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## VALLEY HEROES HONORED



PHOTO: TOM DUGGAN

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ON PAGE 6**

The Lawrence Exchange Club in cooperation with Wheelabrator of North Andover held their annual Police Officer, Firefighter, and EMT of the Year Awards last month. Pictured above are; Hero Lawrence Firefighters Steve Poley, Lieutenant Ed Nutter, Ray Kenyon III, Miguel Baez, Christopher King, Exchange Club President Sharon Birchall, and Lawrence Fire Chief Jack Bergeron.

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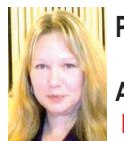
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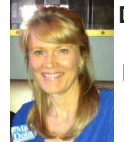
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## VALLEY PATRIOT OF THE MONTH LIEUTENANT COLONEL DON SHEEHAN, USAF

**Helen Mooradkian,**  
VALLEY PATRIOT VETERAN COLUMNIST

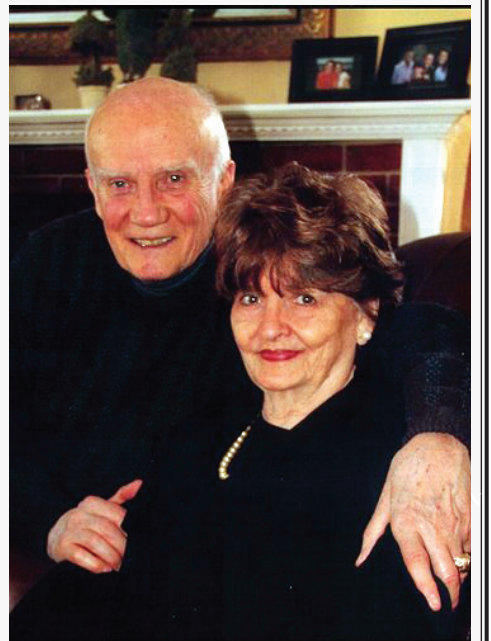
When 6,000 Marines were trapped at their base during the 77-day siege of Khe Sanh—a surprise attack by 40,000 heavily armored North Vietnamese and Viet Cong during the infamous 1968 Tet Offensive—it was “the longest and deadliest battle” of the Vietnam War. West Point graduate Lieutenant Colonel Don Sheehan, USAF (Retired), of Tewksbury, flew into Khe Sanh with a C-130 Hercules cargo plane. Dodging a gauntlet of enemy ground fire, he flew in low enough to airdrop, from an altitude of 1500 feet, tons of supplies directly onto the Marine drop zone. Each pallet load, with built-in parachute, weighed several thousand pounds and carried food, ammunition, and fuel. Don

was serving with the 773rd Tactical Airlift Squadron out of Clark AB, Philippines.

Not only was the task challenging—the Marines needed 185 tons daily of supplies, as well as troop reinforcements. But the ground fire was intense; it never stopped. “It prevented our C-130s from landing. Earlier one of our planes had been hit on the ground and had exploded into flames. So to avoid gunfire, we flew in as low as possible—ideally within cloud cover—guided by our skilled navigators who calculated airspeed and wind drift, and our loadmasters who released the pallets at the proper time. We dropped our loads by parachute onto the drop zone. Although we took minor hits, I felt no fear. I knew the Lord held me in the palm of His hand,” Don said.

**HERO: PAGE 28**

West Point Graduate Lieutenant Colonel Don Sheehan, USAF (Retired), with his wife Dorrie. He volunteered to fly the C-130 cargo planes during the Vietnam War, 1967–1969, with the 773rd Tactical Airlift Squadron, and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross “for extraordinary achievement” in combat, as well as a number of air medals. He flew C-130s on short dirt airstrips, as short as 2,500 feet, as well as ski-mounted C-130D-6s on the polar ice cap of Greenland, while serving with the 17th Tactical Airlift Squadron. Don's wife Dorrie starred in films with Gene Autry, Jock Mahoney and Mickey Rooney.



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# An Open Letter to Lawrence Police Chief John Romero

Dear Chief Romero,

Over the years the staff, editors and even our publisher Tom Duggan have personally observed Eagle Tribune reporters saunter into the police station unchallenged, go to the booking sheets (which contain information on all arrests) and make copies of documents within those booking sheets.

According to your own commanding officers, there is a standing order to “give the Eagle Tribune whatever they want.”

In fact we have observed prepackaged envelopes of booking information in the police station marked “EAGLE TRIBUNE”.

We have observed arrest reports being leaked by you to the daily paper

before any other member of the public was afforded access to them.

We have observed you, chief give instructions to subordinates after a major crime has been committed, to “only give that to the Tribune”.

We have sat by silently for years, observing your release of confidential and personnel information about your offices to the daily newspaper, and your inappropriate comments in the press about ongoing cases in violation of department policy.

We do understand you have a cushy relationship with the Eagle Tribune which personally benefits you and your career. And we understand that you prefer to deal with a new source that will only print what you tell them,

and only write about you in glowing terms.

And that’s ok, we are big boys and we understand you are in love with your own prefabricated, positive press.

What is not OK, however, is that you treat these public documents, (bought and paid for with taxpayer’s money), as if they were your own personal bartering tool to get good press with the daily newspaper.

Some people would call that pay for play. We would agree.

At issue is our attempt last month to get a copy of booking sheet information on armed robbery suspects.

We were told by your officer in charge, after speaking with you about our request, that you denied our request because “booking sheets have confidential information on them which are not public record.”

If we hadn’t seen Tribune reporters view, copy and leave with information out of those same booking sheets on hundreds of occasions, we might have accepted your lie and dropped the matter completely.

But we know better, and so do you.

Either you, Chief Romero, are withholding public information from the taxpayers (in violation of the law), or you are breaking the law by giving confidential, non-public information to the daily newspaper.

We want to know, which is it?

We do not deny that you have done a decent job as Chief of Police in Lawrence. We also do not deny that you are operating in a very corrupt political environment, while also dealing with a very corrupt criminal element on the streets.

But we also have noticed how much of a politician you have become over the years, and how you have blurred the line between enforcing the law for others, while violating the law yourself.

This is not acceptable. And the free ride is now over.

The Valley Patriot has now retained an attorney to file court actions against you the very next time we seek public documents and are denied. You personally benefitting from the inappropriate use of public records stops now.

At a time when we have been forced to sue Mayor Lantigua to gain access to public documents in City Hall, we have to wonder how your actions are any different from our corrupt mayor.

Either the public has the right to know what is in our taxpayer-funded public documents at the Lawrence Police Department, or they do not.

We believe they do.

And we believe an Essex County Superior Court Judge will agree with us.



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# The Getting Out of the Journalism Business Fire Sale

Jeff Katz  
VOTED AP's BEST RADIO TALK SHOW HOST

I gave up on the so-called mainstream media long ago. That’s what happens when you work inside the business. I distinctly remember one of my first exposures to the “non-existent” media bias came as the news director of a radio station I was working at announced to the newsroom “we need a Quayle story!” Come hell or high water, whether the then Vice-President had said or done anything noteworthy that radio station was going to broadcast a “news story” about him and you could rest assured that it would not be a complimentary one.

Over the many years that I’ve been on the inside I have seen countless examples of what could only be called journalistic malpractice. Hacks were posing as reporters. Flunkies were masquerading as journalists. Rest assured this is happening in print and on the air. So, given that I already have come to understand that journalism is no longer widely practiced why do I feel compelled to point out the obvious today?

Well, once again the network that brought you the fraudulent George Zimmerman tape from Florida is working its magic. This time the White House staffers at MSNBC have been found to have carefully edited an exchange with a Second

Amendment advocate and the father of a child slaughtered in Newtown, Connecticut. The MSNBC team sliced and diced the audio to make it sound as if the gun rights proponent was heckling the mourning father which would have been one heck of a story if it had actually happened, but it did not. Please don’t hold your breath waiting for Chris Matthews, Al Sharpton or Martin Bashir to apologize.

Steve Kroft, who is one of the 60 Minutes crew of infotainment peddlers, was asked why President Obama often appears on that show. Kroft responded by saying, “I Think He Knows That We’re Not Going To Play Gotcha With Him.” Funny, “gotcha” by any other name would be journalism and it used to be practiced on 60 Minutes by Mike Wallace. Oh well, all good things must come to an end I suppose.

Here is just one more tiny little example that damn near floored me when I heard it the other day. A radio reporter in Boston proudly proclaimed that the Commonwealth’s first minority governor was about to appoint the Commonwealth’s first minority senator. Wow, that is a big story except of course it is simply untrue. Some may recall Ed Brooke who served two terms as a United States Senator from Massachusetts. Brooke, like Martin Luther King, was a black man and a Republican. Oh, and I thought our other United States Senator was a Native American? How quickly they forget!



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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# Our Impending Debt Calamity:

## The “Billion Dollars A Day” Solution

**Dr. Charles Ormsby**  
VALLEY PATRIOT EDITOR

*“I hear that train a’coming? It’s rollin’ round the bend, and I ain’t seen the sunshine, since I don’t know when.” - Folsom Prison Blues, by Johnny Cash*

I’m getting sick of our debt problem.

It is like sitting on a railroad track with a freight train bearing down on us. Unfortunately, we are chained to a bunch of people who are also sitting on the track but who refuse to move.

We know that, if the present situation persists, it won’t be long until we’re all dead.

We also know that there is a solution - Get off the tracks! - but for some reason our companions refuse to budge and we are being forced to share their fate.

Of course, there is a reason why our companions refuse to move. They are benefitting from the current situation in the short term and they prefer to have those benefits continue instead of recognizing the impending calamity.

The vast majority of knowledgeable people realize that continuing to build our national debt at the present rate will end in Armageddon. Apologists for the left or the various beneficiaries of our current policies make the self-serving argument that somehow we can continue the overspending and still avoid a painful ending.

It seems so unfair. Many of us recognize the magnitude of the problem and we are willing to do the sensible thing – even if

it means foregoing some present benefits, but we are being forced to accept the same consequences as those who irresponsibly insist on trillion dollar annual deficits for a current advantage.

The battle over the deficit is being fought around the issue of raising the debt ceiling from \$16.4 trillion to some higher level ... or not. The Republican controlled House of Representatives is struggling with this issue knowing that if it doesn’t offer to raise the debt limit, the Obama administration will blame Republicans for threatening retirees with the loss of Social Security, the sick and disabled with loss of healthcare, our children with the loss of teachers, and all of us with the loss of police/fire protection, not to mention clean air and water.

This, of course, is pure demagoguery; but it is effective. Big government advocates are great at prioritizing cuts: Always cut the most important budget items first. This riles up the citizenry in favor of more spending and more taxes and blames conservatives for hating motherhood.

What are Republicans to do?

I say they should be accommodating and enact an ever increasing debt limit that is good for the remainder of the Obama administration. Short of another world war, there will be no reason to re-visit this issue every three months.

So, am I throwing in the towel?

Today we are overspending at an annual rate of over one thousand billion dollars per year or \$1 trillion per year. If we

raise the debt limit by \$250B, it will last three months; \$500B will last nominally six months. Actually, if we raise the limit \$500B it might only last three months if Obama decides to spend twice as fast.

What we need is a limit on the rate of deficit spending – NOT on the total debt.

I’d be perfectly happy to completely uncap the total federal debt IF the rate of deficit spending was limited to \$1B per year; i.e., let the debt limit rise approximately \$3 million per day with no limit on the total. The economy will, over time, grow to the point that our total debt will become inconsequential. In effect this would solve the nation’s debt problem with no limit on the eventual total debt.

Of course, \$3 million per day is not much different than not raising the debt limit at all. The extra debt allowed each day would be consumed in less than two minutes at the current rate of deficit spending.

We can debate the rate we should allow, but we must recognize that the current rate of deficit spending is just under \$3B per day.

What if we bring it down to \$1B per day? That would cut our deficit spending by nearly a factor of 3. MUCH better, I guarantee you, than what the Republicans will negotiate under the current circumstances.

So instead of jumping the debt limit by \$250B or \$500B all at once, we make the limit a ramp that goes up every day by only \$1B. While still unacceptably high, it represents a major improvement.

Education or Defense would be gutted.

The \$1B Per Day Debt Limit Increase bill would also have the advantage of making it clear to everyone that we are still spending too much and that Republicans have not opted for the “cold turkey” approach by refusing to increase the debt limit at all.

What about the consequences of the additional deficit spending? While not good, it will allow an extended period (say 2 to 4 years) for the nation to adjust to the lower spending (a \$650B/year reduction is not small!). After this adjustment is made and the economy has grown by an extra 10% or so, the adjustment to zero or minimal deficit spending will be much easier.

If the Democrats can’t handle the reduced deficit spending without threatening the core services that the public depends on, the Republicans can present their spending priorities within these limits during the 2014 and 2016 elections.

So that is the “Billion Dollars a Day Plan” that will get us off the tracks and out of the way of the on-coming freight train.

We should no longer fixate on the absolute deficit level. We should switch our primary focus to limiting the rate of deficit spending, and that prescription should be incorporated into any bill that raises the debt limit. The increase is day by day, NOT all at once.

If we do this, we can get a good night’s sleep. We may “hear that train a’comin,” but we’ll know that it is coming slowly enough to get out of its way when it comes “rollin’ round the bend.”



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Grossman Back Peddles on Records Law, Getting Answers Like Pulling Teeth

Tom Duggan  
VALLEY PATRIOT PUBLISHER

Three years ago when Steve Grossman was just a candidate for Massachusetts State Treasurer he was a real person. When asked questions about simple concepts like “shouldn’t all laws carry a penalty for violating them?” he was eager to openly discuss his thoughts on the way government should be run.

Back then I asked Grossman on 980WCAP radio if he would help champion legislation to penalize those who refuse to comply with the state’s public records law (MGL Chapter 66).

“Absolutely, I will!” he said back then, expounding on his position that public records must be turned over to the public by all elected and appointed officials and with no penalties the law was basically unenforceable. In fact, back then, we could hardly get him to stop talking about the subject.

But that was then when he was less concerned with upsetting the political apple cart on Beacon Hill and more concerned with just telling it like it is and representing the voters instead of the insiders.

Since being elected State Treasurer however, he has refused to return our calls, come back on the radio or even discuss our impotent public records law in Massachusetts.

Now, two-plus years into his term as Treasurer (and considered the front runner candidate for Governor) Grossman wants nothing to do with the topic of holding public officials accountable or taking a stand on just about anything. We couldn’t even get him to comment on the simplest concepts directly, or indirectly.

So, the Valley Patriot caught up to Treasurer Steve Grossman at Mann Orchard during Restaurant week, where only a

(prestando attencione!)

PAYING ATTENTION!

with Tom Duggan



handful of reporters (and zero voters) showed up to meet the man who wants to be governor.

Asked why he has refused to keep his word on helping to change the public records law, Grossman did what most politicians do, he tried to change the subject, he bobbed and weaved, but by the end of the 10 minute interview he still hadn’t said anything at all.

“On the subject of disclosure, transparency and public records, first and foremost I can only speak for myself. If you ever, during my tenure at Treasury, need information, documents, things that you feel will allow you to be a more effective reporter, journalist and public servant of the people’s interests, I hope you never, ever, ever, get anything other than cooperation from my office in the treasury and the agencies that I lead or that I am chair of. I think it’s well known that I’m leaning strongly toward running for governor in 2014.”

But Mr. Grossman that wasn’t the question. The question wasn’t about you



complying with the law, it was whether or not the joke that is our public records law is really a law at all since there is no way to enforce it.

“I know you are running for governor,” I said. “That’s why I thought it was important to ask you this stuff now; once you get into the heat of this campaign it’s going to be hard to get you to say anything the party doesn’t want you to.”

“Should I decide to run for governor and should I run and be fortune enough to be elected, I would plan to practice the same openness and transparency and accountability as governor of the commonwealth that I have as treasury, in other words the citizens have a right to an open book from me as state treasurer. That’s the reason when I campaigned for this office that I said that we would put the states checkbook online if I became treasurer. And we did put the states checkbook online, it was December 5, 2011 and we continue to add to it as we put more and more agencies on the open checkbook. So I can speak for myself. I can speak to what my intention is. I can speak to my absolute belief that

the public has a right to know how every dime is being spent because, guess what, they are the ones that pay the taxes it’s their money’

Strike two, again Grossman kept trying to make it about him as if that is what I had asked.

“You are not answering the question,” I tried to respectfully redirect him.

“What about everyone else who may not want to comply with the law, shouldn’t there be teeth in the law? Shouldn’t there be a penalty if the law says you can’t do X and you do X? How can we have a law with no penalty for violating it?”

Instead of just making a simple common sense statement that everyone can agree with, like ‘all laws should have penalties for failing to comply with them’, Grossman tried to deflect the issue a third time.

“I’m not familiar enough with the specific laws nor about any laws that have been proposed to be able to comment on those, my father always said ‘When you don’t know the answer to a question, don’t make one up’, so I can’t speak to new legislation that may be offered by members of legislature. All I can do is say that it is my intention, and I think that I have carried that out for more than two years, to be open, accessible and transparent in all respects in treasury and every agency I run, which is the Mass School Building Authority, it’s the ABCC, the lottery, and a whole bunch of other agencies that I chair. I would practice in any other office that I held or where fortune enough to run for and hold in the future the same degree of transparency and openness regardless of what the current policy is, that’s just me and what I believe that’s showing respect

GROSSMAN: PAGE 14



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PHOTOS: TOM DUGGAN

Hero North Andover Police Officer William Lynch and Detective Robert Barter with Police Chief Gallagher and Exchange Club President Sharon Birchall. North Andover Fire Lieutenant William McCarthy with Sharon Birchall and North Andover Fire Chief Andrew Melnikas.

## Police Officers, Firefighters and EMTs of the Year

The Lawrence Exchange Club held their annual Police, Firefighter and EMT of the Year awards last month honoring first responders in the valley. Police and Fire Chiefs from Lawrence, Andover and North Andover were allowed to present each honoree with a plaque and explain to the public why each officer was being honored.

### NORTH ANDOVER FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR, LIEUTENANT WILLIAM MCCARTHY

*Nominated by Fire Chief Andrew Melnikas*

"For decades a multitude of reports outlining our nation's fire problems have been published.

One of the common threads of these reports is to place more emphasis on fire education and fire prevention; often times even in today's society there are fire departments that can find their roles of putting out fires and saving victims. Yet, even today there are still old timers who say 'eh, you just put water on it that's all you have to do. Luckily those are people are retiring.

In the quest to reduce the destructive toll that our fires take in lives, injuries and property losses, this mentality is not good enough. Thousands of people annually suffer injuries as the result of fires in the home. Fires and burns are the leading cause of deaths in children aged 14 and under. Fire departments need to expend more efforts and resources in educating society in these dangers. Fire departments need to educate children and adults, and in fact they have an obligation to bring fire safety education, not only to the schools but private homes as well.

The North Andover fire Department has been at the forefront when it comes to fire safety education.

Our programs under direction of Lt. William McCarthy have been delivering the messages of fire safety for the better part of 20 years. Over that time frame his teachings have influ-

enced the lives of thousands of school aged children and senior citizens.

Lt. McCarthy's teachings cover topics such as smoke detectors, match and lighter safety, a family escape plan, and electrical safety. Perhaps some of you in attendance here tonight remember you children coming home from school excited about having had a visit from the Fire Department that day and being asked by them about a fire escape plan and fire safety.

In a perfect world these students will be the next generation of parents whose students will ask them about the very same fire safety topics. There's an old saying: "the proof is in the pudding"

A number of years ago a young child was able to lead his grandparent out of a burning home and when that child is asked 'how did you learn that?' they would say I learned from the fire department. That one save makes the efforts and teachings of Lt. William McCarthy an invaluable part of the North Andover Fire department.

It's for these reasons that Lt. McCarthy is our nomination for this year's firefighter of the year."

