on Aging (five vacancies); Cultural Commission (two vacancies).

The Green Advisory has one seat, and Elderly Tax Aid Committee has two. The Task force for Lowell Junction Interchange needs two citizens.

Housing Partnership/Fair Housing committee has two openings. Recycling Committee has one opening and the Scholarship Committee has two. Spring Grove Cemetary has three vacancies. The TRIAD Council needs four members and the Zoning Board of Appeals has one associate member vacancy.



A form can be found at Town of Andover information on the official Town Offices Site. The form is listed as "Talent Bank Form". Additionally, you may call 978-623-8202. The Town of Andover appreciates the interest it's citizens give through public boards and committees.



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Notices From the North Andover Senior Center

The Merrimack Valley Nutrition Program (MVNP), in partnership with Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley, Inc., is scheduled to distribute Senior Farmers' Market Nutritional Program coupons on Wednesday, August 7th at seven (7) Senior Center sites. While distribution will occur only at designated sites, all 23 cities and towns in the Merrimack Valley are encouraged to participate. Elders are encouraged to go to the Senior Center distribution site closest to them. MVNP will be distributing 1,254 Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program coupon booklets, a value of \$25 per booklet, within the Merrimack Valley. Collectively, the Councils on Aging have selected seven (7) distribution sites: Amesbury Senior Center, Billerica Senior Center, Dracut Senior Center, Haverhill Senior Center, Lawrence Senior Center, Methuen Senior Center, and the Lowell Senior Center. Each recipient will receive a listing of participating certified Farmers Markets and must use their coupons by October 1st, 2013. Coupon vouchers are limited and will be given on a first come, first served basis to eligible low-income seniors. The elder must be 60 or older, present photo ID showing date of birth and address, and must show one of the following forms of proof of low-income status: Supplementary Social Security Income (SSI) card, Section 8 Housing voucher or letter, and Energy Assistance Program letter to be eligible. A MassHealth card will be accepted subject to an on-site call to verify the recipient's status is active.

The Senior Center needs donations of gently used jewelry, knick-knacks and other small items for our Unique Boutique. Please leave your gently used trea-

asures at our reception desk anytime. You can also drop off your used cell phones and ink cartridges for recycling. We also need new Yarn for our knitting program.

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

UPCOMING TRIPS & EVENTS:

Wentworth-by-the-Sea, Friday August 23. Sign up August 7 @ Reception. Bus \$4, leaves at 10:30 am. Lunch on your own.

Foxwoods Trip, August 20. Leaves St. Michael's Parking Lot at 6:30 am. \$30.00 round trip. Sign up with reception.

Supper Club, August 15, Seaport Grille in Gloucester, MA. Bus \$4, leaves Senior Center at 4 pm. Order off the menu/separate checks. Sign up August 7 @ Reception.

Mystery Ride, August 8. Van and lunch \$5. See a local winery, optional wine tasting \$5. Sign up begins July 25.

Grand Summit Hotel, October 4-6. \$50/pp deposit required for reservation. Full payment is due August 26. \$449 double occupancy, \$569 single occupancy (travel insurance available). Speak with Cahla 978-688-9560 for more details.

Lecture Series: Monday August 5 at 10 am, Fred Pietrowski, author "De Profundis-Out of The Depths."

Line Dancing: Friday classes beginning July 26. \$6 each or \$24 for a 6 week session 2-3 p.m. Call the Senior Center to get on the list.

News & Views: Every Wednesday at 10-11:30 am. Come and join in the lively

discussion of current events, politics, history and you never know what else?

Mr. Fix It: August 5 & 19, 12-3 pm. We repair almost as good as new. Lamps, with cords and sockets, replace watch batteries, small tables and chairs. Anything that is not listed, we will give it a shot! Your cost is \$2-\$4 depending on work needed, plus parts. Proceeds benefit the Senior Center.

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

Hearing Clinic: August 21. Miracle-Ear will be at the North Andover Senior Center the 3rd Wednesday of the month, 10 am to noon. Sign up with reception for a free screening.

Shine Volunteers: (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) August 20. Free, confidential 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 3rd Friday of every month from 9 am-12 pm. The next date is August 16. Dr. Connolly is available on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 1-4 pm. The next date is August 14. Please call to schedule an appointment.

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Shenanigans in Billerica on Hydrant Bids?

North Andover Businessman Says Fire Hydrant Bid Tailored to Limit Competition, Says Restrictions will Cost Town Additional \$24K

Tom Duggan

VALLEY PATRIOT PUBLISHER

Billerica DPW director, Abdul Alkhatib, says there are no shenanigans going on with his town's public bid to purchase fire hydrants. He told the Valley Patriot that the public bids requests by the town were not tailored to favor (a) certain large American company, but a Valley Patriot investigation into the hydrant bid request in Billerica reveals a specification for hydrant purchases that is not present in any other product purchase made by the Town of Billerica.

One of Billerica's main requirements for the purchase of fire hydrants is that they be assembled and tested in the United States. But Billerica does not require that the hydrant components be made in the US, meaning all, or some of the components can be made in China or Korea (and other overseas countries) but as long as they are assembled in the US, Billerica will accept that as "American made".

The Valley Patriot obtained a copy of Billerica's hydrant bid request, which specifies: "Fire hydrants shall be the manufacturer's best quality and design. The hydrants shall be assembled and pressure tested in the U.S.A."

North Andover resident and businessman, Scott Lindquist, says his local company (Water Line Supply LLC) is being discriminated against and pushed out of the bid process with that restriction because his hydrants are made and assembled in China, while Mueller, an American company which reveals on their website that some of their parts are made in China and shipped to U.S. to be assembled and tested here.

"We make the same hydrant as Mueller, the components are fully interchangeable

and compatible with the Mueller Centurion (one of the most popular hydrants in the industry) but we submitted a bid for much less," Lindquist says.

"The only difference between Mueller and Water Line Supply (Lindquist's North Andover company) is that Mueller assembles some of their China made hydrant component parts here in the U.S., and Water Line Supply does not. But you could hardly call the Mueller Centurion "American made" any more than you could say our hydrant is American made. My question is why is this in the specification in the first place when no other product Billerica puts out for bid has this specific requirement?"

"Why only hydrants? Billerica purchases millions of dollars in products from China every year, but suddenly they have this new specification that only their hydrants have to be assembled in the US. It really makes you wonder if they are tailoring their bid to limit competition."

Lindquist says that when there is no competition in the bidding on public products like hydrants, and companies like his are excluded from the bid process, the big companies get to charge whatever they want, jacking up the price for taxpayers who end up paying millions of dollars more for publicly purchased fire hydrants as well as other water works materials.



Recent local bids on the Mueller Centurion, shows that Mueller, offered to sell the very same hydrant to Brockton for \$1,611.00 per hydrant, but is currently offering to sell the Centurion to Billerica at \$1,712.37 per hydrant, a difference of \$101.02 per hydrant.

More recently, the same Mueller hydrant was bid on in Fall River for a quantity of 12 for a price of \$1559.00 each, while Billerica's quantity of 85 was

bid for \$1727.31 each; a cost difference of \$153.37 per each hydrant.

Lindquist says that the reason Mueller's price for the Centurion bid in Brockton and Fall River was so much less than their bid in Billerica, is because Billerica's specifications are written as proprietary and sole source. Brockton, as well as Fall River, have specifications that can be met by more than just Mueller, and had a competitive bid without the deceptive "made in the USA" restriction while Billerica restricted their bid, leaving Mueller the freedom to dictate any price they want.

"When there is competition, they (other companies) have to bid lower. Even if they don't buy my product, the mere fact that I am included in the process means companies like Mueller have to lower their price if they want the bid, and by the way, in Billerica I am being told I don't meet the specs, so Mueller is free to gouge the taxpayers. The people of Billerica should know that if they buy the Centurion on this current call for bids, they are paying more for the same product from the same company that Brockton and many other communities bought their hydrants from. But, Billerica is paying more because small companies like mine are being excluded with this phony 'made in the U.S.' restriction."

The Valley Patriot asked Billerica DPW director Abdul Alkhatib (who himself is not from the US) why the specifications for hydrants included restrictions that they be assembled in the U.S. when his office spends millions of dollars every year on other products made in China without that restriction. His answer...he said he didn't know.

"I can't answer that. I mean, did we purchase Chinese products? Yeah, we did. But now that we are purchasing hydrants we are standardizing," he said.

Was the bid tailored to favor Mueller or Darling?

"I didn't know Mueller was made in China," Abdul said.

"I am going to have to look into that (which) will give me something to do. We haven't awarded the bids yet. I am talking to my town counsel on the legality of the issue. I am not an attorney and I will let the attorney give me the answer. Either we can do this or we can't, and if we can't, we can't."

For his part, Lindquist says that he believes that if the intent was to give the



Billerica DPW director Abdul Alkhatib who is not from the U.S., says that he had no idea that the Mueller Centurion was made and China and assembled in the U.S.

contract to a company that makes their hydrants here in the United States, the bid would specify that all hydrant components are to be made and assembled in this country.

"I just want a fair shot at the contract, and save the tax or rate payers tens of thousands of dollars," Lindquist says.

"We make the exact same product as the Mueller Centurion, we bid it to obtain the business, do it at a cheaper price for the consumer, and all the parts are interchangeable and compatible with the Centurions they already have now. So, I don't understand why they saying we don't meet the specifications and are willing to pay so much more for the same hydrants with the same parts."

Lindquist further stated (7) other municipal open bids over the past six weeks where the Mueller hydrant was bid much lower than Billerica.

"I wonder why?" he asked.

Editors Note: After this story was published on valleypatriot.com last week we got word that the office of the Attorney General and the Department of Asset Management has forced Billerica to rebid fire hydrant purchases and list three specific hydrants, or hydrants of equal specifications, meaning that Lindquist will get a chance to bid in Billerica.

Coming Next Month... Shenanigans in the Fire Hydrant bids in Lowell and Lawrence.



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NOTES FROM ANDOVER

Another month of summer before it ends and "winter" begins. Remember all that snow.

A trip to the Farmer's Market, located on the grounds of the Andover Historical Society, 97 Main Street, will be a special occasion for young and old. Locally grown produce, crafts, and home baked goods are available each Saturday from now until October 5. The Farmer's Market is a special treat for all the family.

Several Openings for various Town Boards and Committees are available for those interested in town activities.

Go to the Town of Andover, MA website for information on current openings.

There is also a "Talent Bank form" that can be downloaded and mailed

back to the Town Managers Office, 36 Bartlett Street, Andover, MA, 01810.

It can also be faxed to 978-623-8220. Take time to peruse the many opportunities to become a member of town activities.

Memorial Hall Library at the center of Andover offers many programs for all ages. They have activities for very young children, birth to preschool, school age youngsters, teenagers and adults. Their website is available at Memorial Hall Library, Andover, MA.

The listing for all activities is filled with interesting programs, guaranteed to please almost anyone. Take advantage of the many events planned by the Library staff for the enjoyment of Andover residents.

Anyone But Mayor Willie Lantigua!

Peter Larocque
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

When I get into discussions concerning the election for Mayor in The Great City of Lawrence, far too many times I hear, "anybody but Willie!" Unfortunately, "anybody but Willie" will not be on the ballot. "Anybody but Willie" is not a candidate! Yes, I understand the frustration among the citizens of Lawrence and their disappointment with the current mayor who is seeking a second term. But believe me, adding to people's dislike of Mayor Lantigua, the attitude of voting for "anybody but Willie" will almost guarantee another term for Mayor Lantigua!

The mind set of voting for "anybody but Willie," to be quite honest is a cop-out! There are a few good candidates for mayor, men of character who have stepped up to the plate and have done the work to organize and get their names on the ballot. These are the real candidates who should be on the minds of citizens and talked about around the city, not that fake candidate named "anybody but Willie!"

I wrote in last month's Valley Patriot that I have made my choice on which

candidate that I support and will be voting for on Tuesday September 17, 2013, and that is Mr. Dan Rivera. Believe me, I am proud of my decision and I am doing my best to encourage others to vote for Dan. In my opinion, he is the best choice among the candidates for mayor. As far as I'm concerned, he is the only candidate that will not need on-the-job training on day one in January 2014.

I also am very aware that others have made their choice and are supporting their candidate which is their right to do, that's America and I celebrate that! But still, far too many times as I talk to people, I hear "anybody but Willie" will do! Folks, it is simply not so! "Anybody but Willie" is an impostor, wastes of everybody's time and energy and in the end, nobody will like the results; especially if "anybody but Willie" has his way! So please do your job as a citizen of Lawrence and take a good look at who really is on the ballot.

Real candidates on the actual ballot will be made known sometime after 5 pm on Wednesday August 6, 2013. Candidates have until this time to do their part, which is to turn in their nomination papers to the Election Division at Law-

rence's City Hall with the right amount of signatures of registered voters. Then it becomes our responsibility to learn as much as possible about each candidate, and then vote accordingly in the Primary Election on Tuesday September 17, 2013. Then we have the privilege to follow up by voting in the City's General Election on Tuesday November 5, 2013.

So my fellow Lawrencians, let's work together to make these elections of 2013 very successful by having the best turnout ever! There is a lot on the line here, public safety, living conditions, and the education of our children, economic development and a better city image being portrayed throughout the Merrimack Valley! These elections are our opportunity to make Lawrence better. If you choose to stay home, than you lose your right to complain. On the other hand, by voting we can make a difference!

One more thing, please remember what I wrote last month concerning "Lawrence's line in the sand." I truly believe this warrants repeating: any city councilor who voted in favor of Mayor Lantigua's budget does not deserve and should not get your vote! This also should be extended to any candidate on



the ballot who spoke during public participation in favor of Mayor Lantigua's budget at the public hearing. We will know for sure after August 6, 2013. Also as a reminder, Councilors Rivera, Bernal, and LaPlante voted NOT in favor of approving the budget!

God Bless you all, Peter Larocque.



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

Adventures in Lawrence Election Fraud

Kathy Runge
VALLEY PATRIOT GUEST COLUMNIST

Anyone familiar with the city of Lawrence is aware of the lax record keeping and controls in various city departments, i.e. city garages and Inspectional Services to name two. Does anyone believe it's any better in the Elections Department? Let me share my findings. I've been writing programs to examine the voter registration list and purged election lists (lists of those that voted in an election) in Lawrence for a couple of years. If you can describe it, I can search for it. Of course, my programs can't really tell if two registrations correspond to the same person. Sometimes there are two people with the same name and birthday, both living at the same address, but rarely. This fall I obtained post presidential election voter registration and purged lists from the city.

The number of duplicate voter registrations that were both credited with voting in the presidential election of November 2012 is disturbing. There are over 20 pairs of duplicates where both registrations were credited with voting this past November. Similar research on the purged lists of Haverhill and Methuen found no duplicate voters.

I chose to investigate one pair of alleged duplicate voters from November, Edwin and Eddie L; they have the same last name, birthday, and were registered at the same address. Edwin and Eddy L were

born in 1934, so their chance of being twins was small. On February 13, 2013, a FOIA request for various documents was filed with the City Clerk and was responded to on March 7, after a letter of complaint was sent to the state. My bill was \$50.81 due to 3 hours of administrative time billed at \$16.667 per hour with a small fee for copies. It is unclear if two ballots were cast in November 2012.

Although one registration was in person (Edwin: 4/27/2012) and one via mail (Eddy L: 9/14/2012), only Edwin's registration card was found. I'm assuming that the search for Eddy L's registration was the cause of my high bill. Massachusetts General Law (Title VIII, Chapter 51, Section 41) states "The registrars shall preserve all written applications, complaints, certificates and affidavits received by them, and all other documents in their custody relative to listing and registration, for two years after the dates thereof." Ostensibly, I was charged because the Elections Department can't keep its records in an organized fashion. I should be grateful they only spent three hours looking for it! (See Edwin's registration card at right)

Given the different writing styles of the body of the registration card and the signature, it seems this form was filled out by one person and signed by another. An employee at the Secretary of State's Election Division verified that the only time someone else should fill out the registration card for another is when that person is

disabled and can't write.

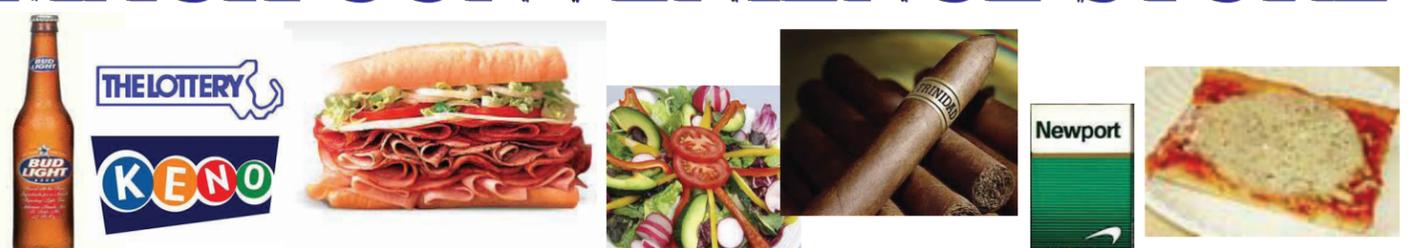
Should this registration form have been processed given the different names in the name field and signature field? As both names, Edwin and Eddy L, are on this form, you would think one of the Eddies' registrations would have been removed from the voting list after researching my request. You would be wrong. Both were still on the voter registration list I received dated May 3, 2013.

What does one have to do to get duplicate registrations off the list? Massachusetts General Laws (Title VIII, Chapter 51 Section 48) states that upon receiving a registration challenge "the registrars shall

examine into such complaint and, if satisfied that there is sufficient ground therefor, they shall summon the person complained of to appear before them at a certain place and time before the next primary or election or town meeting to resolve the issue." On March 26 of this year, I formally challenged two other pairs of registrations that were obvious duplicates. Both in each pair were also credited with voting in November 2012. I thought this route would be cheaper than paying for the research time myself. A letter was sent to the Board of Registrars formally challenging the registrations. A week or so later I was told that

FRAUD: NEXT PAGE

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Hero Lawrence Firefighter Runs for Mayor

Lawrence Firefighter and community activist Manuel "Juan" Gonzalez launched his official campaign kickoff for mayor on Thursday night before a packed room of about 100 people at the Firefighter's Relief In.

Flanked by former Lawrence Mayor Michael Sullivan, Lawrence City Councilor Marc LaPlante (District "F"), and Mount Vernon Neighborhood Association President Wayne Hayes, Gonzalez greeted people as they entered the hall, asking them for their vote and thanking them for attending.

Former Lawrence City Councilor David Abdo, who lost the mayor's race to Lantigua in 2009, introduced Gonzalez saying he had remained on the sidelines of Lawrence politics in the last four years but was getting involved again to help Gonzalez run for mayor.

"I see in him what I want from a mayor, and that is someone who carries themselves in a way that not only I can be proud of, but we can all be proud of. So, the time to stay on the sidelines for me ended with Juan," Abdo said.

Gonzalez also goes by Juan as his nickname. Abdo says that when Gonzalez is not fighting fires, he is running out to help families whose homes have burned down.

"This is a guy who fights fires for a living, so on his days off, what does he want to do? He goes out and helps these people affected by these fires. So, that is just phenomenal."

Gonzalez who is Puerto Rican, is a member of "Heal Lawrence", a non-profit group that helps get donated items to fam-



Mount Vernon Neighborhood Association President Wayne Hayes, Former Councilor and mayoral candidate David Abdo, Manuel "Juan" Gonzalez, Former Lawrence Mayor Michael Sullivan and Lawrence District Councilor Marc Laplante

ilies who are victims of fires in Lawrence when he is off duty from the Lawrence Fire Department. He also worked as one of the coordinators for one of two failed recall petitions against Mayor Lantigua.

"This is a man who has raised a family here, Abdo said. "I love his passion."

"I came to Lawrence in 1982," Gonzalez said addressing the room.

"I went to Lawrence High School and I know what it's like to come here and have nothing and start from the bottom up. I worked at Flavor Fresh as my first job, for \$3.35 an hour on Prospect Street. I used to have to walk home from there after a long day. I worked at Malden Mills for \$5 an hour cleaning the ovens. From there I worked in the Lawrence School Department doing custodian work for \$7.45 an hour. So I said, 'hey, this is great, we came to the United States for a better life and we're finding it, it's getting better on a daily basis.'"

"So it's a dream [living in the U.S.], it is

a dream."

"It was about 160 years ago this city was founded by immigrants who came here looking for a better life. 160 years later here I am running for mayor, living the dream.

