A young kid of 19 years old, like so many of the young guys my mother and I had met, was being assigned to the 8th AF, and sent to England; a kid named Larry from Easton, Maine. His orders had to have read something along these lines: “Coggwell, Lawrence H., PFC., 8th AF, 45th Combat Wing, 452nd Bomb Group, 730th Bomb Squadron, Captain Hayes, 45th Combat Wing, 452nd Bomb Group, 730th Bomb Squadron, Commanding Officer, AF.” Once in England, Larry discovered that “Air Force Station 142” was an airfield in East Anglia known as Deopham Green. It was a somewhat rural place in 1944 and the crew quarters were in what was known at the time as Quonset (or sometimes Nissen) huts. Each hut housed twenty guys and at least most of the huts had poured concrete floors. Heating was by a small British coke-fired stove and given British weather, was never quite adequate.

Firewood was scarce (at that time most Brits did not have much if any). There was no hot water either, but there was a standing (and firm) order that all aircrews were to be clean-shaven. Thus, shaving before going to bed was a dress requirement, the ignorance of which could result in nothing short of an extremely unpleasant death. And everyone on the aircrew of a B-17 had an essential position. One man down meant one position or weapon unavailable and that drove the odds up against you, odds that were already none too good.

Regardless of what we on the home front were told at the time, the crews considered the food terrible, consisting mostly of powdered eggs and potatoes (and perhaps sometimes peas). In fact, there grew up a sort of cottage industry, derived from the fine old British tradition of poaching. “Dog Breath”, “Scrappy Jr.”, “Flatbush Floral”, “Now Get!” “3 Cads and a Lad”, “Mugwump”, “Sack Time Soux”, “Our Buddy” (dedicated to the P-47 escort fighters), and many equally colorful others. All of these were marks on an aircraft’s vertical stabilizer with the letter “L” inside a square, which designated that the B-17 was based at Deopham Green.

Some would be around for a few missions.

Some wouldn’t.

Most of the East Anglia airfields looked similar to each other. Most had one or two large-ish hangars (although most maintenance was carried out on the hardstands in the open in whatever weather was happening). There were hardstands for the fortresses, taxies, and the prominent control tower with its little glassed-in room atop the brick and mortar block-like building. There were the always-present Quonset huts and guard shacks, mess halls, ops rooms, weather room, medical hut, vehicle parks, bomb dumps (always located as far as was practical from anything else), and places for the ever present raid the adjoining landowner’s game park and given British weather, was never quite adequate.
It’s Socialism, Not Doorknob, That Starves the Poor

Jeff Jacoby
VALLEY PATRIOT GUEST COLUMNIST

Dr. Charles Orneby took this month off and asked that Jeff Jacoby pinch hit.

What this country needs, says Bernie Sanders, is less doorknob. The 73-year-old senator from Vermont, now running for the Democratic presidential nomination, told CNBC’s John Harwood in an interview on Tuesday that because American consumers can choose from so many brands of personal-care products, you are going to bed with empty belly.

Will this doorknob aisle be history when Bernie Sanders is president?

“You don’t necessarily need a choice of 23 tattoos and 18 pairs of shoes or 18 different pairs of sneakers when children are hungry in this country,” Sanders lamented. He didn’t explain exactly how the profu-

sion of lotions and athletic footwear leads to childhood hunger, but for the only self-described socialist in Congress, it is no doubt a matter of faith that the abundance of capitalism must generate poverty and undernourishment.

In the face of the opposite is the true: Hunger and deprivation are rarest where markets and trade are freest. Food in America couldn’t possibly be more plentiful; no one starves from too many economic resources are being channeled into mar-

keting Old Spice instead of oatmeal. But in the socioeconomic relations, central control is always preferable to voluntary

pose their plan from above. After all, when buyers and citizens all free to choose for themselves, grocery and department store aisles fill up with “too many” goods that consumers desire to buy. And that’s not just a question of process of fulfill-

ing those desires, some capitalists may be getting wealthy.

Sanders’ suggestion that more kids would eat if doorknob control is always preferable to voluntary one starves because too many economic growth are equitable distribution of income but less

inequitable distribution of wealth. Sanders argued that consumers desire to buy. And that’s not just a question of process of fulfill-

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ing those desires, some capitalists may be getting wealthy.
Legislators, members of the media and 1st amendment advocates testified last month before a joint House and Senate committee on Beacon Hill, asking legislators to add penalties to the state’s public records law.

The law, MGL Ch. 66, states that the keeper of records in any municipality or public agency must turn over public documents within ten days of request.

But, Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan detailed for lawmakers his newspaper’s struggle to get public documents over the last eleven years, saying that officials know there is no penalty for violating the public records law “and they take advantage of that fact.”

“In 2012 we submitted a public records request to get to see how much the city was paying outside legal counsel. We were told by the former Mayor of Lawrence, Willie Lantigua, that he wasn’t even going to make the effort to look for public records because there was no penalty for refusing.” Duggan then detailed how he received a letter from the city attorney saying the records he was looking for were indeed public record, and that if he paid $61.81, the city would turn over the records.

“I personally went to the City Attorney’s office and handed them a check for $61.81. They took my check, they cashed my check, and then never turned over the documents, forcing us to incur more than $11,000 in legal bills to bring the city to court to get the records.”

Duggan said that even though three superior court judges ordered Lantigua to turn over the records he continued to refuse. “Eventually the voters took care of that problem when they threw Lantigua out of office and the incoming mayor gave us the documents we were looking for, but that was long after the documents were of no use to us.”

Duggan is credited with writing Senate Bill S1700, which was submitted by State Senator Kathleen O’Connor Ives. If passed, the bill will personally fine public officials $50 per day for every day they do not turn over public documents. The Ives bill will also allow members of the public to recoup legal fees and court costs if they have to take a public entity to court to get public records released.

GALVIN’S SUPPORT: KIND OF...

Secretary of State Galvin said that he believes the public should be charged fees for obtaining public records, even electronic or paper.

“Both Lyons and Methuen Rep. Diana DiZoglio (D) filed the exact same bill and eventually signed off as co-sponsors of the Ives Bill, which successfully got out of three subcommittees with a favorable recommendation. “If citizens are not able to gain access to recoup legal fees and court costs if they have to take a public entity to court to get public records released. “If citizens are not able to gain access to public records, adding that he believes reimbursement for public court costs should be part of the law.”

“I strongly support the idea that when a requester ... is willing to go to court themselves, they ought to be able to recover court costs. There ought to be some means by which they [public entities] would give back the costs that they [the public] would incur to enforce the order to the supervisor. Also there might be some system of fines on agencies that fail to cooperate. These would be some clear areas of enforcement,” Galvin said.

Secretary of State Galvin said that he believes the public should be charged fees for obtaining public records, even electronic records that require no copying and no paperwork. Galvin also lamented that too often, fees are used to discourage members of the public from seeking documents.

“One of the great concerns we have is that we frequently will decide a case, it will be decided that it is a public record, then having decided it as a public record, the agency will then hit the requester with an enormous amount of fees in order to get the requester documents, frustrating the requester all the more. There is clearly a basis for making a standard fee for replication of public records whether it be electronic or paper.”

Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan disagrees.

“The taxpayers already paid for these records, why should we have to pay twice?” he asked on 980WCAP radio after the hearing. “The fact is, we pay public officials to create and compile these records, there’s no reason to charge the public again. What about the poor and minorities who cannot afford to get copies of public records? Isn’t it racist to give records to rich white people who can afford them but not poor minorities who do not have the resources? It seems to me that Secretary Galvin and his party have a hypocrisy problem on this issue. Public records belong to the public and we already paid for them, they are our records and we shouldn’t be suppressing the public’s right to obtain them.”

BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC RECORDS: “It’s important, if we are going to have teeth in this law that encourages public officials to comply with it, that they have an incentive to release public records in a timely manner. To me, that means fining the individuals who are legally responsible for releasing the records in the first place,” Senator Katy Ives (D) said on 980WCAP last year when she filed the bill.

“The problem with this law,” Republi-can Rep. Jim Lyons of Andover said. “is that when an elected official or a holder of public records simply refuses to comply with the law, may Mayor Lantigua … in Lawrence, there is no penalty. All the Secretary of State can do is send them a nasty letter, and as we have seen in the case of The Valley Patriot that doesn’t work,” Rep. Lyons said. “I fully support this bill and I will vote for it.”

Both Lyons and Methuen Rep. Diana DiZoglio (D) filed the exact same bill and eventually signed off as co-sponsors of the Ives Bill, which successfully got out of three subcommittees with a favorable recommendation.

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PUBLIC RECORDS: PAGE 35
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Father’s Day: A Son’s Confession

Oscar Camargo
NORTH ANDOVER COLUMNIST

I must confess: I used to hate Father’s Day. It was a painful reminder growing up that my father wasn’t around. I envied friends who grew up with that same bond intact, and secretly wished no one would ask about my situation. You see, my father was an alcoholic and it nearly destroyed our family. Violent outbursts followed by vows of change; angry cries followed by tears of remorse; uncertainty and fear. In time, my mother chose to take her children away from this dangerous situation. She carried memories of my father faked but his absence was felt. He had wounded me more than any physical mark he’d ever inflicted. Even though I was fatherless I wasn’t without father figures who offered advice and guided me into adulthood. Yet, even they couldn’t fill the void left by the one man that mattered the most.

It was almost a decade before I was reunited with the man who raised me. When I met him, I found a man who was four years sober and had started a new family. I found a man who had realized the depth of his failures and, in doing so, found my forgiveness.

On every third Sunday of June, we’re reminded that fatherhood is as much a blessing as it is a moral responsibility. I’m glad my father is back in my life, but I often wonder how differently it would’ve been without his absence. The sins of my father will always stay with me as a reminder that one life can truly make a difference.

Oscar Camargo is a veteran and former candidate for State Representative. Follow him on Twitter at @jillowcamargo or email at oscarlcamargo@gmail.com

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Chris Boshar: A Tale of Courage One Day at a Time

Tom Duggan
VALLEY PATRIOT PUBLISHER

Heidi Seski, a close friend of mine, a high school and college friend, a supporter, a confidante, a source of inspiration and encouragement. I found her suit and stood up in one motion. I only worked there maybe a year and a half, not even, when this happened. I was working as a technical underwriter. (at the time), they would fly her down and out her suit and stood up in one motion. I was relieved when the Auditor dabbed on her suit and stood up in one motion. I was put back in the ICU and suffered from spinal cord injury. "They were able to do that with no expense to either one of them for three months." Boshar says that housing was provided for the family for about 30 days but because he ended up staying in Atlanta for 80 or 90 days, the seniors VP from a multifamily real estate firm that deals all across the country, reached out to some of his partners in Atlanta. Chris says that the real estate owner had a general partner that lived in Atlanta and had just constructed a housing development in the Atlanta area.

"He heard the story about what happened to me and furnished two apartments for my family and one of my friends. They took care of everything, silverware, plates, microwave, TV, etc., they had all of that. So there were a lot of people who did so much.

RESTORE THE BOSH – A RACE FOR CHRIS

Chris’ mission through this race is to provide inspiration and provide resources for those suffering from spinal cord injuries. He says he wants to encourage both walking and non-walking individuals to pursue a strong commitment to health through diet and exercise. “His ambition is to recover – his aspiration is to run.”


“…” because I have support.” This refresh balances…because I’m a superwoman, I’m able to balance…I’m not able to do these things

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State Auditor Bump on Balancing Work, Leadership and Laundry

Oscar Camargo
NORTH ANDOVER COLUMNIST

NORTH ANDOVER—Massachusetts State Auditor Suzanne Bump is the first female to serve as an Auditor in the state’s history, and she spoke frankly about her experiences at the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce’s “Women in Business Series” last month.