### NORTH ANDOVER POLICE OFFICERS OF THE YEAR WILLIAM LYNCH AND ROBERT BARTER

*Nominated by North Andover Police Chief Gallagher*

I look forward to receiving a letter from the Exchange Club each December. It gives some time for me and the command staff to reflect on all the accomplishments the officers in the department make during the year.

The Police officers from North Andover that I and the command staff of North Andover have nominated this evening are to be noted for their fast intervention for the apprehension of a suspect who committed a bank robbery, Officer William Lynch and Detective Robert



Lawrence Exchange Club President Sharon Birchall presents the Policeman of the Year Award to Lawrence Detective William Colantuoni.

Barter.

Officer Lynch is a 30 year veteran and comes from a family tradition of Law Enforcement. His father Robert Lynch retired from the North Andover Police Department, was a division commander, was a highly regarded and well respected officer. We enjoyed having him with the department.

Detective Barter came to us from the Marine Corps. He has done a lot with defensive tactics and firearms. He is a seven year veteran of the department and is assigned to detectives and is a past recipient of the Officer of the Year.

On June 19th this past year, in the afternoon, a North Andover bank was robbed on Route 114 near Merrimack College. The initial description had the suspect vehicle heading to the North Andover Mall heading onto Route 495. Our responding cruisers headed in that direction. Unbeknownst to us, the vehicle had turned on to Rt. 125 onto the roads. Officer Lynch observed this vehicle and radioed everything in to us at the communication center, and initiated a pursuit. Detective Barter backed up Officer Lynch. The officers continually updated our communication center of the location, speed and conditions pursuant to our policies and procedures.

Our highest priority was the safety for the public. Other agencies assisted by blocking traffic at intersections and exits along Route 125, Route 495 and then on to Route 95 along the New Hampshire border.

State and local departments continued to assist us and deployed stop sticks; which is a device that deflates the tires. They did this on the highway and they did disable the suspects' vehicle and it went into the median strip. He exited his car and started running, and resisted his arrest.

After a short time he was tasered and surrendered to us. The pursuit lasted 25 minutes and over 20 miles. There were no injuries or

accidents. All the stolen money was recovered. The suspect who was arrested that day was a serial bank robber in numerous states and he had just been incarcerated for quite a few years and had just recently been released.

He is now in state prison for the North Andover robbery and he plead guilty without going to trial due to the hard work of those two officers presenting their case to the District Attorney's office. I am proud as Chief of Police to present our officers of the year Officer William Lynch and Detective Robert Barter.

### ANDOVER FIREFIGHTERS OF THE YEAR - Lt. KARL MURPHEY - FIREFIGHTERS TODD RICHARDSON, JOHN GANGI, and FIREFIGHTERS-EMT CHRISTOPHER LAVERTY and KEVIN FARRAGHER

*Nominated by Andover Fire Chief Michael Mansfield.*

"Most in public safety do not want to be recognized for the work that they do, especially when the work performed is extraordinary and has a profound effect on people's lives. It's events like these that have been brought forward to you tonight that allow the general public an opportunity to see through different media outlets the work that these men and women do each and every day.

The event that occurred on November 18, 2012 at 23:38 hours, where the Andover public safety communication center received a 911 telephone call with a report of a building fire at 8 Crescent Drive. The caller on the phone stated that she thought the fire was in apartment one which was on the first floor of a 3 story multi-unit occupancy.

While Andover Fire Rescue responders arrived at the scene the communications dispatch 911 phones began to ring with multiple calls

TOP OF NEXT PAGE

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PHOTOS: TOM DUGGAN  
Hero Lawrence Firefighters attend the Exchange Club Awards at the Wyndham In Andover last month to cheer on their colleagues who were awarded Firefighters of the Year for their bravery in saving lives.

reporting smoke in the hallways of the building. At 23:51 hours Deputy Chief Connors who was the incident commander at the time, arrived on scene and reported smoke showing from the complex.

Within one minute of arrival Deputy Connors also had performed a size up of the building, identified that there was a fire in apartment one, as had been reported by the 911 telephone calls, and that there were people trapped in the upper floors of the building.

In addition, an occupant was seen standing on a balcony being enveloped in thick black smoke that began to consume the entire building. Upon arrival of the first apparatus, which was Engine 2, Lieutenant Karl Murphy, Firefighter Todd Richardson and Firefighter John Gangi, under direction of Deputy Connors estimated what size ground ladder they were going to need. They began to not only enter the building, but Firefighter Gangi and Murphy also went to look for the occupant that was in and around the balcony at the time. Richardson returned to Engine 2 to grab the ladder and deploy the ladder to that balcony. At which time the occupant appeared; Firefighter Richardson told the occupant not to move and not to go back into the building. Firefighters Murphy and Gangi were then able to grab her and hand her over to Richardson and another firefighter.

While the balcony rescue was taking place; there was another rescue also taking place

by an additional crew inside the smoke filled building; where they were performing systematic searches of each apartment on each floor.

The second rescue was performed by the Ambulance 1 crew where they located a trapped elderly woman who could not get out of the building due to the conditions. Firefighter EMT Christopher Laverty and Firefighter EMT Kevin Farragher notified the incident commander that they located another woman on an upper floor and that they would have to physically remove her from the building to safety.

The ambulance crew was able to convince the woman to go with them even though the smoke was becoming thicker and thicker and there was zero visibility in the building. They were able to get to her and assist her to safety. Once the woman was to safe, Firefighter Farragher went and assisted the Engine 2 crew to assist the other woman.

While these two rescues were ongoing additional Andover Fire and Rescue crews were completed their assigned duties that included additional searches of all the apartments , hallways and balconies; as well as stretching hose lines into the building in place to extinguish the fire in apartment one. If not for the quick action and teamwork of all Andover personnel who responded to this incident and under the direct command of Deputy Chief Connors, this incident could have been a tragedy as many of other fires have recently.

For the last 30 days, for those of you who don't know there has been 8 fire related deaths in the Commonwealth many with similar occupancies that the crews responded to on November 18, 2012.

With extra ordinary efforts in meeting the mission of Andover Fire Rescue which is "To save lives, property and protect the environment" I would like to congratulate and present to you Lieutenant Karl Murphy, Firefighter Todd Richardson, Firefighter John Gangi , Firefighter EMT Christopher Laverty, Firefighter EMT Kevin Farragher as Andover Fire Rescue's and The Exchange Club's 2012 Firefighters of The Year.

**ANDOVER POLICE OFFICERS OF THE YEAR - EVAN ROBITAILLE AND BENJAMIN LEDWELL**

*Nominated by Andover Police Chief Brian Pattullo.*

At that time field training Officer Robitaille and his trainee Officer Ledwell (recently out of the academy) where heading back to the station to file a report on a previous incident they had finished. Communication Center had dispatched Officer Murry to a medical call but Robitaille and Ledwell were on Essex St which is extremely close to where the call was. They immediately informed dispatch of their location and headed to the call because they were

the closest vehicle. When Officers Robitaille and Ledwell arrived at the scene they found a man in a chair with his head hanging back, his skin was blue and he was sweating. They immediately assessed the situation of the patient and moved him to the floor. They found him unresponsive and not breathing and could not find a pulse. They attached their department issued AED and began CPR. At that time Officers Murray and Cataldo arrived at the scene and assisted them.

Officers Robitaille and Ledwell did a series of 5 chest compressions with assisted breaths. They also revised the shock patient twice per the AED instructions; a third shock was not advised. That is when the Andover Fire Department took over the care of the patient. The patient was moved to the ambulance and brought to Lawrence General Hospital. Paramedics were taking care of the patient and the Officers were informed that the patient did in fact have a pulse. This is a perfect example of teamwork between all our public safety personnel. Officers Robitaille and Ledwell went to work as soon as they arrived on the scene and performed a flawless set of CPR which brought the patient back. Sergeant Moore who is their training coordinator informed me the data card showed that the second shock had actual initiated the patient's pulse to return. For their actions on that day the Andover Police Department would like to recognize Office Robitaille and Officer Ledwell as The Exchange Officers

**EXCHANGE: PAGE 35**

# Notices From the North Andover Senior Center

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

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

**TAX SEASON IS HERE!** Call the Senior Center to make your appointment. You will need to bring last year's Federal and State tax return, water and sewer bills, real estate tax bills, Form MA 1099HC and rental receipts.

Foot Care: RN Catherine Languedoc, Foot

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

**MYSTERY RIDE:** Thursday February 28. Visit a local Senior Center and have lunch. Lunch and Transportation \$5.

**FOXWOODS:** next scheduled trip Feb, 12th. Meet at St. Mike's parking lot at 6:45 am. \$30 includes bus, Lunch voucher, Match play and Keno.

**THE FIX – IT SHOP:** On the first and third Monday of the month from 12-3pm. We repair almost as good as new. Lamps, with cords and sockets, replace watch batteries, small tables and chairs. Anything that is not listed, we will give it a shot! Your cost is \$2 - \$4 depending on work needed, plus parts. Proceeds benefit the Senior Center. Because of the Holiday, Mr. Fix-It will be here February 25th.

**TRIAD MEETING:** The group will meet February 19th at 11 am. All are invited.

**WALKING GROUP:** Monday through Friday 9 am. Walk at your own pace inside the youth center on Johnson Street.

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

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

## ZUMBA WITH TALLIE!



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

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## Murder Suspect, Armed Robbers Work for Lantigua under Anti-Violence Grant

Lawrence City workers confirmed for the Valley Patriot this morning that murder suspect Ismael Calixto of Lawrence was also working for the City of Lawrence under an \$800,000 "Anti-Violence" grant called "The Safe and Successful Youth Initiative grant" to take criminal youths and give them city jobs.

According to Valley Patriot sources who work at the cemetery, Calixto was on duty back in November when Lawrence Police stormed the cemetery offices with guns drawn and arrested Calixto on the spot.

Calixto is being charged with murder in the late night gun battle on Broadway in Lawrence where witnesses say Calixto shot and killed Richard "Chi-Chi" Bonilla.

Calixto has denied any involvement in the murder.

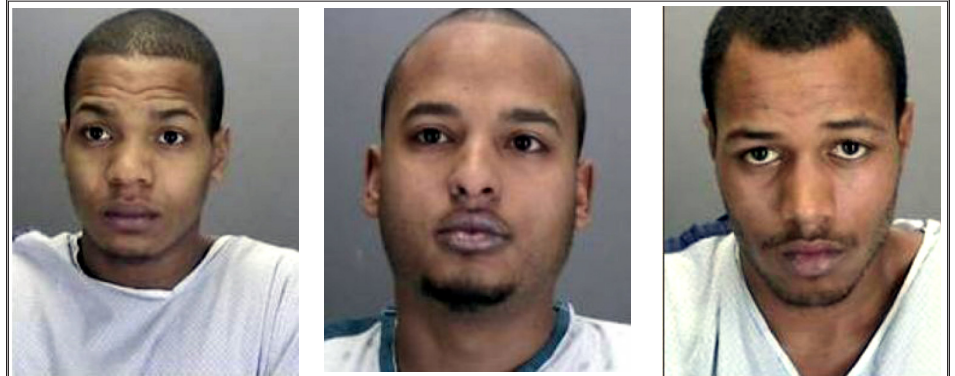
"He absolutely worked here the cops came and took him away shortly after that murder on Broadway a few months ago. He was given to us by Art McCabe. Most

of the kids working with us through that program actually do a good job most of them are good kids," our source said asking for anonymity for fear of retaliation from the Lantigua administration.

Lawrence Police Chief John Romero refused to speak "on the record" about the incident.

Police sources say that Calixto as well as a group of others tried to gain entry to a drinking party on Broadway Ave and when they were turned away a fight ensued resulting in Bonilla being shot in the head.

Calixto is the fourth city worker discovered by the Valley Patriot to be working for Mayor Lantigua as part of the \$800,000 Safe and Successful Youth Initiative grant designed to take criminal youth and give them city jobs. The Valley Patriot also learned last month that three armed robbery suspects arrested for invading a convenience store on Boxford



Armed Robbers Michael Alecea, Richard Mora, Ruben Saldana

and South Union Streets (with Halloween masks and guns) are all Lawrence City Workers hired by Mayor William Lantigua in the Department.

Sources in the Lawrence DPW say that they recognized the suspects on a tv newscast about the robbery the next day, naming Ruben Saldana, Richard Mora, and Michael Alecea as all recent hires by Lantigua.

"They work here, they are temporary employees," one DPW worker said, asking for anonymity in fear of retaliation from Mayor Lantigua.

"They are never here, though, they show up, they sign in and then they either hang around all day doing nothing," the city worker continued. "or they disappear for hours at a time and nobody knows

**CRIMINALS: PAGE 12**

## Note to Lawrence Citizens, Beware of False Prophets!

Peter Larocque

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Usually when one reads the Title of Prophet, they immediately think of Biblical Prophets. Biblical Prophets are those called by God to speak for Him to discipline, admonish, encourage or edify His people. They may at times even warn His people of coming events that would not be a blessing to them if they keep going in a particular direction or keep doing what they are doing. In the end, God's people would profit from and benefit from what the Prophet of God would speak if they adhere to what was said.

Here in this column I am referring to False prophets. False prophets are those who call upon themselves to speak for themselves on subjects that will ultimately bring profit to themselves in the public eye. They speak with only having their own interest in mind, what they believe will bring benefit to them. Although, it may appear at first that they have the interest of the people at heart, but as time goes on, in the end they are only thinking of themselves and what would bring profit to them.

As I write this column I try to not be judgmental, or pass judgment on anyone. But I must call situations and base my opinion on what I see and hear. So in doing so, I must allow the chips to fall where they may.

Let me say right at the beginning to our Freshman State Representative Diana DiZoglio, right out of the gate is doing a great job of what a State Representative is supposed to be doing which is representing the interest of the people who put her in office! She is introducing legislation

that would extend ballot prohibition to local candidates for campaign violations and fines which is already law for State office candidates.

So, to State Representative DiZoglio, I say thank you and God Bless you. You are showing that what you said is what you meant and that what you meant is what you said during your campaign, which is that you would always try to do what is in the best interest of the voters! It is very refreshing to see a politician keeping their promise. Surely other State officials can learn from your actions!

Since the announcement of this piece of legislation by our Freshman Representative, what I now call false prophets are coming out and trying to attach themselves to this bill as if they too have the people's interest at heart.

First there is our Attorney General Martha Coakley; she has expressed her support for this legislation. Next lending his support is our other Freshman State Representative and City Councilor President Mr. Frank Moran. Then there is our State Senator Mr. Barry Finegold who is also expressing his support. Why do I call these officials false prophets you may ask? Because we all know that this legislation was inspired by our wonderful Mayor of Lawrence, the Honorable Mayor William Lantigua who has had well publicized campaign violations which exceed his four year term as Mayor. The above mentioned State and City Officials have had plenty of time to introduce a bill themselves that could have been made into a law to stop this from going on and on by our wonderful Mayor, but they chose to keep silent and do nothing so that their political

interest would not be harmed in any way or fashion. As far as I'm concerned, their non-action over the last four plus years places them in the false prophet category. Not to go unnoticed, State Representative Marcos Devers also is in this group of false prophets by his continued silence on any subject just so that he can retain his reputation as a representative of the people.

Now I don't want to come across un-sensitive or unknowledgeable to what happens when someone goes in cross purposes with the Mayor. We know from pass experience that it is next to impossible to get elected or re-elected to office representing Lawrence without the backing of the Mayor. Every election he has his favorites marked off on a sample ballot telling his supporters who to vote for, this is not or should not be a surprise to any Lawrence citizen who has been around for the last 4 plus years.

But with that being said, these false prophets have clearly placed what is in their own best interest before the interest of the people. Getting elected or re-election to them has become more important than doing the right thing.

There is another false prophet that I must bring to your attention and if I were not to mention him, that would be a disservice to you, the readers of the Valley Patriot. This false prophet is none other than our Secretary of State Mr. William Galvin. He has made the decision to not investigate the allegations of faked signatures on nomination petitions filed last year for former candidate for State Representative for the 17th Essex District Mr. Frank Moran. As we all know now, Mr. Moran won his election to this office.

Mr. Secretary Galvin has proven once again that his commitment to the Democrat Party in Lawrence led by Mayor Lantigua is more important than doing his job which he was elected to do which is getting to the truth in this matter!

So in conclusion, note to Representative Diana DiZoglio, watch your back! Make sure when these elected officials, false prophets; express their support in public in the daily paper that you really have their support when it comes to actually voting for the bill! These two actions may not necessarily be in their best interest.

There are other false prophets that I'm sure will come up as we get closer to our city elections in the fall of 2013 as the race for Mayor and City Councilors and School Committee heats up. Watch for comments against actions made by Mayor Lantigua by potential opponents from City Councilors in the coming months ahead. I am already hearing comments by some opposing recent hiring's by the Mayor. For example after the fact, how it was wrong to hire Mr. Santiago as a temporary employee to the Lawrence DPW. But nothing said or done when he was initially hired, only after when he was arrested for a restraining order violation. Clearly these are comments by false prophets serving only themselves. Looking forward to another election cycle for us who live in Lawrence!

God Bless you all!



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](mailto:peterlarocque@hotmail.com)

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# School Committeeman Chaisson Says Tribune Attack on his Family “Disgusting”

Methuen School Committeeman Evan Chaisson says he is “disgusted” with The Eagle-Tribune after the once thriving daily newspaper published an “article” on Monday making it look like his sister was hired as a teacher because of his elected position.

“I could see if there was any truth at all to this story, but there isn’t,” Chaisson said in an exclusive interview Monday with The Valley Patriot.

“They are desperate,” he continued. “They don’t care about truth, they don’t care about who they hurt when they attack people’s families, they will do whatever it takes to try and make up a story to sell papers and get a headline.”

“Maybe it’s because they know I’m termed out and can’t run for reelection and they are worried about what I am going to do?” he speculated. “So I am going to tell you what I am going to do. They can read it in The Valley Patriot because I am going to give you the exclusive. You guys actually print the truth. I am going to run for West End District Council this year.”

Chaisson cannot run for reelection to

I had nothing to do with my sister being hired ... They [Eagle Tribune] are desperate ... They don’t care about who they hurt when they attack people’s families, they will do whatever it takes to try and make up a story to sell papers and get a headline.”

Methuen School Committeeman  
Evan Chaisson



the school committee because of term limits.

Confirming Chaisson’s Story  
Methuen School Superintendent Judy Scannell said she didn’t want to comment on today’s Tribune story, but did defend the hiring process involved in choosing Chaisson’s sister to teach at the high school. She also denied that Chaisson had anything to do with the hiring of his sister.

“What I can say about the hire is, all

things considered, we hired the best candidate for the job. The job credentials are one thing we look at, but we also look at the interview and how someone presents themselves in the interview. Usually the person who presents themselves best in the interview is the person who gets the job. There was a committee made up of teachers and a department head doing the interviews. They picked the best person for the job and I can tell you that the principal loves her,” Superintendent Scannell

told The Valley Patriot.

Chaisson On the Record

“This story was just an attempt to discredit myself and my sister for stuff that never happened. My sister is more than qualified to hold any teaching position in any school.”

Chaisson says that the job was left to seven individuals to pick the person to be hired, and that the committee was made up of principals, the social studies chair and teachers.

“I wasn’t on that committee. I had no say. But that’s not news, so they just tell the story they wanted to find when they started digging instead of the story they actually found.”

“There were two hires, and here is where the Tribune got it wrong again. One was hired before my sister. My sister was the second one hired after the second teacher left.”

Chaisson says that the Eagle Tribune story has been tough on his family because “my sister is not an elected official. She shouldn’t have to deal with public attacks because of who she is related to.

CHAISSON: PAGE 21

# That Illegal DiAdamo Lease at the School Department Central Offices

Mark Gray

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

What could your city/town do with 500,000 a year? Throw it in the garbage, right?

Isn’t that what all your politicians and elected officials are doing right now in Lawrence with the illegal DiAdamo lease on Essex Street?