"People are asking me, 'why are you running for mayor?' I care. I care and I'm not just going to cross my arms and not do anything about it. I have no personal vendettas, I am just a regular guy who cares about the city, and I believe I care the most of all the candidates and I want what's best for the City of Lawrence," Gonzalez told the Valley Patriot.

Gonzalez balked at the opportunity to attack Mayor Lantigua and refused to discuss any of the corruption investigations against the current mayor saying he wants to concentrate on the city and making the city better.

Asked why he was supporting Gonzalez, former Lawrence Mayor Michael Sullivan said Gonzalez has what it takes

to work with everyone, regardless of his or her race or political affiliation.

"I'm here because Lawrence needs someone who isn't going to divide people running the city," Sullivan said. "Lawrence needs a guy who can handle the day to day challenges this city faces and is willing to work with people. What we have now is a guy who has an enemies list, if you elect Manny Gonzalez all that will stop. He will judge every issue on the merits, not based on who proposed it. I think the people of Lawrence deserve that," Sullivan told the Valley Patriot.

Gonzalez is one of four candidates looking to unseat former state representative and one term Mayor, Willie Lantigua. James O'Donoghue, State Representative Marcos Devers, and City Councilor Dan Rivera are also hoping to make the September primary against Lantigua, who is considered the front runner.

FRAUD: FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

the matter was being looked into, but as I had not given my letter in affidavit form nothing official could be done. All four of these registrations were still on the May 3, 2013 registration list.

So, the non-lawyer can try to write an affidavit and hope it's up to snuff, or pay for legal assistance, then deliver said affidavit to the Board of Registrars. I wrote and submitted an affidavit to the Board of Registrars challenging the duplicate registrations of Edwin/Eddy L on Friday, June 28. At least with the Eddies I'd already paid for extra documentation.

Knowing Lawrence City Hall as I do, I made sure to call the City Clerk on Monday July 1 to inquire as to the correctness of my affidavit. William Maloney, the City Clerk, informed me that as Edwin and Eddy L had been merged together, there was nothing to investigate. He went on to

say that periodically the state sends them potential duplicates to investigate, which leads one to believe the registrations had been merged at some earlier date as part of a routine process. A formal response dated July 3 showed that the Eddies had, in fact, been merged on June 28, the day the affidavit was submitted!

How much does it cost to correct the mistakes of city workers? What does it take to make the Board of Registrars do some work? The City of Lawrence pays Election Department workers a good wage for making mistakes, and well-meaning citizens have to pay to get the careless mistakes fixed. For a city that prides itself on helping the poor, heaven help the poor person who wants some transparency and accountability from the City of Lawrence. Money can't buy that.

Austin Prep 4th-Quarter Honor Roll

The following students have made the fourth-quarter honor roll at Austin Preparatory School in Reading:

Dracut: Distinction: Kristen Behrakis, Honors: Thomas Behrakis

Haverhill: Honors: Elijah Harris

Lawrence: Honors: Gabriela Acevedo, Ashley Gonzalez, Emilyna Meas, Ashley Moore, Tuong Thai, Justin Tylus

Lowell: Honors: Julia Fraser,

Methuen: Honors: Matthew Golab, Anthony Pedro, Alec Svendsen

North Andover: Distinction: Christopher Applegate, Melissa Najjar, Honors: Kevin Callahan, Mykala Green, Megan Mahan, Liam McLellan, Haley Norris, Max Rieumont, Angela Sateriale, George Sennott, Jakob Wise

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What We Are Doing About the Drug Invasion in Methuen

Chief Joe Solomon

VALLEY PARITOT GUEST COLUMNIST

In light of the recent news stories surrounding the increase of heroin use in the Merrimack Valley, (which is a continuation of The Valley Patriot's ongoing coverage of drugs in Methuen), Chief Solomon wanted to communicate to residents and business owners the efforts that the Methuen Police Department employs in this area of crime fighting.

Unfortunately there has been a recent increase in the use of heroin as an alternative drug for those who have become addicted to prescription opiates. This trend is fueled by the high cost as well as the difficulty of obtaining prescription narcotics along with the relatively low cost of heroin in the region.

The Methuen Police Department attacks crime with a regional approach by collaborating with local, state and federal partnerships. It has long been the Chief's approach to work with other agencies and attack crime from all sides. Methuen, Lawrence and Lowell police partnered as this approach began years ago by swapping officers to patrol in each other's cities. Chief Solomon proposed this as a way "to take the anonymity away from the criminal who frequently crossed borders to commit crimes and as a way of addressing the crime triangle." This additionally helped to forge Law Enforcement interagency cooperation and relationships.

One of the most visible crimes today is that of the using and distribution of illicit drugs. The increase in the use of heroin has transcended age barriers in the greater Merrimack Valley. The Methuen Police Department's Narcotics Unit, in collaboration with other outside agencies,

has the mission of increasing the quality of life for its residents, while significantly reducing the violations of the state narcotics laws. The Narcotic's Unit works with all agencies and task forces when it comes to ridding the City of Methuen, as well as the entire Merrimack Valley, of persons who choose to come here to distribute, purchase or ingest illegal narcotics. Illicit narcotics use fuels crime on a daily basis to include housebreaks, car-breaks, shoplifting, robbery, purse snatching and prostitution, as well as many other quality of life crimes.

In January of 2013, the Methuen Narcotics Unit underwent a transition. Chief Solomon transferred the unit from the Criminal Investigations Division, which was overseen by their Lieutenant to the Community Outreach Division to be overseen by Lt. Mahoney. Together Lt. Mahoney and Sgt. Gunter, the Narcotics Unit Supervisor, went to work with their team. Prior to the transition, from January 2012 through July of 2012, the Narcotics Units work resulted in 35 narcotics arrests and since this transition of command supervision, the Narcotics Unit for the same time period this year has made 103 arrests. At the request of the unit supervisors, another detective was added to the unit on June 23, 2013 furthering Methuen Polices pledge to this fight. This detective is a veteran officer who has prior experience in narcotics investigation.

Partnerships and community involvement are key components to successfully fighting street drug dealing and related crime. The Narcotics Unit works with citizens and neighborhood groups on a daily basis to gather intelligence and address quality of life concerns that are outgrowths of illicit drug activity. The Narcotics Unit has an anonymous tip line and they

"Partnerships and community involvement are key components to successfully fighting street drug dealing and related crime. The Narcotics Unit works with citizens and neighborhood groups on a daily basis to gather intelligence and address quality of life concerns that are outgrowths of illicit drug activity."

METHUEN POLICE CHIEF
JOE SOLOMON



encourage citizens and business owners to call in their tips to 978-983-8794. The Methuen Police Narcotics Unit has been working hand in hand with the Essex County Sheriff's Department on a continuing basis and has had a member of the Sheriff's Department assigned to assist the unit since January of 2005. The Narcotic's Unit has also worked with the Cross Borders Initiative based out of Lowell, which is a collaboration of several law enforcement agencies from Massachusetts and New Hampshire and is led by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Our Unit has also worked with other branches of the Drug Enforcement Administration and had a member assigned to a Boston based DEA regional task force.

In addition to sharing information with neighboring cities, the unit also works with Lawrence Police Department's Street Narcotics Unit on a regular basis as the drug trade crosses city lines. The Methuen

Narcotic's Unit along with six other agencies assisted Lawrence's Narcotic Unit on June 19th, 2013 with a quality of life drug sting, which resulted in the arrest of 22 subjects. The Narcotics Unit has also worked with narcotic detectives from the cities of Andover, Haverhill, Lynn, Newburyport and Groveland.

Currently, the Methuen Police Department has a member assigned full time to the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), FBI North Shore Gang Task Force which is a regionally formed gang unit and has members from the Federal Bureau of Investigations, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency, the Massachusetts State Police and local law enforcement agencies, including Lawrence Police. This unit has a high presence in the Merrimack Valley area working to combat drug and gang activity. The Methuen Narcotics Unit frequently works in conjunc-

METHUEN DRUGS: PAGE 14

Why I am Running for West District Councilor in Methuen

Ken Willette

FORMER COUNCILOR & SCHOOL COMMITTEEMAN

Based on constructive and positive feedback I received from political supporters, family members and friends in Methuen's West End, I decided recently to join the race for West District Councilor. I have watched, with great dismay, the actions of the Methuen City Council over the past two years, which enacted a combination of counterproductive policy deci-

sions during a fragile economic recovery, and absolutely failed to pass substantial and cost-saving reform measures. Had enough of the Methuen City Council? Are you ready for conservative leadership?

It readily appears that the Methuen City Council was in an incredible rush to approve a new meals tax, augment the ambulance fee, and hike property taxes in consecutive years. While these tax and fee increases bolster the coffers at

Methuen City Hall, the city council also condoned a sizable expansion of personnel within the halls of the Searles Building. Please keep in mind that this influx of new revenue coincided with the retirement of old school construction debt and the conversion of Holy Family Hospital into a for-profit, and therefore taxable enterprise. The retirement of previous school construction debt and the new for-profit hospital status will directly aid the high school construction project without impacting taxpayers.

Meanwhile, residents have only recently started to see a small glimmer of hope in very modest employment gains, marginal home price increases and some traction in personal and household assets. The last two-year cycle was the absolute worst possible time for the introduction of the meals tax, the elevation of property taxes and the approval of higher ambulance fees. Therefore, as part of my platform, I will not vote for any municipal budget over the next two years that calls for increasing residential property taxes. We need a cooling off period without new taxes and fees. I kept my promise before as a former Councilor At-Large, and I will do it again if you give me your vote!

The sad state of affairs continues as the city council abjectly failed to join the GIC health insurance system for state workers and some municipalities, even though it is projected to save Methuen between \$1.5 and \$2 million every year; it has proven to have lower annual premium growth as compared to municipal, state and nationwide insurance plans; and it offers more

choices, less costly deductibles and lower premiums for workers. My platform calls for us to join the GIC as soon as possible in 2014. Any derived savings would be distributed on the following ratio—50% placed in a fund to stabilize the tax rate, 35% to help mitigate municipal workers' health insurance costs, and 15% to start replacing outdated and obsolete public safety equipment. I want to work in good faith with the unions, lower their health insurance costs, replace rundown public safety equipment and stabilize the tax rate in Methuen. Why not join the GIC?

Finally, many reform proposals have collected dust over the past two years: -- 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.

I really look forward to this campaign, as I will actively travel door-to-door and listen intently to the concerns and grievances of West End residents. I respectfully and humbly ask for your support! Please reach out to me anytime at kennethwillette@verizon.net or 978-683-0606.

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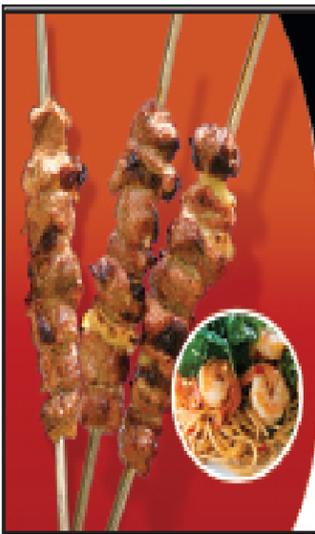
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Condon Retires from Methuen Politics Will not Seek Reelection

Tom Duggan

VALLEY PATRIOT PUBLISHER

Methuen At-Large City Councilor Mike Condon told The Valley Patriot in an exclusive interview that he is not seeking reelection as a city councilor this year and is retiring from politics for good.

Condon said that after the death of his father Edward A. Condon and his best friend Arthur Hutton this summer, he has lost interest in politics and his perspective on life.

"I got all the signatures but I'm not turning in my papers," Condon said.

"When I lost my father and my best friend Arthur Hutton in the last few months, I took on a whole new perspective on life, and politics isn't part of it. It's time for new people, younger people, to get involved and that's what's best for Methuen. My heart just isn't in it so I am going to concentrate on my family and my business."

Condon and his wife Leanne own the Sweetheart Inn on Myrtle Street in Methuen.

Asked if he was planning on endorsing anyone in the at-large council race,

Condon said he wasn't endorsing anyone at this time but would make that decision later.

"I haven't talked to anyone on endorsements and I really don't know what I am going to do yet. I just made my decision last week, and it was tough because I love politics. But at this point in my life, I'm going to be 58 years old in a few weeks and I just want to take a different direction in my life. I have a new perspective now so maybe I will do that, but I just don't know."

"I just don't have the fire in my belly anymore, my dad was my mentor and Arthur was my best friend, they were two of the most important people in my life other than my wife."

Condon said people can know without



speculating that he will not be back and will not run for office again saying this is his "permanent retirement from politics."

"I won't be back, this is it for me. This is officially my final announcement of my retirement from Methuen politics, it's for good."

Condon was a city councilor for six years and had to step aside because of term limits but came back in 2011 and secured his seat on the council again. He also was a member of the Greater Lawrence Technical School Board and a member of the Essex County Charter Commission when county government was reformed.

"Being an elected official has been a very rewarding experience, I don't regret

anything," he said.

"I am finishing out my term, I love my city and people have been very good to me here. I have always tried to do the right thing whether controversial or not. But it's time for new people with new ideas to get involved and make a difference, instead of the same faces all the time. Methuen needs new blood. There are a lot of good people running and I wish them all the best. But this just isn't for me anymore."

Condon said he is not leaving Methuen, "you will still see me around, I will be at the Sweetheart Inn with my wife Leanne until I retire. Methuen will always be my town. That's why I always said when I ran that I was for 'all of Methuen'. I've been in politics now for over 16 years and I loved it, I want to thank everyone who ever supported me and had faith in me as an elected official. I will miss it but it's time for me to move on and give other people a chance to serve the city."

Running for three open at-large seats on the Methuen City Council are: Sharon Birchall, James Jajuga, Dan Grayton, Bob Leblanc, and Joyce Campagnone.

West End City Council Candidate George Kazanjian: Council Argues Too Much

Tom Duggan

VALLEY PATRIOT PUBLISHER

Former School Committeeman George Kazanjian says he wants to represent the people of the West End on the city council so he can find waste and needless spending in the city budget.

Kazanjian spoke with the Valley Patriot the day after his former colleague on the school committee, Evan Chaisson, dropped out and endorsed the other two candidates in the race. Asked what he thought of Chaisson dropping out and endorsing his rivals, a very laid back Kazanjian said he didn't blame Chaisson for dropping out of the race.

"The man has to make a living, you know. I don't blame him at all for dropping out, he has to do what's best for him and his family," Kazanjian said.

As to Chaisson endorsing Kenneth Willette and Sean Fountain, Kazanjian says it doesn't bother him at all as he is going to run his own campaign and not worry what the other candidates are doing.

"Yeah he endorsed them, that's fine, everyone has their own opinions on things, I have no problem with that. That's what made Howard Johnson so famous with his 33 flavors."

Asked why he was running, Kazanjian says that the current city council does nothing but argue and doesn't seem interested in cutting the budget or lowering taxes.

Asked how he could do that with health care costs, gas, energy and other staples getting more expensive every year he said it's a

matter of being diligent at budget time.

"We have to learn to live within our means. Even as a little kid you are taught you can only spend so much, that's it. We need to go back to the simple times of you can't spend more than you make. Whatever you make as a salary, at home you can't spend more than that."

"I believe we need to look at every individual line item in that budget. The time to make the cuts in spending is when you are developing the city budget. Unfortunately, that hasn't been done. You have to look at everything. Unfortunately, as an outsider I cannot give you specifics on what I would cut."

"When the city budget is given to the council, they get a lot of backup information on what they are spending and what they are voting on. The public doesn't get that backup, so you have to analyze that backup as a regular citizen to know what really needs to be cut."

"I believe they should be giving backup to the public so people know what is really going on. Jack Burke was talking about openness and transparency in government. We need to be attaching the backup on all of the council agenda items to what is given to the public. People need more, the average person doesn't understand what they are talking about, and only the council has the backup. So, if I am elected, I think we need to give more to the public and I will fight for that."

Kazanjian says that being on the school committee has taught him how to work with people he does not always agree with.

"Sometimes you don't always agree with people, but you have to work with them, and I think Methuen people deserve a councilor that is a consensus builder and a leader, someone who listens with a commitment to fix the problems that we have. I am a believer that we need to be putting Methuen first. If elected as a councilor, I have no personal agenda and I will work with everyone."

"My mission is to put Methuen first and get taxes in line so that every year we are not faced with rising taxes. I also want to guarantee to senior citizens that they get the best quality of services and that the level of services they have will continue. We have a good senior program and I want to make sure it improves."

Kazanjian says that public safety is also a top priority saying Methuen is doing a very good job and he wants to do more.

"I sincerely believe our quality school system has to continue, we have to continue keeping the kids safe, and I also believe we have to invest more in the roads, but in order to do all these things, something must give. That is where we go back to looking at the budget backup and going through the budget, line by line to see what we can do without. We have to sit down with the department heads before the process begins and find out what they need. They know more than any councilor how their department works. We have a good group of directors and people running the city, we ought to be listening to them more. That would be my approach."

"We need positive solutions. We know



George Kazanjian with former Valley Patriot cub reporter Hanna back in 2007 when he was first a candidate for School Committee. (Hanna is attending college in the fall.)

that there are issues that need to be addressed, it's how do we fix those issues that matter. I think we don't have that now on the council. It's just a constant argument on that council, and I think if I am elected I will work with people, I have proven I can do that."

Asked what he thought about the Jamie Atkinson-Peter McQuillan scandal, where Atkinson was getting questions and information texted to him during the questioning of a solicitor candidate, Kazanjian said that the whole process was unproductive for the city.

"I really don't know much about what went on behind the scenes on that other than they voted to relieve him (Solicitor McQuil-

KAZANJIAN: PAGE 16

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CHIEF SOLOMON: FROM PAGE 10

tion with the Federal Homeland Security Investigations Department, and the Essex County Drug Task Force, which is manned by Massachusetts State Police.

The Methuen Narcotic's Unit has been a part of the Haverhill Task Force (HTF) for years; this is a joint task force between the Haverhill Police and Methuen Police Narcotics Unit which focuses on gang and drug activity that crosses city lines on Route 110. This partnership has eradicated the drug transactions in the neighborhoods, which were situated right at the borders of both communities. The Methuen Police Department has maintained its partnership in this task force and has spread the reach of this task force under the Shannon Grant to saturate areas in the city which are considered high crime and high drug areas. This partnership has proven to be an

invaluable asset to both cities.

Working with such a wide range of agencies has increased the manpower addressing the problems, increased the skills of the officers participating and has resulted in the arrest of hundreds of subjects for distributing, possessing and ingesting illegal narcotics as well as the seizure of heroin, cocaine, crack cocaine, marijuana, prescription pills, and steroids. This collaboration has also resulted in over 20 search warrants, which resulted in the seizure of large amounts of currency. Currently, the Methuen Police Narcotics Unit is working with several outside agencies on ongoing drug investigations which include Federal Task Forces, as well as local task forces.

As you can see there are numerous agencies and task forces, which have

been brought together to battle the drug problem in the Merrimack Valley. Working together with these other agencies has created a partnership that brings great value to the war on drugs in the City of Methuen. The Methuen Police Narcotics Unit is eager to work with any agency in an effort to combat all aspects of the drug trade, which will in turn reduce crime as a whole.

As related today by Chief Solomon, "Experience has shown that even with multiple law enforcement agencies working together, the success and sustainability of any law enforcement activity, particularly the reduction of crime and the maintenance of order, needs the public's acceptance and assistance, and two-way communications from the police to ultimately make a difference." The Chief asks

"all of our residents and business to join one another in the See Something, Say Something campaign."

There are various ways to keep up to date and in communication with Methuen Police, below is a list of some of the more popular social media sites and MPD numbers:

In cases of emergency please dial 911
Anonymous Narcotics Tip Line ~ 978-983-8794. For non-Emergency Issues ~ 978-983-8677

Commanding Officers Line ~ 978-983-8680

FaceBook ~ @Methuen Police Department (Department Page), @Joe Solomon (Chief's page) - Twitter ~ @MPDBlotter or @ChiefSolomon

IPhone & Android ~ In the App stores MyPD (free download)



Motorcycle stunt riders were on hand last month for the grand opening of the 3D Barber Shop at 476 Lowell Street in Methuen.

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Robert LeBlanc

Chaisson Drops Out, Endorses Willette and Fountain

Tom Duggan
VALLEY PATRIOT PUBLISHER

Methuen School Committeeman Evan Chaisson says he is dropping out of the West End City Council race and endorsing former councilor and school committeeman, Ken Willette and incumbent councilor, Sean Fountain to fill the two seats up for election in November. Also, a candidate in that race is School Committeeman, George Kazanjian.