Members of the Chamber fielded questions as last minutes attendees checked in. Suzanne proudly fulfilled her promise to go through a maze of local leaders and business cards. I was relieved when the Auditor dabbed on some coral lipstick—something so normal I suddenly realized I had never seen at political events.

Chamber board member Kimberly Abene introduced Bump, who smoothed out her suit and stood up in one motion. The Auditor said Chamber President Joe Bivulca asked her to tackle the elusive question: how do you achieve work-life balance?

She paused again to put on a pair of thin black glasses, and looking over the top of them she admitted, “FRANKLY I don’t really know that [my] scales ARE at equilibrium…I don’t have work-life balance—I’m not able to do these things because I’m a superwoman, I’m able to…because I have support.” This refreshingly honest answer to a question that’s been haunting women since the 70s was followed up with practical advice for helping us succeed: let go of some traditional months.”

Boshar says that housing was provided for the family for about 30 days but because he ended up staying in Atlanta for 80 or 90 days, the seniors VP from a multifamily real estate firm that deals all across the country, reached out to some of his partners in Atlanta. Chris says that the real estate owner had a general partner that lived in Atlanta and had just constructed a housing development in the Atlanta area.

“…” because I have support.” This refresh balances…because I’m a superwoman, I’m able to balance…I’m not able to do these things

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North Andover voters rejected a measure at the Annual Town Meeting Tuesday night that would have allowed 16 and 17 year-olds the right to vote in local elections, at Town Meeting, and even run for local office.

Had the Warrant Article passed at Town Meeting, the question would have gone before the voters on the next town ballot, due to an amendment submitted by Dr. Frank MacMillan. Those supporting the change in voting age, including Town Moderator Mark DiSalvo, also voted against putting the question before the voters on the next town ballot.

The final vote on changing the voting age in North Andover was 30 in favor, and 170 against.

The Town Warrant Article was submitted by Celia DiSalvo, who is 18 years old and a graduate of North Andover High School. Because Celia DiSalvo is the daughter of Town Moderator Mark DiSalvo, he recused himself from moderating that portion of Town Meeting, and sat in the audience during the discussion.

Town Moderator Mark DiSalvo Voted NO on Putting the Issue Before the Voters at the Ballot Box.

“The Idea came from the three of us,” Celia DiSalvo said after Town Meeting, pointing to Adam Magletta and Joy Duboff. “As I am the only one who is an actual voter, I was the one who had to put it on the Town Warrant. I’m 18 years-old so, technically, I was the petitioner, but the idea came from all of us.”

Celia says she voted in the town election this year and voted tonight at Annual Town Meeting for the first time.

Adam Magletta says that he and his friends were motivated to put the Warrant Article before Town Meeting because of the low turnout in the last town election.

“As Far as the impetus of this, I think we were all alarmed by the voter participation rate in the last election, which presented important choices between candidates and issues that seemingly nobody cared about,” Magletta said.

“We were all really concerned by that. So obviously we are disappointed but this isn’t the last bit of activism we are going to be involved with.”

Selectmen

“All three of us have been involved in politics for a while through volunteering on campaigns,” DiSalvo agreed. “We believe we are knowledgeable enough to express our vote. This is something critical, and it’s tangible, contributing to a ballot [measure], and to have a voice in the political process.”

“It’s obviously disappointing,” Joy Duboff said of the 170-30 defeat of the measure.

“We did better than we expected and it was a success of it’s own, though, to see people who, although they opposed us they showed passion and motivation to do so, that brought more attention to the matter. I think more people got informed because of this. So even though this didn’t get approved it was a success in that [way].”

DiSalvo said that she and her friends were not giving up. “We will be back next year, I will be in college but I will come back to help these two.”

With only 200 voters attending Annual Town Meeting the town budget passed as well as a warrant article mandating broadcasting all town board meetings including the Finance Committee.

Anne Knowles

ANDOVER COLUMNIST

What great time to be had. On Saturday, May 30, Republican Texas Senator Ted Cruz, came to Andover to meet and greet many of his supporters. Over 500 people turned out for this opportunity to listen to Sen. Cruz tell the crowd his vision of what America can and will be under his administration. Hosted at State Representative Jim Lyon’s “barn” it was an atmosphere of “we can do it.”

His “courageous conservative” campaign is a promise to deliver to the people of the United States, a country that stands for freedom, a better life for generations to come, and American leadership in our world. He made note of the malaise that infects much of the current government, “our friends don’t trust us and our enemies don’t fear us.”

His call to put this country back on the right course is to enforce and adhere to the “Bill of Rights” that all citizens have and must understand. Government is for the people, and the people have the right to be free to participate in all the promises that the United States has to offer.

He cited problems that the current administration in Washington, D.C. does not understand how to solve or lacks the desire to correct. Lack of jobs and economic growth, an overreach of regulations, lack of opportunities for progress, the need for a reduction in taxes that effects the people of the United States to its full potential for all its people.

His father has been an important part of his life; impressing Senator Cruz of the greatness of America.

The Senator talked of the men and women who stood strong and firm at the Alamo in 1836. Drawing a line in the sand, Col. William Travis asked, “Who will stand with me?”, and that is a question Americans must answer today. A grassroots army of patriotic citizens can restore the United States to its full potential for all its people.

The Cruz for President campaign appreciates the interest and support of the people. Check their website for updates on future events. tedcruz.org
MassDEP Penalizes Commonwealth Motors $15K, Suspends Auto Inspections for 2 Years Due to Fraud

Tom Duggan
VALLEY PATRIOT PUBLISHER

Individual Inspector Also Penalized Separately for 6 Fraudulent Emission Tests

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) penalized Commonwealth Motors of Lawrence $15,000 for issuing six fraudulent motor vehicle inspection stickers between July 16 and November 7, 2014. In addition, Commonwealth Motors’ license to conduct automobile emissions was suspended for up to two years. This is not the first time the DEP has cited Commonwealth Motors. In September of 2012 MassDEP and the Registry of Motor Vehicles Strike Force found Commonwealth doing fraudulent emissions testing and fined them.

After identifying inconsistent patterns of data from vehicles’ on-board diagnostics (OBD) system generated from Commonwealth Motors, MassDEP inspected the facility once again on November 25, 2014. Several representatives of Commonwealth Motors were interviewed, including Albenis Ortega of Lawrence, who was identified as having been the source of the fraudulent inspections.

Ortega is no longer employed at this or any station conducting certified automobile inspection and maintenance checks for the purpose of issuing sticker cards in Massachusetts. Ortega has also been issued a $6,000 penalty for the violation.

Among the fraudulent “clean-scan” stickers issued, one had been obtained for himself as well as for other members of Ortega’s family, including his wife’s aunt and a cousin. Generating fraudulent inspection stickers violates the emissions inspections regulations and the Massachusetts Clean Air Act.

“We investigated and took action because we must have confidence in the system, and because the vehicle inspection workstation equipment to generate fraudulent inspection stickers in this manner undermines the integrity of the auto emissions program that has been put in place to protect air quality and public health,” said MassDEP Commissioner Martin Suuberg.

The automobile inspection program in Massachusetts is administered jointly by MassDEP and the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV), and is the primary tool for combating the emission of excess pollution from motor vehicles. Motor vehicles are a significant source of pollutants that are known to have especially adverse health effects on children, the elderly, and persons already suffering from respiratory ailments.

“This penalty should send a clear signal to the industry that the Commonwealth will not tolerate violations of the inspection program,” said Registrar Erin Devaney. “Failing to follow the proper procedures poses unacceptable safety risks to motorists and also undermines the program’s purpose of ensuring harmful vehicle emissions that could affect public health do not go unchecked.”

Commonwealth Motors will pay the $15,000 penalty within 30 days. The facility will have its automobile emissions station license locked out for two months. The facility will have its licensed inspection workstation restored for the remaining 22 months, provided there are no additional violations during the entire two-year period.

Ortega will pay $3,000 of his penalty and the remaining $3,000 will be suspended provided there are no additional violations for a period of two years.

Consumers who want to find out more about the vehicle inspection program can call the toll-free Massachusetts Vehicle Check Help Desk at 866-941-6277 or visit the Massachusetts Vehicle Check website at: www.mass.gov/vehiclecheck.

MassDEP is responsible for ensuring clean air and water, safe management and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes, timely cleanup of hazardous waste sites and spills and the preservation of wetlands and coastal resources.

Adventures in Transparency

Kathy Runge
VALLEY PATRIOT LAWRENCE COLUMNIST

Myra Ortiz, Candidate for District A Council

I recently spoke with Myra Ortiz, who will be running against incumbent Sandy Almonte. Myra has made Lawrence her home for 15 years and currently represents District A on the School Committee.

Although the school system is under receivership, Ms. Ortiz has a productive relationship with Receiver Jeffrey Riley and feels that the committee members have many opportunities to make a positive impact. One of her priorities is developing partnerships that expose students to leadership opportunities in civic engagement. This month she plans to escort 45 students from the Arlington School to a Congress for Girls, which encourages girls to get involved in politics.

Myra has been an associate at the Mayo Clinic in Andover for 13 years, working in talent acquisition and business development. She has a Bachelor of Science in Organizational leadership from Southern New Hampshire University and an Associates Degree in Business Management from Northern Essex Community College.

Ms. Ortiz doesn’t support the infamous no confidence resolution that’s still on the table and would not be a supporter of a mayoral recall over the residency requirement.

She was one of the honorees at the Greater Lawrence YWCA’s Tribute to Women 2015 for her work with numerous community organizations. I think Myra Ortiz is a capable, intelligent and responsible person who would do a good job as a councilor.

If you live in District A, she deserves serious consideration for your vote. More information will be found on her website which will be launched soon.

NAGGING QUESTIONS

Does anyone else have questions that keep nagging them? Does anyone recognize it? If you know whose dog this is please email me at feeds666@hotmail.com. This is the icon I get when bookmarking City of Lawrence website pages using the Dolphin browser. Other browsers give the usual icon.

The other thing I kept wondering about was if the City Council ever forwarded my complaint alleging a violation of the Open Meeting Law (OML) to the Attorney General’s Office (AGO) as required by law.

On January 15 of this year I filed a complaint alleging the Council violated the OML. The details of the complaint were given in my February 2015 column. The Council should have forwarded a copy of my complaint along with any remedial action taken to the AGO within 14 business days. The filer may forward the complaint to the Division of Open Government in the AGO’s office after 30 days if the filer does not receive a response.

I saw no evidence of any response by February 17, so I called the Division of Open Government to inquire as to the progress. They forwarded my complaint to them. They suggested I first reach out to Council President Maldonado and ask him if he was going to respond and requested I mention that our office had not received a copy of the complaint.

On March 2, I wrote a letter to the Council President indicating I had not received any materials regarding my complaint.

Just as I was getting ready to contact the state again, I received a response from Council President Maldonado along with a cover letter from City Attorney Boddy. Mr. Maldonado was a letter addressed to the Attorney General dated January 21, 2015.

City Attorney Boddy’s cover letter stated that Mr. Maldonado had written a letter to the Attorney General dated January 21, 2015.

“City Attorney Boddy’s cover letter stated that Mr. Maldonado had written a letter to the Attorney General dated January 21, 2015.” That’s another one of those pesky questions that keep nagging me.

For many reasons I didn’t think Council President Maldonado’s response was sufficient. I won’t get into all of the details here, but as the entire Council was named in the complaint I felt that some discussion should have occurred at the council level.