What would you do if they were? Would you call them and vote against them?

I think not, because history shows us you haven’t in the past.

It seems like every week I listen to the Paying Attention Radio show with Tom Duggan on 980WCAP and hear how the public is informed of example after example on how the politicians have an in your face attitude about how taxpayer money is wasted

You might as well use that money for lighting cigarettes than what it’s being used for now.

And I’m going to give you yet another shining example, and lay blame to all the enablers and politicians who look the other way in their ‘pay to play world’ of screw you politics while shafting you, the tax paying public. Hey, you deserve it after all, because you reelect these clowns year after year with no accountability.

On May 25, 2010, the Lawrence School Committee sent a letter addressed

to the Law Firm of DiAdamo and DiAdamo, who leases an Office Building on Essex Street to the Lawrence School System’s for their central office operations.

This letter was sent at the insistence of one member in particular who was dead set against paying a cool \$500,000 of your tax money for the illegal lease of a building when the city and the schools own plenty of abandoned properties that the Lawrence central office could move into without costing the tax payers a dime.

The letter raised the issue of the ten year lease not being legal. The attorney was asked to discuss the matter. On February 13, 2011 this item was requested to be put back on the agenda since there had been no response from the attorney. The mayor refused to put the item on the agenda. The school committee didn’t have the courage or the welfare of the public at heart to challenge him when the issue was forced on the table for a vote.

Although it’s significant that the last and current school committee have no interest in putting your tax dollars to good use, it is also interesting what happened between the letter submission and the agenda item request.

The attorney(s) DiAdamo represented the mayor personally in a case involving a restraining order.

The same mayor who had control of the \$500,000 lease being put on the agenda. The same person who could address the

issue of an illegal lease and the same person who did not allow discussion AFTER receiving legal council from this law firm.

So, what’s the deal with the illegal DiAdamo lease?

By law, the maximum time that a contract can go without a battery of approvals by the city is three years. There can be a contract made up to 10 years but it would have to go through a lengthy approval process by the city council and other agencies. Two of the authorities that would have to approve this 10 year lease would be the school committee and the city council, which DID NOT approve the contract.

Point two, besides ignoring state laws and ignoring approval from governing authorities, on November 20, 2003, the contract was signed which at best puts the lease up for renewal this year. But the start date of the contract continued to change as the contract was amended more than once.

On March 1, 2004 (which was after the lease was signed), the contract states that the terms of the lease would last 10 years and 10 months, which is not legal because it exceeds the maximum time frame allowed by law.

Something I learned when ‘Independent’ Tim Cahill was running for governor and this ten year lease of a building became an issue for him and the State Lottery.

The signatures, without the authority of

the school committee, the city council and to my knowledge the state, were signed in November of 2003, by the now convicted former superintendent Laboy, and former Lawrence Mayor, Michael Sullivan. .

Neither of them listened to people who warned them about the school system budget and contracts which accounts for about 2/3 the city’s overall budget expenditures.

So, I’ve been very vocal on this issue because it’s our money.

I blame the politicians; Laboy, Sullivan, the school committee and the city council, because they know about this illegal contract and have looked the other way and could care less. It’s the pay to play system you voters support every year at election time. And you should blame them, but you should also blame yourselves. But, you probably won’t remember this come fall when you will undoubtedly re elect them.

Other cities and towns should take notice though, it’s their state tax money paying for all these illegal contracts and pay for play politics in the City of Lawrence. But we also need to blame their politicians in surrounding communities, because their money goes into Lawrence, and again, they know about all of this, and yet, continue to do nothing about it.

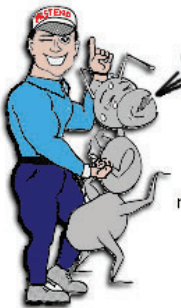
So, to come full circle you don’t really want to keep your own the money, you’d rather just throw it in the garbage. Right?

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## RONNIE'S RANTS

## RONNIE FORD'S LAST RANT

Marilyn McCarthy Ralph

VALLEY PATRIOT GUEST COLUMNIST

Ronnie Ford's family and friends are still reeling from the suddenness of his death. Laughing and telling stories one week, then buried the next. We are happy that Ron did not suffer, but the quickness of his death has left us shattered.

We have heard on the radio and in the street of many stories of the character and goodness of Ronnie. What made him so unique, what influenced him, what molded him, what made him go the extra mile to help anyone in need? The gang that hung around the Downey Flake Donut Shop or Lawlor's Drug Store and our neighborhood can tell you. How? We are from the same mold and environment and nurtured the same as Ronnie was.

Ronnie had good strong parenting, reinforced by the influence of the Notre Dame Nuns, the Marist Brothers, the Augustinian Priests, good lay teachers and the Dominican Nuns. All of the above laid down a blue print of what was right and wrong, what was acceptable or not. God help us if we deviated from being good. We were punished, not like today. My child would never do anything wrong mentally! Ha. We never had much money, but we never lacked for fun and good times. Ronnie chose to be in politics, which he loved. It gave him access to help many people in various situations. Ronnie would be the first one to go into his pockets and give money to people in need, knowing full well he would never be repaid. Ronnie was blessed with a wonderful personality, and quick wit, and he had a fierce loyalty to family and friends. Ronnie loved his wife and children and grandchildren and family beyond all measure and with all the strength of his being. And he was immensely proud of all of them. And he had a memory like no other. And he never



told a lie! How many of us can say that? I am very happy that the old neighborhood got together for the last nine years for reunions.

We renewed old friendships and saw people we grew up with, and had not seen for some forty or fifty years. It was great! Ronnie was a big factor in overseeing the arrangements for our reunions. I am glad we have these memories. Sometimes Ronnie could drive you to distraction, but you could never stay cross with him! He would pull his "puppy face" or say something so funny that your sides would hurt from laughing. His story telling is legend and his imitations of voices were hysterical. And his heart was as big as himself! Anne and Ronnie's children and family have a lot to look up to. I am sure they emulate their parent's values and will play it forward for generations to come. What better tribute can they give?

So our pal is with those from the gang who went before him, and of course his beloved son Danny, Mom and Dad, sisters and brother, aunts, uncles and cousins.

We will never see his like again!

As Ron would say, May the good Lord take a liking to you. Do something nice for someone today. And, we wish you enough.

Ronnie may be contacted by dialing 1-GOD, just ask for Ronnie.

See our Cartoonist David Sullivan's Tribute to the legendary Ronnie Ford on Page 19

## The Merrimack Valley Irish Connection

## Woman Denied Abortion Dies in Hospital, Pt. II

Irish Times November 14, 2012, Kitty Holland &amp; Paul Cullen, Health Correspondent

Jack Doyle, County Sligo

VALLEY PATRIOT IRISH COLUMNIST

Again on Tuesday morning, the ward rounds and the same discussion. The consultant said it was the law, that this is a Catholic country. Savita {a Hindu} said, "I am neither Irish nor Catholic" but they said there was nothing they could do. "That evening she developed shakes and shivering and she was vomiting." She went to use the toilet and she collapsed. There were big alarms and a doctor took bloods and started her on antibiotics.

"The next morning I said she was so sick and asked again that they just end it, but they said they couldn't."

**Critically ill**

At lunchtime the fetal heart had stopped and Ms Halappanavar was brought to theatre to have the womb contents removed. "When she came out she was talking okay but she was very sick. That's the last time I spoke to her."

At 11 pm he got a call from the hospital. "They said they were shifting her to intensive care. Her heart and pulse were low, her temperature was high. She was sedated and critical but stable. She stayed stable on Friday but by 7pm on Saturday they said her heart, kidneys and liver weren't functioning. She was critically ill. That night we lost her."

Mr. Hahappanavar took his wife's body home on Thursday, November 1st, where she was remated and laid to rest on November 3rd.

The hospital spokesman said that in general sudden hospital deaths were reported to the coroner. In the case of maternal deaths, a risk review of the case was carried out.

External experts were involved in this review and the family consulted on the terms of reference. They were also interviewed by the review team and given a copy of the report. @The Irish Times.

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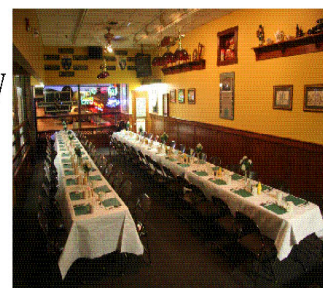
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# Bill Blood: Beloved Methuen Coach and Teacher Remembered

Mark Behan

VALLEY PATRIOT GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

While he could appear as serious as another coach named Bill – as in Belichick – Bill Blood had a lighter side.

“He had a deadpan sense of humor,” said Jason Larocque, Blood’s stepson, noting that when Blood went to a restaurant he often studied the menu before asking the server, “How’s your water?”

“No one was safe from him, not even his mom (Charlotte Blood),” Larocque said. “He’d cut her up. And she is 97.”

Blood died of a heart attack on Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2013, at St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center in Brighton. He was 63. Flags in Blood’s hometown Methuen – where he was inducted into the high school’s Hall of Fame in December of 2011 – hung at half-mast the day after his passing.

“The world lost a good man,” said Marc Pelletier, longtime Central Catholic baseball coach. “There was not a coach across the state who did not know him.”

Blood had suffered a heart attack when he was 30 and undergone a quadruple bypass in his 40s, said Richard Nicholson, a brother-in-law and football teammate of Blood’s in the 1960’s at Tenney High School in Methuen.

“Billy was fortunate, though; his life was fulfilling,” Nicholson said.

Blood was unfailingly loyal to Methuen and his craft. He spent his entire career there as a physical education teacher, working at one time or another at every public school in town.

Larocque, whose mother, Debra (Blazok) Blood, was married to Blood for the past 20 years, said family was important to him. By extension, so was the

Bruce Blood Memorial Basketball Tournament, named in honor of his brother who passed away in 1982.

Blood was the long-time director of the tournament and was a catalyst in its popularity.

“The loss of his brother was a life-changing event,” said Larocque. “It pushed him to live life to the fullest. He was meant to do what he did.”

Blood was not only a great coach and teacher but also a “student of athletics,” said Jim Weymouth, Methuen High School’s director of athletics.

Blood’s coaching career spanned more than four decades. During that time he shepherded athletes throughout the Merrimack Valley and Granite State, where he also ran numerous sports camps and clinics and was something of a coaching savant. At Methuen High Blood coached his hometown Rangers in track, football, baseball and basketball.

Glenn Saba played two sports under Blood. He was a linebacker for the Methuen High football team in the late 1970s and a Legion baseball player.

To say Blood knew his stuff was to traffic in understatement.

“The insight he provided was amazing,” Glenn Saba said. “He always explained why we were doing everything (we were doing).”

Over three decades later, Blood is still his favorite coach.

Pelletier said many coaches in the area learned from Blood. The two worked together for years at the renowned Andover Baseball School. He said that Blood, a master of mechanics of sport, gave his all to everything he did.



“I used him as a mentor 25 years ago when I was cutting my teeth,” Pelletier said. “He never got out-worked.”

Nor did he get out-prepared.

Larocque said his stepfather had about \$30,000 worth of books and \$20,000 worth of coaching-instructional DVDs in his office. They gathered no dust. In addition, Blood attended numerous coaching clinics annually, said Roger Fuller, who coached track with Blood at Methuen High.

“My mom and I used to say, ‘Some men spend money on gambling, some spend money on clothes, and some spend money on beer,’ said Larocque. “‘Bill spent his money on knowledge.’”

Blood was like a “vessel,” who poured knowledge onto others, Larocque said.

“He was a phenomenal teacher,” Weymouth said. “I had the luxury of observing Bill’s teaching and felt that this is how physical education should be taught.”

Added Pelletier: “Billy’s love was physical education. He didn’t just throw the ball out. He took a lot of pride in instruction.”

If Bill Blood was preparing a unit on jump rope, he would learn everything he

could (see \$30,000 worth of books and \$20,000 worth of coaching-instructional DVD’s), short of earning a PhD, about jump rope before teaching it.

Larocque, a Harvard College graduate, 6th-grade teacher and head baseball coach at St. Albans School, a private school located in Washington, D.C., said he learned valuable lessons from Blood – lessons he employs today as a teacher/coach.

“You need to be up-to-date,” Larocque said on the latest coaching or teaching philosophies. “And you have to be the hardest worker. You (the coach or teacher) set the tone. The kids have to know that you are knowledgeable and prepared. And Bill always was.”

Blood’s physical education class or practice included detailed lesson plans and/or drill sets along with

about 14 contingency plans, which he looked at four times before each session – just in case he forgot anything.

“He would have been great in the Secret Service,” Larocque said.

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## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Harriet Beecher Stowe  
and Black History

Anne Knowles

VALLEY PATRIOT ANDOVER COLUMNIST

She was born at Litchfield, Conn. In 1811, into a lively household, of six

Sisters and brothers. Her father was a renown Congregationalist and preacher. He was asked to speak at many locations in the area.

Sadly her mother died when she was only four years old, but her oldest sister, Catherine, who remain her lifelong friend, and was an excellent counselor to her.

She grew up in an intellectual home, attended school and won awards for her writings. Soon, Catherine opened a school for girls, "The Hartford Female Academy." Harriet assisted her at the school.

In 1832, her father was appointed president of Lane Theological Seminary and the family moved to Ohio.

Catherine the oldest sister once again began school for females, with Harriet as assistant. She began her writing career and wrote several stories. As her writings became known, she met many prominent men and women and how they shared her enthusiasm for "the peculiar institution" Slavery!

The New United States was hotly divided by the questions of slavery, and which

states would be free or slave. In 1836, Harriet married Calvin Stowe, a professor at Bowdoin College in Maine. He later was offer a placement at Phillips Academy in Andover. Over the next few years, twin girls were born and in the next fifteen years six more children were born.

Her book about the issue of slavery, "Uncle Tom's Cabin" became a sensation. She was able to meet with many people throughout the area that were passionately opposed to the slave issue. Her supporters in Andover

and visitors in Andover included John Greeleaf Whitter, Frederick Douglass, and freed slaves who told her of the horrors of slavery.

In 1863, at the highpoint of the Civil War, The family left Andover and returned to Hartford, Conn. But, in fluence that Harriet brought throughout, the U.S. and abroad, helped to drive away the scourge of slavery.

Harriet Beecher Stowe lived a vibrant life and made her a woman of the world. She had many interesting life experiences and reading her book and some of her other works will show what an unusual talented and great woman she was.

Lawmakers File Bill to Retain In-State  
Tuition Benefits for Citizens and Legal Residents

Boston - Representative Jim Lyons (R-Andover) and Marc Lombardo (R-Billerica) filed legislation (HD2038) on Thursday, January 17 preserving in-state tuition benefits for citizens and legal residents of the Commonwealth.

The Lyons-Lombardo bill reserves taxpayer subsidized in-state tuition at institutions of higher education to citizens and legal permanent residents, who are also residents of Massachusetts. This bill more precisely stipulates the intent of a vote in the House of Representatives taken in January, 2006. At that time, an overwhelming bipartisan majority of 96 - 57 voted in favor of providing such valuable taxpayer-funded benefits to residents who established citizenship or legal status.

"This is an issue of fundamental fairness," said Representative Lyons. "Our taxpaying citizens are working hard to play by the rules. Those who follow the rules should not be forced to subsidize those who break the rules."

"It's time for someone to stand up for the struggling taxpayers who pay for these valuable student subsidies," added Representative Lombardo. "Rep Lyons and I will continue our work on Beacon

Hill to promote fairness for all citizens and taxpayers."

The two Merrimack Valley legislators said that the bill was necessary because Gov. Deval Patrick is arbitrarily overturning the clear will of voters and legislators. On November 19, 2012, the Patrick Administration unilaterally issued a directive ordering the Board of Higher Education to mandate taxpayer-funded in-state tuition subsidies for some persons who lack legal status to reside in the Massachusetts or the United States.

"Working families," Lyons emphasized, "are having a difficult enough time in this slowed-down economy. They should not be burdened with subsidizing higher education for anyone who refuses to abide by residency and citizenship requirements."

"At this very moment," Lombardo elaborated, "the Patrick Administration is demanding a 19% income tax hike on hard-working people. If taxpayer resources are so scarce, how does the governor justify this reckless misuse of our precious tax dollars?"

Lyons and Lombardo pledged to continue their advocacy on behalf of families who play by the rules and pay the tax bills that fund state government.

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## CRIMINALS: FROM PAGE 8

where they are."

Other DPW employees said that the men, all in their teens, often talked about getting high at work and "ripping people off".

"I thought it was just macho bragging. They are kids, they're punks. I didn't think for a minute any of what they said at work was real, but after seeing their photos on TV, now it's pretty obvious that it was."

According to city documents obtained by the Valley Patriot, Saldana, Mora and Alecea all answer to Jorge Jamie the new parks foreman hired by Lantigua last year to oversee the city parks. Jamie was Lantigua's personal secretary and had no experience in parks or DPW prior to his hiring.

All three DPW workers sign in to work in the morning at the City Yard on Auburn Street and their hours are confirmed with a sign off sheet by Jaime.

Lawrence City Councilors say that the grant used to hire all three men to work temporarily at the Lawrence DPW was an \$800,000 "Anti-Violence" grant called "Safe and Successful Youth Initiative grant."

Lawrence Police confirmed that at least two of the three suspects (Mora and Alecea) listed "Lawrence DPW on Auburn Street" as their place of employment during the booking process, a fact omitted by the Eagle Tribune their original story.

The three men are being charged with armed robbery, kidnapping, unlawful dis-

charge of a firearm, unlawful possession of a firearm, and one ammunition charge. The fourth man was arrested in court on the day of their arraignment when he showed up to support his cohorts.

Police say the men stormed a convenience store last month attacking one of the employees, locking her in a freezer. She was sent to the hospital by ambulance. Her condition is unknown. Another man was shot in the leg during the armed invasion, his condition is also unknown.

When police arrived at the scene around 9PM Friday night, the masked men refused to surrender causing a standoff with police.

Shorthanded from Lantigua's last round of public safety layoffs, Lawrence police had to call in "mutual aid" from Andover, North Andover and Methuen Friday night as every cop in the city was on the scene

dealing with the standoff situation.

While Lawrence Police were handling the armed invasion, cops from the three surrounding towns were handling 911 calls throughout the city as there were no Lawrence cops available to handle other incidents that were happening at the time; including a home invasion on Grafton Street which had to be handled by North Andover Police.

Police sources say that they believe the suspects are involved in a string of other armed robberies throughout the city and expect to charge them for several other crimes.

"We will have to look and see what time of day these other robberies occurred," one officer connected to the investigation said. It will be interesting to see if they were committed during the work day."

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# NeedyMeds to the Rescue!

The Gloucester-based non-profit that has saved Lowellians more than \$20,000 in prescription costs through its drug discount card since partnering with the city in December 2011, has announced it will now also offer a FREE Helpline Number for residents who need assistance locating health care resources.

“We are pleased to be able to offer this valuable service to the residents of Lowell,” said Rich Sagall, MD, president of NeedyMeds. “This new service will compliment the savings Lowell residents are getting from the discount card.”

People who call the NeedyMeds helpline at 1-800-572-6091 will receive free assistance locating programs that may be able to help them with medication and healthcare costs. For those that need further support, they will be guided through the process of applying to programs. NeedyMeds staff will mail out applications and conduct follow-up to insure that anyone who calls receives all the help they can.

“This resource will be particularly helpful for those in the city that may not have access to a computer or who need assistance navigating the Internet,” said Elizabeth Messenger, Outreach & Education Manager of NeedyMeds.

The NeedyMeds website, [www.needymeds.org](http://www.needymeds.org), has accurate and up-to-date information on over 5,000 programs that can assist people, including the pharmaceutical patient assistance programs (PAPs) that can provide medications for free or low-cost for those who are eligible.

“I’m pleased to see this partnership between NeedyMeds and the City of Lowell continue to grow in support of more and more families as they deal with the rising costs of prescription drugs and health care,” said Mayor Patrick Murphy, who made the

motion to bring NeedyMeds to Lowell.