Councilor Jeanne Pappalardo cannot run again because of term limits.

"I met with my bosses at work to talk about my situation if I were to win the city council seat in November, and they cannot guarantee me I won't be switching shifts come Jan 1st," Chaisson said.

Chaisson said that it breaks his heart to drop out of the race as he was convinced he had a good chance of being victorious on election day, but he may have had to change shifts at work from first shift to second shift, when most council meetings take place, and it wasn't fair to the taxpayers and voters.

"After talking to some of my campaign staff, friends and family, I have to announce that I cannot run for city council, because I don't know for sure I can give

100% of my time to the city."

Chaisson is a signal technician for Massachusetts Bay Commuter Rail.

"Right now I am on an apprenticeship, my two year apprenticeship is up in January and at that time I have to start bidding jobs, and I was told that most jobs I'll be bidding on are second shift jobs. So, I think it is in the best interest of the city that if I can't give 100% to the citizens of Methuen, I shouldn't be running for city council.

Chaisson says he does anticipate he will be very vocal as a private citizen and will make sure to continue to fight for taxpayers, and bring to light anything his constituents bring forward that he doesn't think is being addressed properly.

Former Councilor and School Committeeman Kenneth Willette took out nomination papers for a West End City Council seat a week ago, and Valley Patriot sources say that he has already collected enough signatures to put his name on the ballot.

"I am very proud and honored to have received Evan's endorsement," Willette



told the Valley Patriot late Saturday evening.

"One of the main reasons that I am running is because of the proven inability of the city council to limit spending over the past two years, and a real failure to implement major structural reforms—joining the GIC health care, outsourcing the IT department, participating in a regional 911 center, which would collectively save the community millions

of dollars. The city council approved massive spending measures without enacting any major reforms. There must be a better choice for Methuen residents in November, because they cannot afford to maintain the status quo."

Councilor Sean Fountain is out of town for the weekend and could not be reached for comment.

"Kenny will be great for the district, he has a strong background in politics and is a strong fiscal conservative like myself," School Committeeman Chaisson said.

"I know Ken personally. He is a go-getter; I know he will tackle the tough issues like the GIC program, taxes, and

Former Methuen City Councilor and School Committeeman Kenneth Willette now IN the West End Council Race, endorsed by Evan Chaisson.



police and fire. I don't know where George Kazanjian stands on any of those issues. I don't think anyone does. So, I am endorsing and I will be telling my friends and family that my two votes will go to Kenny and Sean. I think they will be best for the city."

Chaisson says that his goal is to help the city in any way he can as a private citizen, and when the next election rolls around in two years, he will run if he knows he can give it 100%.

The deadline for returning nomination papers for all municipal offices is Monday, July 29, 2013.

My Thoughts on the 2013 Methuen City Election

Joe Leone
VALLEY PATRIOT GUEST COLUMNIST

Like many of my fellow Methuen voters, I try to keep myself informed about issues that affect the community and my tax bill. What I've been hearing and reading over the last 18 months has not made me a very happy camper. Not much seemed to be getting done, not much progress had been made, and most of the city government seemed to be in "status quo" mode. Two consecutive property tax increases didn't help to erase the feeling that we were in a rut that was going to be

hard to steer out of. My reaction of course, was to draw nomination papers for the upcoming mayoral election, since I have always subscribed to the old-fashioned notion that if I want something to be done right, I just have to do it myself. I figured that my 45 years worth of management skills were just what the city needed.

Of course, once I had the nomination papers in hand, I had to really take a hard look at the objectives I had and the path to obtaining those objectives. What's really gone wrong since January, 2012? How does it get fixed? How long will it take? My heart kept saying, "go for it" while my

head kept saying, "it's not time yet".

The now old news is that my head won out and I have decided not to run...this time. My reasoning is really quite simple and I can boil it down to a few basics:

I have always been in favor of a four-year term for the office of mayor. I can understand two-year terms for council and school committee, but the mayor is a different animal and should have the benefit of not having to be in "campaign mode" all the time.

Not much can be accomplished in the 20 months between the inauguration and the next campaign season. I sometimes feel that I'm the "smartest guy in the room", but it's usually true only when I'm the only guy in the room. I know darned well that I could not bail out this leaking boat in 20 months, so it is hypocritical of me to think Steve Zanni should pull it off.

When I look at the things I would try to accomplish, I keep thinking that "stopping the bleeding" is a good way to describe what needs to be done. Four words that no one likes to hear are the "tourniquet" we need...four simple words: Reorganization, Regionalization, Privatization, Consolidation. I realized that the mayor is really heading in the same general direction that

I would head if I was elected, but since Massachusetts' local governments move at a glacial pace, it will really take another term to get from Point A to Point B.

I am a member of the High School Building Committee and Vice-chairman of the Community Development Board, both volunteer positions.

Both bodies are in the middle of important projects and issues, and I have a responsibility to see things through to the end. I know Steve Zanni feels the same sense of responsibility to see the high school finished on time and under budget (both looking good at this point, by the way).

Finally, I already have a job. My work as a Project Manager for a large charitable foundation is quite satisfying and the projects I am currently managing for the foundation will likely not be finished until late next spring. I could not, in good conscience, leave the job half done and bolt out the door for the Mayor's office.

So that's it. I'm not running and I think Steve Zanni will make a great deal more progress in a second term. But who knows? I just might pop up on your ballot in November 2015.



Linda Dean Campbell

State Representative

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House Finalizes Overrides of Governor's Vetoes

Linda Campbell
METHUEN STATE REPRESENTATIVE

The Massachusetts House and the Senate completed timely overrides of the Governor's vetoes to the FY 2014 state budget, covering a wide swath of issues. Included in the overrides were many appropriations very important to the Merrimack Valley including increased funding to protect our seashore, support for operation of the Merrimack Valley Hospital in Haverhill, along with a long overdue recreational improvement for the City of Methuen.

The Merrimack Valley will benefit from the overrides in a number of areas, according to Representative Campbell. First and foremost, an increase in funding is given for local aid and local road repair. State Unrestricted Aid to Cities and Towns was also increased by \$21.25 million over FY 2013 levels. This is the first time since FY 2010 that we have been able to increase Unrestricted Local Aid levels, and it is very much needed by communities to protect critical services and invest in community projects for future generations.

Part of that equation for Methuen will include \$150,000 for lighting the Pelham Street Ball Park. This will allow other recreational fields in the city to be freed up for additional games. The baseball program continues to grow and we want to ensure that all our youth has the opportunity to participate.

The proposed FY 2014 budget generated some contentious and productive debate according to Campbell, I am pleased with most of the compromises and the final priorities for local aid, transportation reform, and increased resources for our public colleges and universities; specifically, more funding which will prevent tuition increases this coming year.

One of the most important aspects of the modest increase in the gas tax (about \$35.00 annually per driver) was the iron clad dedication of these funds to transportation infrastructure maintenance. In



my conversations with taxpayers there is a general sense that there should be a direct linkage between what we are asking taxpayers to invest in, in this case improved roads and bridges, to an appropriate and specific tax for it, such as increasing the tax on gasoline. My constituents have made clear that increasing taxation to increase funding to an amorphous general fund that cannot be easily analyzed in regards where the money goes is very frustrating. The Legislature did the right thing with targeting these funds."

I am very thankful to all members of our delegation for their successful efforts in ensuring that the Merrimack Valley was front and center in this budget. In the final analysis, it is a budget that was produced on time, protected our strong reserves, and invested responsibly in transportation. It is a budget strongly supported by the business community in the Commonwealth, which is a good way to start the next fiscal year.

The Merrimack Valley Irish Connection

Abbeylara, County Longford Ireland to Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Jack Doyle, County Sligo
VALLEY PATRIOT IRISH COLUMNIST

In 1983 while sitting in my friend's office, a woman approached me and handed me a religious medal while saying to me, "She's calling you." I didn't take much heed to her jester and put the medal in my pocket. Twenty-five years later I found out what she meant.

It wasn't until relatives of my Culfudda, friends that I was about to learn about the apparitions at Medjugorje and the meaning of "She's calling you." On April 19, 2006, Ivan Dragicevic (one of the six visionaries of Medjugorje) was going to be in Abbeylara, County Longford, Ireland.

It was raining when I arrived in Abbeylara, the houses were all decorated with flowers and flags as if a parade were about to march through the village. On both sides of the church there were large tents to accompany the overflowed crowd. Music was bellowing throughout the quaint little village in honor of "Our Lady of Medjugorje." There was a festive mood when we arrived at the church, two hours early.

The mass proceeded as always with the exception of having Ivan in our presence. After the mass, Ivan proceeded to the middle of the sanctuary and knelt down, he looked up into the altar and seemed to be in a trance. There was complete silence, you could hear a pin drop. His lips would move as if he was talking to someone..... he was.

At about the same time Ivan knelt down, a young lady in the pew in back of me slumped over. Her father picked her up and laid her in the isle, she stayed in that position all through the service. When she did come to and headed back to her seat, someone asked her what she saw, she said, "I saw the Blessed Mother in front of me, she was standing on a cloud." There was no doubt that a feeling of her presence was real. The peace and serenity in the church was convincing...the plan for Medjugorje was about to be made. After all, "she has been calling me for over twenty-five years." continued next month. The full story can be seen in the book "Medjugorje, Where Heaven meets Earth, by John Doyle. For information: jack5772@comcast.net

KAZANJIAN: FROM 13

lan) and not renew his contract. The whole thing got spun into a whole other story. Bottom line is, it (hiring a solicitor) wasn't done. They went out for a search, and it got blurred and on the D'Agostino issue (candidate for solicitor) it got to be a big mess, and they end up hiring a law firm. My firm belief is that we should have a city solicitor, a human being, not a law firm. Hopefully they will go out and do a search. I don't honestly know where it stands right now, I don't think anyone does."

Pressed as to how he would increase funding for seniors, public safety, schools and roads while also cutting taxes, Kazanjian says that as an accountant, he can find things in the budget that are "hidden" or that others without his education and training would not be able to find.

"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 through 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 are sometimes buried in budgets. That's why I think the voters should elect me."

With Three term West End City Councilor Jeanne Pappalardo unable to run for reelection because of term limits, there is only one incumbent (Sean Fountain) and two challengers (Kazanjian and Kenneth Willette) seeking to fill the two West End seats up for grabs in November.

Proposed Tewksbury Casino Good For Methuen, Valley

The Tewksbury Board of Selectmen voted unanimously on July 18 to move forward a process that will let Tewksbury residents vote on whether or not to allow a Casino in their town. Tewksbury Selectmen should be commended for making the right decision in moving this proposal forward despite opposition from some powerful anti-casino interests. Although additional hearings and votes will need to take place before the proposal moves forward to its final stages, this is a major step in the right direction. Penn National Gaming is proposing opening a \$200 million complex called Hollywood Casino to be located on Ames Pond Road in Tewksbury. The proposal constitutes a win for not only Tewksbury, but the entire Merrimack Valley region.

If approved, the Casino, which will be called Hollywood Casino, would contain approximately 1,250 slot machines on a 30-acre complex located at 300 Ames Pond Road on the Tewksbury-Andover town line. The project is estimated to cost nearly \$200 million. It will generate approximately \$4 million per year in tax revenue for Tewksbury, including \$3 million in property taxes, and would create more than 500 new jobs in the Casino itself. In addition, more than 1,000

construction jobs will be created in order to construct the Casino itself. This is just what the Merrimack Valley needs: more jobs! Following the Tewksbury Board of Selectmen vote, Tewksbury Selectmen Chair Scott Wilson correctly noted, "I think this represents a tremendous economic opportunity for the town to explore. Up front, it will provide construction jobs and later there will be permanent jobs. Plus, it would help pick up the town and help struggling business." In expressing optimism for the endeavor, Selectman Doug Sears commented, "Once people see that it's in the best interest of the town, I believe they'll support it. If people say they don't want it, then they're saying they don't want \$4 million each year for infrastructure needs. Sears added, "How else are we going to find that kind of money?" Selectman Sears stated further, "The town of Tewksbury needs an influx of business capital, and this would also help attract customers to the surrounding businesses."

Organized opposition to the Casino has already begun to mount. Many residents in Tewksbury and Andover are voicing opposition to the proposal. One opponent is State Senator Barry Feingold

(D-Andover). Feingold has stated, "I've always been against extended gaming, and whether it's in my district or outside the district, I don't think it's a good idea." I like Senator Feingold personally and reasonable people can disagree, but this project is clearly a no-brainer in my view. People are going to gamble regardless of whether they gamble here or they go to Connecticut or to Providence. Here the Merrimack Valley stands to benefit with over 1,500 good new jobs being created and annual tax revenues of at least \$4 million being generated locally in addition to new revenues generated for the Commonwealth. Not only will this project create new jobs for Merrimack Valley residents and generate more tax revenue, it will likely benefit local businesses, restaurants and hotels as well. The valley has plenty of fine restaurant establishments that could attract new businesses from across the state and New Hampshire. This will likely create even more jobs and result in more tax revenue for surrounding Merrimack Valley cities and towns, including Methuen. Penn National Gaming is a very reputable company that currently operates casinos in 17 states and Ontario, Canada. Tewksbury and the Merrimack Valley are fortunate to have this opportunity to bring

Penn National to the region.

The "not in my backyard" mentality needs to take a backseat for the greater good. I certainly would not mind if they put a Casino near my home in Methuen. Unfortunately, I do not think Methuen has the available space for this to happen. Tewksbury and Andover residents, as well as local and state officials, should get on board with this proposal and work honestly with Penn State Gaming to address legitimate traffic and congestion concerns in order to move this project forward.



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.

Haverhill Stadium Renovation Must be Finished

Mark Behan

VALLEY PATRIOT SPORTS REPORTER

While watching a recent baseball game at Trinity (formerly Haverhill) Stadium, I was reminded of the movie Field of Dreams. I know: What does a movie made in 1989 have to do with the old dinosaur on Lincoln Avenue? Hear me out.

In one memorable scene from the movie, farmer Ray Kinsella, played by Kevin Costner, is walking in his cornfield when he hears a voice that whispers, "If you build it, he will come."

Costner then builds it: a baseball field in the middle of his cornfield. People think he's crazy for building the ball field, but eventually thousands of folks come from miles away to see games played on the field and everyone lives happily ever after.

And that leads me back to Trinity Stadium.

First off, nothing is ever easy when it comes to Trinity Stadium, which sits in the Riverside section of the city, nestled on the banks of the Merrimack River, a good baseball toss away from Building 19.

I mean, did you know that the concrete fence surrounding the stadium was constructed using salvaged bricks from demolished downtown shoe factories? That's what you call a fence with character.

For years the stadium was ignored – an aging, deteriorating afterthought. And while it dodged the wrecking ball, its grandstands still crumble today – unfortunately.

Since 2006 the historic stadium, where Babe Ruth once hit a home run, has been under the scalpel for some major upgrades. Two of the five grandstand sections have been repaired; artificial turf has been installed on the football and baseball fields; the locker rooms have been spruced up; ceilings patched; and other structural work completed.

And the stadium has – in about the time it took Costner to plow his cornfield – become a magnet for sporting and community related events. As they did in Field of Dreams, lots of people are coming to Trinity Stadium and they seem to care about this place again.

But the reconstruction work is far from finished. Sections of the grandstands urgently need to be repaired. New lights must be installed. The brick wall that surrounds the stadium, along with locker rooms and the parking lot, needs repair work, too. In addition, Trinity Stadium needs a new press box that must include an elevator to comply with laws on accessibility for the disabled.

Yes, this is more than cosmetic work and this renovation will be costly – about \$4.7

million, a lot of money for a cash strapped city.

But Haverhill High School Athletic Director Tom O'Brien – who is also chairman of the Stadium Commission – recently told the Haverhill City Council that if the renovation is finished, Trinity Stadium will have the potential to become a sports mecca in New England and, here's the kicker, the stadium would pay for itself.

The key word, though, is "finished."

Built in 1936 as part of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration (WPA) project, the stadium has become an icon of the community, a place to bring people together – whether at a football game, a high school graduation or the annual Independence Day celebration.

In addition, Yankee greats Ruth and Lou Gehrig played an exhibition game at the stadium against Holy Cross. And in 1960 the New England Patriots, then the Boston Patriots, held their first intrasquad scrimmage on its field.

By the way, Haverhill was the first city in the country to build a high school stadium exclusively for high schools sports. And the Haverhill High football team captured two state titles (1936, 1955) while playing at then-Haverhill Stadium.

Trinity Stadium not only oozes history, but it is also important architecturally. In designing the stadium, architect James Perkins brought together disparate styles: art moderne and classical revival. It is, folks,

not a cookie-cutter stadium.

Trinity Stadium transcends bricks and mortar with tributes to community members: Pike's Peak (press box), Gobbi's Gate (entranceway) and Harry McNamara field.

Currently, the stadium produces about \$40,000 per year in advertising sales and \$25,000 in rental. That's not \$4.7 million, roughly the cost to "finish" the renovation. And we know the tooth-stadium fairy is not going to be placing almost \$5 million under anyone's pillow anytime soon.

But the stadium should leapfrog to the top of the city's to-do list.

The city needs to find a way to finance the renovation, perhaps taking out long-term loans. It's worth it, for Trinity Stadium is a special place that has 77 years worth of personality and character. It deserves respect and appreciation, and to be "built" back up again.

A "finished" stadium will host about 250 events per year. That's the hope, as people will flock to Trinity Stadium just as they did to what was once a cornfield in Field of Dreams.

But it needs to be built back up before they will come.



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



Haverhill Mayor Fiorentini with boaters from Lawrence and Haverhill on the new docks

Mayor Announces Opening of New Downtown Public Dock System on the Merrimack River

Today, Mayor James J. Fiorentini announced the opening of the new commercial docks downtown. These docks will give boaters an opportunity to dock their vessels in the heart of Haverhill's downtown restaurant, cultural and shopping district. This expanded dock system can support commercial tour boats and will help enhance the commerce throughout downtown, while promoting downtown Haverhill as a boating destination.

The docks are the culmination of a project to add a new boardwalk, a new dock system and new gangway.

Most of the program was paid for with various State and Federal grants which the city obtained over the years. The city also invested money from its waterways funds which is a special fund set up by the city several years ago with the express purpose of upgrading its dock system.

The dock system is federally permitted and features an ADA accessible ramp that is permanently affixed to the flood-wall with a new aluminum gangway that extends into the river, and a number of

wooden docks that float on the surface off the river. The system was funded through a combination of resources, the PARC Grant, Community Development Block Grant Funds and the city's Waterways and Dock fee accounts. The federal permit allows the city to extend the dock capacity in the future if funding and permitting is approved.

Mayor Fiorentini stated:

"Our new commercial dock system opens up our city to commercial boaters from Amesbury and Newburyport to come to Haverhill. It will also allow boaters to come downtown, dine at a local restaurant as part of their destination. It is all part of our vision to re-orient Haverhill to make the Merrimack River our focal point.

"This grant would not have happened without a partnership with state and federal officials. We appreciate the continued support of State Representative Brian Dempsey, Secretary Richard Sullivan and state PARC Grant Officials, as well as our Harbor Commission for their advocacy and implementation of the dock system."

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TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK

VALLEY PATRIOT SLEUTH SISTERS – (SALISBURY) ...Coming In September Our Valley Patriot Sleuth Sisters have been following the trail of money for years in Salisbury and are ready to tell our readers what they found! Two sister sleuths, sick of being lied to by town officials, have uncovered a new Phantom in the sewers of Salisbury politics. This Phantom? An \$80 million dollar phantom sewer reconstruction project. It had a starring role in this soap opera scripted by town officials and played to over 1,000 unsuspecting Salisbury Beach property owners, including the sleuth sisters. After the town had collected millions of dollars in betterment charges from their captive audience, the sleuth sisters discovered that the real cost of the project was \$18 million, not \$80 million as residents were told, and had been completely paid for by federal and state grants.

Nevertheless, Salisbury town officials persisted with their original version, even under oath; that is, until the Secretary of State stepped in to help the beleaguered sisters and leveled the playing field in this David-and-Goliath corruption story. STAY TUNED!

METHUEN NEEDS TO CHANGE THEIR CHARTER - PRIMARIES NEEDED!

Once again the insiders get an advantage in Methuen as there will be no preliminary elections this September. According to the Methuen City Charter if there aren't enough candidates on the ballot to eliminate in a preliminary election, there will be no preliminary election. The thinking on this is to save money when there aren't enough candidates to eliminate. This year there are two candidates for mayor, and if there was a primary in September nobody would be eliminated.