I kept wondering, did the AGO’s copy also go to Attorney General dated January 21, 2015? Did the Council President finally forward the complaint as was required or just give me a copy of a letter supposedly sent to the AGO? I forwarded my complaint to the Division of Open Government in early April just to make sure they received a copy.

Guess what? I received a call from the Division of Open Government a couple of weeks later and their copy was still nonexistent! You would think that the Council President would’ve checked to see if they had received their copy after realizing I had “received mine.”

If the response I received had been dated sometime in March I wouldn’t have been happy, but what can you say in a situation like that? Instead we’re supposed to believe that both the Attorney General’s copy and mine were “lost in the mail.” I’ll let the reader form your own opinion regarding this matter.
Two Lawrence Men Arraigned for Extensive Heroin Packaging and Distribution Operation

More than $1M in Heroin Seized

Two Lawrence men have been arraigned in connection with an extensive heroin trafficking operation, Attorney General Maura Healey announced today. The men were arrested while trying to flee a Lawrence home where authorities seized four guns, approximately $2,000 in cash and about four kilograms of heroin with an estimated street value of more than $1 million.

Wilkins Diaz, age 39, and Luis Hernandez, age 32, were arrested last Thursday in a joint operation involving Massachusetts State Police assigned to the Attorney General’s Office, the Massachusetts State Police Transportation Drug Unit (TDU) and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

“Our office is committed to combating the opioid epidemic on multiple fronts, including prosecuting those who traffic these deadly drugs,” said AG Healey. “I thank the other agencies involved in this operation and will continue to work with our local, state and federal partners to fight this devastating epidemic that is claiming lives across the state.”

Diaz and Hernandez were arraigned in Lawrence District Court on Friday each on one count of Trafficking in Heroin over 1,000 Grams, Conspiracy to Violate the Drug Law, Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, and Improper Storage of a Firearm. Both pleaded not guilty to the charges. Diaz was held on $3,000 in cash and Hernandez was held on $500,000 bail and Hernandez was held on $500,000 cash bail.

If either of the defendants posts bail, they must surrender their passports and be monitored by GPS. They are both due to face their cases in May.

In January, the AG’s Office sued a North Andover treatment center for unlawfully profiting off of patients seeking treatment for opiate addiction, charging hundreds of dollars per visit and allowing them to avoid counseling services.

Also in April, two Boston men were arrested in connection with trafficking heroin after search warrants were executed in Dorchester and Roxbury and more than 130 grams of heroin were seized. In March, the AG’s Office indicted a Dorchester man and woman in connection with heroin trafficking.

In January, the AG’s Office arrested and charged Naman Spencer for his involvement in an alleged scheme to use fraudulent prescriptions to illegally obtain Oxycodone tablets.

The AG’s Office discovered Spencer’s alleged illegal activities through their investigation into Vincent Leo, who was indicted on more than 100 counts of prescription and credit card fraud and identity theft in November 2014. Leo allegedly created hundreds of fraudulent prescriptions in order to obtain oxycodone tablets.

The charges against Diaz and Hernandez are allegations and defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Lantigua Confidant, Milagros Dominguez Arrested by Homeland Security

A long time ally, confidant, strategist, and campaign worker for former Lawrence Mayor and State Rep. Willie Lantigua, has been arrested and charged by the Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) with Benefit Fraud Task Force.

HSI and other federal, state, and local counterparts. It was created with a series of multi-agency teams, developed to target criminal organizations and beneficiaries behind fraudulent schemes.

Milagros Dominguez of Lawrence, was charged with 3 counts of violation of 42 USC 408; for using false social security numbers to receive benefits.

She was arrested in federal court Tuesday afternoon and released without bail, but with the following conditions; she cannot move, cannot change employment, must remain employed, must use her real name at all times, and cannot use any other identities or social security numbers.

A pretrial conference is set for early July.

NO STRANGER TO CONTROVERSY

In 2006, The Valley Patriot broke several stories about Dominguez using a fake identity after our sources obtained an original false drivers license. The license listed her name as ‘Dirma Espada’ next to her photo.

At the time Dominguez refused to comment, but a month later in June of 2006, she verbally attacked a Valley Patriot reporter at Semana Hispana (Hispanic Week), saying that The Valley Patriot manufactured “lies”. Our reporter snapped this photo (right) as she lashed out at him.

Still, CAUSING TROUBLE

Lantigua Police also escorted Dominguez out of the Valebrook Apartments last year. The incident happened on Election Day, November 4, 2014. Dominguez had been causing a raucous after voters complained that she was campaigning for Willie Lantigua inside the polling locations. Lantigua was running for State Representative against Marcos Devers. He lost that election.

Dominguez also worked for the City of Lawrence under Mayor Lantigua as a poll worker with access to voter information.

She was in charge of checking voters’ names as they voted. Dominguez was seen not only wearing Lantigua stickers inside the polling locations, but several voters complained that she was going inside the polling booth with voters and telling them who to vote for, as well as passing out sample ballots with Lantigua’s name already checked off. During the 2013 Lawrence mayoral race between Mayor Lantigua and (then) Councilor Dan Rivera, a recount was held. Milagros Dominguez represented the Lantigua campaign during that recount. She is seen below conferring with Lantigua during that recount.

She has also been the publisher of, and writer for several Spanish language newspapers and magazines including the
Slain Officer Finally Honored

Lawrence officials have finally honored slain Lawrence Patrolman Eugene Scanlon with the dedication of a square named after him on July 4th at Amherst Street & David Street in Lawrence.

"Vinyl Girl" Cindy Annis and her dad Pete Annis take your vinyl record requests Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday nights on 980WCAP radio (980AM or www.980wcap.com).

Inside Pentucket Medical at the Riverwalk, 500 Merrimack St, Lawrence. Main entrance downstairs next to the Lab (978) 557-8601.
BOOK REVIEW BY SUSAN PIAZZA

I loved this book! Spent a few foggy days; instead of sleeping I read. I could not put it down. The author presents a problem. I found several editing mistakes. Though her writing was great the editing was not. There were several sections that were repeated and not at the beginning and end of the book where it would not be obvious. They came only a chapter or so apart (actually about twenty pages apart). Several sentences were exactly as they were written pages before. In another part she used a contraction for “did not” whereas in the prior section she did not but it was verbatically oh, except for that earlier “and” in the middle of a sentence.

SPILER ALERT: Then there was an issue at the end of the book. Page 261 has Siobhan and Megan vanish after dying. The next paragraph has Barbara’s body disappear after she dies. “Almost immediately after the three women had vanished, Rowan had taken charge.” The next part has the women of the coven going back to perform a cleaning ceremony “before burying Barbara’s body.” Huh? What body, the one that disappeared? The fourth paragraph has them returning to the stone circle only to find that Barbara’s body had vanished. (I thought it vanished two paragraphs before!) The next page tries to explain why the coven women could not find the body. Again, huh? The three bodies vanished while the coven was there and before Rowan took command. How were these mistakes not caught?

I read this book twice, once for pleasure, once to focus on the review. I am a voracious reader and she is one of the better word arrangers I have read. She has a definite flair with words. An example is on page 40, “The green of his eyes had turned stormy and wild. She felt herself fall into the rolling sea of his gaze.” Her intimate scenes are well done. They are sensual and erotic. Drawn out and visual. Wording is pleasant and not guttery. Highly recommend.
Residents looking for help or support from their state senator or state representatives can now find it at City Hall. The Lawrence delegation has opened a local office at Lawrence City Hall, 200 Common St., Mayor Dan Rivera and the city’s state delegation announced.

The office – Room 203 on the second floor – is to be shared by Sen. Barbara L’Italien and state representatives Marcos Devers, Frank Moran and Diana DiZoglio. The along delegation with Mayor Rivera plan to hold a grand opening of the office June 12 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. They plan to invite community groups and the event is open to the public.

“I am delighted to have our state delegation working under the same roof,” Mayor Rivera said. “This will allow us to take on a more collaborative approach to solving both municipal and federal inquiries that our residents may have. I welcome Sen. L’Italien and Representatives Devers, Moran and DiZoglio to City Hall as we work together to make Lawrence better.”

Sen. L’Italien said she plans to have a daily presence at City Hall and that her staff will be available to meet residents there during regular City Hall hours.

“As I traveled around the district last year it became clear to me that I wanted a full time presence in Lawrence to help our residents access state services,” said Sen. L’Italien.

The city’s senator and state representatives receive hundreds of phone calls and emails each week seeking help on everything from finding emergency food and housing, to applying for food stamps, state health care benefits and handicapped license plates, to seeking job training and job placement resources, to name just a few.

“It has never been more important for us to have an office in Lawrence” Sen. L’Italien said her constituent aide Maria De La Cruz will be her primary staff member at the City Hall office. De La Cruz is originally from the Dominican Republic, now lives in Lawrence and is very active in the community.

Anyone who wants to meet with De La Cruz may call her at (978) 303-7243 or the senator’s Boston office at (617) 722-7136.

— State Senator Barbara L’Italien

Fired Lawrence Counselor Wants to be Made Whole

Tom Duggan

A fired guidance counselor in the Lawrence Public Schools, Brenda Sudol-Kirwin, won an arbitration hearing against the schools in August of 2013, for his sick leave for injuries she incurred while working in the schools. But Kirwin says the issue is not over and wanted to go public about the abuse she endured by the Lawrence Public Schools.

Kirwin says that the bullying took place from May to November of 2009, and she is still trying to be made whole from the incidents that caused her to lose her job as she is still suffering from PTSD as a result of her bullying.

Initially, Kirwin filed a grievance with the Lawrence Teachers’ Union. Then, she claims, that Lawrence Schools denied her sick leave for her injuries according to her teachers’ contract. This took place before sending her to a doctor for evalu- ation.

According to the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Social Workers 20.09 regulation and 258 CMR, the license of a social worker, including school social counselors can be at risk for disclosing confidential information via computer to outside agencies and when I refused she retaliated against me. She made my life a living hell.”

Kirwin says that the confidential information Doozy wanted her to release included students’ names and other information that Assistant Superintendent Mary Lou Bergeron (who was the acting superintendent at the time) had informed us that that information never be put on the computer to outside agencies.

Bergeron said at the time that the schools had blanket releases from the parents that just isn’t true”, Kirwin said. “I know, because I was on the committee that formed the releases for the counseling department and those had to be authorized by the legal department.”

Arbitration documents obtained by The Valley Patriot show that the arbitrator agreed Kirwin was bullied by her principal at the Oliver School.

Kirwin also currently has an accidental disability case with the teachers’ retirement board, which was denied but an appeal is pending.

“I am convinced that Dooy’s abusive and inappropriate conduct caused the grievant [Kirwin] stress and injury” Arbitrator Tammy Byrnie said in her ruling.

“Notably, Dr. Kelly opined that if the Grievant’s claim about hostile and abusive conduct and the resulting symptoms would be appropriate and understandable. “Further, significant aspects of the Grievant’s account about how he was bullied, his symptoms, how he was bullied and his behavior were corroborated by sequestered witnesses.”

The claim is that because of her psychological injuries at the hands of principal Donna Beth Dooley she cannot work anywhere.

Other Lawrence Public School employees testified that the Oliver School, at the time, was a hostile work environment and confirmed that Kirwin was harassed and bullied by her principal.

Testifying at the arbitration hearing against the school system were guidance counselor Tracy Gresser, parent liaison Milagros Rodriguez, Cathy Fisher, and Maureen Santiago of the Oliver School.