On a related note, the NeedyMeds discount drug cards are still available at the Mayor’s Office, the Senior Center and various social service agencies.

Each time the Lowell card is used, the City of Lowell receives a small amount that helps to fund city-wide health-related projects.

Participating pharmacies offer a discount of up to 80 percent for prescription drugs. The average savings is 50% or around \$30 per prescription.

The cards are currently accepted at more than 70,000 pharmacies nationwide, with over 30 located within a 5-mile radius of downtown Lowell. The cards can be shared with family members or friends, and they have no expiration date.

NeedyMeds’ drug discount cards may be used to obtain a discount on prescription medications, over-the-counter medications, or medical supplies written as a prescription, as well as pet medications that can be purchased at a pharmacy

The card can be a lifesaver for people without health insurance. People with health insurance can benefit from the card if:

- \* The insurance has no drug coverage
- \* There is a high drug deductible
- \* There is a low medicine cap that has been met
- \* There is a high co-pay and the card offers a better price
- The patient is in the Medicare Part D donut hole

The discount cards cannot be used in combination with any private or government-sponsored health insurance program. They cannot be used to lower a co-pay, but consumers can compare the savings offered by the card versus the cost of the co-pay before purchasing a prescription.

# Million Veteran Program Now Enrolling in Lowell

BOSTON -The Million Veteran Program (MVP) is a trailblazing VA effort to consolidate genetic, military exposure, health, and lifestyle information together in one single database.

The database will be used by authorized researchers with VA, other federal health agencies, and academic institutions within the U.S., in a secure manner, to conduct health and wellness studies to determine which genetic variations are associated with particular health issues. By identifying gene-health connections, the program could consequentially advance disease screening, diagnosis, and prognosis and point the way toward more effective, personalized therapies.

Dr. J. Michael Gaziano, Director of The Massachusetts Veterans Epidemiology Research and Information Center at the VA Boston Healthcare System is Co-Chairman of the MVP Study. VA Boston Healthcare System, host site and the first VA facility to enroll Veterans into this


study starting in January of 2011 will be the site of a state-of-the-art biorepository now under construction at the Jamaica Plain campus. When completed, the biorepository will store the blood samples of the million Veterans from the participating VA sites across the country.

Veterans in the greater Lowell area can now enroll in the study by visiting the Lowell Community Based Outpatient Clinic located at 130 Marshall Road. Veterans can stop by any Wednesday between 8:00am and 1:30pm and meet with a study representative. Please call 978-671-9123 prior to your visit.

For more information about MVP, call 866-441-6075 or visit [www.research.va.gov/MVP](http://www.research.va.gov/MVP) for information on the safeguards in place to protect the privacy and confidentiality of those Veterans who take part.

**The City of Lowell and the Merrimack Valley Chapter of Parents of Murdered Children and other Survivors invites you to our 4th annual victim rights event which will held be on Monday April 22nd starting at the Lowell Senior Center.**


5-7pm Informational Tables  
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(weather permitting, otherwise we stay at the Senior Center)  
7:45 Speeches at City Hall Steps




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IN YOUR CORNER: WITH SENATOR IVES

My First Weeks as Your State Senator

Senator O’Connor Ives’ Corner  
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Thanks to Tom Duggan for letting me set up shop here at the “Senator’s Corner” so I can update readers on what’s happening on Beacon Hill and my State Senate activities. This is still a working title, and might be different in the next edition. But, I appreciate the opportunity to discuss my first couple of weeks in office and will provide updates on proposed legislation, budget proposals and activities in the district.

We moved into our permanent office last week. You can find us in room 519, on the fifth floor in the State House. No appointment is needed if you want to visit the office but call ahead of time (617-722-1604) if you want to meet so I’m able to make sure I’m in the office.

The filing deadline for new legislation took place on Friday, January 18th. I submitted six pieces of legislation which will automatically be referred to committees for consideration. These bills covered the areas of patients’ rights, consumer protection and welfare reform. February 1st was the deadline to co-sponsor legislation.

I signed-on to pieces of legislation which covered the areas of public safety, health, veterans, water quality, toxin reduction and autism. You can see additional information at: <http://www.malegislature.gov/>.

First Senate Vote in Formal Session:  
I’m happy to report that my first vote in formal session was for increased transparency in government proceedings. A motion was adopted to post all Senate roll call votes on the State Senate website within 48 hours. This will be a reliable way for residents to know how senators voted in a timely fashion.

Filed Legislation:  
The first bill, SD 1008, is An Act Protecting Consumers from Unsolicited Loans. Residents are commonly subjected to unrequested paper checks sent by credit card companies through the mail that can result in identity theft and the unauthorized use of credit lines. This consumer protection bill prohibits financial institutions and lenders from sending consumers unsolicited loans, including checks, that may be used to unknowingly activate a loan that was not solicited by the consumer.

The second piece of legislation is SD 1016, An Act Relative to Welfare Reform. This bill would require: (a) any electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card issued to an eligible recipient to bear such recipients photograph on the card, (b) require any retailer that accepts electronic benefit transfer cards to post the Department of Transitional Assistance EBT fraud hotline in a visible area, and (c) list on each application and renewal form, those items which are prohibited from



purchase with EBT cards.  
There has been a recently recognized healthcare problem in Massachusetts where seniors are being prescribed psychotropic drugs in nursing care facilities which are harmful to their long-term health and sometimes resulting in preventable death. SD 1020, An Act Relative to Psychotropic Medications would require nursing homes, rest homes or other long term care facilities to first obtain informed consent from their patients or patients’ health proxy when prescribing psychotropic medications.

SD 1018, An Act Relative to Prescription Drug Voice Synthesizers legislation provides an important option for the vision problems. The legislation would require health insurance policies that provide prescription drug insurance to cover medically prescribed voice-synthesizer, aka “audible medication dispensers” to provide audible information of a prescription medication used.  
SD 1011, An Act Relative To Patient Notification would require that any patient admitted for inpatient care at a medical facility and prescribed or administered any medication, be given an information sheet detailing a medication’s prescribed use and potential sides effects. This notification would provide a patient with basic information so they can advocate for their own health and be in stronger positions to make informed decisions about their healthcare.

Tom Duggan is not only the publisher of the Valley Patriot, he is also my constituent. As such, I filed legislation he requested relating to putting more teeth into the Freedom of Information Act. This bill, entitled SD 1036, An Act Relative to Obtaining Information, adds penalties for noncompliance when requests for public information are made by a person and not acted upon by the office charged with responding to the request for information. When a public office has not complied within thirty days of such a request, a fifty dollar penalty will accrue daily until the information requested is provided.

Committee Assignment:  
I’m happy to share that I received my Senate Committee assignments. I’ll be serving as the Chair of the Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development and the Vice Chair of Community Development and Small Businesses. I will also serving as a rank and file member of the Joint Committee on Financial Services, the Joint Committee on Higher Education and the Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure. These assignments are all extremely relevant to our district and this work will enable me to have an active role in the legislation that is referred to those committees.

Massachusetts’ tourism economy is key for economic development in our district, as well as state-wide. Travelers spent 16.9 billion dollars in Massachusetts in 2011. Each city and town in the First Essex District has a tourism economy with growth potential. In terms of higher education, students from our district attend all of the colleges in the Massachusetts higher education system, including Northern Essex Community College. There’s plenty of work to do to ensure the cost of college stays affordable while still providing a top-notch education. In this challenging economic climate, small business success is key to job creation and a stable local economy. I’m focused on reducing unnecessary obstacles, fees and bureaucracy small business owners face which stifle their ability to grow and thrive.

Pictures and updates are also available by liking the Senate Office on facebook, search for State Senator Kathleen O’Connor Ives.

Feb. Dracut Senior Happenings

- 7th, 1pm Bingo
- 1:30-3:45pm Nurse Nancy
- 8th 9am Bowling
- 9:30am Christmas Tree Shop & Ruby Tuesdays
- 11th 10am Affordable Hearing (free screening)
- 10am Volunteer Meeting
- 10:30am Rep. Colleen Garry hold office hours
- 12th 10am Grocery Shopping
- 12pm Movie: Odd Life of Timothy Green
- 13th 11am Sr Citizens Club Valentines Party Lenzi's
- 14th 1:0pm Bingo
- 1:30-3:45pm Nurse Nancy
- 15th 9am Bowling
- 9:30am Kmart & Applebee's Tewksbury Plaza
- 18th CLOSED CENTER IS CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY
- 19th 10am Grocery Shopping
- 20th 1pm Senior Citizens Club Meeting
- 21st 1pm Bingo
- 1:30-3:45pm Nurse Nancy
- 22nd 9am Bowling
- 9:30am TJ Maxx Plaza and Olive Garden
- 26th 10am Grocery Shopping
- 28th 10am Coffee with the Director
- 1pm Bingo
- 1:30-3:45pm Nurse Nancy



Feb. Dracut Meetings

For further details on what is happening in Dracut and locations of all meetings, please visit the town website calendar section at: [www.dracut-ma.us](http://www.dracut-ma.us)

- |                               |                                  |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 7th 6-7pm School Committee    | 20th 7-8pm Historical Commission |
| 7-8pm Cable Adv. Committee    | 21st 7-9pm Zoning Bd of Appeals  |
| 12th 7-8pm Board of Selectmen | 26th 7-9pm Bd of Selectmen       |
| 13th 7-8pm Planning Board     | 27th 7-9pm Planning Board        |

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[www.dracutscholarship.org](http://www.dracutscholarship.org)

FROM PAGE 5: GROSSMAN

for tax payers and for citizens that have a right to know. What I don’t want to do is give a lecture to other people who have other offices and agencies that they run; I’ll let them make their own decisions”

Strike three!  
Again, Mr. Grossman seems to be more concerned with what other elected officials will think of his answer than just being honest or at least show concern about the rights of the people to get public documents from their government. He showed no compassion for the voters of Massachusetts struggling to hold their government accountable. He was cold and callous, and seemed to be of the belief that the elite ruling class of white, male politicians doesn’t really have to be held accountable or for answering to the people as to how our laws should be enforced.

What he said over and over in this interview was that he believes in following the law HIMSELF, but if other people want to break the law, it’s really not his business. And this guy wants to be governor.

“Shouldn’t all laws have a penalty if you break them, if not aren’t they just suggestions? I am confused as to why you just won’t answer a simple....”

“I don’t want to make a general statement about what laws we should and shouldn’t have,”

And there you have it. He is the State Treasurer, he wants to be Governor, but he doesn’t want to tell people what laws we should or should not have. It would be

comical if it wasn’t such a glaring indication of how our elite ruling class of white, male elected leaders are more concerned with NOT taking a position that will upset someone, rather than just doing the right thing and advocating what is best for the taxpayers and the citizens. He continued....

“All I can tell you is that my philosophy and my belief and what I have practiced myself. In fact, since I have become Treasurer it’s that kind of openness and availability for public records to you and any other journalist who happens to ask for them, and I would ask for the same amount of openness in any other office that I run for.”

We get it, you are an honest guy Steve, but you have no interest in holding others to the standard you follow yourself.

After all, it’s not like you are vying to be a leader in state government or want to be in charge of writing, changing or enforcing laws for other people to follow...

Right?



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



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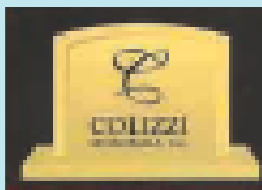
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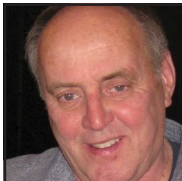
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# TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK

## MORE THAN \$9 MILLION SPENT ON STATEWIDE BALLOT QUESTIONS IN 2012

More than \$9 million was spent to influence three questions put before the voters on the 2012 statewide ballot, according to disclosure reports filed by ballot question committees with the Office of Campaign and Political Finance.

The highest amount of expenditures for any year was in 1992, when \$16,139,661 was spent to influence eight questions.

OCPF's review of ballot question committee activity in 2012 showed a total of \$9,304,909 spent by 13 committees on questions concerning automobile repair, physician assisted suicide and medical marijuana.

Question 2, Prescribing Medication to End Life, had the highest amount of spending - \$5,868,797 by seven committees. The question failed.

Question 1, Availability of Motor Vehicle Repair Information, had \$2,304,999 in expenditures. The question passed.

Question 3, Medical use of Marijuana, had \$1,131,113 in expenditures. The question passed.

The Committee Against Physician Assisted Suicide reported the highest amount of expenditures for any ballot question committee, \$4,027,098, in a successful effort to defeat Question 2. The largest donors to the committee were the Boston Catholic Television Center, \$1 million; St. John's Seminary Corporation, \$1 million; Knights of Columbus, \$450,000; and The Catholic Association, \$420,000.

The Massachusetts Right to Repair Committee reported the second highest amount of expenditures, \$1,936,320, to successfully support Question 1. The committee's largest donors were the Automotive Aftermarket Industry Association, \$957,500; and the Coalition for Automotive Repair Equality, \$210,000. Four automobile parts companies each gave \$150,000.

The Committee for Compassionate Medicine reported the third highest amount of expenditures, \$1,125,647, to support Question 3, which passed. Its largest donor was retired insurance company executive Peter Lewis of Mayfield Village, Ohio, who contributed \$1,097,000.

In addition to the receipts and expenditures reported by 13 ballot question committees in 2012, they also reported a total of \$1,113,867 in in-kind contributions.

Independent from the ballot question committees, six organizations made expenditures to oppose questions 2 and 3, and reported those expenditures electronically with OCPF. The Massachusetts Family Institute, The Trustees of Emmanuel College, Stonehill College, Anna Maria College, College of the Holy Cross and the Trustees of Boston College spent \$48,264 opposing Question 2. An individual also reported spending \$2,373 opposing the same question.

The Massachusetts Family Institute reported spending \$6,505 opposing Question 3.

**SOUTH LAWRENCE WEST SIGN UPS**  
Registration is also available by WALK-IN



**MEETING OF THE MINDS:** Star Pizza in North Andover has been the place to spot local newsmakers of late. Pictured Above are: Valley Patriot Publisher Tom Duggan, Alexandra Dedoglou (co-owner Star Pizza), Boston Radio legend Keff Katz, Paul Dedoglou (co-owner Star Pizza) and Christine Morabito, President of the Greater Boston Tea Party.

at the following date/time and locations:

Saturday, February 9th, 9:00am-12:00 Lawrence Elks Club, 652 Andover Street

Friday, March 1, 6:00-8:00pm Carleen's Restaurant, 209 South Broadway

SOFTBALL - T-ball (ages 5-6) \$50.00 - Rookie (ages 7-8) \$50.00 - 10U (ages 9-10) \$100.00 - 12U (ages 11-12) \$100.00 - 16U (ages 13-16) \$100.00

BASEBALL - T-ball (ages 5-6) \$50.00 - AA (ages 7-8) \$50.00 - AAA (ages 9-10) \$75.00 - Majors (ages 11-12) \$115.00 - 13+ older \$125.00

EMAIL - slwbaseball@gmail.com

## HAVERHILL - MAYOR SECURES GRANT FOR INNOVATIVE SMART PHONE APP TO IMMEDIATELY REPORT ISSUES TO CITY OFFICIALS

Mayor James J. Fiorentini will be instituting a new smart phone application to enhance services for Haverhill residents. The new application is called Commonwealth Connect and is fully funded by the Community Innovation Challenge Grant Program. The Patrick-Murray Administration along with the City of Boston launched the smart phone application based on the Citizen's Connect application developed for use in the City of Boston by Mayor Menino's Office of New Urban Mechanics. This application will allow residents to immediately report issues around the city through their smart phones, all they need to do is take a picture of the issue, e-mail it to the City e-mail address, the resident gets a tracking number and then the resident can see when their issue has been resolved.

## METHUEN VILLAGE AT RIVERWALK PARK

Dave Caponigro at Methuen Village: Methuen Village at Riverwalk Park, a senior community offering assisted living and state-of-the-art Alzheimer's care, invites the public to a Mardi Gras performance by Dave Caponigro and his jazz band on Tuesday, February 12 at 7:00 p.m. Advance RSVP encouraged. Methuen Village is located in the heart of downtown Methuen at 4 Gleason Street. For more information, call 978-685-2220 or visit [www.MethuenVillage.com](http://www.MethuenVillage.com).

\* Phil Porter on Piano for Valentine's

Day at Methuen Village: Methuen Village at Riverwalk Park, a senior community offering assisted living and state-of-the-art Alzheimer's care, invites the public to a performance by Phil Porter, "The Piano Man" on Thursday, February 14 at 7:00 p.m. Phil will play love songs for Valentine's Day! Advance RSVP encouraged. Methuen Village is located in the heart of downtown Methuen at 4 Gleason Street. For more information, call 978-685-2220 or visit [www.MethuenVillage.com](http://www.MethuenVillage.com).

\*Guitarist Paul Wayne at Methuen Village: Methuen Village at Riverwalk Park, a senior community offering assisted living and state-of-the-art Alzheimer's care, invites the public to a performance by guitarist and singer Paul Wayne on Thursday, February 21 at 10:00 a.m. Paul will present some musical comedy! Advance RSVP encouraged. Methuen Village is located in the heart of downtown Methuen at 4 Gleason Street. For more information, call 978-685-2220 or visit [www.MethuenVillage.com](http://www.MethuenVillage.com).

All events are free and open to the public! LOWELL- Parents of Murdered Children

The City of Lowell and the Merrimack Valley Chapter of Parents of Murdered Children and other Survivors invites you to our 4th annual victim rights event which will held be on Monday April 22nd starting at the Lowell Senior Center.

5-7pm Informational Tables, 7:30 Candle-light walk to city hall (weather permitting, otherwise we stay at the Senior Center)  
7:45 Speeches at City Hall Steps

## REGISTRATION FOR 2013 SOUTH LAWRENCE EAST LITTLE LEAGUE AND CHALLENGER LEAGUE

Location: Firemen's Relief Inn: 1 Market St. Lawrence

Saturday, February 9 & 23 / March 2 & 9 12-3pm.

March 16 final registration and players clinic at South Lawrence EAST Little League fields 12-4pm behind SLELL Middle School

T- Ball (5-7yrs) \$40  
Girls Softball & Little League (8-12yrs) \$70  
Jr. & Senior Babe Ruth (13-16yrs) \$110  
Challenger\* (5-16) Free (\*for those with disabilities)

Girls & Boys Welcome!!!

All players must bring Birth Certificate  
Any questions please email [southlawrenceEASTlittleleague@gmail.com](mailto:southlawrenceEASTlittleleague@gmail.com)

or visit us at [www.slell.org](http://www.slell.org)

And like us on Facebook @South Lawrence East Little League and Twitter @SLELL1

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2013: The Fitchburg Republican City Committee (FRCC) will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, February 14 at 7:00 p.m. at Destare, 320 Main Street, Fitchburg. All registered Republicans and those registered as Un-enrolled are welcome to attend. There are no costs, dues and fees to attend. If you have ever considered running for public office on the Republican ticket, come and share your thoughts and ideas. This is politics working at the grassroots level and we want YOU!

ELDER SERVICES - Chronic Pain Workshop - Once a week for 6 weeks

March 12-April 16

Newburyport YWCA

1:30-4:00pm

For more info & to register call Connie Grasso 978-465-9922

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE DIANA DIZOGLIO

### DISTRICT OFFICE HOURS

North Andover, Lawrence, Methuen, Haverhill - Diana DiZoglio will be holding office hours on the second and last Friday of every month. DiZoglio extends an invitation to any resident wishing to meet with her to discuss issues of concern. Second Friday of every month: North Andover and Lawrence  
9am - 11am The North Andover Senior Center: Conference Room, 120 Main St.  
11:30 am - 1:30 pm Lawrence Public Library Robert Frost Conference Room, 51 Lawrence St.