Here's the problem I have with this: In communities where primaries are held (or preliminaries) despite the lack of local candidates, citizen candidates emerge with write in campaigns. Holding a preliminary in Methuen, regardless of ample candidates, would give the average citizen activists an opportunity to size up the city council, school committee and mayoral candidates and decide if they want to challenge the status quo with a grassroots campaign. The added

PETER PAN



While the Summer Theater Ensemble is based in Andover, this season's production of Peter Pan stars a host of emerging talent from throughout the area. See this dynamic cast and crew team up in celebration of their 15th anniversary of bringing quality family theater to the Merrimack Valley. Performances: August 2 & 3, 7:30PM, Aug. 4, 4PM at the Collins Center.



WHITE PEOPLE MAKING THE RULES AT DEMOCRAT PLATFORM CONVENTION AT THE TSONGAS ARENA IN LOWELL LAST MONTH

benefit of the preliminary elections is that it gives the public and the candidates a good idea what the voters are thinking and what candidates need to do more work. You cannot put a price on democracy, and I believe that the money spent on preliminaries in Methuen would be well worth it.

NO HANDICAPPED PARKING AT DEMOCRAT PLATFORM CONVENTION... You can't make this up!

I was lucky enough to be broadcasting my radio show last month from the Tsongas Arena in Lowell where the

Massachusetts Democrat Party held their platform convention. First, arriving at the arena parking lot, I was greeted with a couple of very unpleasant parking attendants who first yelled at me (rather than asking me) as I was trying to pull into the reserved parking spots we had secured to cover the event. When I showed them my press pass one barked, "not good enough". After a few choice words, these two fine gentlemen waived me on to the reserved section. When I got there, I was greeted by another attendant who informed us there was no handicapped parking...now, how can that be? I thought the Democrat Party in Massachusetts was all about advocating for the disabled and disadvantaged? SURELY they would have handicapped parking at their OWN events?

NO DIVERSITY AT DEMOCRAT PLATFORM CONVENTION..

When I finally arrived at the press booth last month at the Democrat Platform Convention in Lowell, one thing struck me like a ton of bricks! When I looked out over the crowd of about 8-10,000 Democrats at the Tsongas Arena (see photo) I expected to see an arena filled with diversity. I expected to see Muslims, and Latinos and Blacks and other people who are not considered "white". After all, this wasn't a Democrat convention. This was a Platform convention. A convention of only Democrat insiders making decisions as to what the Massachusetts Democrat Party Platform will entail. You know, like diversity, and affirmative action, and all the concepts Democrats say they care about. But, as my eyes began to scan the Democrat filled arena, I was shocked to see a crowd of people who were (with very few exceptions) ALL WHITE. Go figure! The political party that plants minorities behind their candidates at

every press conference and campaign event to pander to different demographics in public, is secretly run by a bunch of lily white, country club liberals who care nothing about including minorities in their decision making.

NORTH ANDOVER - No ATV Rides at National Night Out – We are now living in a community where the tyranny of the minority is shaping what we can and cannot do in our own neighborhoods. At issue, bully Katie Kearney, whose son died in an ATV rollover because he was not being properly supervised. And, just like the confused parents who advocated for mandatory helmets while sledding because of their children's accidents, Kearney is now on a mission to cleanse our community of children on ATV's so she won't have to be reminded of the tragedy that befell her son. It's easy to understand why someone who lost their child on an ATV might react emotionally to seeing other kids on an ATV. I'm sure it brings back terrible memories for her, and maybe even guilt that her unsupervised child died in an ATV rollover. But Ms. Kearney's emotional problems are not our problem, children riding on ATV's with police officers at National Night Out is hardly the same as her unsupervised child dying in an ATV rollover. Shame on the town for bowing down to her unreasonable, emotional demands and phony arguments used to deprive children of fun at NNO. When are we going to stop letting every individual's personal problems interfere with our civil liberties? When government officials stop bowing down for fear of controversy, lawsuits or hurting someone's feelings, our communities will be much better off.

NO HEALTH SERVICES UNLESS YOU REGISTER TO VOTE

I happened to be at a Massachusetts state-run government office a few months ago and witnessed something I thought my readers should know about. A man comes in and says he wants to sign up for free health care. The woman at the counter (a state worker) tells the man to sign in and hands him a Motor-Voter Registration Card and proceeds to tell the man he has to sign it before he can be seen by a customer service representative. What a scam. The Democrat party in Massachusetts is using government services to recruit more Democrats. I know, I know they will hide behind excuses like: increasing voting for "poor and minorities" is a genuinely innocent goal. But the fact is, they are buying votes and rigging the system.

METHUEN PARKS GET BOOST FROM LEGISLATURE

The Massachusetts legislature voted today to restore spending to install lighting at the Pelham Street baseball field used by Methuen Youth Baseball and the freshmen and junior varsity high school baseball teams in the amount of \$150,000. Methuen Youth Baseball has about 900 kids ages 13 to 18 in two playing seasons with 18 teams for kids ages 13 to 16 in the spring, and 30 teams including 17- and 18-year-olds in the summer. Lights at all three fields means the city can now expand its offerings. State Senator Kathleen O'Connor Ives said, "I was happy to support Representative Linda Dean Campbell's initiative to fund lighting at the baseball field for expanded use." Governor Deval Patrick had vetoed the item in the annual state spending plan. Both branches of the Legislature voted to override the Governor's veto.

LAWRENCE CHESS CLUB - The Lawrence Chess Club will meet on

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Wednesday, August 21, 2013 from 6-8pm at the Lawrence Public Library, corner of Haverhill & Lawrence streets. This is always a FREE event, held the third Wednesday each month. Please bring a friend and a chess set. ALL ages and abilities welcome. Play, learn and help teach. English is not required.

Greater Lawrence Family Health Center receives HHS funding

GLFHC - The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has announced that the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center is a recipient of a grant for the agency's Affordable Care Act Teaching Health Center (THC) Graduate Medical Education (GME) Payment Program. The program assists organizations in increasing the number of primary care residents and dentists trained in community-based ambulatory patient care settings. The current supply of the primary care workforces is insufficient to meet the health needs of the U.S. population, and this program intends to alleviate some of that concern. The Greater Lawrence Family Health Center will receive a grant totaling \$225,000.

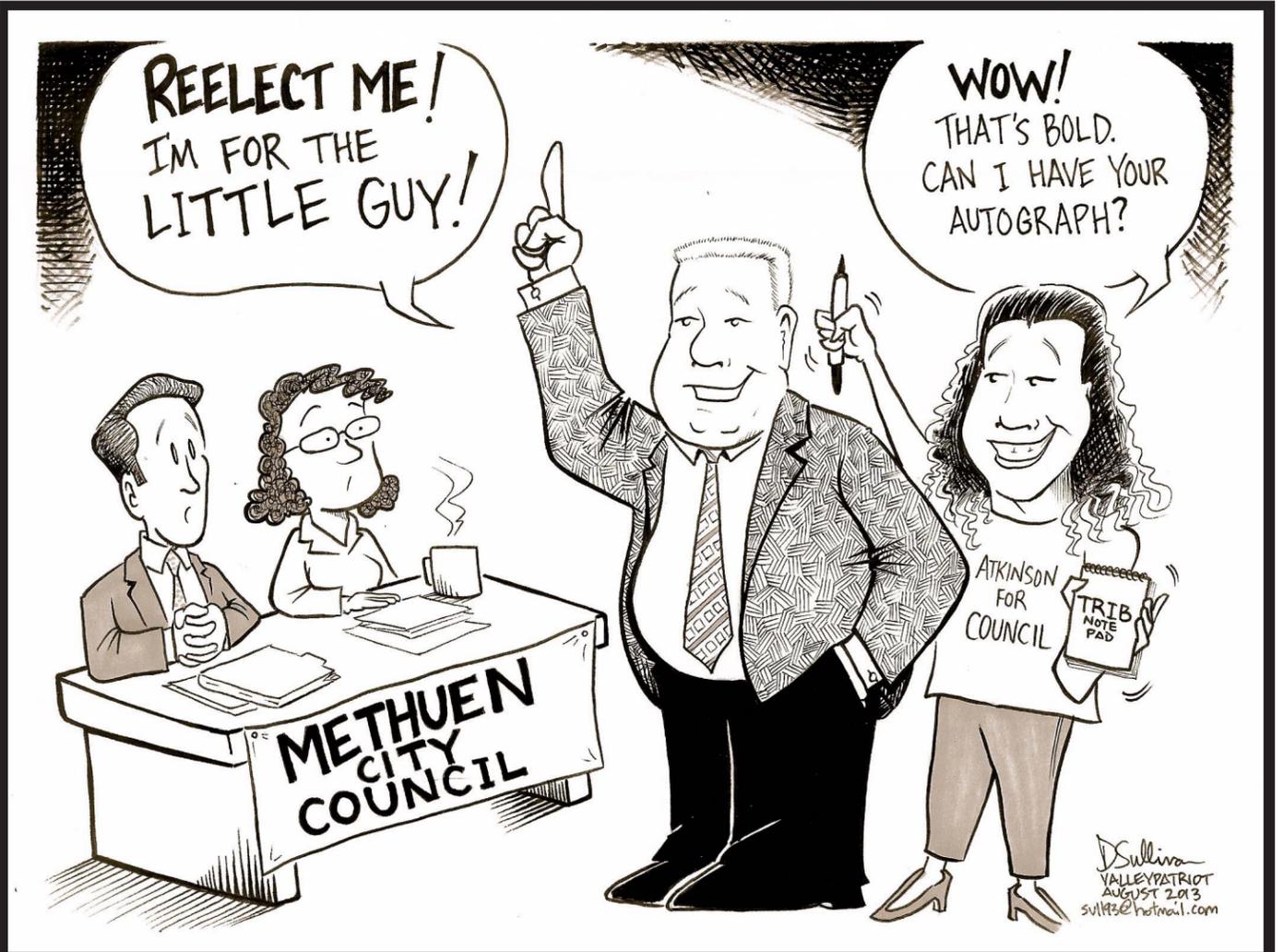
"The Lawrence Family Medicine Residency is on the front line of addressing the shortage of primary care physicians in the region," said Dr. Joseph W. Gravel, Jr., Chief Medical Officer and Residency Director for the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center and Lawrence Family Medicine Residency.

"This 2nd-year of support through the Department of Health and Human Services coincides with expanding our program from eight resident physicians per year to ten. With this growth, LFMR can carry on our mission of creating an environment where physicians are dedicated to the field of family medicine, especially in underserved communities."

SEENATOR IVES UPCOMIGN OFFICE HOURS IN NORTH ANDOVER - Senator Kathleen O'Connor Ives will be hosting office hours in North Andover on Friday, August 16 between 1-2pm. Office hours will be held at the North Andover Senior Center, Conference Room. Appointments are not required. For any questions, please contact her office at (617) 722-1604 or by emailing Christopher.Power@masenate.gov

QUICKBOOKS FUNDAMENTALS DANVERS, August 16 - Liz Silva, of Hamilton Bookkeeping, will speak at the North Shore Business Forum on August 16 on Quickbooks fundamentals. The North Shore Business Forum meets at 7:30am at the Danversport Yacht Club, Rt. 62 East, Danvers, MA. The \$11 admission fee include a continental breakfast and pre-registration is not required. For more info - www.nsbforum.org

DANVERS, August 23 - Susu Wong, of Wilmington's Tomo360, will speak



BEHIND THE SCENES: Methuen City Councilor Jamie Atkinson to face the voters again in November, but he already has one big fan on his side!

at the North Shore Business Forum on August 23 on how to market your small business effectively on a small budget. The North Shore Business Forum meets at 7:30am at the Danversport Yacht Club, Rt. 62 East, Danvers, MA. The \$11 admission fee includes a continental breakfast and pre-registration is not required. For more info - www.nsbforum.org

BROWN ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY IN HAVERHILL - Phil Brown Announced Candidacy for Haverhill City Council July 12, 2013: Brown's has submitted his nomination papers and seems highly motivated and says his experience in business, education, and political and community activism makes him a different candidate who can lay a firm foundation for Haverhill's future.

HAVERHILL CLASSIC GUITARIST - on Aug. 15th at Whittier Home - The Whittier Home Association announces that well known classical guitarist, John Tavano, will provide music for the next Old Fashioned Tea Party in John Greenleaf Whittier's Victorian Garden, 86 Friend St., Amesbury, on Thursday, August 15, from 2 to 4 pm, with a rain date of Friday, August 16. "The menu includes hot and cold teas, lemonade, a rich assortment of tea sandwiches and a delicious assortment of desserts", says Rosemary Werner, chairperson of the Tea Committee. Patrons will also be offered free tours following the tea. The teas are served from 2 to 4 pm and the cost is \$20 per person. Reservations

Dracut Happenings

Dracut Town Happenings August, 2013 For further details www.dracut-ma.us

| | | | |
|--------|-----|--------------------|-----------|
| Aug 13 | Tue | Board of Selectmen | 7pm-8pm |
| Aug 14 | Wed | Planning Board | 7pm - 9pm |
| Aug 21 | Wed | Conservation Comm | 7pm |
| Aug 22 | Thu | Board of Health | 5pm-6pm |
| Aug 29 | Thu | Cable Advisory | 7pm-8pm |

should be made no later than Monday, Aug. 12, by calling the home at 978-388-1337 or purchasing tickets online at whittierhome.org. Proceeds from all activities at the home are used to upkeep the National Historic Site Whittier Home Museum, and continual updates of educational programs.

Other upcoming events include Tapestry of Voices on Sunday, Aug. 11, in the garden. Whittier enthusiasts are invited to an afternoon of poetry with the Boston-based Tapestry of Voices. President Cynthia Costello welcomes all those who love Whittier's poetry to hear it read by guest readers and authors including Harris Gardner, president of

Tapestry of Voices. Refreshments will be served following. The program is free, however donations are welcome.

Weekly tours of the Whittier Home Museum are available Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and by calling 978-388-1337 for special appointment and group tours. A minimal fee is requested.

The Lawrence Chess Club will meet on Wednesday, August 21, 2013 from 6-8pm At the Lawrence Public Library, corner of Haverhill & Lawrence streets. This is always a FREE event, held the third Wednesday each month. Please bring a friend and a chess set. ALL ages and abilities welcome. Play, learn and help teach. English is not required.

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KANNAN for MAYOR * METHUEN CAN BE BETTER

I will take an active role in Methuen's social and economic development, while being a voice for Methuen residents. Methuen is a special city and deserves the best. As Mayor of our city there are many goals to work towards and I intend to develop plans to see them accomplished. Some of those plans are as follows:

- * To ensure Methuen is thriving with opportunities for financial growth and development.
- * To ensure open lines of communication within all areas of our community and develop consensus building.
- * To ensure preservation within our historical community by encouraging our city treasures to be displayed for all to see.
- * To ensure a safe and secure community for all of our residents.
- * To ensure that the children in our community have the necessary resources available to provide them with a quality education.

Over the last six years I have been blessed with the opportunity to serve as your Councilor. During my tenure I have strived to achieve open lines of communication within the community and have maintained a positive outlook in voicing the concerns of members of the community. I am asking for your support in my run for Mayor. I intend to continue with my dedication of hard work ethic and high expectations for the betterment of our city.

~ Jennifer Kannan



ELECT

**Jennifer Aziz
 Kannan**

MAYOR

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Senator Ed Markey being interviewed by 980WCAP owner Sam Poulten at the Democrat Party platform convention at the Tsongas Arena in Lowell last month.



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WCAP Rocks the Lowell Folk Festival

Celebrity Weatherman Al Kaprielian (Middle with Mr. and Mrs. Paul Murano (left), Christine Morabito, President of the Greater Boston Tea Party and WCAP's Paying Attention Radio Host Tom Duggan

**LAWRENCE ...
ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL**

James O'Donoghue and Manny Gonzalez on WCAP's Paying Attention Radio Program, (above right) Manny Gonzalez collects signatures on Tower Hill in Lawrence, At right, State Representative and candidate for mayor, Marcos Devers



Ye Gay Ol' Valley

A Father is Reunited With his Children

D. B. Langevin

VALLEY PATRIOT LESBIAN COLUMNIST

Derek has not seen his children in over two years due to a vindictive ex-wife and corrupt Massachusetts court system. When Derek's marriage dissolved, he would have preferred to work things out with his wife and have the courts simply mediate. However, Derek's ex had her own agenda. She was angry and wanted revenge. Instead of sitting down and agreeing to hash things out as two, mature, rational adults, she wanted to use the courts to feed her twisted ideas of what her rights as a parent were in order to 'stick it to him' as much as possible. After meeting with the judge in a state divorce court, Derek was only allowed to see his children every other weekend and for a few hours on Wednesday afternoons. He was also forced to pay \$900 in child support. This was an amount he wasn't even earning. His ex's plan to alienate the children from their father began.

When Derek showed up for one of his scheduled visitations without a support check, his ex refused to allow his children to go with him. Child visitation is NOT contingent upon child support payments. The children had every right to see their father regardless of payment or not. Not only did she deny this right, she petitioned the court for a restraining order claiming that Derek was a threat to her and the children. On the day of the hearing, Derek had no lawyer. He couldn't afford one due to the extraordinary child support. The judge granted a one-year restraining order without any evidence of abuse. Derek was not allowed to have any contact with his children for twelve months. He naturally reacted strongly to the news. With no lawyer to speak for him he spoke from a heart clouded with extreme emotion. He pleaded with the judge stating that he didn't understand why he was being denied the right to see his children. He explained that he was highly involved in their lives, loved them and wanted nothing more than to be with them and be their father. The judge's reaction was to roll her eyes and ignore his emotional testimony. She ignored his pleas. Derek and his children were denied the right to one of the most sacred and meaningful relationships people can have.

Derek said he felt dizzy and sick to his stomach. He forced himself to leave the court room because he knew the next reaction and words that came out of his mouth would do him and his children no good and probably send him to jail. Afraid of what would happen if he did anything to breach the restraining order, Derek kept his distance. The order even included his family and his ex-wife's family. Nobody from Derek's side of the family could have contact with his children or it would be seen as a violation of the order. In turn, nobody from his ex's side of the family were allowed to contact Derek because his ex threatened them with the denial of seeing her children. As the days passed into weeks and weeks into months and Derek had no contact with his children thoughts of suicide were unavoidable. As a defense mechanism he'd pretend that he

didn't have any children. Nightmares, sleepless nights and excessive weight gain due to depression plagued Derek, but he kept his children in his sights and trudged on.

Naturally he is worried about his children. "Their mother brainwashed them," he told me. "When I was seeing them I often cried as I was dropping them off. The next time I picked them up my children would tell me that their mother told them I wasn't a real man because I cried." Once the restraining order was put into place the children's mother alienated them not only from their father, but from her own family who challenged what it was she was doing. "My children were suffering because they couldn't see their father and other family members. I was concerned for their emotional well being."

After two years of not seeing their father and being told a countless number of lies, the children told a court ordered psychologist that they had no desire to see their father because, they believed, he had made no attempt to be a part of their lives. Derek was devastated, but still petitioned the court to exercise his rights as their father.

A court date was set in mid-July. Derek's new lawyer accidentally told him the wrong date and Derek was not at the hearing. Feeling terrible, this new lawyer went to bat for Derek and got the judge to agree to a thirty minute supervised visit with his children. Derek was naturally thrilled and anxious. I spoke with him before the visit.

"I am very anxious and keep taking deep breaths. I'm scared of being refused or rejected by them and afraid that they have been brainwashed against me." I asked him what he thinks he would say to his children now 13 and 10. "I'm going to tell them that I love them and apologize for not seeing them for over two years even though it's not my fault, but I don't want them to think it is their fault in any way. I'm going to ask how they are doing."

I spoke with Derek again after their meeting and asked how it went. "Not as good as hoped nor as bad as feared. My son is HUGE!! 5'7" at 13!! Sadly my daughter has gained more weight. But still playing basketball and dancing. They did not hug me, which made me feel REAL insecure. When it came to chatting, they were not apprehensive because I focused the conversation around them...sports and school. My daughter had some scarring from accidents and my son has bad allergies. I presented my son with Lego's and he dove into them and my daughter likes to draw so I gave her some markers to start drawing. It was only a half hour; I think it went well. At the end, the social worker asked if they had any questions and they said they did not want to "do this" anymore. I initially took it as they did not want to see me but then the SW said it was probably the environment they did not want to do (kids playroom) so I am asking my attorney to change the venue to Friendly's next week."