“Tracy was very courageous as were all the employees who testified to the abuse that we all endured at the hands of Donna Beth Dooley. I say courageous, because they were being bullied and harassed by the principal.”

“As a side note, not one Lawrence Public School employee testified on behalf of Principal Donna Beth Dooley.”

“After testifying in my case some of these employees were retaliated against because of their testimony.”

UNSAFE WORK ENVIRONMENT? Kirwin says that this is that, and has been,
High School, and currently resides with Methuen High School. Rich grew up in who was recently appointed Principal of mutual concerns.

2-3 early release days to afford students 15th. Finally, the new calendar eliminates we just had. Let’s certainly hope that is next winter proves to be similar to the one

day, June 15th and the 185th instructional the 180th instructional day will be Wednes 

tions, and planning for the next year. Many exciting changes are being planned for the 2015-2016 school year.

First off, I am pleased to report that after much discus-

ion and soliciting input from parents, teachers, union of-

officials, and support staff, it has been decided that Methuen Public Schools will begin before Labor Day in 2015-2016. Labor Day is late this year and falls on Monday, September 7th. It has thus been decided that Methuen Public Schools will reopen for faculty and staff on Monday, August 31st and for students on Tuesday, September 1st. Staff and students will have an extra long weekend in order to wrap-

up Summer by having Friday, September 4th off. Those three days prior will allow teachers to distribute books and materials, 4th off. Those three days prior will allow
teachers to distribute books and materials,

4th off. Those three days prior will allow
teachers to distribute books and materials,

review protocols, and send home papers

April 20th. This affords plenty

number of bills have been filed to change this including legislation filed by Senator Ives and co-sponsored by both Represen-
tative DiZoglio and myself. As a member of the committee hearing these bills (The committee on State Administration), I am confident that legislation will emerge from this two-year session to improve things.

At the local level, the lack of penalties for not providing reasonably available public documents sometimes results in financial losses of great magnitude to in-
dividuals and families when much needed information regarding zoning and matters affecting personal property could not be obtained in a timely manner. A family from Salisbury testified at the hearing explaining how their inability to gain ac-
cess to local public records resulted in the bankruptcy of their business along with their savings.

Equally important are the artificial barriers erected against the press as they attempt to investigate important matters of public concern. Some reporters testified that obtaining information pertaining to law enforcement personnel is especially problematic. Our Tom Duggan testified about the negative effect delays have, citing specific cases in Lawrence and North Andover. Other well-known media personalities explained how their inability to gain ac-

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obtained in a timely manner. A family

Information regarding zoning and matters

financial losses of great magnitude to in-

have been submitted on this topic and the most important compo-
nent is that there are enforceable penalties for noncompliance. Some of the major provisions follow:

- Enforceable non-compliance penalties if information is supplied within 30 days;
- Requirement for a record access officer in each agency and methods for electronic record keeping;
- Reduction of fees for photocopies and printouts, which stipulate that the custo-
dian may only charge for actual costs of preparation;
- Attorney fees in any litigation will be paid by the losing party;
- State agencies must publicly post records on the Internet whenever possible;
- A Commission with House and Senate membership will be established to analyze best practices from other states.
- Representative Campbell serves on the Committee on Ways and Means, is the Vice Chair of the Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security and serves on the committees of State Administra-
tion and New Technology and Economic Development.

Linda.Campbell@mahouse. gov/617.722.3304 representative.linda.campbell@gmail.com Officials, advocates call for reform to Massachusetts’s public records law.

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Strong Support at State House Hearing to Improve Access to Public Information

Rep. Linda Dean Campbell
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Massachusetts gets an F grade for ac-

cess to public records according to some very respected public interest groups. A number of bills have been filed to change this including legislation filed by Senator Ives and co-sponsored by both Represen-
tative DiZoglio and myself. As a member of the committee hearing these bills (The committee on State Administration), I am confident that legislation will emerge from this two-year session to improve things.

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Linda.Campbell@mahouse. gov/617.722.3304 representative.linda.campbell@gmail.com Officials, advocates call for reform to Massachusetts’s public records law.
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Patriotism Lives

John MacDonald

VALLEY PATRIOT LOWELL COLUMNIST

This past Memorial Day I traveled down to a campground in Rhode Island. It is a place called Holiday Acres and it has a lot of seasonal campers year round and, of course, many weekenders during weekends in the summer. Those of us who have made the decision and financial commitment to be seasonal campers have developed friendships over the years. Most of us have families, still have kids in school and enjoy the camaraderie of the summer. We do a lot of fishing, make s’mores and sit by the campfire as a way to keep us all close.

I love to say that I spend every weekend at the camp, but don’t. There is always something happening during the summer that prevents me from being at the camp, whether it be family commitments, work, or something unforeseen. On Memorial Day I usually attend events before or after the weekend, to honor those who have passed and served our great nation. Long weekends are rare and the kids are only young for a short amount of time with the family is a priority for me.

My wife and I are both veterans. She served in the Navy and I served in the Air Force. Both of us feel a deep sense of pride in our country and are patriots. We’ve both made a personal commitment to serve our country in our own way and feel that we do live in the greatest nation on earth. However when I watch various negative news stories on television or read about anti-patriotic acts that involve burning the flag, it troubles me. Or when I hear the President tell the world that we’re no better than anyone else, it doesn’t leave me with a great sense of confidence that my wife and I are in the “patriotic majority” anymore. I often feel that patriotism is a dying sentiment in America.

So in closing, thank you to Chris Hines for showing me and everyone else that patriotism still exists and that there are still patriots out there. We need more people like Chris Hines. This is what America is all about. The world needs more people like Chris Hines. This is what America is all about.

“WEATHER 101” WITH AL

What do all those weather terms MEAN?

Al Kaprielian

VALLEY PATRIOT WEATHERMAN

On a surface weather map we commonly see what we call “weather fronts”.

A front is caused by differences in air pressure in the atmosphere. Fronts separate two different air masses.

An air mass is defined as a region of air where the air around it has similar temperatures and dew points. Dew point refers to the amount of moisture in the air expressed in degrees. When the temperature and dew point are both the same 45/45 the air is totally saturated with moisture. Warm air is lighter and rises and holds more moisture. Cooler air is heavier and sinks and holds less moisture.

TYPES OF WEATHER FRONTS

There are different types of fronts. There are cold fronts, warm fronts, occluded fronts and stationary fronts.

A cold front brings cooler & less humid air into the region. A warm front brings warmer, more humid air into the region. An occluded front occurs when the cold front catches up and overtakes the warm front. A stationary front means a front has stalled and dropped more or less out of the atmosphere. This is usually the result of the winds in the upper atmosphere being parallel to the front. Cold fronts usually move from west to east but not always.

A backdoor cold front can occur most often in the spring and it usually moves from northeast to southwest. A backdoor cold front can be the result of differences between the temperature of the land versus the ocean. Remember, the ocean warms more slowly than land in the spring because of evaporation and mixing. The ocean is a fluid, which causes it to constantly move. Due to the fact that the ocean constantly moves it takes more heat from the sun to warm the ocean one degree versus the land.

Evaporation occurs every day (365 days) over the ocean. Evaporation is a cooling process in that it cools the air over the ocean.

LAND vs OCEAN AIR MASSES

Since the ocean is colder than the land in the spring months, this causes the air to be heavier and more humid over the ocean. Meanwhile, the air is warmer and lighter over the land areas. This causes an imbalance of air pressure and hence, a front forms.

The colder air over the ocean has a higher air pressure in that it is denser. The warmer air over the land is lighter and therefore has less pressure.

With the approach of a backdoor cold front, there can be some gusty winds. Winds are also caused by differences in air pressure. The wind direction ahead of the backdoor cold front is usually south/ southwest. Behind the front, winds shift to northeast/ east and temperatures can drop sharply.

Fronts cause precipitation and because there is a clash between warmer air and cooler air. This clashing of warmer & cooler air causes an imbalance for the atmosphere. Warmer air & cooler air are opposites. The atmosphere wants to be balanced and when fronts approach, it is not balanced. This imbalance causes clouds and precipitation to form.

Clouds form when the air rises. As this air rises it cools due to expansion (the spreading out of air). When the air cools, this causes it to cool to the dewpoint. When this occurs, the air is totally saturated and a result, condensation occurs. This condensation causes moisture to form in the way of clouds. When the clouds grow and get large enough, they cannot hold any more water droplets so the clouds burst and then rain falls, or in the winter months it can be snow/sleet.

PRECIPITATION

In the winter precipitation can be snow. Fronts usually bring unsettled weather with clouds and precipitation because there is a clash between two different air masses.

When fronts stall (stop moving) this can cause rain and unsettled weather to continue for a few to sometimes several days. An example is May 31 into June of this year, when a cold front stalled just south of New England.

In the spring, fronts usually bring unsettled weather and in the spring and summer thunderstorms, which can become severe and produce tornadoes can occur. For a few to sometimes several days. An example is May 31 into June of this year, when a cold front stalled just south of New England.

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John MacDonald is the President/CEO of Big Decisions, LLC, which is a management consulting business that concentrates on offering strategic advice on Marketing, Public Relations, Economics, Business Development and Social Media. John has a long career of success, achieving record results in the communications field and spending over 20 years managing strategic budgets, driving the bottom line in the financial services, restauranteur, retail and real estate industries.

1612 to schedule an appointment at the Lawrence office.

“I am truly delighted about the appointment of Mr. Al Kaprielian to his office for the Lawrence legislative delegation,” said Rep. Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen) who also represents Lawrence. “I encourage everyone who would like to meet with me at City Hall to discuss issues of concern to call my State House office at (617) 222-9200 to schedule an appointment.”

“This office will serve as a one-stop shop for constituents to come to our representatives on Beacon Hill,” said Rep. Moran, who represents parts of Andover and Methuen in addition to Lawrence. “I am very grateful that Mayor Rivera was able to assist the delegation in streamlining the legislative process for the residents of Lawrence.”

Rep. Devers said his aide Jorge Cruz plans to be at City Hall on Friday’s from 9 a.m. to noon. Residents may also contact Rep. Devers anytime at (617) 722-4933 or by email at Jorge.Cruz@MAhouse.gov. “This will be an asset to our Community and I am profoundly grateful to Mayor Rivera for his open and cooperative collaboration in helping to connect members of the community with their state delegation,” Rep. Devers said. “My office is committed to this community and I look forward to seeing and attending our community’s needs.”
An Interview with Gov. Jim Gilmore
Homeland Security in the Hometown of a Flying Ace
PART I

Frankly, the threats are on the page. You can see that our warning was—look, it may not be very easy for the enemy to get a nuclear weapon, but the chance of a conventional attack against this country is highly probable. It was considered highly probable.

People are familiar with stories of the heroism of the NYPD and firefighters of New York, but less so with the first responders to the Pentagon. Can you tell the story of your and their actions on September 11th?

The governor of Virginia has a big-picture responsibility to make sure that the whole state was protected. And that meant that we had to set up the emergency operation center immediately. Therefore you put the structures in place to look for the next attack. I directed that any gunplay in the state be reported immediately to Central Facility. We activated the National Guard. We worried people around the state. We began public communication in order to calm the people and have them understand that people were in charge and they’re working hard to protect them.

The immediate attack—which was a surprise attack, right?—That’s what it succeeded. It was a surprise attack, just like the one in New York. [...] killed a lot of people. And there you had to do exactly what we foresaw in the Gilmore Commission report. The responders have to be the police, fire, rescue, and emergency services. That’s what it has to be. That’s what it was at the Pentagon. It wasn’t the federal people that responded. It was the state people. It was local people. The police departments, the fire trucks. Essentially, the fire trucks.