Last Friday of every month: Haverhill and Methuen 9am - 11am. Presidential Gardens Neighborhood Community Building. 140 Evergreen Drive, Bradford. 11:30 am - 1:30 pm Nevin's Memorial Library. Trustee Conference Room. 305 Broadway, Methuen

**LAWRENCE CHES CLUB** - The Lawrence Chess Club will meet on Wednesday, 20 February 2013 from 6-8pm At the Lawrence Public Library, corner of Haverhill & Lawrence streets. This is always a FREE event.

## SALISBURY-BLUE OCEAN MUSIC HALL - DRAW THE LINE SATURDAY FEB. 23, 8PM - \$25/\$20

Steven Tyler doppelganger Neill Byrnes not only naturally looks like the infamous Rock Icon, but his voice naturally sounds like Tyler! He has the tone, the mannerisms and the attitude of America's favorite rocker. Byrnes was born and raised in the Boston area and has been a musician since the age of nine. Starting with the trombone, then drums, then bass and eventually graduating from the New England Conservatory of Music.

Only two months into Draw the Line, he met Tyler at a lookalike contest and Tyler was so impressed by his raw talent that he referred Neill to his personal vocal coach. Byrnes spent ten years in vocal training with Tyler's own vocal coach Mark Baxter during his college tenure at Northeastern University and beyond. He continues to hone his craft by keeping up with Tyler's wardrobe & stage antics.

**MORE NOTEBOOK ITEMS ON PAGES 17, 34-35**



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New MASS-GOP Chairman Kirsten Hughes ready to rebuild the Republican party.

Ward 5 City Councilor in Quincy, Kirsten Hughes won a very hotly contested election within the state Republican Party becoming the state chairman by a vote of 41-39, (only state committee members vote).

Hughes says she is ready to tackle the enormous challenge of rebuilding the party by: increasing GOP enrollment, using technology and social media to get the GOP message out to voters, increase women initiatives, re-branding the GOP and increasing minority voters in the party in Massachusetts.

Hughes defeated Rick Green, an activist, business owner and head of the Mass Fiscal Alliance, a socially conservative watchdog group.



The crew of Methuen Family Restaurant says come on in for breakfast lunch or Dinner on Broadway Methuen. Come on in and read your copy of The Valley Patriot while enjoying a gourmet meal!

### Austin Prep.'s Girls Varsity Hockey

READING – Austin Preparatory School's Girls Varsity Hockey season is heating up, thanks to the leadership of new Head Coach Stephanie Wood. The team has worked its way back into the top 10 and is on the verge of potentially ending a two-year postseason drought. Wood is currently the Women's Director of the Islanders Hockey Organization, one of the largest youth hockey clubs for boys and girls, as well as juniors athletes, in New England. Coaching a school team is just the new challenge and opportunity she was looking for.

"I want to make this program one of the top programs in the state," Wood said about Austin Prep's Varsity team. "I'm a very driven and competitive person and I want this program to be the best." The Cougars, led by standout seniors Shannon O'Neil of Tewksbury and Kiely Annese of Billerica, are a team with young talent, Wood said. More than half are freshmen and sophomores, and four eighth-graders are among the ranks.

"Two years from now, they will be very dangerous," Wood said. "The team is a young, talented group of players who will flourish. They are hungry to be a competitive group."

Wood said there is more to coaching hockey than teaching skills. The sport teaches you how to be a competitor, how to both win and lose gracefully, and how to exhibit true sportsmanship. These are lessons she hopes to pass along to the young Cougar team.

"Hockey has been a huge part of my life since age 5," she said. "When I was young, I didn't realize how much hockey would influence my life skills down the road. Now as a coach, I hope to pass along these same values to my upcoming young players."

Wood has been making a name for herself in women's hockey since she was a young girl. Growing up, she graduated from high school as the most accomplished athlete in her school's history. Wood was a four-time Athlete of the Year, competing in six different sports and serving as the captain of her school's Varsity Soccer, Basketball, and Hockey teams. She set school records in both hockey and basketball and received the league's Most Valuable Player award as the top player in the conference.

From there, Wood was recruited to attend the renowned North American Hockey Academy, which is one of the premiere girl's hockey institutions for high school aged players in all of North America.

A graduate of Northeastern University in Boston, Stephanie attended on a full athletic scholarship where she played Division I Hockey playing both forward and defense. While there, the team was nationally ranked and made two Hockey East Finals appearances. She is one of the few student-athletes at Northeastern to play two Division I sports – she played Varsity Basketball during her final year after completing her hockey eligibility. She received a bachelor's degree from Northeastern and a master's degree with High Honors from Boston University, where she was also awarded a full fellowship as the University's Fitness Graduate Assistant.

Wood has competed in numerous United States and Canadian National Hockey Championships, and even led her team to a Bronze Medal at the 2010 USA Hockey National Senior Championships. She finished as the second leading scorer in the nation that year.

She serves on the Board of Massachusetts Hockey and works closely with members from USA Hockey's ADM staff as the Massachusetts Hockey Female ADM Liaison to help promote the American Development Model (ADM) teachings to upcoming female youth hockey players.

For a complete list of Wood's numerous accomplishments and achievements, go to the official website of the Islanders Hockey Club, [www.islandershockeyclub.com/staff](http://www.islandershockeyclub.com/staff).



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I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun more.

I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive.

I wish you enough pain so that the smallest joys in life appear much bigger.

I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.

I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.

I wish you enough hellos to get you through the final good-bye

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a day to love them, but then an entire lifetime to forget them.

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D. B. Langevin  
VALLEY PATRIOT LESBIAN COLUMNIST

All gun owners are paranoid. They live in fear of some made up threat and the only way to quell it is to arm themselves. It's their deadly pacifier. It is estimated that there are 52 million gun owners in America walking our streets ready to shoot anyone who pushes their fear button. That equals about 260 million guns. I can only guess how many more illegal guns are out there. Paranoia and guns are a dangerous mix.

You know what else is a dangerous mix? Priests and gay men, pedophiles every one of them. That's why they choose to become priests or gay, so they can feed on our innocent boys. If they're not openly gay, which is clearly an open threat to our sons, they become priests to hide it and have accessibility to them. Nuns and lesbians. Why, they're just dried up dykes who couldn't find a man. If they were the least bit attractive they would have all found themselves a nice man to take care of them instead of hiding behind the cross or pretending that being in a lesbian relationship with a bull dyke is just as good as being with a real man. It's ridiculous, really.

While I'm on it, let's talk about politicians. They're all nothing but a bunch of elitist crooks. They tax the hell out of the middle man while feigning their hands are tied, vote themselves in 21% raises and line their pockets with the hard earned money of the working class all while we serve them drinks and clean their houses. Oh, sorry, their houses are cleaned by the illegal immigrants they hire under the table. Anyone who wants to be a politician is lying about wanting to help the average American.

Don't get me started on athletes. They are in a whole class by themselves. Instead of being grateful for being blessed with talents most of us dream of possessing they piss them away by being whiney little brats when they don't get their trillion dollar contracts or plead innocent over and over again when accused of doping until it's just short of maddening. Then they come out with some lame apology admitting to their lies, deception and doping only because they want to be put back in the game. We have athletes like Lance Armstrong, Barry Bonds and Andrea Agassi among others to prove my point.

One of my son's high school classmates just got a tattoo. He had the letters A and C tattooed on one thigh and the letters A and B on the other thigh. The anagram stands for All Cops Are Bastards. My first gut reaction was, "What a moron," but the more I thought about it, I thought, "Yea, they are all bastards." They're so paranoid with fear that they had to go into a vocation

that allows them to carry a gun with them at all time. They think their badge gives them the right to do things like pull people over for speeding or running a stop sign, rough people up who resist arrest are shot at other people who have guns that threaten the safety of others.

Oh, I'm just getting warmed up. All teenagers are self-centered, egotistical, shallow and materialistic. It's all, "I, me, my, I want, give me, I'm entitled to," with teens. None of them think a thing about anyone but themselves. None of them have ever tried to make a difference or better the lives of others. That wall of gratitude in my classroom is full of nothing but made up things they think they should be grateful for because it was a homework assignment. All of the community work, fundraising, and volunteering they do is just to beef up their college resumes to get scholarships and things that will help them. If they do think of others, it's, "What can they do for me."

Teachers are no better. They teach because they couldn't get a real job. I'm guilty of that. I decided way back when I was 18 that I wanted to be a teacher. What a cushy career this is. I get three full weeks off or better during a 180 day school year. I get two full months off during the summer and all I have to do is baby sit other people's over 100 children for only six hours a day. Pretty smart. I know I'm smarter than everybody else. I have the degrees to show it, as well as, the over twenty-five master's level classes I took after receiving my degrees, classes that have cost me about \$8,000 dollars. That's okay, I get wonderful 1% raises every so often. Now, that's smart math. We all go into teaching for the money and prestige. Have you seen the praises sung about us in local papers? I bet you're kicking yourself for not becoming one.

Sorry, I digressed. I went off on a tangent of blanket statements about certain groups of people. Speaking of blanket statements, here's my last one.

Blanket statements are all made from being ignorant and uninformed. Before you place blame or point fingers do a little investigating to find the real truth. Meet the people you are about to spit on. Placing blame and finger pointing is cowardly and destructive. I know, I've done it. It hurts the giver and receiver. We are all we have, people. As the Reverend Jesse Jackson once said, "Never look down on someone unless it is to help them up."



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

MORALITY MATTERS

Clear Thinking on Politics & Morality

Paul Murano  
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

On the Paying Attention radio show with Tom Duggan last week of which I am co-host, we welcomed a certain former Mayor of Methuen as a guest to reminiscence about a local personality who had recently passed away. He was said to be a man of character, loyal to his family, his party and his country. The show went smoothly but one comment from our guest struck me as a claim that needed clarification. It was one of those popular half-truths that without context can be very misleading. In the midst of praising his late friend of many virtues our guest added that the deceased, who was a registered Democrat, was a 'full' Catholic because he not only was socially conservative on life and marriage issues but also cared very much for the poor and the downtrodden. It was an indirect claim that the Democratic Party is the party of Catholic values.

The Democratic Party along with the culture has shifted dramatically since the New Deal. The Roosevelt Democrat of yesteryear, like their deceased friend, was socially conservative and fiscally liberal; just the opposite of today's trend of being more fiscally conservative and socially liberal. And yet, inexplicitly, many senior Democrats today still exhibit loyalty to a party they have little in common with.

The mayor's comment seemed pretty innocuous on the surface, for Catholic moral teaching does in fact recognize our obligation to the poor and the needy as well as to the preborn and natural marriage. Both sets of concerns, which happen to fall into the political categories of liberal and

conservative respectively, are at the heart of Catholic moral teaching, which protects the dignity of the human person and the common good. However, when bringing moral issues into the political arena three points must be examined:

1) The role of government. 2) Whether Catholics can support an intrinsic evil; and 3) The urgency of the injustice. Not all moral issues are equal and not all require governmental involvement. Let's unpack each of these three points:

1. Every law has a moral dimension to it (the prohibition of murder, rape, stealing, slander, speeding, etc.) yet not all immoral acts should be proscribed by civil law. If something is a serious violation of justice, and it cannot be properly contained by appealing to more intimate authorities (the family, church, community, etc.) then it becomes proper for government to respond. This principle of subsidiarity is often violated, however, when governments unjustly usurp the authority that is proper to smaller segments of society. Although a social safety net is in order, it can be successfully argued those charities and social programs flourish more when government has limited or no involvement.

2. There are certain acts that by virtue of their object can never be justified, condoned or supported regardless of circumstance. Doing so, even with a vote, would mean cooperation with evil and would incur the guilt of sin. Issues like war, capital punishment and poverty are not acts that are intrinsically evil; there are rare circumstances that could possibly justify them. However, prenatal homicide (abortion), homosexual relations, euthanasia and other acts that directly attack

MURANO: PAGE 29



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# Senator Eldridge Champions Public Accountability in Records Law

Tom Duggan  
VALLEY PATRIOT PUBLISHER

With several Valley Legislators filing legislation to reform the state’s public records law in response to The City of Lawrence’s refusal to turn over public document to The Valley Patriot, Senator Jamie Eldridge of the Middlesex Worcester District has filed his own bill to ensure members of the public will not be denied public documents.

“The bill I filed would change standard in which public records have to be released to public. This will make it a fairer standard so that public agencies or public entities can’t deny information to the public.” Senator Eldridge told The Valley Patriot.

As the law currently stands, Mass General Law Chapter 66 mandates that public records be turned over upon request within ten days of such request. But the law has no penalty for rogue public officials who simply refuse to comply.

The Valley Patriot has been battling the City of Lawrence for public records since February of 2012 concerning payments made to the DiAdamo Law Firm, an outside Law Firm that handles the city’s workers’ compensation cases, but has also represented the city on the Greater Lawrence Sanitary District, the city’s workforce investment board and serves as the city’s landlord for the school department’s central office.

Superior Court Judge Tom Murtagh ruled last October that the city must turn over the public records, but Mayor Lantigua violated that order by releasing documents that had relevant payment amounts blacked out. Judge Murtagh held the city in contempt for that stunt but as of the moment we published this edition, the public records have still not been released.

Changes to the Law

Senator Eldridge said that he has always been in favor of transparency in government and his legislation would not only add penalties for failure to comply but would also assess attorney fees for those (like The Valley Patriot) who have to seek court action to force the release of public records.

“This changes the standard and allows for attorney fees if a town or city or public agency does not provide the information, and someone has to go to court to get it. Now [if his legislation is passed] that



PHOTO: TOM DUGGAN  
Senator Jamie Eldridge  
Middlesex-Worcester District

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

Senator Eldridge has also filed a bill making it mandatory for public entities (like municipalities and state agencies) to post public documents on-line, making it easier and less costly for the public to obtain government documents.

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

The Three bills filed by State Senator Jamie Eldridge are:

An Act defining court administrative records as public records- SD630 (Re-file of S.769)

This bill would define records within the office of court management, established by Chapter 93 of the Acts of 2011, and the Probation offices as public records subject to freedom of information requests. It does not apply the public records

ELDRIDGE: PAGE 30

## FROM PAGE 9: CHAISSON

It really is not right. But they have no problem attacking her and making this a story when there was no politics involved at all.”

“But we know the truth. The public knows the truth, and those in the Methuen School Department know this was just a fabrication to sell newspapers.”

Asked if he was involved in the hiring of his sister in any way, made any phone calls, or had any discussions with anyone in the Methuen Public Schools: Chaisson said it was absolutely not the case.

“I had nothing to do with my sister being hired,” he continued. “This is what drives Politicians nuts. And it’s what makes good people not run for office. Who wants to put up with this kind of attack on a family member?”

Chaisson vehemently denied even knowing his sister had applied or asking anyone in the school system to hire her.

“Absolutely not. No. I stay completely out of it. It’s not my responsibility to hire teachers for the Methuen Public Schools. I had nothing to do with it.”

Chaisson said he didn’t even know that his sister had applied for the job until after her interview with administrators.

“I didn’t know she was applying. I found out when she told me after she went to the interview. I found out she was awarded the job after she received a call from the building principal.”

Asked if he spoke with anyone in the administration about his sister’s application Chaisson says that it just didn’t happen.

“I didn’t speak to anyone about it, nobody contacted me about it. My job is budget and policy, not hiring. The way the Methuen Public Schools hires employees is very professional. We [The School Committee] don’t know who is applying till after anyone is hired.”

The School Committee does not vote on hiring teachers.

The Tribune’s Track Record

The Eagle Tribune routinely attacks the families of public officials to embarrass them in stories that have nothing at all to do with the public officials themselves.

Last year the Tribune published stories attacking State Rep. Jim Lyons, (R- An-

dover) by publishing the name of his son as being arrested at an underage drinking party.

None of the other minors had their names in the paper, including the minor who threw the party. But, because this was the son of a State Representative, the Eagle Tribune saw fit to print the State Representative’s name in connection with his son’s activity. And they saw fit to publish the name of a minor.

This accomplishes two things.

One: it sullies the name of the official they are writing about, by putting a negative image in people’s minds about him, even though he was not involved in any way. A politician’s public image is his bread and butter.

Two: it elevates public official’s family members, (and EVERYTHING in their personal lives) to be fair game material for public consumption in the Tribune, even unfounded accusations.

They also went after Methuen Mayor Steve Zanni’s wife and mislead their readers to believe Mayor Zanni’s wife’s family dispute over inherited property in Lawrence had something to do with Mayor Zanni’s efforts to clean up blighted homes in Methuen.

They also attacked the family of Methuen Superintendent Scannell last year when she was on vacation and her daughter held a party at her Methuen home. Despite the fact that no special treatment was given to Scannell’s daughter, they published an “Article” making it look as though special favors were given because the daughter was not arrested.

SIDE NOTE:

Evan Chaisson is a former Assistant Circulation Manager at the Eagle Tribune. He left the job last year. During our interview he told The Valley Patriot that he got the job because he knew someone who worked there.

“And my father works there now. You know how he got the job? Because I worked there. They hired him because of me. If you look at the people who work at the Eagle Tribune, it’s loaded with family members. They all got the job because they knew someone or they were related to someone. Isn’t that ironic.”

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# The War on The Poor & Taxpayers is Going Well

Christine Morabito  
GREATER BOSTON TEA PARTY

Governor Deval Patrick claims his budget for fiscal year 2014 promises “a better Commonwealth for the next generation.” – That is, if they can afford to live here.

On January 16, the Patrick administration introduced “The Way Forward,” an ambitious proposal to tax the middle class out of existence. The proposed increase to the income tax, gas tax, fare rates and fees, have residents threatening to leave the state.

Luckily, this budget, or “House 1,” is merely a proposal from the governor. State representatives will submit their own budget in April, taking the governor’s wish list into consideration. Then the issue goes to the senate before the new fiscal year begins in July.

Conspicuous by its absence is talk of any meaningful spending cuts or reforms. The money pit that is the state’s transportation budget would get an infusion of \$269 million. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation, which brought us the Big Dig, would again be rewarded for bad fiscal behavior.

The plan calls for “modernizing” the state’s bottle redemption law to include bottled water and sports drinks. There would be a candy tax, soda tax and a dollar increase in the cigarette tax.

Many residents are unaware that we will already pay more to shop in 2014 thanks

to Patrick’s agreement with the online retailer, Amazon, to begin to collect sales tax in Massachusetts. Clearly, it is the working poor who will be most affected by these proposed tax increases. I want to believe the governor has compassion for the middle class, but the evidence suggests otherwise.

Patrick wants to spend an extra \$550 million on education. We love our children, but considering we spend a yearly average of \$12,000 per student on public education - enough to send every student to a private school - how much more do we need to spend? Due to a serious lack of transparency in our school budgets, we have no idea where all this money actually goes.

Adding insult to injury, we recently learned the details of Patrick’s plan to eliminate dozens of tax breaks. If he gets his way, this would mean a far reaching and all-encompassing tax increase on everyone in the Commonwealth.

Families will be negatively affected with the elimination of tax credits for child care, adoptions, foster care and dependents under 12. Students will be squeezed with the elimination of the tax deduction for tuition, commuter fees, scholarships and employer provided education assistance.

It is unfortunate that these proposals will also eliminate tax credits that incentivize certain behavior, such as lead-paint



Governor Deval Patrick and Lawrence Mayor Willie Lantigua, (far left) Former State Rep. David Torrisi

removal, charitable contributions, septic system repair, clean-fuel vehicles and renewable energy.

Health Savings Accounts are a responsible and effective way for people to save (tax free) for future health care needs. Patrick wants this tax savings eliminated.

To be fair, the governor is calling for the doubling of personal exemptions, but the eliminated deductions, the myriad of new taxes and fees will more than make up the difference. Patrick also claims he wants to decrease the sales tax, but again, any savings would be eaten up by all the new taxes being considered.