After two years, a father is finally reunited with his children, one half hour at a time. For the next few months, until his next hearing in

FATHERS: PAGE 38

MORALTY MATTERS

Marriage in the Age of Fornication
Part 2: The "Relationship" Culture

Paul Murano

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Last month in this column we mentioned that the distortion of adding same sex partners to the definition of marriage was not nearly as shocking to society as the separation of sex from marriage had been. When Elvis shocked the nation live on the Ed Sullivan Show by rotating his hips to music (the cameras would only show him from the waist up), the unquestioned norm of society was that sexual activity was to be reserved for marriage. This was the universally expected norm for several millennia of human history.

The meaning of love and marriage was clearly indicated in the exclusive union of two persons of the opposite sex coming together bodily to become one flesh. Specifically, the co-mingling of two such persons in sexual intercourse, the act of permanent bonding that consummates a marriage, is what seals the union that makes them "no longer two, but one flesh." Marriage, sex, and children were understood as three dimensions of the one reality, not to be separated. However, "the pill" dissolved that natural concern for pregnancy, and inaugurated the sexual revolution.

In the past four decades we have seen a paradigm shift to rationalize behavior that would have been considered a form of prostitution in most other times. It is now the norm. For example, the post-1970's premarital "relationship" has become a type of "mini-marriage" based on selfish aims. The unspoken contract presumed by both partners in today's "relationship" model would include the following promises: "I John take you Mary to be my temporary sex partner, so that I may fulfill my emotional and physical desires until another person comes along that might be able to better fulfill them, or until I get tired of you, whichever comes first." Like sheep following their shepherd (the media), this unspoken deal is what a generation and a half of young people have consented and exposed themselves to in a serial way, without realizing how detrimental it is to the individual and to marriage. This new American ritual of premarital "relationships" has become the societal norm - parents have accepted it, schools have encouraged it, and it has been left virtually unquestioned - until recently.

In recent years a backlash has been observed in books such as, "I Kissed Dating Good-bye", and through organizations such as "Love & Fidelity Network" and "Pure in Heart." They have challenged the status quo, pointing out that today's dating and relationship patterns are the perfect recipe for divorce. The human heart was not made for the practice of becoming intimate and breaking up, then becoming intimate and breaking up, etc. The natural reaction to such a pattern is for the heart to harden and to partially close to any potential future love: One cannot give one's self to someone and

expect to fully receive it back whole. It contradicts human nature. At one time everyone knew this bit of wisdom - before the sexual revolution made us stupid.

The "relationship" paradigm contradicts how we are constituted emotionally, psychologically, and socially; and it follows that America and the west have been experimenting with a new social rite of passage that is at its core consensual abuse. It begins as early as middle school and can continue through one's thirties and beyond. It unwittingly attacks hope, self esteem, and the institution of marriage. This relationship paradigm has become an ingrained cultural habit, making marriage just another "relationship" -- and we wonder why 50% of marriages now end in divorce.

45 years ago on July 25th, a letter to the world entitled *Humanae Vitae* was written by Pope Paul VI. In the context of the recent creation of the birth control pill, the Pope warned that if contraception were to be made popular there would be many deleterious consequences. Only a few years later the contraception mentality did begin to permeate society, separating sexual intimacy from procreation and from marriage. No longer was two becoming one seen as the sacred act and exclusive gift of self that seals a permanent union in marriage, but rather it descended to becoming an act with no more subjective meaning than animal copulation. As a result men lost respect for women, women for men, and it was the beginning of the end of recognizing the sacredness of both marriage and of each other.

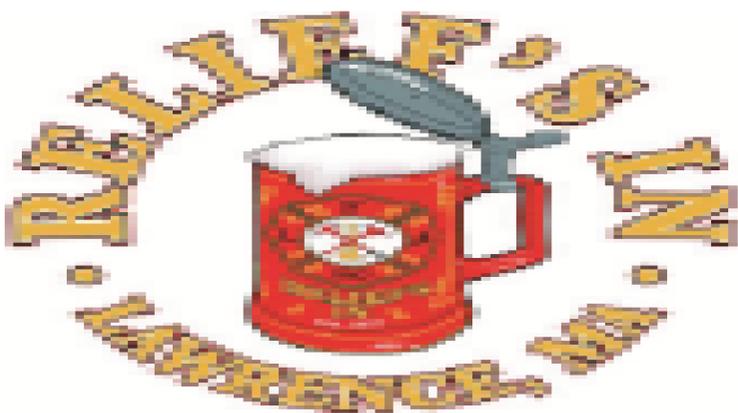
Love and happiness were always the aim, but today's "relationship" ritual misses the mark completely, producing instead broken hearts, broken dreams, and the inability to fully love one's future spouse with an undivided heart. In order to save society from this metaphorical quicksand there needs to be a re-thinking of the human person and what love really is. Since the media and academia are most deeply stuck in the quagmire, individuals must rebel by being counter-cultural - willing to accept the ridicule and alienation that may come from it. Like any great movement in history, it will take courage and perseverance. The future of the family and society, as well as everyone's innate goal of happiness, depends on it.



Paul Murano teaches philosophy at North Shore Community College and Middlesex Community College, and theology at the College of Saint Mary Magdalen. He hosts *Beneath the Surface* talk radio show on 980 WCAP Sunday nights

10pm-midnight, hosts the *BTS* TV show at Burlington Cable Access TV, and is co-host of the *Paying Attention!* radio program on Saturday mornings. Paul is also chairman of Heartbeat Pregnancy Help center in Burlington and is a singer/songwriter/musician.

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The Ongoing Fight Against Tax Increases

WHY WE NEEDED TO OVERRIDE GOVERNOR PATRICK'S BUDGET

Senator Katy O'Connor Ives
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

There has been some misinformation in the press about the Legislature's recent vote to override Governor Deval Patrick's veto of the Transportation Finance Bill. Some outlets are reporting that by fighting against the Governor on this veto, the legislature chose to raise the gas tax by 3 cents instead of keeping it at its current levels. That is not the case. In fact, overriding the Governor's veto was the only way to prevent the administration from raising the gas tax an additional 3 to 5 cents to make a total increase of up to 8 cents.

Remember, at the beginning of this budget process in January, the Governor asked for nearly \$1.9 billion in tax increases focused on the income tax and gas tax. Over the course of the budget process, the Legislature reduced those requested increases to a 3 cent gas tax increase tied to inflation. I strongly opposed that gas tax increase throughout the budget process, and I also fought against measures in the bill that set up studies that could lead to tolls on the New Hampshire border. Over the course of the transportation finance debate, I advocated for holding the MBTA accountable for its current budget, and imple-

menting alternative funding mechanisms such as express lane tolling. I wrote about those efforts in this column (Let's Get the Basics Right in Massachusetts, April 2013).

However, despite opposition from me and many of my colleagues, a transportation bill including the 3 cent gas tax increase passed the House 106-47 and the Senate 34-6. After that, the bill went to a Conference Committee to reconcile the House and Senate versions. When the bill came out of Conference Committee, I voted against it again, because it still included the 3 cent gas tax increase and toll studies. Unfortunately, it passed yet again 105-47 in the House and 34-6 in the Senate. That is the final bill that went to the Governor's desk.

If the Governor were satisfied with the 3 cent gas tax increase, he could have simply signed the bill and it would take effect. But instead, he vetoed that bill because he wanted a higher gas tax, and the administration spelled out what it was pushing for by writing an amendment that specifically requested an additional 3 to 5 cent gas tax increase.

Everyone knew what this meant. If the Legislature had sided with the Governor and upheld his veto, then all the negotiating power would be with the administration for the next round of legislation.



Senator Ives meets with Methuen Mayor Steve Zanni (l), Matt Fitzgerald, Owner of Mann Orchards in Methuen, and Lawrence State Rep. Frank Moran.

Without the votes to sustain an override, the House and Senate leadership would have to entertain a bill that the Governor would sign, and that would mean a higher gas tax increase.

If we didn't override the Governor's veto, a new bill would need just 50 percent plus one in each house to pass—much less of a margin than the votes on the original bill—and the Governor would sign it into law. This would happen quickly because the Governor had also vetoed local aid and a host of other time-sensitive funding priorities for communities around the state that required a quick resolution to the budget standoff. The end result would have been at least double the gas tax increase.

Fortunately, the override passed an

overwhelming 123-33 in the House and 35-5 in the Senate. Republican Senator Michael Knapik voted to override the Governor as well. As the Boston Herald reported on July 25, this vote "even eclipsed the overwhelming tallies that sent the bill back to Patrick's desk in the first place, cementing a major defeat for the governor."

I will continue to work on ways to address our funding priorities without resorting to regressive revenue increases, and I appreciate all the encouraging words I've heard from supporters throughout the district who want to help me continue that effort.

A Rising Union Fist Raises all Taxes

Christine Morabito
GREATER BOSTON TEA PARTY

In the words of the late Woody Guthrie, "Some men rob you with a six-gun – others rob you with a fountain pen."

The most powerful politicians in Massachusetts don't work for us -- they work for the labor unions. Our lawmakers sold their souls to organized labor, and now they have come to collect. While our public servants think nothing of breaking promises to their constituents, union bosses must be satisfied at all costs. Why? Because without unions, some politicians won't get reelected.

Unlike private sector unions, which operate by negotiating with profitable companies, public sector unions enrich themselves by raising our taxes. In return for money taken from the public treasury, unions reward politicians with campaign funding, grassroots volunteers and ultimately, votes. Hence, organized labor rarely meets a tax increase it doesn't wholeheartedly support.

Meanwhile, in Massachusetts, hard-working taxpayers brace ourselves for \$500 million in new taxes; feeling like battered women, constantly promised that our politicians truly care about the middle class and that they really don't mean to hurt us, yet they keep doing so over and over and over again.

It is common knowledge that liberals in this state have an intimate relationship with labor. Unions comprise the largest group of delegates at any Demo-

cratic convention and union money goes overwhelmingly to the Left. Nevertheless, I still find it shocking when politicians announce their solidarity proudly and publicly, as was the case at the Democratic Party Issues Convention in Lowell a few weeks ago.

In addition to the predictable stumping for wealth redistribution, social justice and climate control, the speeches contained many promises of union gifts like paid sick leave for all and raising the minimum wage – things that will devastate small businesses and put many regular folks out of work. Governor, Deval Patrick praised grassroots Democrats, saying, "Because of you, labor has a seat at the table." Really? Seems to me they own the table, and the chairs and the men and women who built the table. Not to be outdone, State Senator and gubernatorial candidate, Dan Wolf, opined, "Let's be the party that not only helps organized labor - Let's be the party that helps labor organize." Again, I think they've got that covered.

State and city managers in Massachusetts, as elsewhere, are being forced to admit that promises have been made to these special interest groups that our governments cannot possibly keep. The enormously generous pensions, health care and other benefit packages amount to unfunded liabilities so unsustainable, they threaten to bankrupt our cities and our state. When low-skilled toll collectors make close to \$100,000 a year not including benefits, and 631 transportation



staffers earn \$100,000 or more in salary and overtime, some able to retire in their 40's with free health care for life, we have a serious wealth disparity between public employees and those in the private sector. Charles Chieppo's Op-Ed in the Boston Globe (December 09, 2012) stated it perfectly: "Organized labor is the ultimate 1 Percent and the rest of us are Occupiers."

Some Democrats get it; the smart and ethical lawmakers, who, even though their jobs may be in jeopardy, stand by their promise to serve the public interest, not one protected class. Mayor, James Fiorentini, of Haverhill is one such public servant. Faced with the largest municipal debt in Massachusetts history, he stood up to union bullying, rejected labor's unreasonable demands and obtained reasonable concessions on health care. Jeffrey C. Riley, Lawrence Superintendent/Receiver, should be commended for speaking truth to power and not kneeling at the altar of the Lawrence Teachers Union. Riley was quoted in another paper saying, "I cannot allow for ideology to get in the way

of making the progress we need to turn around the district." When unions refuse to make concessions, they, in essence, hold the people hostage. It's a taxpayer shakedown, and it's wrong.

Someone who doesn't get it? Governor Deval Patrick, who chooses to hide behind the union label, championing budget busters like the Pacheco Law, prevailing wage and independent contractor laws, which eliminate competition from private, non-union workers, raise the cost of public works projects and discourage job growth and entrepreneurship. Cost effectiveness is apparently not something his administration worries much about. They just make budget shortfalls the taxpayers' problem, as evidenced by the soul-crushing and relentless tax increases. So much for shared sacrifice.



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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Splash Liquid Lounge Revitalizes the Beach as a Destination for Entertainment

Salisbury Beach is renowned for its boating, fishing, and summer entertainment. Visitors to the seaside location enjoy a rich history of significant events that once attracted many. Famous entertainers were showcased at the beach including Glenn Miller, Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong, and Frank Sinatra just to name a few!

Salisbury's newest nightclub, Splash Liquid Lounge is breathing new life into the former 1940's hot-spot, the Tic-Toc Club. Owner Jeff Smith is excited to be part of a larger movement to revitalize the beach and restore it to prominence as a destination for entertainment. "We are proud to bring back multiple nights of entertainment to invigorate the beach area and recapture the atmosphere that visitor's once enjoyed.

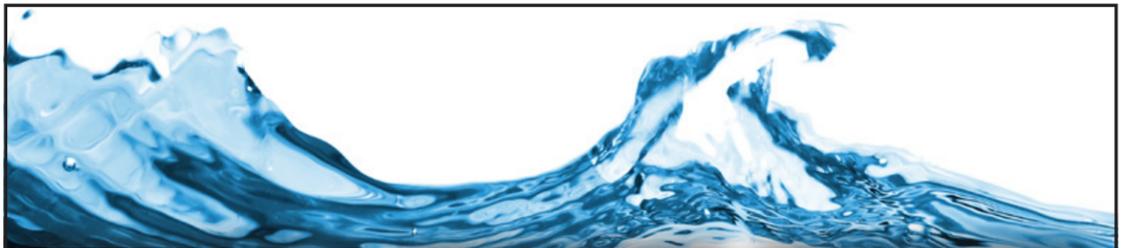
As you head to the beach center, look for large illuminated sign. That's Splash Liquid Lounge. The first thing you'll want to know about Splash is it's big. As in, 5000 square foot sleek space, a dance floor with towering speaker stacks, a stage for LIVE band performances and a DJ Booth for guest DJ's. Fueling the madness: a roster of DJs including DJ Bino and DJ Golo that keep dance parties going all night. It's a dance palace where the party starts on Thursday night and ends Sunday night.

Inside, you'll find an over sized dance floor with a wonderland of laser beams, fog machines and what we're calling the biggest disco ball on the beach. The over-sized circular bar provides the backdrop for the famous "Smoking Shots" and signature cocktails that make this nightclub unique to the area. Couples can relax and listen to some of the top live music bands at the table seating located near the stage. Reserve the leather couches in the VIP areas to mix, mingle and summon bottles of Champagne.

"We have created an entertainment schedule that features live bands on Friday and Saturday, along with the area's top DJ's spinning tunes on Thursday and Sunday nights. We plan the schedule months in advance as we look to offer the best cover bands and guest DJ's from Boston to the Seacoast." says owner Jeff Smith.

The month of July features bands like Brandy and Guilty Pleasure that perform with a wide variety, ranging from classics of the 50's and 60's, and all the revived 70's and 80's, as well as the 90's, the new swing sound, and current top 40 hits. Also performing this month are Guilty Pleasure and Soul Fuzion & The Soul Assassins Bands playing electrifying blends of R&B, Funk, Top-40, Old Skool and Hip-Hop.

This formerly Bevie B's seaside dance mecca also offers valet parking on Friday and Saturday nights! Check the website www.splashliquidlounge.com for the entertainment schedule, band bios and videos. Splash Liquid Lounge is located at 3 Broadway on Salisbury Beach, located about 45 miles north of Boston, open daily from 5 pm - close. Call ahead for VIP table at (978) 465-7752.



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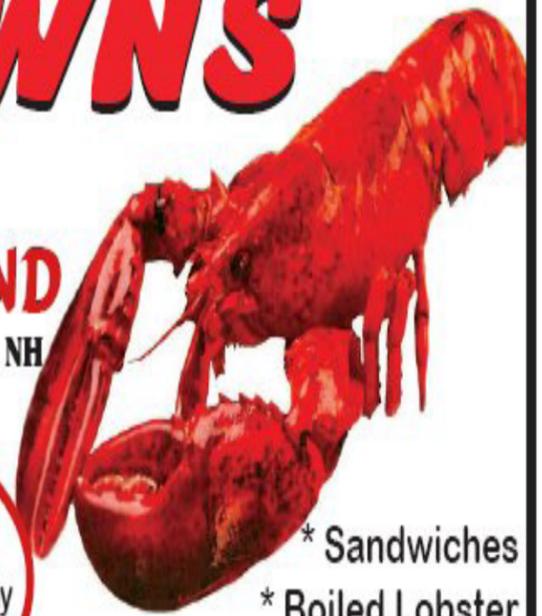
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IN THE BARN, NEWBURY MA

Newbury, MA - Photo included left to right Sheila Bussone, Meghan Bussone
Photo Credit: Rebecca Pearson /Newburyport Guide.

Brand new boutique opens in Newbury MA. In The Barn, located on 1A at the Parker River in Newbury, is your destination for unique furniture, gifts, and home décor items. The inventory includes an eclectic mixture of new and old; rustic and elegant. In The Barn sits on a historic site along the banks of the Parker River known as the Ferry House (also known as the Pumpkin House because of its color), which was built over 300 years ago. The breathtaking view of the river and the protected marshes welcome you as you approach the shop. In The Barn specializes in hand painted furniture, providing paint workshops for individuals as well as small groups to help you learn various techniques to paint pieces of furniture that might need a new look in your home. Sheila and Meghan Bussone welcome you to stop by today and enjoy the treasures that In the Barn has to offer. This fantastic mother and daughter team will welcome you into their brand new store, and will help you welcome yourself to your brand new decorated home.

In The Barn - 286 High Road - Newbury MA 01951 - 978 255-4335 - www.InTheBarnVintage.com

SMITTEN

Owner June Pastman of Smitten helps cater to the needs of customers and clients sharing her passion for the clothing industry that began from a young age. Instinctual knowledge of purchasing, dressing, and fashion consulting for women of work, leisure, and play speaks in volumes as you enter the doors of Smitten. Clothing and accessories change with the four seasons of New England, highlighting the ever-adapting color pallet of now a day function and formal wear.

With a giving heart, June, over the years

has raised money for various charities and enjoys tight relationships with her customers, treating customers like family upon your first visit. Her passion for dressing women continues in creating displays and having great people working as an experienced designer team that will meet all needs of new and current clients, as well as giving advice in fashion. Let them become your personal consultant.

Daughter and business partner, Alanna Pastman, who was born in Florida and brought up in New England, graduated from UNH with a Bachelor's Degree in Child and Family Studies. Alanna has worked in the childcare industry and fitness industry in management positions since then. Through the years, Alanna has worked with mother and co-owner June in clothing boutiques, and participated in several of June's fashion benefit shows. "My love and passion for the fashion industry continues with the simple glow that happens when a woman leaves Smitten feeling beautiful...it is simply rewarding."

On their second year of being in business in Newburyport, they have won Voters Choice Best of the North Shore two years in a row 2012 and 2013, Voters Choice Best Casual Women's Clothing Store two years in a row from the Daily News in Newburyport 2012 and 2013, and Voters Choice Best Casual Clothing Store in the Newburyport Guide 2013. This dynamic duo continues to be a shining star in our city of Newburyport. Smitten - 23 Inn Street - Newburyport MA - 01950 - 978/499.7912 - www.SoSmitten.net

WARREN STREET DELI

Dana of Warren Street Deli and Market of Newburyport has been providing service to the area for over 30 years as a general manager and chef, then opening five years ago at their location on Merrimac Street which began as a small convenience store and blossomed into a full deli and market. With lottery, groceries,



Left to right from Smitten, June Pastman, Alanna Pastman winners of Best of Boston in the North Shore Magazine two years in a row!
Photo Credit - Rebecca Pearson /Newburyport Guide

deli meats and cheeses, coffee and drinks, pastries, and also home of the Marge Bar, created by Dana's wife Margie Walentuk. The Marge Bars are homemade granola bars filled with delicious and all-natural ingredients perfect for long trips, snacks, athletes, and simply a healthy treat with many great things included in the ingredients.