My experience of course was that not only did I do the big picture things in Richmond, but I had to, I went to the Pentagon. I walked into the smoking hole initially, the fire trucks. Essentially, the state people. It was local people. The police departments, the fire trucks. Essentially, the fire trucks.

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Doctors Express North Andover was a co-sponsor of last month’s Merrimack Valley Relay for Life. Their sponsorship and team raised approximately $3,000 for cancer research. Doctors Express is in North Andover, Methuen and Lawrence.

Valley Patriot Lawrence High Scholarship Winners: (Left) Ramses Jiminez the 2014 Valley Patriot Scholarship winner was on hand this year to present our $450 scholarships to Chris Pichardo and Caroline Garcia. — at Lawrence High School Campus.

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DIANNE M. O’BRIEN 
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Methuen State Representative Diana DiZoglio is becoming quite the celebrity. Last month she was out on the town with Star Trek’s LeVar Burton, who played Jordi LaForge.

Another successful Taste of Methuen last month at the National Guard Armory. From the Greater Lawrence Tech is: Scott, Marlena Majia, Edward Perez, and Juan Gonzalez. Taste of Methuen is sponsored by the Methuen Exchange Club.

Presidential Candidate, Texas Senator Ted Cruz was in Andover last month (a full story is coming next month) and he made sure to take his copy of The Valley Patriot back to Texas with him so he could keep up with all the news!

Chris from Mal’s Barber Shop on Main St. in North Andover with Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan.
Last month I had the pleasure of visiting Melburn High School and sitting in on a meeting of the GSA (Gay Straight Ali- ance). Several of my colleagues and I are currently organizing such a group at the Marsh Grammar School and wanted to see one in action. I was very excited to go for a number of reasons: to see how these groups function, to gather ideas on how we'd like the Marsh’s group to be organized and run and to see some of my old students.

Caroline Mulligan, a former student of mine, has been the GSA president for the past two years. Advisors for the GSA are faculty members Jackie Molka and Mi- chael Coco. The group consisted of about twelve students in various grades, stages of sexual acceptance/transition, and identities.

The meeting began with each member introducing himself or herself, stating the process they went through and by answering a “fun” question. The fun question was, “What did you have for lunch today and can you name any member from the Marsh were there as observers?

Most of the members chose to be referred by the name by nature. One female, nature, female is being referred to be by male pro- nouns. I was intrigued and impressed by such a young individual becoming comfortable and courageous enough to be honest about their preferred title.

After meeting with them I had hoped to come to at least another meeting or two, but, to my disappointment and due to my schedule, I was not able to attend any of their last few meetings. I sent Ms. Mulligan a few questions to pose to the group and received prompt and honest responses. The first question posed was, “What is the group’s philosophy and objectives? Every single one of them answered in the same manner: To offer a safe environment. This is a huge step in the right direction and disconcerting in its obvious simplicity. It is encouraging because we have a large public school setting the need for a safe place for its LGBTQ students and organizing one. Yet it is disconcerting because there is no need for one. Why do we have a GSA? To create a safe place to “feel welcome” and “be themselves”? The answer is just as simple as the question, because the natural school setting along with society does not provide that for them. How shameful.

The next question posed was, “What do you see is the biggest problem for the LGBTQ community?” This is where the answers were quite varied which is testa- ment to the adverse backlash this commu- nity gets from the rest of society. Bullying, discrimination, lack of open-mindedness, being ignored, social acceptance, not being seen as human, merely just being, are all words that resonated with them. I have no doubt that they will. I know their impact will be positive.

My final two questions evoked the most heartfelt and moving responses, which I hoped they would. Do you have any messages for the people of the Merrimack Valley regarding the LGBTQ community? What could they do to help? What do you want them to understand? Most! Several of them expressed the desire for those of us in the Merrimack Valley to, not necessarily accept who they are and how they define themselves, but respect them as human be- ings. One of them requested, “Be aware of what you say and what your words mean to those who hear them.” Another stated, “We are humans just like you. We are the flesh and bone that live on this planet. Please accept that. We cannot change.”

The response that touched me the most and I hope it does my readers was incredibly poignant, “Being in the LGBT community isn’t like running through a field of flowers. It’s difficult. You have your struggles and you don’t want to share them and we don’t choose to be this way. We’re hu- man and just want to be loved and happy.”

In the end, isn’t that what we all want?

In all, I am very impressed with the youth of the LGBTQ community. I envy that they are “coming out” at this point in history. I had myself for thirty years for fear of loss and retribution. I agree that the future is much more promising for them and that they will be more accepted and embraced by family, friends and society than in my generation. I applaud their cour- age, admire their strength, and am anxious to see what further contributions they will bring to this world.

Dani Langiven is a teach- er and has a Bachelors in Fine Art and Masters in Art Education. She has written four young adult novels, one of which is self-published. You can email Dani at Dani- Langiven@valoom.com.
Did Mass. Audubon Sell Its Soul to the Wind Industry?

Christine Morabito

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

This is Part 2 of a multi-part series on corruption in the wind power industry by environmentalist Christine Morabito. To read part one, go to valleypatriot.com and search “morabito” in the upper right hand corner search bar.

As an environmentalist and bird lover, I got so frustrated at a hearing by the largest conservation organization in New England; an organization of which I am a member. Personal conflict aside, it seems apparent that Massachusetts Audubon (MA) and the Sierra Club (SC) have been seduced, or more likely self-report. This is a worldwide problem, but those concerns were ignored. Massachusetts Audubon stressed that Cape Wind “by search, through a process that will continue to be self-report. This is a worldwide problem, but those concerns were ignored. Massachusetts Audubon stressed that Cape Wind “by search, through a process that will continue to be self-report. This is a worldwide problem, but those concerns were ignored. Massachusetts Audubon stressed that Cape Wind

Last week, I testified on a bill I filed, S.1700, An Act Relative to Obtaining Information before the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight. This bill promotes access to information, available to all, within a reasonable time frame and for reasonable fees to have recourse in instances where their requests for public information are ignored. Government officials have a strict duty to ensure that public information is available pursuant to law and in a manner that is timely, accountable and transparent to the way that it is occurring to have access. Under Chapter 66 Section 10 of the Massachusetts General Law, a custodian has 10 days to comply with a request for public information. However, there are no significant penalties for non-compliance with this law.

This legislation would amend the Commonwealth’s public records law by creating a bill filed by the House Chairman of the Committee, Representative Peter V. Kocot, H 2772, An Act to Improve Access to Public Records. H. 2772 would update the definition of a public record to include electronic information as well as designate one or more records access officers to handle customary of all public records whose names and pertinent contact information are to be posted conspicuously in offices and on websites. This bill would also clarify some of the egregious fees the public, as well as the press have been charged in obtaining public records. Last year, my bill was incorporated into Chairman Kocot’s bill and was reported favorably out of the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight. However, no further action was taken. In this new legislative session, I have made it one of my top priorities to increase government accountability and transparency across the board. This bill will strengthen the public’s access to public records and that can only be a good thing. I will work to continue the momentum turned through my bill’s favorable recommendation from the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight in the last session, so the bill may be passed into law and public record requests result in true access to public records.

Senator O’Connor Ives can be reached at KATHLEEN.OCONNORIVES@MASENATE.GOV

PUBLIC RECORDS SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC

AUDUBON: PAGE 25

PHOTO: GULLIVER - THE MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF BEAK ECOLOGISTS
As the six year trend shows, our excess levy capacity has grown. We have made a decision to utilize this capacity as a "reserve", which has allowed us to maintain adequate fire services to Methuen's needs, purchase some badly needed public safety equipment, and not increase the allocation for overtime. On the police force, the Proposition 2.5 levy limit. While we have restored the Police Patrol contingent to the DPW, there has been a cut by about a million dollars. Our work force has been reduced by ten firefighters, our Police force is down by two patrolmen, with two more out on long term disability. Our school spending is up by over $5,400,000. During that period we have had new growth of $5,600,000. Existing levy growth would total $6,700,000. Over $6 million dollars.

The city side work force has been cut by about half a million dollars. Even with that the City has benefited by virtue of using attrition givebacks of the contractually entitled to a rise by $500,000. The city side work force has been reduced by over $1,000,000. But the challenges of municipal spending has declined by over $6 million dollars. Before we begin the fiscal year, we are great. Before we begin the fiscal year, we are great. Before we begin the fiscal year, we are great. Before we begin the fiscal year, we are great.

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Homework is like a scary movie: Fun if someone's with you.
NEIL HARRINGTON IS THE POSTER BOY

When I started this journey to reform our state’s public records law five years ago I had no idea that the Town of Salisbury would feature so prominently in my motivations to add stiff penalties for officials who refuse to turn over public documents. Yet, here we are.

IT STARTED WITH LANTIGUA

My journey began in 2010 when newly elected Lawrence Mayor Willie Lantigua took office and made it perfectly clear that he had an “enemies list”. City Attorney Charles Boddy admitted to the Boston Herald that before he could release public documents, he first had to check with Lantigua to make sure the requester was not on said “enemies list.”

Clearly, The Valley Patriot was at the top of that list. First, he said (in writing), if I paid for the records I would get them. But, after paying Lantigua, I was told the records were “protected work product” even though the records we were seeking were public payments made to a local attorney doing business with the city.

After filing a lawsuit and a few dozen court hearings later, (with Lantigua running up thousands in legal bills for the City of Lawrence), Lantigua released some records but blacked out all the information.

Three superior court judges, including judges Cornetta and Murtagh, said in open court that there was nothing they could do compel Lantigua to comply with the law. “There’s simply no penalty in the law,” Judge Cornetta told us.

That’s when the journey really began. A JOURNEY THROUGH SALISBURY, THIS COULD BE YOU

Our long escapade with Lawrence Mayor Willie Lantigua highlights why the public records law needs to penalize officials who brazenly violate it.

But, even with all that, there is no better poster boy for this legislation than Salisbury Town Manager Neil Harrington. While The Valley Patriot was fighting battles with Lantigua in court, we were investigating other stories and submitting public records requests in other cities and towns, Salisbury being among them.

The issue in Salisbury surrounded two elderly ladies, Giracmarie and Joyce Tomasselli, who had lost their business because they didn’t pay their sewer betterment bill. In the end, the amount of money they owed the town had climbed near the value of their property and they lost everything.

But they lost everything, in part, because Neil Harrington and other town officials concealed public documents that the Tomasselli sisters needed in court to prove that Salisbury officials acted improperly, and the sewer bill that started all this was never their bill to begin with.

GET IT YET? This could be you! These poor people had to request documents from town officials, to prove to the court that those town officials acted illegally, and the town officials refused because there’s no penalty in the public law for those who violate it. BINGO! The town didn’t release the records and the Tomassellis lost in every single court.

A NEW SHERIFF

So, The Valley Patriot started submitting public records requests to Neil Harrington, who ignored our requests. But, unlike Willie Lantigua, Harrington is well liked, an insider, someone that other officials and the local media regard as a political asset.

This makes lawbreakers like Neil Harrington far more dangerous to the public good than someone like Willie Lantigua.

You see, it was much easier to marshal political forces (and the media) to pressure Harrington, who ignored our requests.

Rebecca Pearson

VALEY PATRIST NEWBURYPORT COLUMNIST

Getting ready for a fun filled summer of happenings here in the Newburyport Area? We have some great MUST DO events for the whole family! Newburyport Events Include:

36th Annual Garden Tour - June 3 - June 14

The Museum of Old Newbury Presents the 36th Annual Garden Tour, “Visions of Paradise” 10am - 4pm rain or shine. Advance ticket pricing is $20 and June 1st - day of - $25. For more information and ticket prices, please contact the Museum of Old Newbury at 978-252-6281.