Taxpayers are in no mood for this. We are freshly annoyed by the reinstated 2 percent withholding tax that went into effect in January. Those making \$30,000 will now bring home \$600 less per year, those earning \$50,000 will bring home \$1000 less per year, and so on. Evidence shows that this tax increase disproportionately affects lower income earners. Wait till they hear that the governor has even

more designs on their wallets. He might as well push us down and take our lunch money.

As I was reading the budget, under the heading “Other Budgetary Revenues,” I noticed the following, “... the expansion of the hotel surcharge to rental properties.” Rental properties? Perplexed, I called the governor’s office and politely asked for clarification. After being hung up on the first time, I called back and spoke to a pleasant woman who put me on hold for what seemed like eternity. She returned and asked if she could call me back, stating the provision was “hard to explain.” That was 5 days ago. When the phone doesn’t ring, I’ll know it’s the governor’s office.



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



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## DEMOCRAT CORNER WITH MARA DOLAN

### Nothing Out of the Ordinary: Aaron Swartz & the Trouble with Prosecutors

Mara Dolan  
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

The one thing certain about the Aaron Swartz case is that we don’t have all the facts yet, and so we cannot know whether U.S. Attorney Carmen Ortiz acted improperly. She says she did nothing out of the ordinary, and she’s probably right. In a statement, she said the case had been “reasonably handled and we would not have done things differently.” She did what prosecutors do. What this case does illustrate, painfully, is that the nature of prosecution disregards the individual circumstances of defendants. What prosecutors do every day, nothing out of the ordinary, is terribly wrong and must change.

The shock and blame following the suicide of Aaron Swartz is understandable. Aaron faced 35 years in prison and \$1 million in fines for charges related to wire fraud, computer fraud and unlawfully obtaining information from a protected computer. He seemed like such a nice boy; he was smart, helping to create RSS at the tender age of 14, and advocating for internet freedom as an adult. But he also broke into a closet at M.I.T., gained illegal access to a database, and made privately held documents available online for free. Of course that’s against the law and Aaron Swartz should have had to answer for that.

When the accusations against U.S. Attor-

ney Carmen Ortiz were at their height, her husband tweeted that no one mentioned that Aaron Swartz was offered six months in a federal low security facility in exchange for a guilty plea. It’s an important point, and perhaps six months was appropriate.

Aaron Swartz’s attorney has also been under attack, also perhaps unfairly. Reason only works on the reasonable, and sometimes even the best attorney cannot persuade a client who lacks the capacity to understand that they broke the law, and that if they go to trial they will go to jail for a lot longer than they will if they just admit it.

For many, the Aaron Swartz case is their first real look at the job of the prosecutor and they don’t like what they see: a prosecutor threatening a nice boy with 35 years in jail if he doesn’t cooperate, and a defendant so fearful and unable to cope, even with the assistance of all his supporters, his loving family, his girlfriend and his attorney, that he committed suicide rather than face his accusers.

To be fair, the grievous wrongs committed by prosecutors are not entirely their fault. Under the law, anything a defendant says can and really will be used against them. Defense attorneys make sure that their clients say only as much as the law demands and a good defense requires. But within the safety and security of the attorney-client relationship the real human being

comes out, with all the nuance, complexity and background you need in order to fully understand what happened and determine an appropriate response. Defendants can speak openly and honestly with their attorneys, and a compassionate and skilled defense attorney can help rehabilitate their client far more than a harsh prosecutor ever could.

Sentences should be given to rehabilitate and deter, and a long period of incarceration on its own does neither. The only people who should be behind bars for long sentences are those who pose a danger to society, but I’m not naive. There are people who should be locked up for good, forever, and I’m all for it.

And who is less reasonable than a drug or alcohol addict? Ninety percent of crimes are related to drug and alcohol abuse. Defendants who commit crimes while under the influence, or driven to the point of desperation by addiction and withdrawal to do something terrible they wouldn’t have done otherwise, can be very different people after a week or two of detox.

When they sober up, dry out and clean up addicts realize that they don’t want to be addicts. In a cold cement block, trapped behind bars in a small cell, breathing in un-circulating air filled with the sickening smell of human waste, they realize that whatever it is they get out of their drug and alcohol abuse isn’t worth it, and that part

of the insanity of their addiction is the idea that using makes them happier.

Instead of having meaningful, honest, helpful discussions with defendants, prosecutors are arguing in court over whether an arrest was lawful, and whether evidence should be admissible. We’re wasting billions locking people up instead of putting them to work and helping them become productive members of society. We’re teaching the very people who need help the most that all they can get is punishment, and making it harder for them to enjoy the rewards and esteem that come from being productive members of polite society.

If it turns out that U.S. Attorney Carmen Ortiz really did nothing out of the ordinary, we should take no comfort in that. Aaron Swartz was extraordinarily privileged, and all his privileges weren’t enough to save him. Imagine what millions of ordinary, under-privileged defendants go through in our criminal justice system, and imagine all the good we could do them, and ourselves, if we make these ordinary prosecution history.



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



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PUPPY LOVE! with Kate Whitney



Dog of the Month: Henry

Woof! I'm Henry....Before I got the name Henry, I was known as #211 at the county pound. I am super friendly with people and other dogs. I am a sweetie. They think I am a Shepherd mix and about 1.5years old.

I am up to date with my vaccines, and heartworm negative. I didn't mind the vet looking in my mouth during my exam. I just wanted to crawl in the volunteer's lap and cuddle. I weigh abut 53lbs but I'm skinny and could afford to gain some weight. I wandered to a nice family's home, where they took me in. They couldn't keep me so they turned me over to animal control in VA. I got along great with their dogs and the 4 young kids they had. I am your typical

German Shepherd; I'm very strong and need exercise. An active home with a fenced yard where I can run around and stretch my legs would be best. I still have lots of puppy energy and would do best in a home that is experienced with the shepherd breed. I get along great with other dogs, but I love 1-on-1 human attention. I am very playful when other dogs are around, so I would love to be in a home where I am the only dog, so I can settle down and get lots of attention from my family.

For more information about Henry, visit our website: [www.OneTailataTime.com](http://www.OneTailataTime.com) and fill out an application or email me directly at [Kate@OneTailataTime.com](mailto:Kate@OneTailataTime.com).



Valley Patriot PuppyGirl Kate Whitney with two puppies she rescued from a kill shelter in Kentucky: Tallulah and Tristan. Both Puppies have since been adopted by local families with loving homes!

Time for Your Dog's 2013 Dog License?

Tracey Zysk

VALLEY PATRIOT DOGGIE COLUMNIST

If you haven't already received a bill from your town for your dog's 2013 dog license, you will be receiving it soon. People ask me all the time, "Why do I even need to do this?" or "Why is the town making money off of my dog?"

This isn't about a town collecting revenue off of your family pet. It is about protecting the community.

**WHY DO DOGS HAVE TO BE LICENSED?** Massachusetts law requires that all dogs over the age of four months be licensed as a rabies control measure. The dog license also lets the town know if your pet is currently vaccinated against rabies. Rabies? With the amount of wildlife moving inward to our communities this is another protective measure to ensure the safety and health of your dog. (Just last

week there was a case in Southern Mass of a man infected with rabies and becoming very ill.) Also, making sure your dog has its current license attached to its collar will help greatly to having your dog returned to you in case he becomes lost, or gets out of your yard.

**MY DOG NEVER LEAVES MY PROPERTY WHY DO I HAVE TO BUY A LICENSE?**

Massachusetts law requires that every dog four months of age or older must Have a current license attached to its collar. Even dogs that "never leave the house" or are "indoor only dogs" must be licensed. Dogs have a way of getting out through accidentally opened gates, sneaking out the door or human error where people forget to turn on those electric fences.

Although natural disasters are not the norm it our area, if we do have a hur-



ricane, earthquake, major snowstorm or flood, your dog may flee for his safety and leave your property. Having a dog license on his collar will help reunite your lost pooch to you.

**WHERE DO I GO TO PURCHASE MY LICENSE?**

The Town of North Andover sells licenses Monday thru Friday 8:30 to 4:30 at the Town Hall. Other towns and cities please check on your town websites for times and locations. Your dog must be up to date on his rabies shots before obtaining a license. Please bring this paperwork with you when you apply for your dog license. If this is a renewal, your Vet has probably already sent your updated information to your town and all you will need to do is mail in your check to receive your new license.

**DOG LICENSE FEES:** North Andover is \$20.00 please refer to your town website for your local fees.

**DUE DATE:** North Andover was due February 1, 2013 but the town will still accept your submittal. For all other towns please refer to your town website

**OTHER QUESTIONS?** If you have other questions about licensing, please contact North Andover Town Hall 978-688-9500 or your town offices and they would be more than happy to answer your questions.

*Tracey Zysk, owner of Wiggles & Jiggles Pet Care in North Andover MA is a local pet care professional. She has been featured on local radio, tv and newspapers educating the general public on animal care and animal health & wellness. Tracey is a proud supporter of Police, Fire & Military K9 units. Tracey may be reached at [wiggle-walk@comcast.net](mailto:wiggle-walk@comcast.net). Become a fan on facebook at Wiggles & Jiggles Pet Care.*

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Local Single Family Home Sales (2012) Mark Highest Annual Total Since 2005

Condo Sales Rise to Highest Volume Since 2007

(MERRIMACK & NASHOBA VALLEYS) — The Northeast Association of REALTORS® (NEAR) reported today that the number of single family homes sold during December in the 15 cities and towns from Boxford to Littleton was up by 11.6 percent compared with December of 2011. During all of 2012, a total of 3,207 single family home sales were sold in the area, a 23.3 percent increase over the previous year and the highest annual sales total since 2005. Condominium sales also rose sharply in December, climbing by 32.9 percent versus December of the previous year, and for the entire year, condo sales were up by 21.6 percent to a total of 1,172 -- the highest annual condo sales volume locally since 2007. The report is based on data from MLS Property Information Network in Shrewsbury.

The report also showed that the median sales price for single family homes sold locally in December was \$307,700, a 14 percent increase over the median of \$270,000 recorded in December of 2011. For 2012 as a whole versus 2011, the median sales price for single family homes rose by 3.3 percent to \$309,900.

Meanwhile, condominiums sold locally during December had a median sales price of \$177,500, an increase of 7.6 percent compared with the median of \$165,000 set in December of 2011. For all of 2012, the median price of condos sold locally was \$170,000, a drop of 2.9 percent versus the \$175,000 median price of condos sold in the area during 2011. The median price is the point at which half the properties sold cost more, and half cost less.

The report also provided inventory levels of area homes for sale as of January 15. The 904 available single family homes represent the lowest inventory level in more than 10 years. Meanwhile, the 370 condominiums available for sale as of January 15 is the lowest inventory level for condos since 2004. The height of inventory for both property types were set in 2006 and 2007 at 2,242 available single family homes and 1,251 condos.

Commenting on the area's home sales market, NEAR President Christopher Doherty said, "The big story right now is the lack of listings on the market. We are hearing that many sellers are waiting for the spring market to offer their properties for sale, but the buyers are out looking now, and every property that comes to the market is getting tremendous attention." He added, "Given the historically low interest rates that we are seeing as well as pent-up demand from folks who had postponed making a home purchase over the past several years, demand is high for well-priced properties. Our 1,200-plus Realtor members are very, very busy right now."

The report also showed that the average length of time it took for a single family home sold in December to go from listing to a closed transaction was 123 days, unchanged from December of 2011. For condominiums, the average days on market in December was 90 days, a drop of 39.6 percent over the 149-day pace to sell that was set for condos in December of 2011.

Also contained in the report is information on residential properties locally that became classified as pending (i.e., under agreement but not yet closed) during December. For single family homes, the volume of pending sales in December rose by 17.6 percent to 220 agreements, versus 162 new pending sales in December of 2011, while the median price of those properties rose by 10.7 percent, to \$309,900. Meanwhile, the number of pending sales for condominiums locally during December rose by 3.4 percent compared with the previous December, to 90 pending sales, with a median agreed-upon price of \$179,900, an increase of 9.1 percent versus agreements made in December of 2011. Pending sales figures are considered a good indicator of future sales activity.

The Northeast Association of REALTORS® is one of 1,500 local chapters of the National Association of REALTORS®. Officially, NEAR covers 15 cities and towns from Boxford to Littleton, though it has members from more than 50 cities and towns in the Merrimack and Nashoba valleys as well as southern New Hampshire. The term, REALTOR®, is a trademark for use exclusively by members of the National Association of REALTORS®, whose members subscribe to a strict Code of Ethics.

Closed Sales Dec 2012 vs. Dec 2011	# Sold Dec 2011	# Sold Dec 2012	Yr over Year Change	Median Price Dec 2011	Median Price Dec 2012	Yr over Year Change	Avg. DoM 2011	Avg. DoM Dec 2012	Yr over Year Change
Single Family	215	240	+11.6%	270,000	307,700	+14.0%	123	123	0.0%
Condo	78	101	+32.9%	165,000	177,500	+7.6%	149	90	-39.6%
Multi Family	35	42	+20.0%	205,900	251,000	+21.9%	145	77	-46.9%

Closed Sales Dec 2012 vs. Nov 2012	# Sold Nov 2012	# Sold Dec 2012	Mo over Month Change	Median Price Nov 2012	Median Price Dec 2012	Mo over Month Change	Avg. DoM Nov 2012	Avg. DoM Dec 2012	Mo over Month Change
Single Family	317	240	-24.3%	329,900	307,700	-6.7%	112	123	+9.8%
Condo	113	101	-10.6%	196,000	177,500	-9.4%	128	90	-29.7%
Multi Family	47	42	-10.6%	235,900	251,000	+6.4%	87	77	-11.5%

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PAY ATTENTION! Things Are Happening All Around You. How Are You Affected? People Living the WOW! Know Exactly How, When and Why Things Affect Them. Try It! You Just Might Like the Feeling.

Thomas Connors  
VALLEY PATRIOT WOW! COLUMNIST

YOUR Life is priceless! So is your family, your job, your opportunities to succeed. And so is your freedom to worship as you please.

All these aspects of Life have formed a solid impenetrable foundation that we as Americans have enjoyed for centuries. The promises of our Bill of Rights and our Constitution have provided the framework to guarantee that what we hold dear will be there to enjoy and cherish.

**Are You Paying Attention? Are you Paying Attention to the world around you and how decisions, regulations and laws being written are affecting you?**

People Living the **WOW!** pay very close attention to the happenings in the world in which they live. They make it a point to find out how changes in every aspect of their lives affect another. They focus on their own personal lives, the lives of their families, the opportunities that might become available to them and their spiritual lives as well.

And, make no mistake about it. They protect their ideals with all their might. Because, they know how important they are in order for them to continue to Living the WOW!

**Take off the blinders and Pay Attention to what is going on around you.**

Don't just look with your eyes. Search for a much deeper meaning to the changes that happen in your life.

When new laws are passed, do you know what they mean for you? When new textbooks are introduced into your child's class, do you know what is in those books? Do they encourage and teach your son or daughter the kinds of things you want them to learn?

When your child comes home late at night, do you check to see what condition they are in? When your older Mom or Dad start slipping just a bit, are you looking into ways to keep them safe, happy and healthy?

Spare me the argument that you are leaving all that "stuff" to the professionals. YOU need to Pay Attention. The people in your Life, who really need you, are relying on YOU to do your homework. Don't let them down anymore.

**Let's use God as an example. We allowed Him to be condemned and banished. And yet, where did that get us?**

Now, don't jump to conclusions. I don't mean when we crucified Him. I'm talking about what we did not too many years ago

when we took all reference to God out of our schools. Out of public ceremony and spaces. And out of our government agencies and city halls.

"Whoa!" you say. You didn't do that. You were not responsible. In fact, you didn't even know it happened.

But, it DID happen. And it happened because you, I, your relatives, your friends and neighbors and millions of people across this land were not Paying Attention. And once these laws and regulations were put in place, it was too late to do much of anything. So, you sat back and convinced yourself that "they" knew better.

Tell me this. Are our schools better now that God has been removed? Are students better behaved now that prayer is a thing of the past? Are better decisions being made at all levels of government?

If you and I were paying attention, meaningful values and solid character development would still exist in every school. And I'd bet my last dollar that millions of impressionable students would be better off because of it.

**Spend some time at American Training and you will see the emphasis we put on Paying Attention.**

Many of our Students have found out the hard way what not Paying Attention can do to a person's life. They didn't Pay Attention to the changing world around them and subsequently fell behind in keeping up with the job market. Their skills, meant for a different era, passed them by. They thought they had nothing to worry about. Being employed for life at the company they once worked for was meant to be. That's what they thought. They didn't realize that regulations and incentives would encourage their company to move jobs overseas. Just like you're doing today, they weren't Paying Attention.


Don't let yourself fall into the same trap in any aspect of your Life. Start Paying Attention.

**Make the adjustment in your Life right now. Promise yourself to control your own destiny instead of letting others shackle you to their ways of thinking.**

If you are not feeling well, Pay Attention to the signs. You know your body better than anyone. Ask your doctor questions. Don't just assume he or she knows best. If you feel drawn-in to buy something expensive on an easily available credit card, which you know you cannot afford, Pay Attention to your ability to pay or not pay. And when you are promised something by our government, assess the ramifications. Look beyond the surface and how you really will be affected.

When you start Paying Attention to all that is happening around you, you will begin to finally experience self control and genuine peace of mind.

Now, that's a **WOW!**



Tom Connors is President/CEO of American Training, a diverse collection of companies committed to "Bringing Out the Best in Everyone They Touch". He believes in living life to the fullest by making the WOW! a regular part of your personal, spiritual and working life. You can reach Tom at Tom@AmericanTrainingInc.com or by writing to him at Tom Connors, American Training, 102 Glenn Street, Lawrence, MA 01843} © 2012. You can also visit Tom at his BLOG ... TomConnors-ThinkPad.blogspot.com



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FROM PAGE 1:LT. COLONEL DON SHEEHAN, USAF

Khe Sanh sits on a plateau in a remote section of South Vietnam, near the Laotian border, overlooking the Ho Chi Minh Trail. “The North Vietnamese owned the night. You couldn’t drive a truck anywhere without being ambushed.” But through aggressive air power, the Americans took back the night.

Throughout his tour of duty in Vietnam, 1967–1969, Don Sheehan flew 15-day shuttles to other bases—Cam Ranh Bay, Nha Trang, Da Nang, the smaller dirt airstrips of Song Be, and throughout Southeast Asia.

Once he evacuated a small village, an isolated outpost in the remote central highlands of South Vietnam that was being harassed and threatened by the Viet Cong. All 40 South Vietnamese soldiers and their families were flown to safety for relocation.

They were like sheep without a shepherd, abandoned by their leaders—“soldiers, some in mismatched uniforms, with rifles on their shoulders. Their wives were laden down with black garbage bags, holding all they owned, slung over the shoulder, while carrying one or two babies with children trailing behind, clutching a teddy bear or a loaf of bread.”

For his “extraordinary achievement” while serving in Vietnam, Don was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

**C-130s on skis at North Pole**

As perilous as it was to fly in combat in Vietnam with the huge C-130, little compared with the challenge of landing and taking off on Greenland’s polar ice cap near the Arctic Circle. The 10,000-foot thick ice cap is covered by a flat, expanse of ice and snow extending as far as the eye can see. There are no ground control navigational aides to guide the planes.

Don flew the only aircraft equipped with skis, the C-130D-6, jet-powered tur-

boprops, to supply the men who manned the remote, isolated radar sites (DYE 1, 2, and 3) on Greenland’s DEW line—the Distant Early Warning line. These powerful radar sites monitored the skies constantly for any Russian planes approaching North America. The C-130D-6 had two main skis (20 feet long by 6 feet wide) and a nose ski (10 feet by 6 feet).

Don served with the 17th Tactical Airlift Squadron out of Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, which maintained two planes at all times at Sondrestrom AB, Greenland.