They have won three years in a row for Number 1 Deli on the North Shore by Wicked Local Newspaper! They are proud of, and thankful that the community adores them as they do their customers. You will find the Warren Street Deli and Market open 7 days a week to continue to bring their customers great finds, great food at great prices year long.

The owners can always be found working behind the counter in the Warren Street Deli as well as their family bringing you that great family feel as you walk through their doors. All their sandwiches and deli meats are Boar's Head, which is the finest of quality products. "The Cashman Park sandwich is my personal favorite, it is sliced ham, turkey, honey mustard, lettuce, tomato, bacon, swiss and cheddar cheese, and bread of your choice." Dana says with a smile. Other sandwiches available are paninis, seasonal creations, you can also find two hot meals Mondays and Wednesdays, as well as "a dynamic pulled pork sandwich".

Homemade pastries line the counter that are made from scratch in their kitchen every day, as well as an amazing coffee cake that I tried that he shared with me that the recipe came from his mothers cookbook that was first made in 1934, and has been passed down from generation to genera-

tion and now enjoyed with his customers.

Hands on catering is available for your various functions, with no limitation on menu, allowing you to design and create your specific needs and desires for your company or party. "I don't specialize in one thing, I specialize in everything. We will provide and cook whatever you need from back yard barbeques to gourmet meals."

The Warren Street Deli is a conveniently fresh and neighborhood friendly establishment. Stop in there today! They are located at 226 Merrimac Street, Newburyport, MA 01950 or give them a call at 978-465-1288.

TO BUILD OR NOT TO BUILD?

The Newburyport Waterfront has been a well visited and loved area in the great city for many years. Newburyport was originally part of Newbury, was established in 1635 and separated in 1764. The three shipyards carried and helped productivity and increase revenue and population, and by 1851, Newburyport became a city. Known for ship building, fishing, and a major shipping center that provided product to the surrounding areas and ran ferries and stage coaches between Boston and Portsmouth, NH. Up until 1900, you could even find your favorite rum being made right in Market Square by Caldwell's!

Today where our beautiful waterfront sits that overlooks the Merrimac River, once held whaling fleets and clipper ships that were made by local boat builders. Newburyport was the center of the ship building communities in the area. The Merrimack River lines the coast, and now with our great Parker River National Wild

NEWBURYPORT: PAGE 38



COFFEE CANN CAFE

Our Hampton Beach Casino location has reopened for the summer! Come by and enjoy a cup of coffee while enjoying our beautiful ocean view!

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

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Leaky Gut Syndrome (LGS) may be a major contributor of disease and dysfunction and may account for a very large component of many chronic complaints.

In LGS, the lining of the small intestine becomes inflamed and irritated allowing metabolic and microbial toxins normally kept within the small intestines for passage into the colon to enter the blood stream. In technical terms this is called increased intestinal permeability. This results in involvement of the liver, lymphatic system, and immune response (which includes the endocrine system) to react in a protective response rather than a healing response.

Leaky Gut could be implicated as a primary contributor to asthma, food allergies, chronic sinusitis, eczema, urticaria, migraine, irritable bowel, fungal disorders, fibromyalgia, and inflammatory joint disorders including rheumatoid arthritis. It also contributes to PMS, uterine fibroid, breast fibroids, chronic fatigue syndrome and pediatric immune deficiencies.

Leaky Gut Syndrome is a very common problem of modern society in part because of antibiotics and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), like Motrin, Advil, Aleve, Vioxx, etc. While this discussion is not going to focus on the pros and cons of antibiotics or NSAIDs, both damage the natural balance the bowel requires to operate optimally.

Antibiotics damage the bowel environment in two ways. The first is by destroying beneficial bacteria. The small intestine and large intestine host over hundreds of different kinds of beneficial bacteria. These bacteria are vital for healthy metabolism and immune response within the intestines. Through their enzyme secretions, bacteria transform metabolic and microbial wastes before they are discharged by the body. These wastes include cellular debris, hormones, chemical wastes, bile, pus, viral toxins, bacterial toxins, etc.

For example, the body creates bile not only as a lubricant to flush wastes out of the liver, but also, by its cold and bitter



nature, to detoxify many of the poisons accumulating in the liver. Bile however is extremely caustic to large intestine epithelium.

When bile enters the small intestine via the common bile duct, beneficial bacteria break the bile salts down into a less caustic compound, making it safe by the time it reaches the large intestine. Antibiotics destroy these bacteria and thus allow bile salts to enter and damage the large intestine. Perhaps this may explain the high incidence of colon cancer.

Beneficial bacteria also metabolize hormones (ex: estrogen) discharged from the liver into the small intestine. If you lack the bacteria to break down estrogen and the intestinal permeability has been altered, the patient is now reabsorbing estrogens. The extra estrogen binds to sensitive areas such as the breast, uterus, or ovaries, contributing, if not causing, fibroids and tumors. Many forms of premenstrual syndrome are due to relative estrogen excess.

The second way antibiotics damage the intestines is by promoting the growth of Candida and other fungi and yeast. This event, more than any other, precipitates Leaky Gut Syndrome. In a healthy situation the small intestine epithelium

maintains tight cell junctions, which contributes to the physical barrier involved in intestinal absorption. In other words the cells are kept close together so nothing can penetrate between them. Candida exudes an aldehyde secretion that causes the cells lining the small intestine (epithelial cells) to shrink. This allows intestinal toxins to pass by the epithelium and enter the tissues and blood. In addition to the physical barrier, there is an important chemical barrier within the mucus that contains immune agents which neutralize any toxin that comes in contact. This mucus-immune barrier remains as the sole defender, which eventually becomes overwhelmed.

Although many people believe Candida itself enters the blood stream allowing it to be deposited elsewhere, such as the brain, unless the immune response is completely depleted, as in AIDS, Candida is quickly destroyed in the blood. The real damage done by Candida is to the intestinal epithelial barrier, allowing the absorption of toxins agents and chemicals, which then enter the blood and affect numerous organs, including the brain.

When the integrity of the intestinal barrier has been compromised, intestinal toxins are not the only pathogens to be

absorbed. The barrier, in a healthy state, selectively allows digested nutrients to enter through the small intestine. With leaky gut, nutrients can be absorbed before they are fully digested. The body's immune response, through specific antigen-antibody markers (the food IgG test), will identify some of these foods as foreign invaders. Every time that particular food contacts the lining of the intestines, an inflammatory immune response is mounted that further damages the epithelial lining. What started as an irritation from yeast with shrinking of the cells has now been complicated with active inflammation every time a particular food is eaten. Food "allergies" become a common secondary contributor to maintaining the leaky gut, even after the yeast is eradicated.

The most common food allergies are dairy, eggs, gluten grains (wheat, oats, rye), corn, beans (especially soy), and nuts. It is uncommon to have an allergy to meat, rice, millet, vegetables, or fruit. When an IgG antibody to a food are detected, it is important distinguish a real allergy - that which causes a histamine inflammatory reaction - from sensitivity, which may cause uncomfortable symptoms, but seldom is damaging. Sensitivities are usually due to low stomach acid or pancreatic enzyme secretion, that is, poor digestion.

In healing the intestinal lining, exposure to a food that stimulates a significant allergy can sabotage the treatment. For example, one may be very good at restricting wheat, dairy and eggs, but if you are allergic to soy and you use soy milk. For this reason, food allergy testing can be a beneficial guideline on what foods to avoid initially.



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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As the start of the school year approaches, the GLCAC Inc. is seeking donations of backpacks complete with school supplies to provide to local children. Alternatively, GLCAC is accepting cash donations to cover the cost of purchasing backpacks and supplies.

Filling the empty backpacks with the school supplies is a great team-building exercise for companies and a meaningful community service project for non-profit organizations. Any organization wishing to donate new backpacks and supplies can find the list of requested contents at www.glcac.org. They are also encouraged to call Marisa Melendez, program director of GLCAC's Community Service Center to arrange delivery of the backpacks.

"Your business or organization can help underprivileged students start off the school year on the right foot with a new backpack filled with the supplies they need to succeed in the classroom. For under \$30 per backpack with supplies, you can positively impact the life of a student by making him or her feel good about going to school and knowing their community wants them to succeed," said Evelyn Friedman, Executive Director of the GLCAC Inc., a non-profit social services agency that annually serves 29,000 individuals throughout Greater Lawrence. The GLCAC will publicly recognize donors to this project on its website at www.glcac.org, through social media, and while distributing the backpacks.

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August is National Eye Exam Month

August is an important month in the eye care industry as it kicks off National Eye Exam Month. The month promotes eye health and safety for adults and children as everyone should make it a habit of having their eyes checked each year, just like having an annual health screening or dental cleaning. The American Optometric Association (AOA) recommends an eye exam every two years for persons ages 18-60.

Appleton Eye Associates, with three locations in the area, uses the very latest in technology and solutions for your eye care (for people over 40) who start to have problems with their reading and distance visions. They are a leading provider of spherical and toric (corrects astigmatism) lenses. This new lens has been working great and opens up the possibility of 1 day contacts.

Everyone this month is busy with vacations, camp, getting things ready for the upcoming school year and say "I will get to it" and just don't make the appointment until they really find an issue with their vision. Why wait until it is too late? During an eye exam, a doctor can tell if the patient possess high cholesterol, high blood pressure, liver or gallbladder disease or even diabetes. In some reported cases, doctors were able to uncover tumors in the brain. For those that are not aware of what high cholesterol does, it puts us at risk for heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, peripheral vascular disease, diabetes and retinal vein occlusion.

There are other factors that may determine how frequently you need an eye exam, including your age, health and risk of developing eye problems. General guidelines include:

Children 5 years and younger:

For children under 3, your pediatrician will likely look for the most common eye problems — lazy eye, crossed eyes or turned-out eyes. Depending on your child's willingness to cooperate, his or



his first more comprehensive eye exam should be done between the ages of 3 and 5.

School-age children and adolescents:

Have your child's vision checked before he or she enters first grade. If your child has no symptoms of vision problems and you don't have a family history of vision problems, have your child's vision rechecked every two years. If your child does have vision problems or a family history of vision problems, have your child's vision rechecked as advised by your eye doctor.

Adults:

In general, if you're healthy and have no symptoms of vision problems, you should have your vision checked once in your 20s and twice in your 30s. Between ages 40 and 65, have your vision checked every two to four years. After age 65, get your eyes checked every one to two years. If you wear glasses, have a family history of eye disease or have a chronic disease — such as diabetes — that puts you at greater risk of eye disease, you need to have your eyes checked more frequently. You might also need more frequent eye exams to check for retinal problems if you were born prematurely or to monitor your eyes for glaucoma.



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I was born on February 12, 2013 and am currently in a foster home. I like to follow my foster mom around the house and when I go outside I like to watch my foster brother chase the birds and gophers out of the yard. I come when I am called and do really well on a leash. Since I'm well behaved my foster mom trusts me to go off leash.

My Likes and Dislikes

Things I like:

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spooning
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greeting people at the door
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cuddling and watching TV

Things I don't like:

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getting in trouble
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Stacia Gorgone (3rd from left) with her girls from Kickass K9 of Somerville being featured on TLC's "Boston Underdogs" airing August 12th at 10PM.

Learning Channel Roots for Boston Underdogs in New Special Series

Dogs are not only a man's best friend for this Irish-Boston canine lover in TLC's new special, BOSTON UNDERDOGS. Stacia Gorgone is Boston's spunkiest and most passionate dog lover.

After losing her spotted, four-legged best friend, Stacia decided to dedicate her blood, sweat, and tears into rescuing dogs. As owner of her own dog rescue, KickAss K9, and with the help of her three best friends, Stacia is completely determined to rescue every dog and will not stop until all of her four-legged furry friends find a loving home. BOSTON UNDERDOGS premieres in a one-hour special Monday, August 12 at 10 PM (ET/PT).

Stacia will stop at nothing when it comes to saving dogs. But while her dog rescue, KickAss K9, is growing by leaps and bounds, so are her life's problems. With almost no financial

funding, Stacia's inability to say no to a dog in need continually lands her in hot water - putting relationships with her boyfriend, family, and life-long friends in jeopardy. Stacia believes she has found the man of her dreams, but does her heart belong to him or the dogs? Although Stacia believes working with dogs brings nothing but happiness to people's lives, it seems that theory doesn't apply in a female brawl between two of her closest friends as they allow past high school drama get in between them. With Boston's St. Patrick's Day parade just around the corner, Stacia has an opportunity to make things right with those closest to her, while raising enough money to save more dogs - but her tendency to act with her heart, instead of her head, puts all of this at risk.



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PUPPY LOVE! with Kate Whitney



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Kate Whitney

VALLEY PATRIOT PUPPY GIRL

As an avid animal lover, I just can't seem to keep my mind off our furry friends.

I have always loved animals. When I was younger I wore a sweatshirt that read "Animal Doctor" because it was my dream to become a veterinarian. When I was six years old, I got my first kitten and shortly after my dad surprised me with a white pony for Christmas. I had two cats growing up, they both passed away last year, but I still have my pony.

One thing I've learned about animals is that they can live a long time. This is something to remember when considering if having a pet is the right choice for you...remember that they are a big responsibility and can be expensive, so make sure you are ready before you take the plunge!

It's been almost eighteen years since I got the pony for Christmas, and he's still hanging out in the backyard (thanks to my parents who took care of him while I was away at college!) After my two cats passed away, I rescued two new kitties who are both amazing. Brady was found in a cemetery when he was about three months old, and Bella was found in a parking lot when she was two months old. Finally, the newest addition to the group, Dash, a twelve week old, chocolate lab/retriever mix puppy was rescued from Virginia.

In addition to my love for animals, I've also always loved to do volunteer, non-profit work. I have combined my love of animals with my desire to do non-profit, and I've recently joined up with an organization called One Tail at a Time Rescue out of Haverhill. This rescue organization was founded by Meg Reynolds of Haverhill. I have never met anyone with a bigger heart than Meg. She makes finding homes for rescued puppies her full-time job.

This new passion of mine became a reality when I happened to see a woman at the vet's office with a beautiful little puppy. I asked where she got the puppy and she told me she found it on petfinder.com. So one day, I thought I might just check out petfinder.com...and the rest is history! This is a fabulous website where the viewer can browse through thousands of homeless pets.

I stumbled upon the group called One Tail at a Time Rescue and saw that they needed foster homes so I thought I would inquire. The next thing I knew, I was filling out a "foster" application.

Being a "foster home" means providing a safe, loving, temporary home for a

puppy or dog, while the rescue reviews applications for adoption. Usually the puppy is in your home for only a few days, maybe a week. Most of the time it's very temporary.

After I returned the application, I received an email that said I could have a puppy "tomorrow" to foster. One thing led to another and I found myself waiting in my car outside Main Street Animal Hospital in Haverhill.

While I was waiting for Meg to arrive, I felt both nervous and excited at the same time. Not only did my parents (I still live at home) have no idea about my new venture, but I had never done something like this before.

When Meg finally arrived, she brought me to the back room of the animal hospital. There in the metal crate, were three adorable puppies with their tails wagging. "Which one do you want...pick one" she said. I had absolutely no idea how I was going to choose one puppy over the other, they were all so precious! The doctor came in and advised me to take the calmer dog, considering this was my first time. I thought that was great advice; therefore I chose the lab/retriever female puppy named "Red".

When I got home my mom and dad practically fell on the floor when they saw me walking in carrying this adorable little puppy. They panicked because they thought this was my own puppy, and they didn't think I needed anymore pets. After I assured them that we were just fostering her for a few days, their heart-rate became normal again.

As each day went by, I fell more and more in love with Red. I took her everywhere, she was my little buddy. I called Meg and told her I wanted to keep Red, that I would do anything to adopt her. She told me that there was already an application in for her and that everyone always loves the first foster dog and wants to adopt. She told me to be patient and to keep fostering and maybe one day I would find another I would want to keep. On the fourth day of fostering Red, I received a call from Meg who said she needed to meet because Red was going to her new adoptive family.

I cried driving to meet Meg, I cried as I handed Red over, I cried as I drove home, and I even cried that night. I was so sad. A week passed and I received another call from Meg. "I have another puppy for you," she said. My heart was racing during the whole car-ride to meet her. I had such a great experience with Red that I couldn't wait to foster again.

Meg opened the back of her Explorer SUV, and there were about five dog crates inside filled with the cutest puppies I had



Strangeville - Best Selling Lawrence Author Kenny Tingle Writes Another Book

Ken Tingle, author of the local best seller *The Girl in the Italian Bakery*, is getting great reviews for his latest book, *Strangeville*.

Like *The Girl in the Italian Bakery*, Tingle works scenes from Lawrence into his latest story. Here is the excerpt from the back cover:

Need a good laugh? *Strangeville* is a different kind of story that draws the reader in and keeps them wondering what will happen next. The story is a dark comedy about a suicidal young man named John Campbell who, after a failed suicide attempt, heads to Virginia to visit an aunt he hasn't seen in ten years. But his rental car runs out of gas deep in the mountains. When he decides to walk in the middle of the night, he winds up in a town that is isolated from the rest of the world—Strangeville. Unable to leave, he meets an assortment of loveable oddball characters—the beautiful Delilah, Klemm Johnson, Clarissa Pud-

dworthy, Biff Flannigan, Jeborah Varmint, Cleetus McChoparooski, and others.

So, if you want a different kind of reading experience, and you're tired of the same old cookie-cutter writing, check out *Strangeville*. Readers love it!

Many of the reviewers on Amazon appreciate the funny, but wholesome nature of the story. Quite a few wish they could find their own *Strangeville* and live there. The book is different from your typical "cookie cutter" novel of today. Again, many readers appreciate the uniqueness of the story. In the short time it has been out, *Strangeville* has been read by thousands of people from coast to coast.

For the entire summer, Tingle is giving half of all profits to Lazarus House and Cor Unum, two charities in Lawrence that provide free meals to the needy, along with job training, shelter, and clothing through thrift shops. So read a great book and help someone out.

www.onetailatime.com

ever seen. She handed me a black lab named Brandy. The story that follows is the same story as with Red. Brandy was a great dog, such a sweetheart. I actually went to the adoption when Brandy was meeting her new parents. Since I had lived with her for a week, I was able to give them an inside look as to what Brandy liked, didn't like, and what her habits were...and, just as I did with Red, I cried as I drove away.

My third foster experience had a bit of a different ending, however, this time I kept her. Dash, a 12 week old chocolate lab/retriever mix, is now a permanent part of my family. I love her, and I'm still fostering today. Right now I have 8 week old Patsy and Penny, also some of the cutest puppies I have ever seen.

The best part about fostering is receiving pictures and updates from the adoptive

families after they have moved on. You become so attached to these puppies that it makes you happy to see what a great life they have.

These puppies are rescued from a very "high-kill" shelter in Virginia. If it wasn't for Meg, these puppies would most likely have been euthanized. The dogs know the tough past they've had, and all they wish is for a safe and love-filled future. There is nothing better than coming home and seeing their tails wagging, eager to give you big, wet kisses!

Next month: How you can foster a puppy (or adopt a puppy that is already in a foster home), tips on how to care for your pet and advice on the best way to keep up on your puppy's health.

For more information about adopting or becoming a foster puppy you can email Kate at kwsingrite@aol.com

A Conversation with Lawrence Catholic Academy Principal Jorge Hernandez

PART 1

Transcribed by Kathleen Laplante

Lawrence Catholic Academy is located on Parker and Salem Streets in Lawrence and was once Saint Patrick's Grammar School, run by Saint Patrick's Church. Jorge Hernandez was hired earlier this year as the first lay person to be the principal of the School. Valley Patriot publisher, Tom Duggan, sat down with Mr. Hernandez to talk to him about the future of Lawrence Catholic Academy and his vision for the future of the school.

VP: You are the first lay person to be principal here. When did you start?

JH: Yes, I am the first lay principal for the school. I did just begin the 1st of July, and I'm excited to be here.

VP: Tell me about the evolution as to how they went from non-lay people to suddenly making a decision to do so.

JH: There wasn't a specific decision to go with a non-lay person. The job was available. It was posted and I had the opportunity to apply. It just so happens that I was a person that was chosen. Sister Lucy, the former principal, decided to move on and pursue an opportunity. She was here previously as the principal of St. Patrick's School, and she also then became the principal of Lawrence Catholic Academy (LCA) in its current form three years ago.

VP: How was the transition made from St. Pat's?

JH: The school was actually formed back in 2010. It came from the merger of

two Catholic schools and Saint Patrick's, where we currently sit. The building of St. Pat's is the one that's used for Lawrence Catholic Academy, and Our Lady of Good Counsel. The students came in from both schools; there were some faculty members that came in from both schools. So, that's how LCA was formed. It is not a parish school, so it doesn't reside either with St. Patrick's or with Our Lady of Good Counsel. It has its own Board of Trustees. So that's the governance structure that exists.