First Annual Discover Maudslay Day - June 20, 1-4pm

Here us for the First Annual Discover Maudslay Day. Stop by the Maudslay State Park Association booth in the main parking lot and treat yourself to wholesome refreshments from local vendors and pick up information and handouts. We will introduce you to the Association and answer any questions you might have. We are a Maudslay State Park Friends Group that works to support the upkeep and maintenance of the Park. Tour the formal gardens, stroll walks, river overlooks, former mansion sites and still existent structures that make up the foot traffic only sections of the park. We will also introduce you to the wilder sections of the park, open to foot traffic, bikers and horseback riders that take in the wonderful stands of laurels, rhododendrons and ancient stands of white pines. Meadows and fields, crossed by meandering paths, present views of Mertmam Ram and creek to the heights of Castle Hill, where friend, my buddy Dave Sturgeon, also known as Hawaii, and his wife, Kristin (a setup), Chris continued.

“Dave’s an engineer and Kristin is a graphic designer. What they’ve done with this race, for a low-key, local race, is provide organization. I don’t think people realize how much goes on behind the scenes organizing a race like this, even something this small. We have upwards of 80 volunteers running it, and each of those 80 volunteers works under eight to ten managers in eight to ten groups.

The event is literally broken out into playbooks, step by step.

Chris says the fundraising is a double-edged sword. “You’re heartfelt and humbled at the same time, and it’s painful. I don’t like seeing my family out there accepting other people’s donations. But, what my dream is, is that hopefully I can create a sustainable event that in the future, can be changed into a non-profit that can help others who do not have the resources and family connections I have.

“We could really establish something good here. Like, help those who need a ramp to get into the house, or if they need a lift put in, or they need money to go to therapy. Since my injury, I’ve become friends with other kids that come from similar families, families that may be well rooted in the community. They get a lot of support, and that seems to be the general response. Take it you pay forward.”

PAYING IT FORWARD

Chris Boshar is on the board of a local Veterans organization in Lawrence called Mass New England Veterans Liberty House.

“I sit on a board there and I also sit on a heart defects/cardiac board. I joined both boards after my accident. We have families who lost their son to cardiomyopathy. So, I’ve been sitting on that board and helping them. I’m also doing a bunch of initiatives to raise awareness and money for childhood heart defects. It’s an offshoot to support the families who are living on the cardiac floor in Children’s Hospital. Some of these parents, much like what we did, have to pack their bags and jump on a flight on a moments notice. These people are calling from all over, not just the country, but the world. Some of them are lucky to have a toothbrush. So we’re raising money to help. We want to say, “Here’s some money. Go take your wife out to dinner. Here’s a hotel stay.”

Stuart and Linda of the Chris Boshar race is called “Return the Bosh” and will take place June 13th at 10am at South Row School, 250 Boston Road, in Chelmsford. For more

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BOSHAR: FROM PAGE 5

American Training holds their Annual Good Times Gala this year with the Wizard of Oz.
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The Valley Patriot

THE DOCTOR IS IN!
Thoughts on Addiction

Dr. Frank MacMillan, MD
Valley Patriot Medical Columnist

Human beings are hardwired towards addiction. Modern society has evolved a mind-boggling number of traps that ensnare members of the human family in all sorts of compulsions or addictions. Compulsion drives a large part of our economy. Think about it. Advertisers and marketers want to know what buttons to push to make us buy their products, and then buy them again and again. The human brain’s reward center can be triggered in any number of ways, but always producing the same result, the desire for more of what makes us feel good.

Let’s face it. We are pleasure-seeking creatures. Some of us are more sensitive to this drive than others, but we all are susceptible. Historically, cultures have defined as virtuous such social constructs as prudence, thrift, sobriety, fidelity and others. Over time, the pendulum of what society considers to be virtuous swings back and forth from permissiveness to social and legal prohibition. I was going to originally write this column on the problem of opiate addiction, and this includes prescription drugs but also illegal drugs like heroin. These compounds are useful as medicines as they suppress pain. If abused as intoxicants, they are highly addictive and actually re-model the brain to need progressively more to relieve pain or get high. Cannabis may similarly turn out to have significant value as a medicine, but we are seeing more serious problems with extracts, concentrates and synthetics. We are also seeing new syndromes in habitual, experienced users including cannabis hyper-emesis syndrome, an intractable vomiting condition that occurs as a result of the cannabinoid receptors in the intestines becoming over stimulated.

We are susceptible to addiction to not only substances, but also to behaviors as well. Compulsive behaviors are all around us. People laughed when they heard former Boston Red Sox player Wade Boggs saying he was addicted to sex, but it is really so difficult to imagine a professional athlete with disposable income and availability would have an endless supply of opportunity, and get caught up in distractive behaviors? How many of us know problem gamblers who repeatedly double down, knowing the next score will come their way? But today, I can across an article on compulsive eating to the same brain changes that occur with major depression. Think about it, not only substances, but behaviors can induce chemical changes in our brain that may be lasting.

I don’t think the answer to our addictive nature is necessarily prohibition. We need to understand that in the 1930s with alcohol and know it doesn’t work. Access control is one tool, but also education, social and cultural levers, and public health are tools that are really underutilized. Getting tobacco out of restaurants and public buildings made smoking much less cool and easier for the public to resist, a great example of negative peer pressure. There is a legitimate public health reason that celebrities who glorify drug use should be called out. I was at an Eric Clapton concert as a teenager, and the song that got everyone on their feet singing was “Cocaine.” There is something so wrong about that.

We have a serious problem with addiction in this country. Addiction not only threatens individuals, but also affects families, and entire communities. We need to shine a light, get the word out, inoculate our children with the facts, and show good examples in our own behavior. Our political, social, cultural and religious leaders also need to show courage, step up and be heard. Prevention is always much easier than cure, but we also need to be ready and able to help those who cannot help themselves.

Dr. MacMillan specializes in Gastroenterology and Liver disease and is a member of the North Andover Board of Health. Dr. MacMillan was recently elected by his peers to be vice president of the House of Delegates at the Massachusetts Medical Society and alternate Delegate from Massachusetts to the American Medical Association. Dr. MacMillan is on staff at Holy Family Hospital Haverhill and Methuen, Anna Jaques Hospital in Newburyport, Lawrence General Hospital, and Parkland Hospital in Derby, NH and is the President of the Massachusetts Gastroenterology Association. Dr. MacMillan also serves as Massachusetts Governor of the American College of Gastroenterology and is a Fellow of the College.
Access to Public Records is a Matter of Life or Death

Bharani Padmanabhan, MD, PhD

This month, Valley Patriot Editor Tom Duggan was front and center in this state’s media environment for a couple of days. Most media people referred to him by name except for Dan Kennedy who refused to do so while using Tom’s testimony to support the new public records bill.

Tom had authored a bill that was passed out of committee last year, but died with the end of the last legislative session. This year it is back in committee, which held a public hearing. This hearing at the State House, in a small room with no Wi-Fi or live streaming, attracted an overflow crowd from numerous sectors including the press, Common Cause, the Massachusetts ACLU and the public.

Tom was the first non-legislator to testify and presented clear, powerful testimony that named names. It made clear the absolute importance of public access to public records held by the government we fund through our hard work.

All of this is not academic or abstract in any way. Allow me to illustrate with a couple of simple examples.

The Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine is funded by the Legislature and answerable to it directly. The Board exists specifically to protect the public from substandard doctors and to ensure doctors meet specific requirements. We pay in bills to do just this.

Being a Massachusetts Board however, it couldn’t be bothered about letting the public know if it really does so.

One of the orders from the Legislature, a mandate, a mandatory requirement that the Board absolutely cannot avoid or ignore, requires the Board to receive reports and complaints about doctors from other doctors. These are called 5F Reports from the Law that requires them - MGL Chapter 112, Section 5F.

The Legislature further ordered the Board to establish timelines that dictate how long the Board takes to investigate and resolve 5F Reports and further requires the Board to prioritize investigations based on the severity of the threat to the public. It thus follows that the Board should, as ordered by the Legislature, immediately investigate a 5F Report documenting a doctor giving the wrong medicine to a patient that puts the patient at a high risk of death.

I put in a public records request to the Board asking 4 simple questions:

1. How many 5F Reports were filed in 2014, 2013, and 2012 by physicians against other physicians?
2. How many 5F Reports were properly investigated by the Board and acted upon?
3. What is the percentage of 5F Reports that resulted in disciplinary action against the physicians named?
4. How many 5F Reports have been filed against physicians so far in the year 2015?

The Board wrote back that it received 24 5F Reports in 2012, 30 in 2013 and 25 in 2014 and 8 so far this year.

The Board however declared that it had NO RECORDS responsive to questions 2 and 3.

Did you get that? The Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine claims it has no records documenting how many 5F Reports it actually investigated in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015.

The Massachusetts Board further stated that it couldn’t say how many 5F Reports resulted in disciplinary action against doctors.

I personally sent in two 5F Reports against 2 different doctors, one in 2013 for giving the wrong medicine to an MS patient, that placed him at great risk of bleeding to death and the other in 2015 for lying on his license renewal application.

The Board refused to tell me if they were even going to investigate the 2 doctors even though I am the person reporting a serious threat to the public. In both cases the Board has not taken any action and their profile on the Board website remains trouble-free.

It is a major threat to public safety to have a Board of Registration in Medicine that refuses to investigate major threats to public safety and flatly refuses to obey the clear mandate of the Legislature.

It is totally unbelievable that the Board has no records documenting how many 5F Reports the Board investigates every year. Of course it has the records, but the Board cannot afford to let sunlight shine on it how it lets some favored doctors walk even when they are severe threats to public safety.

There is a strong indication that the Board cuts corrupt deals with doctors who have broken the law and gets such doctors to testify in favor of the Board in exchange for letting them walk, exactly as certain people of this Commonwealth. Withholding all funding to the Board should improve accountability in a speedy fashion.

Bharani Padmanabhan, MD, PhD is a neurologist who specializes in multiple sclerosis in the Boston area. scleroples@gmail.com

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NEWBURYPORT:FROM PAGE 23

who will set up in front of Nest, on the corner of Friend and Main Streets. The Fuller Block Music Series is sponsored by the Amesbury Chamber of Commerce and Nest, with support from the Amesbury Cultural Council and other local businesses on specific nights. For this month the following will be performed, June 4th- Frank Czar, June 11th- Thr33 Band, June 18th - Howie Newman

REVOLUTIONARY WAR GRAVES CEMETERY TOUR WITH BARTLETT MUSEUM - June 20 1-3pm

Join the Bartlett Museum on its first cemetery tour by Lynn Davis. Gather at the Bartlett Museum, 270 Main Street, Amesbury to then tour the Union Cemetery off Macy Street and visit the seven Revolutionary War Graves. The tour includes graves of veterans: Captain John Currier, John Dustin, David Lowell, Ezekiel Goodridge, John Barnard, John

AUDUBON:FROM PAGE 21

carcasses found in designated areas, while ignoring the rest. I applaud efforts by conservation organizations to impose stricter regulations on the wind industry. Since 2010, the American Bird Conservancy has been advocating for mandatory permitting guidelines– like those required by oil and gas companies – to reduce the deadly impact of their technology. I spoke with Michael Hutchins, Ph.D., Director of Bird Smart Wind Energy Campaign at the American Bird Conservancy, who said, “Some environmental groups have fully embraced wind, without asking the important questions. They see birds and bats as collateral damage,” in the quest for renewable energy. The Conservancy is pro-wind, but advocates for careful placement (siting) of the structures, avoiding sensitive wildlife areas (such as Nantucket Sound). “Once the turbines are up, they’re not coming down.” as in California’s Altamont Pass, where thousands of birds and bats are killed yearly.