**Persevering toward the goal**

At the age of 14, Don had read the book “West Point Today” by Kendall Banning. “That book changed my life,” he says. “From that moment on, I wanted to go to West Point, with all my heart and soul. It became my driving passion.” Although he had to wait three years, these were years of preparation. It was well worth the wait,” he said. Don graduated from West Point with the class of 1956. His was an illustrious class: 30 became generals (including General Norman Schwarzkopf), with a total of 77 stars.

The military discipline, both physical and mental, helped shape the man Don is today. He realized his dreams. He graduated from West Point. He became a pilot. He taught and mentored Air Force cadets in love of God and country, duty and honor. On invitation, he spent two tours of duty teaching English at the U.S. Air Force Academy, 1963–1967 and 1969–1973, beginning as an instructor and ultimately promoted to associate professor).

While attending West Point, Don met Dorrie Sidener and was swept off his feet. He pursued her for four years. Today, after 54 years of marriage, he says, “She still holds the mortgage on my soul.”

As a West Pointer, Don knows what it means to be “a man under authority.” He



A dream realized. On the morning of his graduation from West Point in 1956, 2d Lt. Don Sheehan has his bars pinned on by Dorrie, left, today his beloved wife of 54 years, and his mother Anna. Before their marriage, Dorrie had been a Hollywood starlet, a professional coloratura soprano, and a top fashion and photographer’s model in Chicago.

knows whom he can trust. Today he is waiting for that one word, in perhaps his greatest hour of testing...

**Trusting for a miracle**

A year ago Dorrie suffered a stroke and became bedridden.

In the midst of this trial, Don waits patiently and expectantly, with hope, for a miracle.

“I’ve always believed that the Lord holds us in the palm of His hand. He brought Dorrie and me together. We trust Him. Throughout each day of our marriage, we prayed the Rosary, the Stations of the Cross, and meditated on the events in Christ’s life. I can never thank God enough for all He’s done for us. As our children were growing up, we prayed the Rosary together as a family each day, with all seven of our children. Today, I continue to pray with Dorrie each afternoon.”

“The Lord is at the center of our lives, the foundation of our marriage. Dorrie and I both saved ourselves for each other before our marriage. In fact, because Dorrie refused to compromise her faith, she left Hollywood after starring in three films—two Westerns, with Jock Mahoney and Gene Autry, and a comedy co-starring with Mickey Rooney.”

Don believes in the power of prayer and miracles. “Jesus came to heal the sick,” he says. In answer to prayer, he saw his daughter healed of post-chicken pox encephalitis, a dangerous swelling of the

brain against the skull. She later graduated magna cum laude from Fitchburg State College.

“Each day I pray for a miracle, that Dorrie will be healed. I know nothing is impossible with God. I give thanks to Him every day. He’s been so good to us. I trust Him completely. Whatever God has in store for us, I accept. Both Dorrie and I put our trust in the Lord.”

A love story for Valentine’s Day...Of God who is faithful...of a man and woman faithful to God...and to each other.

The Bible records the story of a Roman military officer who asked Jesus to heal his paralyzed servant. “Only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I too am a man under authority.” Jesus “marveled” at his “great faith.” He said, “‘As you have believed, so let it be done for you.’ And his servant was healed that same hour” (Matthew 8:5-13).

Thank you Don Sheehan for all your bravery and sacrifice. You are truly a Hero in Our Midst.

*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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News from John Lenotte of the American Legion

**John Lenotte**  
VALLEY PATRIOT VETERAN COLUMNIST

Another month has passed and still there is a stalemate in our government. Each side blames the other. I remember going to Washington DC in November of 2011 along with 2 other Legionnaires from Massachusetts and others from the states representing members of the Super Committee. We met with Senator Kerry’s chief of staff and talked about the negative impact of sequestration. Since that time, we have been to Washington two other times. And the budget has been part of the conversation we have had with staff members in the Massachusetts congressional offices. I am sure some of you reading this have sent emails or letters to our representatives. And there is an upcoming visit where American Legion members will go to Washington and visit the offices again!

Yet if you read or listen to the news you know that there is little to no movement in Washington. The blame game continues. Our federal taxes have risen. Most of us are taking home less pay. And the Defense Department along with the rest of the federal government is preparing for layoffs and furloughs. That can only



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have a negative impact on our still fragile economy. As I have and will continue to say, we all need to let our Congressional delegation know what we think, where we stand, whether it is in agreement or not. The best way is to send emails. Letters work but they take much more time to get to the offices.

And here in our Commonwealth, there is talk of more taxes! Our expenses go up and the taxes go up as well. Some of us may also be paying more in real estate tax.

Here again, we need to speak up, let our voices be heard. Where do you stand on taxes? And just recently Governor Patrick is proposing that illegal immigrants be allowed to get a driver’s license. We daily see the laws that are on the books be violated or ignored at all levels. And this will continue as long as we remain silent!

In the recent news there is also varied remarks about women being allowed in combat. I did see some numbers that indicated 152 women service members were killed in Iraq and Afghanistan and 948 were wounded. There are stories of women unofficially being in combat going back to the American Revolution. They have and will be a critical part of our military. Today’s military consists of about 15% women. I expect that number will grow in time. Yes, they will have to pass tests and criteria as well their male counterparts. But there is no reason to officially exclude them because of their gender. Let us not forget that the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, giving women the right to vote was ratified on August 18, 1920. There are still more struggles for women to face both here in the U.S. and

more so in other countries. They are equal and deserve to be treated so in all aspects of society.

Many of you with children who are high school seniors are deep in the application process, wondering not only what college will accept them but how are you going to pay for it. The American Legion has a number of scholarships that one can apply to at the national, state and local level. On the state level, about 20 scholarships totaling \$15 thousand dollars are given out each year. Essex County has the responsibility this year to conduct a contest and award a \$1,000 scholarship. Several local posts also award scholarships. By the time you read this information should be on the national website ([www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)) and the state website ([www.masslegion.org](http://www.masslegion.org)) or you can contact your local posts for more information.

May God bless our troops and their families.



John Lenotte is the American Legion, Commander, Wilbur M. Comeau Post 4 Haverhill and Vice Commander, Dept. of Massachusetts. You can Email him at [JohnLDistrict8@verizon.net](mailto:JohnLDistrict8@verizon.net)

Seth Glier to Do Benefit for Spectrum Adult Day Health Program

**Tom Duggan**  
VALLEY PATRIOT VETERAN COLUMNIST

Grammy Award Nominated Seth Glier, a 24 year old singer, songwriter from Western Massachusetts is releasing a new record this year, which will be part of his current tour bringing him through North Andover to Spectrum Adult Day Health on Turnpike Street, for a charity concert to benefit the facility.

“100% of the proceeds from this show go to the Spectrum Assisted Living Facility. What Spectrum does is provide enrichment programs for those with age related memory disorders,” Glier told the Valley Patriot.

“We have been in North Andover since April of 2011,” Said Darcy Adams, Vice President of Community Programs at

Spectrum.

Adams says that the program in North Andover is based on the Beverly program that has been serving seniors with memory disorders for 21 years. “This is based on the model in Beverly and we decided to expand to North Andover because of the needs for such a program in the North Andover area.”

“Spectrum’s adult day health care program is a little different than what people think of when they think about the traditional adult day health care program. When people think of a day program for seniors they think of a bunch of people in a room being contained. But this program is very therapeutic in nature for people with memory disorders. It’s very different.

**SETH GLIER**  
Sunday, February 10, 2:00pm  
1820 Turnpike Street,  
North Andover, MA 01845  
Tickets \$25 in advance or \$35 at the door

**All proceeds will benefit the Spectrum Adult Day Health Program, which provides compassionate and specialized day-time services for people in the Merrimack Valley with Alzheimer’s disease and other memory disorders.**



Spectrum provides medical care, has registered nurses who provide medical treatments such as: diabetic care, administering medication, treating wounds and caring for oxygen patients. Nurses do monthly nursing assessments and check weight and blood pressure.”

“It is a beautiful program, it is environmentally, specifically designed for Alzheimer’s patients who need very bright light for visual acuity, bright colors on the walls and flooring, every part of the inte-

rior design was put together specifically to benefit clients with memory disorders.”

Seth Glier’s entire tour is a benefit for “Autism Speaks” Glier told the Valley Patriot because his brother is afflicted with the condition. “But the benefit we are doing at Spectrum will benefit the Spectrum facility and this is the only concert on the tour that will deviate from our goal of raising money for Autism speaks because I really admire the work they do at Spectrum.”

MURANO: FROM PAGE 20

the innocent or the family are evils that can never be supported under any circumstance by a Catholic or anyone of good will. In the case of an election when all major candidates support these evils to different degrees, it is just to vote for the one that does so the least. Other than in Massachusetts this voting dilemma is rare to find.

3. How urgent is government enforcement in order to stave off injustice? Does human dignity and the common good demand immediate intervention? When the innocent are threatened they must be protected, whether they be born or pre-born; and when the foundation of society, the family, is directly attacked by things such as no-fault divorce and ‘same-sex marriage’, justice demands its protection. This is not just a matter of morality, but of justice.

The fact that half the nation’s consciences are severely malformed due to the ubiquitous influence of false post-modern

philosophy is no excuse for the Catholic, who along with all people of good will have an obligation before God and their fellow man to contribute to the objective good despite how unpopular it may be.

Are all moral issues of equal value, urgency, and deserving of governmental involvement? Absolutely not. The preservation of life and family against the onslaught of the contemporary world have primacy of place, and political liberals should stop pretending they don’t.

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





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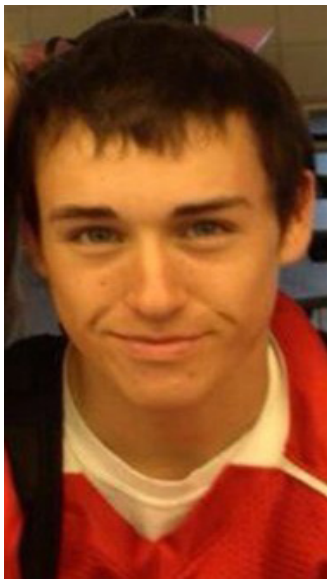
## Support the “Get Jack Better” Fund

Debbie Quinn  
VALLEY PATRIOT CONTRIBUTOR

On January 16, 2013 Jack Trottier, a 17 year old Tyngsboro High School student, was snowboarding in his friend's backyard when the unthinkable happened; he fell after going off a two foot jump and landed the wrong way. Jack was transported to Children's Hospital where he underwent emergency surgery for a broken C6 vertebra, however, he is now paralyzed from the chest down. His family was eventually able to get him into the Shepherd Center, located in Atlanta, Georgia. It is a private, not-for-profit hospital specializing in medical treatment, research and rehabilitation for people with spinal cord injury and is the best facility in the US.

You should know that this young man is an avid snowboarder and is an instructor at Nashoba Valley Ski Area. He easily handles 20 – 30 foot jumps routinely. Jack is also the star quarterback for Tyngsboro High with a 10 and 2 record last season and plays on the lacrosse team. He's not only a great athlete and kid but a born leader. We are hopeful that his athleticism, strength and determination will help him to recover fully.

Jack is starting an intense eight (8) week program at the Shepherd Center.



His family, friends and even strangers have been working incredibly hard with fund-raising efforts and in so many other ways including modifying the Jack's house to be

wheelchair accessible. The outpouring of love, prayer and donations has been unbelievable and is so much appreciated.

In addition to medical expenses and other unknown items that will surely arise, the family is focusing on finding a handicap accessible van that will cost upwards of \$30,000. After hearing this tragic story, Charles Daher of Commonwealth Motors pledged \$500 and would like to send out a challenge to all other dealerships in the area to meet or beat his original pledge. Jack's Dad, Bill, is

a 25 year employee of Wayside Ford in Marlboro MA and fellow employees there took up a collection already and pledged \$1000 to the fund. Charlie believes that all employees of dealerships belong to a tight knit family and will always come through in good times and bad. We sincerely hope he is right!

All donations should be sent to Dick Insurance Agency c/o Barry Dick, 461 Main Street, Tewksbury MA 01876. Please make checks payable to Tiger Football Club – “Get Jack Better”.

Please keep Jack in your thoughts and prayers.

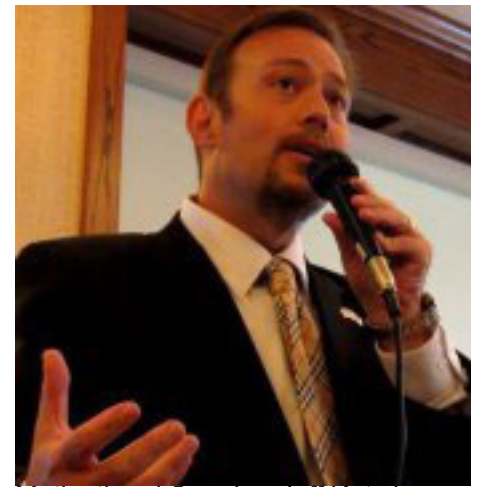
## What a Man Can Be He Must Be

Coach Jeff Katz  
VALLEY PATRIOT CONTRIBUTOR

As a child, my Dad once shared with me that there are things you do simply because they are the right thing to do. You're not looking for a trophy or certificate. Your soul, he said, will be made richer for having taken the right path. You'll experience a joy and pleasure simply for having done good for the sake of doing good. But not just good things, he counseled me; things that make you feel full and complete. The lesson stuck with me, but it was not until many years later as a student of psychology that I began to understand the implicit message.

My Dad had never studied psychology nor read the works of Abraham Maslow. He was not schooled on Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, but he had given life to the concept of self-actualization. Without getting too psycho-babbly, Maslow pointed out that human beings have a punch card of things we try to address and keep updated. Our “lower” needs such as breathing, water and food need to be handled before we can move on to slightly higher needs such as safety and security, then love and self-esteem. But at the very pinnacle of this pyramid of human potential is a state of being which Maslow called “self-actualization.”

Maslow saw self-actualization as the highest degree of intellectual development for a person. He advanced the idea that, “what a man can be, he must



Motivational Speaker Jeff Katz is now available for speaking engagements

be.” Inside each of us exists that desire to experience purpose and meaning. We are all searching for ways to maximize our inner potential and do good things which not only make the world a better place, but make us a better person. You can, no you must reach inside and pull yourself to a level where what you do is truly filled with purpose.

Inside each of us burns the flame which can light the way to a more meaningful and rewarding life. Take care of your body: exercise. Take care of your mind: self-actualize!

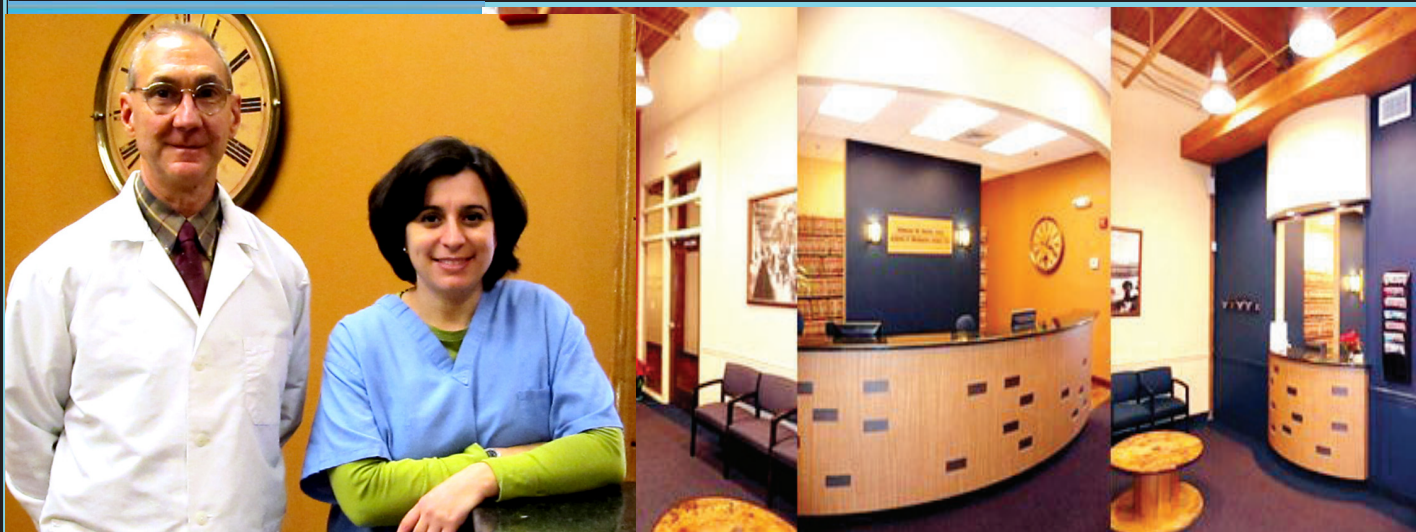
*Jeff Katz is a former police officer, former talk show host on Talk1200AM and won the Associated Press Award for Best Talk Show In Boston two years in a row. He is now an exclusive columnist for The Valley Patriot. WEBSITE: visionaccomplished.net*



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**ELDRIDGE on  
PUBLIC RECORDS  
FROM PAGE 21**

law to confidential criminal justice records or other court records.

An Act improving access to public records- SD629 (Re-file of S.1576)

This bill will improve access to public records by reducing and rationalizing the fees requestors must pay to obtain records, permitting requestors to obtain attorneys' fees if they have been denied access to public records without valid reasons, and putting systems in place to facilitate state agencies' management of public records requests.

An Act to enhance access to electronic public records- SD628 (Re-file of S1575)

This bill will make it routine for electronic public records to be provided to requestors in usable electronic form, and for information of significant interest to the public to be posted online.

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# Gaining Energy and Losing Fat: The Story Behind Insulin and Sugar

**Dr. Jin Sung**  
VALLEY PATRIOT CHIROPRACTIC PHYSICIAN

Everybody wants more energy and most of us want to shed unwanted fat. Today I want to share with you a metabolic condition, which—due to the Standard American Diet (SAD)—most Americans have to some degree. This condition is called: **INSULIN RESISTANCE**

It saps us of energy, increases fat production (cholesterol, triglycerides, and LDL), alters our metabolism, can lead to type 2 diabetes and essentially changes our entire physiology...especially our brains!

Once in the body our food gets broken down into mainly glucose. Glucose is the major energy source for all of our cells and is the **ONLY** energy source for our brains. Our brains consume about 30% of our entire glucose intake. It is by far the most metabolically active organ in our body. So if we have a problem with glucose metabolism, guess which organ feels it the most? That's right...**THE BRAIN!!** Is it any wonder then, that brain-based conditions like **DEPRESSION, ANXIETY, MEMORY LOSS, ALZHEIMER'S** and so on are so much on the rise?

We eat our food and drink what we

drink and hopefully we absorb it (yes, proper absorption is essential for good metabolism) and it gets broken down into glucose and sent into the bloodstream. Glucose in the blood is **USELESS**. Let me repeat that ...glucose in the blood is **USELESS!** It must get into the cells where it's converted to ATP, which is the ultimate energy source for our bodies. This conversion only takes place **IN THE CELLS**. Glucose outside of our cells (in the blood) is like gasoline **NOT** in the tank of our car or coal **NOT** in the steam engine.

As we eat and drink, the levels of glucose in the blood will rise. There is a part of our brain that senses this and signals the pancreas to secrete the hormone **INSULIN**. **WHY?** Because insulin's job is to push glucose into the cells where it can be converted to energy (ATP) and everybody is happy!

Now: here's where things go wrong. **THE AVERAGE AMERICAN HAS GLUCOSE LEVELS THAT ARE WAY TOO HIGH!**

**CHRONICALLY HIGH LEVELS OF GLUCOSE = CHRONICALLY HIGH LEVELS OF INSULIN.**

Chronically high levels of insulin are bad, bad, bad for your body and espe-

cially bad for your **BRAIN**. Why? Great question—here are the answers you should know!

High levels of insulin do the following:

1. Eventually your cells will stop listening to insulin! **THIS IS INSULIN RESISTANCE!**
2. High levels of insulin create inflammation throughout the body. That's right. On a blood test, inflammatory markers such as C-Reactive Protein, homocysteine and fibrinogen are going to be high.
3. High insulin is bad, bad, bad for your brain. Among other things, it causes the pituitary gland (in your brain) to excite your adrenal glands too much.