VP: So when they posted the job, they just put it out to anybody? Most of the other people who applied, I'm sure, were nuns, priests, etc, right?

JH: A job description was formulated.

It was posted on the Catholic schools' office web sites. They ran advertisements in some publications, newspaper dailies, things like that.

VP: So why did you want to be principal here? You're in Lawrence, the terrible reputation, the turmoil of all the different schools, St. Mary's closing, and all the protesting. Why here? There are so many other places that are so much more

tranquil?

JH: It's not necessarily about always looking for something that is going to be an easy road to pursue and to walk down, but rather where you feel you are going to be able to be of most benefit.

For me, it's a particular calling. For me,

Tom, specifically, I view the opportunity that I've had in education really as a vocation. It's a passion, and I don't view it as just a job, but an opportunity to impact the lives of children in a positive manner, the way I know that I was positively impacted by the teachers and the people that were involved in my education as I was growing up.

The fact is that I was educated in a Catholic setting from kindergarten all the way through college. So, that neighborhood that I grew up in, in Englewood, California, shares some similarities with Lawrence. I'm a Lawrence resident. I've worked as a professional. I've worked as a high school teacher. I've worked as a college administrator at Merrimack College, and again, that's where my path as an educator and a professional really began to focus on the Catholic component. After Merrimack, I worked with the Catholic Schools Office for the Archdiocese of Boston, and then the opportunity to look at and consider Lawrence Catholic Academy was afforded, so I applied. I was fortunate enough to be provided an opportunity to interview. And again, I was very fortunate to be offered the position. I was happy to accept, because I think there's a lot of good that's being done here. The school has 500 students, and they're doing well.

With regards to enrollment, the students

HERNANDEZ: NEXT PAGE



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HERNANDEZ FROM PREV. PAGE

are coming out well-educated, well-prepared for the next steps that they're going to take in terms of their high school careers, and the fact that they are able to do so, specifically within a values-based, and a faith-based setting, specifically around the Catholic faith, I think that's something that continues to add to character development for our students that attend school here.

VP: What is your vision for Lawrence Catholic Academy? Where do you see yourself in this role and where do you see the school five years out?

JH: High expectations for all students, and a path of continuous improvement. We are not looking to stay with the status quo. There are good results, good expectations, for our students that are occurring now. We want to make sure that that's something we continue to push forward, so that no matter what it is that our students encounter in school, out of school; the expectations for everyone coming in is the same. And the results for achievement, high achievement, is going to be present for all of our students. We're fortunate that we have a very dedicated faculty and staff here at the school.

VP: Talk about a couple of them. We'll mention their names in the story.

JH: I know there are some faculty members that will go ahead, come in early, offer additional help for students that they know may need the help. They'll stay late. There are teachers that are staying here until 5 or 6 o'clock to make sure that, not only are they staying for after school help, but they're making sure that they're well

prepared for the things that are coming up in the weeks ahead. There's an opportunity to continue to carry on conversations that happen in the classroom, outside of it, so that students are engaged in their learning. That's what we want to see. We try to bring context to what it is our students are being taught, inside the classroom, so they can make their connection with their life, and thus, the students will be that much more willing to actually engage in the learning process. We then make sure that the students also understand that they have ownership of their learning, our teachers are here, serving as guides. It's a learning process, and we're looking to try to help them acquire a skill set that will allow them to be successful, not only as students, but as people, as professionals, as they move forward in whatever their future endeavors might take them.

VP: What kind of success rates do you have with kids graduating, going on to a decent high school and then a 4 year college? Do you know any of that, any of those numbers?

JH: With regards to the graduation rate, we have a high graduation rate. This past year, Tom, all the students in our eighth grade went ahead and went to a non-public school. There were a couple students that went to Greater Lawrence Vocational Technical School. All other students went either to a private school, or specifically, a Catholic school upon graduation. So, a very high success rate with regards to all of our students moving on to their next step in terms of their education.

Slavery Then and Now

Tom Weaver

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

What does it take to be a slave? We have the old definition – belonging to another person, but that has been outlawed in modern society. However, when we think of the old definition, where those people allowed liberty or the ability to pursue happiness? Were those people dependent on their owners, versus themselves, for basic needs? Where those people allowed to dream or achieve success?

That was then, what about now? Have we not created a slave system, except instead of being controlled by individuals, it is now controlled by government bureaucrats. When you look at those on welfare, is there any possibility that they have liberty or that they can pursue happiness? Are they not dependent on government for their basic needs? Can they dream or achieve success?

While on vacation, I spent the night at a plantation in Louisiana, on the Mississippi River. The history was rich and the stories were fascinating. But as I learned more about that life style, a question came to mind...

Did the Democrats treat the slaves better in 1860 or today in 2013? Let's think about the answer.

First, slaves then and now need nourishment. In 1860, they grew their food, slaughtered animals and cooked. Today, there are food stamps and EBT cards which allow people to purchase junk food. One must conclude that as far as nourishment, slaves were treated better in 1860.

Second, slaves then and now need a

place to live. In 1860, there were slave quarters where families lived. Typically, the grandparents lived there, as well as the father, mother and all the children. Today, they have Section 8 housing. Very few of the extended family is around, and unfortunately, very few of the families have fathers. With regard to housing, slaves had it better in 1860.

Third, slaves then and now were educated. In 1860, there was no formal school, but the children and adults were taught from the Holy Bible. Today, there are formal schools, no bible, and over 50% of the students fail reading and writing, despite massive spending. Again, it appears that the slaves learned more in 1860.

Finally, slaves then and now needed a work skill. In 1860, slaves were taught to be coppers, cobblers, blacksmiths, gunsmiths and hundreds of other marketable skills. Today, there is little emphasis placed on developing a career skill. So again, it appears that the slaves had more marketable skills in 1860.

Given the discussion, one must come to the conclusion that Democrats treated the slaves better in 1860 than today. It seems amazing because in 1860, slaves could not vote – which they can do today.

In 1860, a war started in which a Republican President made the decision that slavery would end, so that all would have the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Over 700,000 Americans, from the north and south, east and west, black and white, died to end slavery as it existed in 1860.

I wonder what needs to happen to end slavery today?

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SHEILA'S RECIPE CORNER:

TV TALK WITH BILL CUSHING

**Ray Donovan
Another Winner for Showtime**

Bill Cushing

VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST



Showtime's newest series, Ray Donovan, which premiered on June 30 on the premium cable network looks like another winner.

The show, about a South Boston trans-

plant working as a fixer for the rich and powerful in Hollywood, stars Liev Schreiber as the title character, and Jon Voight playing his father. Created by Ann Biderman, the creator of the brilliant 'Southland' looks to have come up with another compelling series here.

Ray is married to Abby (Paula Malcomson) and together that have 2 children. Ray also has 2, but soon he discovers he has 3, brothers.

Ray's father, Mickey, is getting out of prison in the series premiere, after 20 years, and immediately gets back into a life of crime. Mickey's reason for being in prison slowly comes out over the course of the season. He sets out for California to insert himself into the life of his children. His sons all allow Mickey back into their lives, except Ray, who threatens to kill him if he comes near his wife and kids.

Ray works for LA powerhouse attorney, Lee Drexler (House's Peter Jacobson), who calls Ray when he needs something "fixed." In the first episode, Ray is called in to help out a famous athlete who wakes up next to a dead woman who overdosed on drugs. I won't spoil it for anyone, but Ray does his job and fixes it so that the athlete's career isn't destroyed by this incident.

Meanwhile, Ray also has to deal with his family, who he has moved across the country from Boston to California, and his wife isn't too thrilled with it. She isn't quite thrilled with Ray's job choice for that matter either.

The more I watch this show, the more I can see similarities between Abby and another famous TV wife. Just the scene

where Abby bugs Ray to use his connections to get their daughter into a good school has Carmela Soprano written all over it.

Then Ray's father shows up and that adds another dimension to this story. Ray tells Mickey in no uncertain terms, that if comes near his family, he will kill him. Ray also begs his wife not to allow Mickey into their lives. Needless to say, Mickey doesn't stay away, and Abby who has been corresponding with Mickey while he was incarcerated, doesn't heed Ray's advice either.

Schreiber is compelling as Ray, and Jon Voight gives a tour de force performance as Mickey. These top notch performances, coupled with great writing, a great supporting cast, and seasoned direction make this show appointment viewing.

TV News & Notes

The Emmy nominations were announced on July 18. American Horror Story garnered the most Emmy nominations this year with 17, Game of Thrones had 16, Saturday Night Live - 15, Breaking Bad & 30 Rock - 13, Mad Men, Modern Family, & Downton Abbey - 12, Homeland - 11, and Boardwalk Empire - 10.

Veteran actor Dennis Farina, most recently starring in Law & Order, and New Girl, passed away on July 22, at the age of 69.

CBS has renewed Under The Dome for a second season.

AMC announced that The Walking Dead will return October 13.

Glee actor Cory Monteith died on July 13, at the age of 31.

FX announced that Sons of Anarchy will return September 10, with a 90 minute episode.

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

For daily TV news, follow Bill on Twitter @TVNewsandNotes and on Facebook at TVNewsandNotes www.tvnewsandnotes.com



Sheila Mullins

VALLEY PATRIOT COOKING COLUMNIST

It's the most wonderful time of the year! For me, that's summer. I love nothing more than having a bunch of friends over & eating in the screen house having good conversation until late. What could summer give you that's better than relaxed entertaining? Easy to prepare, delicious food! Here's a very seasonal dessert to start us off using fresh figs. Get to a store now & grab some up. They don't keep long & frankly, they need little if anything to improve their luscious flavour. I think this is a good way to respect the fig flavour & enhance it for a quick dessert. What do you think?

Figs with Mascarpone & Whipped Cream

- 8 figs
- ½ c mascarpone cheese
- Honey for drizzling
- ½ t Saigon cinnamon (or if you prefer, standard cinnamon)
- ¼ c homemade whipped whipping cream, no substitutions

Slice figs from top to bottom but not all the way through. Turn 90° & cut again so that they are cut into quarters from top to bottom but do not cut through the bottom.

Place figs under broiler & broil until lightly browned on edges & fig is soft. Place each on serving plate. This will take about 5 minutes but keep a close eye on the figs as they burn readily.

Drizzle each fig with a small amount of honey, less than ½ teaspoon per fig.

Mix together the whipped cream, cinnamon, & cheese. Do not over beat lest

the volume is reduced. Place, if desired, in a piping bag fitted with a start tip & pipe 2 tablespoons of mixture per fig. If not piping, use a spoon to top each fig with 2 T mixture. Serve!

Makes 8 servings.

It's summer again! Yippee! Time for tasty, nutritious salads to be in abundance to feed us & not weigh us down. Here's another one for you to try. It takes about 30 minutes from start to finish including cooking time for the quinoa. This is a good recipe for leftover quinoa, too.

Quinoa with strawberries & feta

2 c cooked quinoa (prepare according to package directions)

½ c of feta cubes cut into ¼" x ½" rectangles

- 1.25 c cut strawberries
- ¼ c mint leaves cut chiffonade
- ¼ c ground flax seed meal
- 1/3 c toasted pine nuts
- ½ t kosher salt
- ¼ t freshly ground black pepper
- ¼ c freshly squeezed lime juice, no substitutions
- 1 T honey

Combine all ingredients except the mint & feta in a medium bowl. When mixed, add mint & feta & mix gently until combined. Serve. Makes 4 servings for main course or 6 as a side.



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

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New Hampshire should be very wary of Gov. Paul LePage

D.J. Bettencourt

VALLEY PATRIOT NEW HAMPSHIRE COLUMNIST

As a general rule, when liberals lash out with nasty hyperbole against a political leader you can be almost assured that they are doing a good job.

Such is the case with Maine's Governor, Paul LePage. For those of us in the Granite State, we see Maine as a place that rivals New Hampshire in natural beauty and Yankee toughness but scoff at its confiscatory tax structure and obese welfare system.

While New Hampshire boasts the distinction of having one of the lowest tax burdens in the nation, Maine has one of the highest. According to the non-partisan Tax Foundation, "Maine's 2010 tax burden of 10.26% ranks 9th highest out of 50 states, and is above the national average of 9.9%. Maine's taxpayers pay \$3807 per capita in state and local taxes." By comparison, New Hampshire has no personal income or sales tax and our "2010 tax burden of 8.11% ranks 7th lowest out of 50 states, and is below the national average of 9.9%. New Hampshire's taxpayers pay \$3717 per capita in state and local taxes."

Even more astonishing is Maine's welfare rolls. According to the 2012 census, 4.8% of Maine households receive public assistance through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, the second highest rate in the nation and more than twice the national average of 2.3%. Additionally, Maine's Medicaid program is also the second largest in the county, with 27% of state residents receiving publicly funded health care. New Hampshire, by contrast, has only 11% of its population in the program. Maine allows families earning up to 200% of the poverty level to receive MaineCare benefits while the federal standard is 133%.

Enter Paul LePage, who surprised Maine's political establishment by winning a crowded Republican primary and a three-way general election for governor in 2010 after previously serving as Mayor of Waterville and General Manager of Marden's Surplus and Salvage stores. He campaigned on a simple assertion that immediate fiscal reforms were needed across state government because Maine was on an unsustainable path and almost broke. It was a message for fiscal reform that had not been seen in decades.

However, what has astonished Maine's establishment even more than LePage's election has been his commitment to actually delivering on his campaign promises. He immediately tackled spending and taxes by implementing zero-based budgeting and guiding through the legislature a significant tax cuts for both individuals and businesses.

Specifically, he produced \$150 million in tax relief and reduced Maine's top income tax rate from 8.5% to 7.95%, while eliminating tax payments for 70,000 low-income residents. It represented the largest tax cut in Maine's history.

On welfare, LePage's message to able-bodied welfare recipients was blunt: "Get off the couch and get a job." To provide them with motivation, he placed a five year limit on welfare eligibility, implemented drug testing on some welfare recipients, and eliminated benefits to noncitizens. He has further proposed blocking convicted drug felons from receiving public assistance and prohibiting the use of food stamps to buy junk food.

While liberals blasted the governor as a "mean bully" and labeled his tax reforms with their well-worn meme of "tax cuts for the rich," LePage's reforms produced results. Last month Maine's unemployment rate fell to 6.9%, down from 7.1% in March and 7.3% from a year ago. It is the lowest rate since 2008.

Last year the Tax Foundation moved Maine up a dramatic 7 slots in their business tax climate rankings, citing LePage's reforms. His business friendly tone that "Maine is open for business" and his efforts to limit the damage inflicted by Obamacare has sent a reassuring message to Maine's business community that has paid off and threatens the "New Hampshire Advantage" of taking advantage of our neighbors' high income and sales tax rates to generate prosperity.

However, it is LePage's promise if re-elected in 2014 that should alarm Granite Staters. This week LePage pledged to eliminate Maine's income tax in a second term. Currently, Maine's income tax rate ranks 8th highest among states levying an individual income tax. LePage's message to New Hampshire could not be clearer: Maine is serious about competing with us economically. He represents our biggest external economic threat.



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.

BABIES AND BRIEFCASES

CROWDFUNDING FOR CASH

Cheryl Hajjar

VALLEY PATRIOT MOMMY COLUMNIST

Unless you have been living in a landfill or still have an analog TV in your home, you have heard of the term "crowdfunding" or stories of people raising thousands of dollars for their businesses or projects online. So what is this new rage and how is it changing the playing field for the small business owner or next budding entrepreneur?

Crowdfunding by definition is the process of collecting funding through small contributions from multiple parties in order to finance a particular project or venture. Many small businesses which are looking for growth capital have a hard time acquiring funding due to lack of a track record or collateral when it comes to applying for traditional business loans from a bank, or are in the wrong field to attract angel investors.

Think of crowdfunding as a community finance vehicle. It is a way for businesses to access the capital they need by soliciting the community directly through means of a video campaign. This video campaign is then marketed via social media platforms and on the actual crowdfunding site to viewers. The donations can come in the actual form of cash based or securities based. In exchange for the donation, a perk or something of value is given back to the donor. If it is donor based, a musician for example might give an autographed CD, or backstage passes to one of their concerts in exchange for their donation. If it is securities based, the business owner might give shares in the company to investors.

Not convinced that this is a viable way to raise capital? According to the Crowdfunding Industry Report by Massolution it states that in 2012 the crowdfunding industry raised over \$2.7 billion across over 1 million individual campaigns globally. In 2013 it is projected to grow to \$5.1 billion. That's proof enough for me.

There are two types of crowdfunding:

1. DONATION/REWARDS based crowdfunding has been legal in the U.S. and gaining popularity for several years now. Sites like Kickstarter and Indiegogo provide entrepreneurs the ability to access funding via campaigns that offer rewards for different donation levels. If successful, the business owner is able to raise the amount of money they need without giving up equity in the company. If you have seen the show Shark Tank, you know that giving up equity is essential for an angel investor to fund a company and they call the show Shark Tank for a reason because dealing with investors can be treacherous in the tank.

2. SECURITIES based crowdfunding in the U.S. has been virtually impossible until recently. In April of 2012, Congress passed what is called the JOBS Act that will pave the way for what they call investment crowdfunding. Once the SEC finishes their rule making process, companies will be able to raise up to \$1 million through use of security based crowdfunding. We should hear more of this in 2013 and 2014.

Let's take a look at some examples I recently found on Kickstarter.com. Jo Dee Messina, an 18 year veteran of the country

music business and Grammy nominated singer, recently funded her next album entirely from a crowdfunding campaign. She states that she left the record label because she wanted to make the record that she wanted to make, not what the industry wanted her to make. She turned to her fans, launched a kickstarter campaign and within 30 days, raised over \$121,000 dollars to fund the project. She harnessed the power of her fans and the internet, hence making her new record a record by the fans and for the fans. Pretty brilliant I'd say!

Next is Kite, a product seen on Indiegogo.com It is a patch developed that you put on your skin which allows humans to go undetected from mosquitoes for up to 48 hours. With diseases like Malaria in some countries, and now with the West Nile Virus becoming more prevalent in the states, the developers turned to a crowdfunding campaign to raise the capital they needed to further develop and distribute it globally. The campaign has already raised over \$314,000 to help with the spread of disease from mosquitoes. A cause that everybody can relate to!

Other campaigners such as video game developers, authors, inventors, artists, film makers, fashion designers, non profits, and even technology based products are all turning to crowdfunding as a way of raising the capital they need to turn their ideas into realities.

Another benefit of using the platform of crowdfunding is to attract hundreds of fans, increased "likes" on your social media sites, new investors and build a bigger customer base in a shorter amount of time than the traditional ways that marketing could afford you.

Running a successful campaign is not easy however. It takes preparation to prepare your business plan, produce your video, market the campaign on both social media sites and traditional marketing to gain exposure, brand management, community outreach and more. The old saying of "build it and they will come" is long gone and a crowdfunding campaign is a blood, sweat, and tears love affair with your project.

Crowdfunding isn't right for all types of businesses. Many businesses might find the traditional ways of raising capital cheaper and less involved than this type of resource but for those businesses who fall through the cracks and have a business plan that can garner community support, crowdfunding just might be the right match.



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: babiesnbrieffcases@gmail.com

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FROM 1: WILLIAM T. POULIOS

Fortresses of Metz

When he enlisted in 1943, Bill Poulios trained for the U.S. Army Air Force but was transferred to the 87th Infantry Division when General Eisenhower called for more ground troops in Europe. He landed in France on Dec. 1-3, 1944. The 87th, barely tested in combat, was rushed into mop-up operations at the Battle of Metz, France, eliminating the last pockets of Nazi resistance.

Metz was highly fortified, surrounded by two perimeters of 18 forts and observation posts, interconnected by tunnels. Two weeks earlier it had fallen to U.S. forces, yet the Nazis clung stubbornly to the remaining isolated forts, surrendering them one by one. One of the last, Fort Driant, fell to the 87th on December 8, 1944.

Bill was leading a night patrol outside Metz when a German general, with 150 of his men, surrendered to Bill and gave



Bill his saber. Bill his saber. On December 10, 1944, the 87th Division moved near the Saar-German border, at Gross Rederching. In quick succession, they captured Rimling, Obergailbach, and Guiderkirch despite fierce resistance.