Many environmental groups have romanticized wind energy and embraced the “green is good” myth. Some green enthusiasts are so ideologically and/or financially invested, that they refuse to admit they are wrong. Not admitting you are wrong in a relationship can doom it to failure. Not admitting you are wrong about anything can be damaging.

My comments are not meant as an indictment of the many, dedicated Mass Audubon employees and volunteers I have met and worked alongside. As in many industries, management is often tragically out of step with the rank and file. It is my sincere belief that the top brass at Mass Audubon have betrayed not only the wild life they are entrusted to protect, but also the membership they represent.

More to come in part 3 next month.

Christine Morabito is a resident of Haverhill and former President of the Greater Haverhill Tea Party. You can email her at christine.morabito@gmail.com
Measuring Success God’s Way!

Peter Larocque

VALL Ey PATRIOT COLUMNIST

As my relationship with Jesus and God’s Grace are beginning to blossom, my thinking and how I define things in this life are also taking on new meaning. For instance, I have been thinking about what defines a successful life. I know for myself, it was of the importance that success comes your way only from lots and lots of hard work. I learned from my parents very early in life that success was based on having the family taken care of by having a roof over their heads, food on the table, clothes on their backs and all the bills paid. Both my parents worked hard all of their lives, at times holding two jobs so that us children would have a better life than they did. Their definition of what constitutes a successful life eventually became mine, and the blueprint of what I tried to instill in the lives of my children. I am so thankful to God for my Mom and Dad and for all that they instilled in me and taught me.

I am also grateful to my Heavenly Father who continues to enlighten me with the knowledge and beauty of His dear Son and His wonderful grace. He continues to teach me His ways, His perspective through His Word, and now I get the awesome privilege of humbly sharing it with all of you.

We see God’s view on what is success when we read the story of Joseph in the Bible, beginning in Genesis Chapter 39, verse 1, NKJV. “Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. And Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him down there.” (2) The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. (3) And his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made all he did prosper in his hand.”

In the story of Joseph, we see him being sold as a slave by his brothers. Slaves who would become household servants were bought and sold in Egypt standing naked at the market place so that buyers could be assured that they were not purchasing someone with a skin disease which could contaminate their homes. Joseph was bought by Potiphar, a captain of Pharaoh’s guard and over time he saw that the Lord was with Joseph and that all that was put in Joseph’s hand, the Lord made to prosper. Potiphar knowing this, made Joseph overseer of his house. Then Joseph, due to unfortunate circumstances, ends up in prison. Then over time and having the Lord with him, is brought before Pharaoh himself. Within one hour of Joseph being before Pharaoh, he becomes Pharaoh’s second in command over all Egypt. So we see over time, Joseph goes from being naked and humiliated at the market place, to living and ruling in the palace!

The key to understanding Joseph’s success is found in “when” in Joseph’s life did God say that he was successful? God called Joseph a success long before he was called before Pharaoh. Actually, it was when he was at his lowest point of his life, by anyone’s standard. Yet in spite of all this turmoil, Joseph was called a success by God because “The Lord” was with him!

That’s right! Joseph was a success because “The Lord” was with him! Today our being a success, God’s standard has nothing to do with what circumstances we find ourselves in. Our success has nothing to do with what material possessions we have. Our success is due to who we are!

Our success begins when Jesus our Lord is with us, which happens when we invite him into our hearts. Read Romans 10:9 to see how this is accomplished.

The difference between success having “The Lord Jesus with you” and success with not having “The Lord Jesus with you” is very clear.

Living successfully God’s way is having the Lord with us which takes the heavy burden along with the stress of acquiring and maintaining a successful lifestyle off of our shoulders. Our success is all about Jesus, not about me or you. Imagine as parents, teaching our children starting at an early age that it is not day after day stressfully working hard that makes one successful.

Having Jesus Christ our Lord “alone” is what makes us successful! God calls you and me successful because Jesus is with us! Jesus Christ is our success! Love to all! Peter Larocque

FRAUD: FROM PAGE 9

Miguelos Dominguez, (left) AKA, Dirma Espada, AKA, Milagros De Mattias caught by The Valley Patriot on her way into Federal Court last month for fraudulently using multiple social security numbers.

focus their efforts on detecting, deter-
ring and disrupting both document and
benefit fraud. Investigators from a variety of agencies with expertise in different aspects of fraud collaborate with U.S. Attorneys’ Offices around the country to formulate a comprehensive approach in targeting the criminal organizations and the beneficiaries behind these fraudulent schemes.

Through collaboration and partner-
ship, the task forces maximize resources, eliminate duplication of efforts, and pro-
duce a strong law enforcement presence. They combine a variety of law enforce-
ment tools and authorities to achieve fo-
cused, high-impact criminal prosecutions and financial seizures.

Document and benefit fraud poses a severe threat to national security and pub-
lisc safety because it creates a vulnerability that may enable terrorists, criminals and illegal aliens to gain entry to and remain in the United States. Document fraud, also known as identity fraud, is the manufac-
ture, sale or use of counterfeit identity documents such as fake driver’s licenses, birth certificates, Social Security cards or passports for immigration fraud or other criminal activity. Benefit fraud refers to the misrepresentation or omission of facts on an application to obtain an immigration benefit one is not entitled to, such as U.S. citizenship, political asylum or a valid visa.

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These offers cannot be combined

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gender role expectations and be happy. She advises women to let go of the pressure of "work-life balance" to be successful. She looked thoughtfully into the crowd and said, "One of the reasons that I’m standing in front of you today is that for 25 of 35 years [my husband and I’ve] been married, he has done the laundry!"

Bump admitted she wasn’t born a public speaker: “When I stood to speak in public my legs were shaking…it wasn’t a pretty sight…but when I looked at the other candidates… I decided no one was going to do the job that I would.” She sadly remembered that 20 years ago she thought elected women would have caught up by now. She seemed exasperated because only 17% of Congress are women:

“And it’s not because we don’t run, or we can’t win!” she added. She described how different from men women’s feelings are about guilt, taking bold risks, and the pressure to be a great leader, a mentor women…assist women…encouragement for 25 of 35 years [my husband and I’ve] been married. She referred to these expectations as an "Artificial construct [and that] was not intended." Generally men focus on using their strengths to overcome their weaknesses, while sometimes our nurturing nature can make us more focused on fairness or merit [which can end up holding women back].

Usually you can catch folks checking the time towards the end of a political speech, but I didn’t spot any as Auditor Bump added, “You can continue to lament the fact that there aren’t more women on boards, in corporations, or that there aren’t more women in leadership positions, OR you can really do something about it… mentor women…assist women…encourage women to run for office!”

Jessica Finocchiaro is Vice Chair of the Gr. Lawrence Technical School representing Methuen, and serves on various community boards in the Merrimack Valley and statewide. She works as a Realtor® at Century 21 McLennan & Co. and holds Masters of Government and Public Administration, both from Suffolk University. Jessica can be reached at (978) 566-1786, or online at JessicaForMethuen.com, Facebook Twitter: @JessiFinocchiaro. 

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BABIES AND BRIEFCASES

THE WARNING SIGNS OF FINANCIAL ABUSE

Cheryl Hajjar

VALLEY PATRIOT MOMMY COLUMNIST

Many of us at one point in our lives have either been in an abusive relationship or have known someone in an abusive relationship. When we think of abuse, we often think of physical, sexual, mental and intimidation abuse is present, financial abuse is present as well.

As with many forms of abuse, it may start slowly and progress over time. Often times it looks like a gesture of love, for example the abuser might say that they will take care of the finances to take some stress off of you as a form of manipulation and promise to give money to the victim every week to spend how they want. The victim is in love with the partner and trusts them completely and allows this to happen. This scenario can commonly lead to the batterer giving their partner less and less money every week and by the time the partner wants to take control of her finances, the accounts have either been changed or moved and she no longer has access to her money. This makes it nearly impossible for the victim to be able to leave the partner. Here are some of the key signs to watch out for:

- Monitors Every Penny You Spend - This includes checking the store receipt and change down to the penny. An abusive partner will always ask what exactly you bought and why you bought it.
- Gets Angry When You Purchase Something For Yourself - Abusers will often get mad if you purchase something for yourself and get verbally or physically abusive.
- Gives You An Allowance - If your partner only gives you so much to spend a week and doesn’t give you access to the checkbook, this is a way of controlling you. Not Allowing You To Work - If any partner shames you into not working or quitting your job, harasses you at work so you get fired, or refuses to let you work for no legitimate reason, beware.

Using Your Social Security Number - Never under any circumstances let your partner use your social security number. If you find that he or she has opened credit cards or accounts with it, stop the activity immediately and call the police. This is a huge red flag that you are being financially abused.

Using Your Child’s Social Security Number - Using your child’s social security number to use them as an income tax refund is not only illegal but abusive. Using unauthorized cards - Using your child’s savings account or your savings account for their own personal use without your permission. When questioned, they are very good at manipulating or intimidating you into thinking they should have access to your money. Another warning sign of financial abuse.

Refusing Funds - Refusing to give you food, clothing, rent money or medicine is another way any batterer can financially abuse you.

What can you do if you think you are a victim or know someone who is a victim of financial abuse? If you feel that you might be in danger, call a domestic abuse hotline right away. They have many systems in place to help you. Also tell a family member or a friend who you can trust to help you. Do not stay in an abusive relationship for money. You are not alone and there is help.
Kirwin: From 12

a pattern in the LPS and that bullying is still prevalent in the schools with no transparency.

“The schools are spending an awful lot of money, time, and resources on legal bills and psychiatrists for this kind of sanctioned behavior in the schools. They haven’t made any changes at all.”

“They are sending employees to psychiatrists because of bullying and PTSD. If they just took care of the problem this could all be avoided but they don’t want to admit that there is a problem with bullying of teachers and staff. So, as long as they refuse to deal with the problem this is going to continue. That is why I am coming forward now. It’s not just about me,” Kirwin continued. “This is about a safe work environment for the employees of the LPS, and a safe educational environment for the students.”

“Given the preaching and pander we hear from school officials about student bullying in the schools, I find it bizarre that it’s the school’s administrators and a principal who were themselves the bullies in this case, and so many others. How is any school system supposed to protect the children from bullying when they willingly choose to ignore bullying of staff, and then refuse to do anything about it after the fact?”

TRANSPARENCY

“I want people to know about what is going on in the LPS and they seem to be more interested in covering it up. From an insider’s perspective, what really goes on in the school department is always concealed from the public. If I didn’t want me going public and for a long time I didn’t, because I wanted to resolve the problem without making the schools look bad or give them bad publicity because there are a lot of good people there who are trying to make things right and care for the students. At this point, however, I think the best thing that can happen is to shine the light of day on what is happening and hopefully, the publicity will make them respond by rooting out the problem not trying to put a Band-Aid hoping it all goes away.”

“That they need to stop blaming the victims, we tell that to the children when we are teaching about bullying in the schools, yet the schools themselves are employing exactly that tactic.”

A NEW DAY?

With the new Receiver/Superintendent on board I really thought that things were going to improve and that he would understand my situation given that he has a background in school adjustment counseling which would include confidentiality issues. Mary Lou Bergeron as well.