Here's where it gets complicated, but trust me when I tell you: you do **NOT** want high levels of cortisol. Why? Well, beyond what I just told you, it suppresses your thyroid function (just when you thought you couldn't get any more fatigued). This leads to weight gain, suppresses your immune system, makes you more susceptible to colds/flu, gut infections...and a lot of other bad stuff.

So, let's talk about what's causing all this high blood glucose. Wouldn't it be nice to know so we could remove the cause, instead of just dealing with the

consequences?

1. Poor Diet
2. Over-Stimulation Of The Adrenal Glands Remember these guys? They secrete the dreaded cortisol which increases blood glucose. What stimulates these glands?

- Stress, Poor Diet, Alcohol, Nicotine, Caffeine, Food Sensitivities, Hidden Gut Infections, Anemia, Heavy metal toxicity, Too Much Exercise-yes too much exercise.

3. Improperly-functioning thyroid gland
4. Poorly-functioning liver
5. Poor gut function

How will you know if you have these problems? **PROPER TESTING!!!**

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# The March for Life: January 25th in Washington DC

**Deb Papalia**  
VALLEY PATRIOT GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

On January 25, my husband and I traveled by bus to Washington DC to march in the bitter cold to remember the 55 million unborn babies who have died in the last 40 years because of the infamous court ruling of Roe v. Wade that legalized abortion.

Although the March for Life is an annual event and draws a half-million people to our nation's capital, many have never heard of it. The mainstream media does not cover it, let alone give it major coverage. Yet they gave full coverage to the Gun Control Rally that took place the day after the March for Life.

Why? As Dr. Suess once wrote, "A person's a person, no matter how small." Could it be we are more interested in the culture of death than the culture of life?

The March for Life is the world's largest pro-life event with tens of thousands of young people traveling countless miles to show their passion for life. They even received an encouraging tweet from Pope Benedict: "I join all those marching for life from afar, and pray that political leaders will protect the unborn and promote a culture of life." Pope Benedict tweets in nine languages reaching 2.5 million followers.

The night before the March, Boston's own Cardinal O'Malley was the main homilist at the kick-off Mass of the National Prayer Vigil for Life and he said: "The society that allows parents to kill their children will allow children to kill their parents." He was

referring to physician assisted suicide that almost became law in Massachusetts but with the help of Cardinal O'Malley it was defeated.

He went on to say that "we must never lose sight of the fact that we must work to overturn the law of Roe v Wade. But we must work even harder to make Americans understand that abortion is evil and it is unnecessary."

When I was standing out in the bitter cold waiting for the March for Life to begin it brought me back to a cold December day a year ago when I met a young woman walking into the local abortion clinic in Haverhill. While I was praying at the clinic I turned to her and said "I can help you." She walked toward me. She chose to keep her baby that day but then a week later I received a call from her saying that she had a miscarriage. When I arrived at the hospital she said "it wasn't meant to be but I have no regrets. Thank you for being there." One year later I walked into that same hospital to see her again but this time I held her newborn baby boy.

We are called to help one another even the unborn. To choose life is to choose happiness not only for the unborn but for their mothers and fathers as well. This makes me think of Mother Teresa's quote: "Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier." I believe that the young woman I met at the clinic left happier that day.

Here's to life....



Deb and Chuck Papalia of North Andover at the Annual March for Life in Washington DC last month.

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BRADFORD Samantha Kelleher, Sophomore at James Madison University, President's List. Nursing major. Michael J. Barbone, University of Rhode Island. Rachel E. Lovely, University of Rhode Island. Angelina R. Comei, Stonehill College. Katie Gibbs of Bradford, UNH.

GEORGETOWN Andrew Sinkewicz, Junior at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Management major. Victor Hu, Freshman at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Chemical Engineering major. Catarina Bongioni, University of Hartford. Janelle Marie Kenney, University of Rhode Island. Joseph Esposito, University of Rhode Island. Michael David Johnson, University of Rhode Island. Richard A. Charron, University of Rhode Island. Meghan M. O'Connor, Stonehill College. Hannah Birnie, UNH. Jessica Denoncour, UNH. Jennifer Donovan, UNH. Kailey Donovan, UNH. Mikaela Epstein, UNH. Sara Gaeta, UNH. Janelle Langlais, UNH.

HAVERHILL Catherine Duffy, Senior at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Chemical Engineering major. Courtney Carroll, Junior at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Industrial Engineering major. Stephanie Neofotistos of Haverhill, Senior at Salve Regina University, Marketing major. Kathryn Travers, Freshman at Salve Regina University, English Communications major. Daniel Plouffe of Haverhill, Senior at Huntington University, Animation major. Kelsea Archambault, Fairfield University. Brian C. Wilber, St. Lawrence University graduate. Thomas R. Franklin, University of Rhode Island. Yusin Mok of Haverhill, Tufts University. Alexander Ieronimo, Senior at Saint Michael's College, Political Science and Media Studies and Digital Arts major. William A. Benson, Stonehill College. Steven P. Moura, Stonehill College. Chelsea C. Solomine, Stonehill College. Sarah Decoteau, UNH. Mitchell Gates of Haverhill, UNH. Kira Guttadauro, Kristen Wilson, UNH. Melissa Clark, UNH. Edward Donovan, UNH. Patrick Noone of Haverhill, UNH.

LAWRENCE Amy Do, Senior at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Chemistry major. Nancy Nguyen, Fairfield University. Lanh T. Dang, University of Rhode Island. Ryan S. Vanderweit, University of Rhode Island. Elizabeth Bradley, Sophomore at Saint Michael's College, Biology major. Aguedo DeLosSantos, UNH. Nolan Dinero, UNH. Jenny O'Neil, UNH. Julie Ratte, UNH.

LOWELL Warren Anderson, Senior at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Mathematical Sciences major. Diana Nguyen, Junior at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Management major. Susana Cadena, The College of Saint Rose. Alyssa Bazzinotti, The College of Saint Rose. Olivia Gavriel, Junior at Salve Regina University, Theatre Arts: Technical major. Emily Crompton, University of Hartford. Adam L. Youngblood, University Rhode Island. Gabrielle Burgess, University Rhode Island. Kristen Higgins, University of Rhode Island. Michael L. Gendron, Stonehill College. Aimee B. Morrison, Stonehill College. Mark Torrey, UNH. Khow Le, UNH.

METHUEN Edward Osborn, Sociology Major at Eastern Connecticut State University. Alexis Apel, Sociology Major of Eastern Connecticut

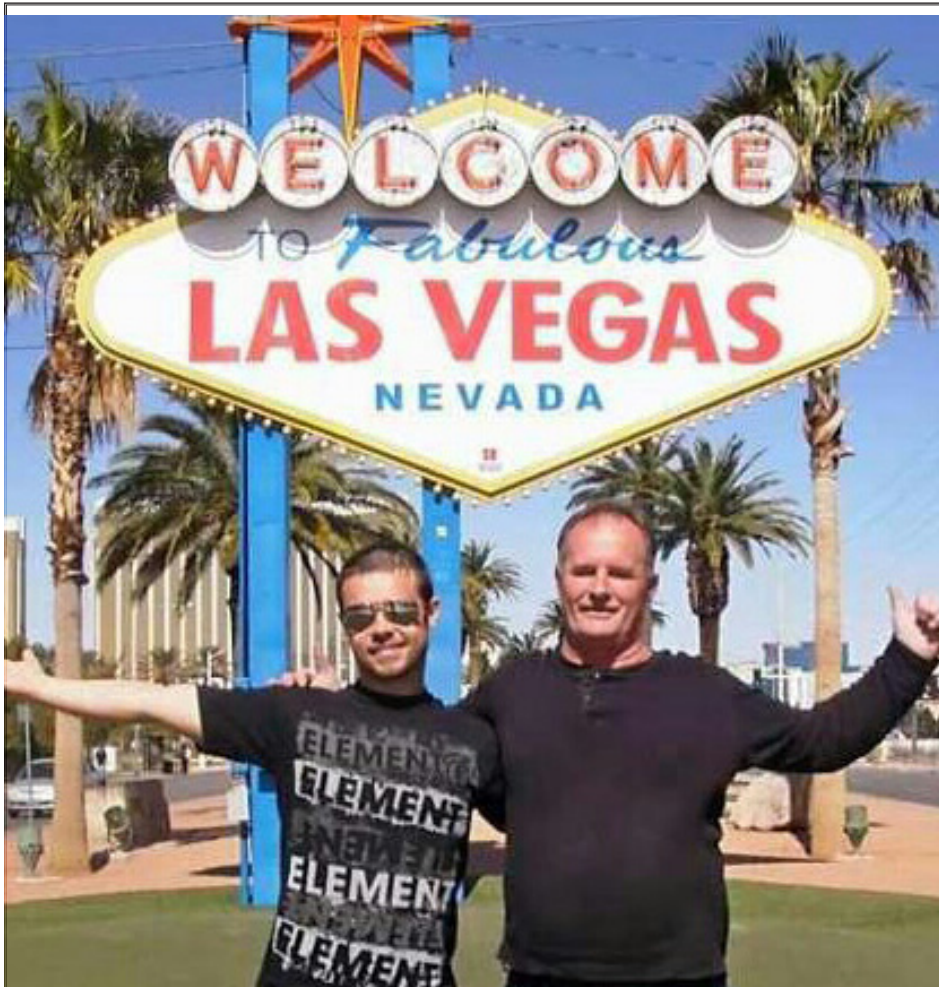
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NORTH ANDOVER Alexa Duffy, Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, Conn. Jaimes Spring, Senior at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Mechanical Engineering major. Nathan Ferreira, Junior at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Electrical and Computer Engineering major. Keegan Westwater, Junior at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Actuarial Mathematics major. Alexander Sylvia, Freshman at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Electrical and Computer Engineering major. Caitlyn MacGregor, Sophomore at Salve Regina University, Special Education major. Cassandra DePietro, Fairfield University. Kyle Pinho, Fairfield University. Jill Roberts, Fairfield University. Sarah Wolfenden, Fairfield University. Kelsey Bowe, Junior at Bentley, Marketing major. Meaghan Foster, Junior at Bentley, Business major. Taylor Gallagher, Junior at Bentley, Accountancy major. Hillary Greene, Junior at Bentley, Marketing major. Douglas Harding, Junior at Bentley, Business major. Jason Keshian, Junior at Bentley, Business major. Ashley Lacey, Junior at Bentley, Business major. Christopher Riedel, Junior at Bentley, Accountancy major. Paul Wolfenden, Junior at Bentley, Computer Information Systems major. James Callahan, Junior at Bentley, Accountancy major. Abigail Desmond, Junior at Bentley, Business major. Robert Hennessy, Junior at Bentley, Finance major. Alexandra Moen, , University of Rhode Island. Andrew G. Guyer, University of Rhode Island. Ashleigh Taylor Marks, University of Rhode Island. Cassie B. Aponas, University of Rhode Island. Hannah E. Severin, University of Rhode Island. Kaitlyn Elizabeth, University of Rhode Island. Meagan Langton, University of Rhode Island. Naomi Willike Gallopyn, University of Rhode Island. Timothy P. Lima, University of Rhode Island. Daniel Eisenberg, Tufts University. Ross Barman, Tufts University. Katherine Eisenberg, Tufts University. Emily Jaekle, Washington and Lee University. Samantha Swatski, Washington and Lee University. Grant O'Brien, Wake Forest University. Peter Shaheen, Wake Forest University. Caitlin Houlihan, Sophomore at Saint Michael's College, Biology major. Rebecca M. Leising, Stonehill College. Emily A. Vento, Stonehill College. Andrew D. Young, Stonehill College. Jamie Aponas, UNH. Loren Fiske, UNH. Kristopher Hopkins, UNH. Michael Levy, UNH. Gabrielle Moen, UNH. Alexander Parkes, UNH. Julie Rose, UNH. Katherine Ryley, UNH. Caille Souza, UNH. Jennifer Venti, UNH.

## TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK: FROM 17



**WORKOUT CLUB CAR THIEF SOUGHT** - On December 31, 2012 at approximately 5:30 PM, Salem Police responded to The Workout Club, 16 Pelham Road, Salem, NH for a report of stolen motor vehicle. The victim stated that he had parked his vehicle, a Blue 2006 Buick Lacrosse with Massachusetts plates in the club's parking lot. He stated that he had left his keys in the "key bucket" located at the front desk, where members leave their keys while they workout. When the victim went to retrieve his keys he found them to be missing from the bucket. The victim went to the parking lot and discovered his vehicle was stolen. After viewing the Club's video, Salem Police identified a white male subject with a goatee in his 20's/ early 30's, wearing sunglasses, black jacket and blue jeans was identified as the suspect. The stolen vehicle was recovered on January 4, 2013 in Lowell, Massachusetts missing its tires and rims. If you can provide information to assist in identifying this suspect please call Crimeline of Southern New Hampshire at (603) 893-6600 or (800) 498-4040. Callers remain anonymous and are issued a secret number known only to them and Crimeline. Callers are eligible for a cash reward of \$1,000 from Crimeline of Southern, NH.



Lawrence Native and New Hampshire Resident Robert Patnaud (above right) with his son Bobby in Las Vegas. Robert died suddenly last week of heart failure. He was born and raised on Tower Hill in Lawrence and was the product of the Lawrence Public Schools. Rest in Peace cousin Bobby. 1958-2013

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Hero Andover Firefighters of the Year: Lt. Karl Murphy, Firefighters Todd Richardson, John Gangi, and Firefighter-EMTs Christopher Laverty and Kevin Farragher with Chief Mansfield and Sharon Birchall. Andover Police Officers of the Year; Benjamin Ledwell and Evan Robitaille with Andover Police Chief Brian Pattullo and Exchange Club President Sharon Birchall.

of The Year.

LAWRENCE FIREFIGHTERS OF THE YEAR - FIREFIGHTERS STEVE POLEY, LIEUTENANT ED NUTTER, FIREFIGHTERS RAY KENYAN III, MIGUEL BAEZ AND CHRISTOPHER KING

*Nominated by Lawrence Fire Chief Jack Bergeron.*

As a firefighter in Lawrence I can testify that Lawrence Firefighters really feel most comfortable, most suited and best equipped for extinguishing a fire in a three tenement house. We know the layout, we know what to expect and we know how to get it done. (Most of the time) However, Emergency Medical calls are the #1 response for the Lawrence Fire Dept. In 2012, we responded to over 2,000 EMS calls. For the majority of those EMS calls we arrived on scene either shortly after or about the same time as Patriot Ambulance and the crews from LGH paramedics. There were a couple reasons why this happened, the primary reason is the way 911 calls for emergency medical are processed and the other reason is that it physically takes a bit longer to get the fire crew out the door and move down the road with that big red truck. When we do get on the scene we do provide whatever assistance the EMT's or Paramedics need. So when Lawrence Firefighters do arrive and there is no one else there it is unusual.

On the morning of January 17, 2012 at 4:48 am, Engine 5 manned by Lieutenant Edward Nutter, Firefighters Miguel Baez, Christopher King, Steve Poley and Raymond Kenyon III responded from the central fire station to 13 Bradford St 1st Floor for a report of a person having a seizure. Arriving on the scene before Patriot Ambulance and LGH paramedics, the crew from Engine 5 found a female unconscious and unresponsive. They checked for breathing and she was not breathing. They

opened her airway and initiated rescue breathing. They checked for a pulse and after finding no pulse they began chest compressions and attached the AED to the patient. As they continued they received a three no shock advice from the AED and continued CPR. A period of 4-5 minutes passed before the ambulance and paramedics arrived on the scene. At that time care was transferred to the Paramedics. Engine 5 crew assisted in getting the patient into the ambulance and drove the paramedic's vehicle to LGH. On the following day Engines 5 crew was informed that their actions and performance on the previous morning helped the patient to survive a heart attack.

Six months later on July 12, 2012 at 11:52 am, Engine 5 once again manned by Lieutenant Edward Nutter, Firefighters Miguel Biaz and Steve Polly responded to an Emergency Medical report of a person having a seizure and reported to 232 Hampshire St. On their arrival they found an adult male not breathing and with no pulse, Lieutenant Nutter and Firefighter Baez began CPR as Firefighter Poley readied the AED. After the AED analyzed the person one shock was administered and the crew continued CPR. They continued CPR until the ambulance arrived, then assisted getting the patient into the ambulance, once in the ambulance one more shock was given to the patient and it was after that shock the person began to breathe on his own. The crew continued to assist EMT's and paramedics in getting the patient safely to LGH.

I am proud to honor Lieutenant Edward Nutter, Firefighter Miguel Baez, Firefighter Steve Poley, Firefighter Raymond Kenyon III and Firefighter Christopher King for their performance for saving the lives of these individuals.

LAWRENCE POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR - BILL COLANTUONI

*Nominated by Police Chief John Romero*  
Bill Colantuoni is a detective in the Law-

rence Police Department. For the last 13 years he has spent his entire career investigating and solving violent crimes committed in this city. While Detective Colantuoni has to deal with these challenges, through his skill and tenacity he has distinguished himself within his profession. I would like to mention just a couple of cases he had recently been involved in.

On December 19, 2012 Detective Colantuoni responded with other detectives to an armed robbery at Sullivan Park. They encountered a male stabbed in the head. They came to the aid of the man who had been robbed by two males. The victim could only give a general description of the assailants. However, Detective Colantuoni knowing the area matched the description with someone he was familiar with and as a result that individual was positively identified by the victim and charged with armed robbery and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

On January 18, 2012 at approximately 6:15 PM Detective Colantuoni and other detectives were driving an unmarked cruiser near Tenny and Arlington streets when they heard gunshots. They exited their vehicle and located two men running out of the Arlington School playground towards the detectives. As more shots rang out, they quickly determined the men running towards them were not the shooter but being shot at by the suspect still on the playground.

Detective Colantuoni began a chase on foot. Detective Colantuoni maintained visual contact with the suspect and advised others units who could intercept the suspect a couple of blocks away. The suspect Richard Torres was taken into custody at gun point by Detective Jamie Brito, Detective Jay Heggarty and Detective Colantuoni.

Officers searched the area and recovered a firearm along the path where Detective Colantuoni chased the suspect. His actions lead to the arrest and conviction of a drug dealer with

several new weapons charges.

On September 10, 2012, Detective Colantuoni was assigned to investigate an armed home invasion that had occurred at 899 Essex Street. During this home invasion two suspects armed with hand guns tackled a 23 year old male resident outside his door. They pointed guns at him, dragged him inside his apartment, threw him on the floor, pistol whipped him and tied him up with electric wire. The victim's step son was also present and he too was tied up. The suspects stole a safe that contained \$10,000 and a 9MM handgun. The suspects also left behind one of their cell phones while fleeing. Detective Colantuoni secured a search warrant for the phone which was a pay by the minute phone, making it nearly impossible to trace. With the search warrant for the phone he was able to examine images on the phone that included individuals and houses in the background.

Detective Colantuoni was able to recognize what appeared to be a Methuen public housing unit with a male individual in the foreground. He developed further information with other detectives who recognized the individuals from their involvement in a previous drug distribution case.

A photo array of the suspect was shown to the home invasion victim who identified the man as Franklin Salsedo. Shortly thereafter Salsedo was arrested and charged with numerous felonies related to the Essex Street home invasion. In my 40+ years of policing I have had the privilege of working with many fine Detectives. None better than Bill Colantuoni. Therefore it is a privilege to award the 2013 Officer of the Year to Detective Colantuoni.

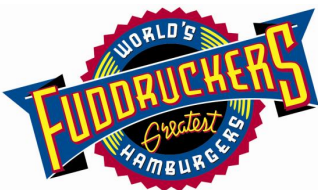
*Transcribed by Stephanie Petrow, Assistant Editor*



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