The Bulge, race across Europe

Then followed a 300-mile road march in open trucks from Germany's Saar Valley to the vicinity of Bastogne, Belgium. When Hitler launched the Ardennes Offensive in mid-December, the 87th Infantry was plunged into defending Bastogne and its environs on December 29, against Hitler's advance. It was a long, brutally cold winter. "We nearly froze to death as we raced across Belgium to the Siegfried Line—with hardly a chance to clean up or rest," Bill recalls.

The 87th captured the Belgium towns of Moiricy on December 30 and Remagne on December 31. On New Year's Day, 1945, they withstood the bloodiest German counterattack of the Ardennes Salient or Battle of the Bulge. They broke through the impregnable German defense around the main supply route connecting Bastogne and St. Hubert.

On January 2, 1945, they freed Gerimont, Belgium. On January 10, they flushed out the enemy, house by house in Tillet.

On January 13, they reached the Ourthe River in the Ardennes. On January 15, they moved to the Luxembourg-Germany border on the steep banks of the Sauer River. Through constant night patrols, they broke through the German side's elaborate warning system of trip wires rigged up to flares and explosives.

On January 23, they seized Wasserbillig, Luxembourg, and then advanced toward the Siegfried Line.

On January 28, 1945, outside St. Vith, Belgium, near the Schnee Eifel Mountains, the 87th Division secured the high ground west of the Our River. By the end of January, they captured three more towns: Schlierbach, Selz, and Hogden.

By February 5, 1945, they seized the last town near the Siegfried Line, Roth. By February 9, they captured the key city of Neuendorf. In two days, they had advanced so rapidly that food and ammunition had to be hand-carried to the

front over miles of snow-covered trails.

Siegfried Line's "dragon's teeth"

The Siegfried Line was a formidable barrier built by Hitler to protect Germany. Multiple fronts blocked infantry and tanks. The first line of defense consisted of landmines and barbed wire laid between "dragon's teeth" - pyramid-shaped, reinforced concrete blocks 3 to 4 feet tall that could rip treads off the heaviest tanks. Between the "dragon's teeth" were diagonally-placed steel beams. Behind them rose a series of massive steel and concrete pillboxes, heavily fortified, with interlocking fields of fire. Connecting the whole were wire communications and tunnels.

Yet it fell! American forces cleared the landmines, smoked the pillboxes, cut the communications cable—and our infantry and tank destroyers rolled through!

Moving on roads loaded with landmines, booby-traps, and pillboxes, the 347th Regiment, in night attacks, captured Ormont (in 20 minutes) on February 26, and Hallschlagg, then crashed through the Siegfried Line's highest point, "Gold Brick Hill."

On March 6, 1945, they crossed the Kyll River and advanced rapidly to the Ahr River, 25 miles inside Germany. On March 8, they seized Dollendorf.

On March 16 they began crossing the Moselle River in assault boats and established a beachhead, under a barrage of heavy fire.

By nightfall, they had successfully crossed the Moselle, gained control of the ground between the Moselle and the Rhine, and captured more than 200 German prisoners. Then they pushed toward the Rhine.

On March 18-19, the Division captured Koblenz, Germany, at the junction of the Moselle and Rhine Rivers.

On March 25-26, they successfully crossed the Rhine in assault waves—fighting the treacherous, swift-moving current, dodging heavy enemy fire all along the riverbanks and bluffs, including the deadly accurate 88mm artillery. "It was pure hell!" Yet they did it—totally defeating the surprised Germans, who withdrew rapidly, completely dis-

organized. They secured the east bank, cleared the towns of Oberlahnstein and Braubach, and advanced east.

In one month, March 1945, the 87th Infantry had advanced nearly 103 miles inside Germany, captured 225 pillboxes, taken some 10,300 prisoners, and cut off the German Army's main withdrawal route! They had crashed through the Siegfried Line, crossed the Kyll and Ahr Rivers, assaulted the Moselle and Rhine Rivers, captured Koblenz, and spear-headed the Division's race 45 miles into Germany that last week. On March 31, the 87th set up its command post deep inside Germany.

Bill recalls one poignant story about POWs liberated in Plauen—20 Greek nationals who had spent two years in slave labor, manufacturing airplane parts in an underground factory. "They couldn't speak English so I served as their interpreter. The men, all skin and bones, had not eaten for days. As our guests, I took them to our mess hall where we fed them until they could eat no more. When they tearfully pleaded with me to take them to America, I was very sad, very sad, I could not do this."

Amazing stories beyond human endurance and strength, physical and emotional. Bill Poulios, a man of prayer raised in the Greek Orthodox Church, knows where his strength lies. The cross he has worn around his neck all his life witnesses to the everlasting God who "gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak... those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength, they will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" (Isaiah 40:29-31).

front over miles of snow-covered trails.

Siegfried Line's "dragon's teeth"

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front over miles of snow-covered trails.

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This saber belonged to a German general who surrendered—along with his 150 men—to Corporal Bill Poulios, U.S. Army, in December 1944 outside the walled city of Metz, France, while Bill was on night patrol. The General removed his heavy winter coat and offered Bill his saber. "I don't want to be in this war. I want to go home and see my family," he told Bill through an interpreter.

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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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Normandy Commemoration Disgrace Take Action! Never Again!

On June 6, 2013, American Legion National Commander James E. Koutz had the honor of representing all veterans of the United States at ceremonies commemorating the 69th anniversary of the D-Day invasion in Normandy, France. There, he received the timeless gratitude of a nation liberated by the sacrifices of American military personnel.

Unfortunately, and sadly, Commander Koutz was one among precious few Americans there to officially receive the thanks of the French people and all others in attendance. The commander was told that due to budget cuts, no U.S. military units were sent to Normandy this year. No fly-overs were authorized for the Normandy American Cemetery where 9,387 Americans who gave their lives to liberate Europe from Nazi Germany are laid to rest, nor for Pointe du Hoc, where U.S. Army Rangers climbed rope ladders through a hail of deadly enemy gunfire in order to break Hitler's grip on continental Europe and begin the long, bloody march to victory in World War II.

Not even so much as a small honor guard to carry our flag or a rank officer of the U.S. Armed Forces were there to receive these expressions of remembrance and honor on behalf of our fallen heroes.

This was an unnecessary embarrassment and an insult to the veterans in attendance, as well as to the French citizens and Normandy officials who annually devote the first week of June every year to a mas-

sive expression of honor for U.S. military sacrifices. The sending of an honor guard, an officer, or even a U.S. plane to Normandy for the anniversary would not have wiggled the needle on the Defense budget. Furthermore, it sends the wrong message about the importance America places on its military heritage and current status in the world.

Commander Koutz has written letters to President Obama and Defense Secretary Hagel, on behalf of the veterans of the United States and all those who honor American battlefield sacrifices that have made freedom possible for others throughout our nation's history, asking for their assurance that U.S. military personnel will be permitted to participate in the 70th anniversary commemoration of the D-Day invasion, and those of future years. Rare are the places on this planet where the U.S. military is so honored, respected and remembered. Our military's failure to attend the 69th anniversary of the invasion, at any level, was perceived by many as a symbol that America is willing to forfeit that gratitude and let our military's identity as liberators be forgotten. The commander implored the president and secretary both to work with The American Legion to change that perception.

Commander Koutz respectfully asks you to help us do the same by sending the prepared message in this alert to your elected officials to ensure this disgrace never happens again!

News from the American Legion

John Lenotte

VALLEY PATRIOT VETERAN COLUMNIST

There are many events going on to commemorate the Battle of Gettysburg which happened in July of 1863, 150 years ago. Not to take away from that horrific battle and its significance in our history, but there are other events that occurred 70 years ago. It is known as World War II, and we still have in our midst a number of survivors. I know at my Legion Post in Haverhill, we have veterans who were participants in the invasion of Normandy and the occupation of Japan. Of the 16 million veterans from that conflict, only about 1.2 million are still alive, and leaving us at about 600 per day. We need to remember their sacrifices and honor their service.

There is one person I would like all to think about at this time. Her name is Sarah Hayden, and she is a resident of Methuen. Sarah was recognized in the Valley Patriot back in 2007. She is still with us and continues to actively work for her fellow veterans even though she is now in her nineties. Sarah was a member of the Women's Airforce Service Pilots.

According to Wikipedia: The Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) was a paramilitary aviation organization. Twenty-five thousand women applied to join the WASP, but only 1,830 were accepted and took the oath. Out of these, only 1,074 of them passed the training and joined. At the conclusion of the WASP program, 915 women pilots were on duty with the AAF: 620 assigned to the Training Command, 141 to the Air Transport Command, 133 to the numbered air forces in the continental United States, 11 to the Weather Wing, 9 to the technical commands and one to the Troop Carrier Command. Thirty-eight WASP fliers lost their lives while serving during the war -- all in accidents -- eleven in training and twenty-seven on active duty. Because they were not considered military under the existing guidelines, a fallen WASP was sent home at family expense without traditional military honors or note of heroism. The army would not even allow

the U.S. flag to be placed on the coffin of the fallen WASP.

All records of the WASP were classified and sealed for 35 years, so their contributions to the war effort were little known and inaccessible to historians. Finally in 1977, the records were unsealed. The G.I. Bill Improvement Act of 1977, granted the WASP corps full military status for their service. Finally, on July 1, 2009 President Barack Obama and the United States Congress awarded the WASP the Congressional Gold Medal. Their legacy and those of their comrades in WWII must not be forgotten. Additional information can be found on these websites: <http://wasp-museum.org/>; <http://www.twu.edu/library/wasp.asp> and <http://www.nationalww2museum.org>. The American Legion also has some great information and a way to honor and remember all veterans at: <http://www.legion.org/honor>. I hope that you will take time to honor and remember. It should be noted that 15% of today's military are women and this number will continue to increase with time.

I want to pay special thanks to Tom Dugan and the Valley Patriot for publishing my articles. I sent my first article to Tom for the August 2006 edition and every month since then. But the real thanks is for the tributes to veterans and the reporting that is in this paper. It is unique and a valuable resource to our communities. The paper has grown a lot since I first saw it in 2006, and I have no doubt it will continue to do so.

Please remember our troops and their families. Even though the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan have fewer troops involved, there are still some there and in many other locations around the globe and they need our support.



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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LET'S TALK ABOUT FOOD... ADDICTION

With Pennie Hale



What is your favorite comfort food and how do you feel after eating it? That is the question I asked my Facebook friends. Some responses simply answer the question, some are funny and some are thoughtful. We all have that default food, the one we always have in our pantry and we eat because it reminds us of our childhood, it comforts us, or because it is easy to prepare. I hope you enjoy reading my friends' responses as you contemplate your answer.

Mark Mckallagat: PB&J with a glass of milk. Usually around midnight though. Dropped 20 lbs when I gave them up.

Jim Benjamin: Chicken soup on cold winter day

Nicole Michelle Fluet: Melted Cheese (grilled cheese, nacho cheese, velveeta)... I feel so satisfied, and diet coke... It gives me a happy feeling, almost like a glass of wine

Bonnie Bell: Ice cream... guilty

Tallie Veras Abernathy: Dairy Queen

Hot Fudge Sundae w/ Chocolate Soft Serve Ice cream, whipped cream, no nuts! And of course a Large McDonalds Diet Coke to even it out :-)

Amy Murphy: Homemade mac & cheese! My mom's recipe! Yum!!! Oh and I feel full, guilty and happy all at once lol

Connie Molinaro: Hmmmm...well I know PETA would not like my answer, but Veal Parmagiana with extra sauce and some spaghetti. It is something my parents would get for me or make for me when I was a young girl and didn't feel good, or just going to the old European restaurant in the North End to have a ice family meal. It brings back such great memories that I actually savor every bite when I have it. It is funny, but when I got diagnosed with Colon Cancer, my husband took me out to dinner and ordered it for me while I was in the bathroom. He told me "I know what you need right now" and when our dinners arrived, I started to cry, because he did know what I needed-comfort food!

Jennifer Dube: Mine has to be chicken noodle soup on a cold winter day because it just keeps you warm. Don't forget a good piece of French or Italian crusty bread to go along. Yum, now I'm waiting for the winter just thinking about this.

Michael Plonowski: CHILI, and after I eat it I feel full and satisfied.

Mark Gray: Well I can and cannot answer that question. I don't really have a 'favorite' food although the onion rings from Westfords' Willows comes highly recommended. However I'll say I can eat anything from prime rib to watermelon and I enjoy them both completely. The odd thing is, that despite an appreciation for many foods. I am very picky about what I eat. For instance I don't touch, ketchup, mayo, mustards, sushi and more. This makes my palate incomplete, despite my equal like for many different tastes and textures. It's 'food' for thought. I'm without different, but I can cook so I think it's an angle, if you can use it.

Christine M Prescott: Macaroni and cheese..elbow mac with melted velveeta cheese. I'll only eat it when anxiety kicks in. It's been my comfort food since I was a kid. No matter how much I try to give it up I can't. It's an addiction...always has been. The fulfillment actually eases stress for me.

Cheryl Purpura: Cape Cod Potato Chips...once I start that's it I can eat the whole bag !! Mmmmm then another is Peanut M&M....I have more too

Scot Bourgoin: Ice cream. Wanting more lol

Joe Papsedero: Oreo cookies and a big

glass of milk... never fails to make me feel better...

Richard Pelletier: Milk and cookies. Pretty much every night.

Makes me feel comfortable and relaxed helps me sleep at night

Probably due to some issues as a child. Enough for now

Shaun Murphy: oatmeal..it makes me feel happy..reminds me of when I was a kid.

Anthony J. Bertolaccini: Anything Fish and greens !!! Charges u up and makes u want to GIT~ER~DONE !!! and keeps ur head clear and makes u smarterr !!!

Dawn Tumenas Callahan: Buffalo chicken mac and cheese from TJ Callahan's in Tewksbury. It makes you feel warm, full and happy because it tastes so good

Melanie Forzese: Juju fruits, I feel instantly guilty afterward

Christina Vera: Chocolate is my comfort food. Precisely Hersheys with almonds, but any will do when necessary. When it's simply a "want", it satisfies. When it's a "need", it's like what I imagine valium is for those that need it. It calms me and restores my ability to work out what's bothering me.

Barbie Voyer: Mini vanilla cannoli with chocolate chips.

You can email Pennie Hale at penniehalelacouture@gmail.com

NEWBURYPORT: FROM PAGE 25

Life Refuge, we are a destination spot for not just people and visitors and locals, but also on the path of migrating birds that find their home here.

Beginning last year, we heard of a plan to build on the waterfront here in Newburyport. In September of 2012, the Newburyport Redevelopment Authority announced their grand plan of redesigning and building a new waterfront. Commercial buildings were on the top of this list to carry the shopping district to the waterfront from State Street and the surrounding shopping district, and to sweeten the deal saying they wanted to add more grassy park areas, but this in fact would ultimately take away parking spaces which the City of Newburyport has very little now that there is paid meter parking in the Green Street parking lot. The master plan created controversy in the City of Newburyport, many wanting the area to be left alone, and others ready for a

change and wanting the plan to pass. The voice of the people was heard, and in July 2013, after many meetings in town (which most people didn't know where and when they were until after they happened), the Newburyport Redevelopment Authority came up with a new plan. The promise again for more park area, three buildings (which before there was only two) that will line the waterfront but cutting down on the amount of space the buildings would cover. Local merchants are concerned that more retail is not needed in the community and will only take away business from existing shop owners. What makes Newburyport so unique is that shopping is separate from the waterfront, so visitors have a chance to enjoy both. They can stroll along the waterfront and enjoy the boating traffic and views, then venture into the retail shopping area of town.

FATHERS: FROM PAGE 22

October, Derek has been granted one thirty minute, supervised visit with his children ever week. The hearing will determine if he will get his unsupervised visitations back. He hopes that his is a turning point, but remains apprehensive.

"They were obviously uncomfortable with me. At this point it feels like they do not want me to be a part of their life. It's clear that

they have drank a lot of poison and been told a lot of lies. I will not allow my children not to see me. I will go through attorney after attorney if I have to," he said with determination.

I asked him if he thinks they will eventually come around and want him in their life. "That's what I'm hoping. I'll take it as it comes. At the next meeting I'm going to tell them that they can ask me anything they want. The questions that the social worker says that I can't answer will be written down

and when I get visitation again, those questions will be answered. They have a right to know the truth."

In the end Derek says, "I want people to be aware of what is happening to parents

through our courts. Nobody should go through this. It's not about who's right and who's wrong. It's about being a good person."

As a post note: Derek's children did not show up for the second supervised

meeting. He was told by the social worker that they could not be forced to do so even if they are only thirteen and eleven and it has been court ordered.



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

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59 Legislators Vote for Gas Tax Hike Taxpayers Pick Up Their Gas Tab!

Boston, MA: As taxpayers across the Commonwealth begin to feel the effects of new and higher taxes today, public records show that many of the legislators who voted to implement these higher taxes, such as the one on gasoline, are also benefiting from taxpayer funded reimbursements for when they travel to the Statehouse. Per diems are payments claimed by legislators intended to pay for their travels from their district to the Statehouse in Boston. From January 1, 2013 to July 1, 2013, 48 State Representatives and 11 State Senators who supported the transportation finance bill claimed per diem payments. A listing of the legislators who claimed per diems and voted for the gas tax increase are below.

According to the American Petroleum Institute, today's gas tax increase of 3 cents per gallon, tied to the rate of inflation, places Massachusetts above the national average for state excise taxes and Massachusetts drivers will be forced to pay 42 cents per gallon in state and federal taxes.

"Paying 42 cents in federal and state taxes per gallon of gasoline is a big hit for working families. As the Legislature goes into recess, taxpayers should ask their elected officials who claim per diem reimbursements and voted for the gas tax hike why consumers need to pay this tax while some politicians don't," stated Paul D. Craney, Executive Director of Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance.

A listing of the legislators who voted for the transportation finance bill and claimed Per Diems reimbursements are: Rep. Denise Andrews (D-Orange), Rep. Ruth Balsler (D-Newton), Rep. Carlo Basile (D-East Boston), Rep. Jennifer Benson (D-Lunenburg), Rep. Thomas Calter (D-Kingston), Rep. Linda Dean Campbell (D-Methuen), Rep. Tackey Chan (D-Quincy), Rep. Marcos Devers (D-Lawrence), Rep. Stephen DiNatale (D-Fitchburg),

Rep. Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen), Rep. Paul Donato (D-Medford), Rep. Tricia Farley-Bouvier (D-Pittsfield), Rep. Ann-Margaret Ferrante (D-Gloucester), Rep. Michael Finn (D-West Springfield), Rep. Danielle Gregoire (D-Marlborough), Rep. Patricia Haddad (D-Somerset), Rep. Russell Holmes (D-Mattapan), Rep. Jay Kaufman (D-Lexington), Rep. Mary Keefe (D-Worcester), Rep. John Keenan (D-Salem), Rep. Kay Khan (D-Newton), Rep. Peter Kocot (D-Northampton), Rep. Stephen Kulik (D-Worthington), Rep. David Linsky (D-Natick), Rep. Timothy Madden (D-Nantucket), Rep. John Mahoney (D-Worcester), Rep. Brian Mannal (D-Barnstable), Rep. Paul Mark (D-Hinsdale), Rep. Paul McMurtry (D-Dedham), Rep. Kevin Murphy (D-Lowell), Rep. David Nangle (D-Lowell), Rep. Jerald Parisella (D-Beverly), Rep. Sarah Peake (D-Provincetown), Rep. William "Smitty" Pignatelli (D-Lenox), Rep. Denise Provost (D-Somerville), Rep. Kathi-Anne Reinstein (D-Revere), Rep. Tom Sannicandro (D-Ashland), Rep. John Scibak (D-South Hadley), Rep. Alan Silvia (D-Fall River), Rep. Frank Smizik (D-Brookline), Rep. Ted Speliotis (D-Danvers), Rep. Ellen Story (D-Amherst), Rep. Cleon Turner (D-Dennis), Rep. Aaron Vega (D-Holyoke), Rep. Chris Walsh (D-Framingham), Sen. Benjamin Downing (D-Pittsfield), Sen. Linda Dorcena Forry (D-Dorchester), Sen. Jennifer Flanagan (D-Leominster), Sen. Patricia Jehlen (D-Somerville), Sen. Michael Knapik (R-Westfield), Sen. Michael Moore (D-Millbury), Sen. Richard Moore (D-Uxbridge), Sen. Michael Rodrigues (D-Westport), Sen. Stanley Rosenberg (D-Amherst), Sen. James Welch (D-West Springfield) & Sen. Daniel Wolf (D-Harwich).

*From The Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance



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