“They wanted me to come back to work after all this,” Kirwin says. “At one point I did go back to work and was bullied again. I tried. But, after all this, how do I go back and work in a school system that doesn’t accept responsibility for the way teachers and staff are routinely bullied. I realize now, that it would have been emotional suicide to go back to an unsafe system. I had to choose between my job and my life. Even though I always loved my job and always wanted to continue in my job, there was just no way I could go back to that environment. This has been documented by numerous psychological professionals since this happened.”

Kirwin says that the schools have still not paid her owed sick time and longevity. “They made a settlement agreement that I was never a part of and made a decision without my say so as one of the parties. That’s why I went arbitration. They have still not fulfilled their obligation even though they certainly think so.”

“What I want most now, and the reason I want my story to be public is because I want employees of the school system to know that they need to come forward and not be afraid. There needs to be transparency on this kind of behavior. These employees should not have to live in fear of losing their jobs and their livelihoods.”

Summer TV Is Not Just For Reruns Anymore

Bill Cushing
VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST

There was a time when summertime meant reruns on TV for 3 months. That is no longer the case. Now summer is a whole new TV season. New programming from all directions will appear over the next few weeks and take you through the summer months. Let’s take a look at some of the new shows that I’m recommending your check out this summer.

Ballers – Sunday June 21st at 10 pm on HBO. Ballers is a look at the business and pleasure of the sports world, told through the eyes of a former NFL star turned top agent played by Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson. Kind of reminds me of a sports version of ‘Entourage.’

The Brink – Sunday June 21st at 10:30 pm on HBO. Another show HBO is premiering this summer is a dark comedy called The Brink. In this show the Secretary of State (Tim Robbins) must work with a junior foreign office lackey (Jack Black) and a Navy fighter pilot (Patrick Schreiber) to avert global nuclear war following a coup in Pakistan. Yes this is a comedy.

Humans – Sunday June 28th at 9 pm on AMC. William Hurt stars in this sci-fi series. This series takes place in the near future, and centers on an ordinary family that buys a lifelike android servant. But their new purchase may be more than it appears.

Sneaky Pete – Friday June 5th on Netflix. Netflix newest series is also a venture into the world of sci-fi. Eight strangers around the world — a Chicago cop, an Icelandic DJ, a Kenyan bus driver, a Korean businesswoman, a Spanish actor, an Indian scientist, a Berlin thief and a San Francisco hacker — discover they share a strange connection, and become hunted by a mysterious group. This is a highly anticipated show for sci-fi fans, mainly because it comes from the Wachowski brothers, the writers and directors of The Matrix films.

Scream – Tuesday June 30th at 10 pm on MTV. Based on Wes Craven’s horror film franchise. Scream follows an entirely new set of attractive teenagers, played by Willa Fitzgerald, Bex Taylor-James and John Manga among others, as an inci- dence of viral video-related cyberbullying leading to murder in the small town of Lakewood, which in turn starts to bring the town’s buried secrets to light.

Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll – Thursday July 16th at 10 pm on FX. Comedy star series marks Denis Leary’s return to FX where he starred for 7 seasons in the Emmy-winning drama Reservoir Dogs. This time Leary stars as Johnny Rock, the lead singer of a legendary early ’90s band known as The Heathens, who broke up the same day their one and only album was released. Now, Johnny is a washed-up has-been who’s out of money and looking to get the band back together.

There are also quite a few returning shows that will be coming back this summer. Here are a few that you should check out.

True Detective - Sunday June 21st at 9 pm on HBO. This is season 2 of the show that featured Matthew McConaughey and Woody Harrelson in the critically acclaimed first season. This season will feature a whole new cast. This season the story will center on a highway patrolman (Taylor Kinney) who discovers a horrific murder scene, kicking off a chain of events that will bring in two LAPD detectives (Nathan Fillion and Rachel McAdams), a dirty businessman (Vince Vaughn) and billions of dollars.

Orange Is the New Black – Friday June 12th on Netflix. Netflix brilliant women’s prison drama takes season 3 in a different direction this year. This season will center on the possible sale or shuttering of Litchfield Women’s Correctional. Not to worry though, the show has already been renewed for a 4th season, so it doesn’t look the show is going anywhere.

Ray Donovan – Sunday July 12th at 9 on Showtime. Katie Holmes joins the cast for season 3. She’ll play a wealthy and shrewd businesswoman who uses “fixer” services that are being provided by the character of the show.

As you can see, there is no shortage of things to watch this summer. Enjoy and don’t forget your sunscreen!

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

Follow Bill on Twitter @TVNewsandNotes and on Facebook at TVNewsandNotes for daily up-to-the-minute TV news and discussion.

www.tvnewsandnotes.com
Spend a Day Boating With Your Dog

Tracey Zysk
VALLEY PATRIOT DOGGIE COLUMNIST

Summer is here, and if you are like most New Englanders, at some point over the next couple of months you will be on a boat. Newport, Portsmouth or Winnipesaukee, actually it doesn’t really matter where you go; but if you do, take your dog!

There are a few safety tips to take into consideration for you and your pup before you leave the dock.

10 Tips For A Successful Day On Your Boat:

1. Life Jacket - Yes, first and foremost get your dog a “doggy life jacket”. Even if your dog is a hotshot swimmer, he should still wear a jacket. Mother Nature is not one to fool with. If the currents are strong, or another boat comes in and makes waves, your dog will benefit from the added protection a life jacket will offer.

2. First Aid Kit - When stocking your first aid kit for your boat you should consider a few extra items for your dog. Antibiotic ointments, bandage wraps and an ice pack. Many pet stores sell pet first aid kits for under $15.

3. Visit the Boat First: Before you take your dog out on the boat for the first time, take him for a visit. Let him on the boat to smell, sniff, and get used to the surroundings and boat design. This would be the perfect time to put that new life jacket on him and try out the water too.

4. Check Local Laws - MA, NH, and RI. My understanding is New England states are very liberal with letting you have pets on your boats. But as always, check first. Also, review the by laws of any boating club you may be at to ensure you are compliant to their policies.

5. Rescue Plan - Have the discussion of who will do what before you take your dog out on the boat. Your dog may become very excited on the boat and want to play and jump. He could even slide or fall overboard. Planning ahead on who will cut the engine, where the rope is, and who will jump in all could save your dog’s life in case of an accident or emergency.

6. First Time Out Do A Trial Run - The first time taking your dog on the boat, plan on making the trip a short one. You want to let your dog adjust to the movement of the boat. Some dogs do experience motion sickness, and some dogs just do not like being on boats. Do the test run first to see if this is the right activity for your pup.

7. Hydrate - Water, water, water, make sure your dog has enough water to drink while out on the boat. Also designate an area of shade for your dog too.

8. Sun Protection - Yes, your dog can get a sunburn. Especially while spending the day out on the water. There are sun-screen sprays that are totally safe for your dog. A price well spent.

9. Treats - You may need treats if your dog becomes anxious or if he just gets the munchies. If you are taking a longer trip, remember to pack his meal and any medications too.

10. Have Fun - Planning ahead and taking all precautions will lead to an enjoyable trip for all of you. Summer is here, what a great way to spend the day with your furry best friend!

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 and National Award winner of the Platinum PWP award. Tracey may be reached at wigglewalk.comcast.net. Become a fan on Facebook at Wiggles & Jiggles Pet Care.

The Annual Sheep Shearing Festival in North Andover drew a large crowd this year.

GILMORE: FROM PAGE 17

We have to have proper rules and proper accountability. But we can’t give up in the ability to protect ourselves from the enemy. The enemy is trying to make us choose between privacy and liberty and national security.

Now, I have an acute sense as time has gone on, as we have watched the development of ISIS and the deterioration of other parts of the Middle East, and other places as well, that the danger to the United States is very serious. And I think we cannot give up our technological advantages. But that doesn’t mean that you set a standard that says the NSA can just know what everyone is doing. There have to be zones of privacy and a confidence that we have zones of privacy in this country. One blink of an eye…

Time has clouded my sense of how quickly after September 11th we came to a privacy and security debate. CSPIN has aired several forums on the topic of privacy and security where you’ve participated [CPAC 2014 – “Privacy and NSA Wiretaps”; the Steamboat Institute’s Freedom Conference – “The Death of Privacy: Does It Matter if the Government Records Every Phone Call, E-Mail and Text Message That You Send?”]. The fourth Gilmore Commission report has that great Benjamin Franklin quote and your conclusion, “We firmly believe that it will not be necessary to ‘give up essential liberty’ to achieve a marked increase in our security.” What facts should people know, about the NSA and its programs, before opining on where to strike the value balance?

I think it’s the very nature of our elected officials to understand exactly what’s going on and then to apply appropriate standards. And to the extent that they weren’t, then that has to be corrected. I believe that we have to have proper oversight.

Edward Snowden was, and is, a traitor. I’m on the record as saying that I think the NSA doing anything—I think that’s wrong. And by the way, as you know, anybody that says well we just can’t have the NSA doing anything—I think that’s wrong. And I just think we have to be working every day to make those things harmo-

cize. Do not be forced into a choice, one or the other. And just likewise, I think that anybody that says well we just can’t have the NSA doing anything—I think that’s wrong. And by the way, as you know, I’m on the record as saying that I think Edward Snowden was, and is, a traitor.

valleypatriot.com
News from the American Legion

John Lenotte
VALLEY PATRIOT VETERAN COLUMNIST

The current baseball season is in full swing. Nice to have winter behind us! I will note that a number of veterans played professional baseball. This includes: Ted Williams, Joe DiMaggio, Yogi Berra and Stan Musial. Over 50 members of the Baseball Hall of Fame played American Legion baseball. The list of great players includes: Johnny Bench, Roger Clemens, Carlton Fisk, Al Kaline, Greg Maddux, Roger Maris, Al Pujols, Don Mattingly, Frank Robinson, Mo Vaughn and Justin Verlander.

Haverhill is proud of its own Carlos Pena! On July 25 through July 29, the American Legion State Tournament will be played at Haverhill Stadium. I hope many of you will join us to watch this next generation of major league players. We know that scouts will be out to watch them play. Regional playoffs will be in Bristol, CT. Then in August, the American Legion World Series will be played in Shelby, NC. This will be broadcast on ESPN. We will share more details in the July edition.

This is a great program that the American Legion has sponsored since 1926. Children and Youth programs are one of the Four Pillars of the American Legion. The others are Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security and Americanism. There are many who think the American Legion is all about the “bar.” This is not true at all. The American Legion charters posts, not bars. There are many successful posts who do not have a member’s lounge. If a Post does have a lounge or function hall, the purpose is to raise money to support the programs of the Legion.

Unfortunately, we continue to see many issues with the Veterans Administration (VA) on a national level. Despite all the wrongdoing by administrators, few have been punished. Even senior members of Congress, including Speaker Boehner are frustrated and have brought this to the attention of national media. If you are also frustrated with any aspects of what is happening in Washington, stop complaining to your friends and family. Complain to our Congressional Delegation! Only when we hear from us will they take action. As I continue to write in almost every article, make your voice heard. Join my voice in letting Congress know what we like and what we do not like. Yes, your voice will make a difference. May God bless our troops and their families.

John Lenotte, Commander American Legion Post 4, Haverhill; Past Department of Massachusetts Commander.

B-17 Bombers Release their Payload During WWII

up and delay the takeoffs, which in turn would delay the climb outs, which in turn would delay and affect the formation of the combat boxes and ultimately the main columns. All for want of a few feet either side of the runway or one seemingly small misjudgment!

Sometimes those accumulated delays would result in timing problems and because of these, German fighters might be given time between “waves” of bombers for their fighters to land, refuel, rearm, and then...

...you could have something such as the first major attack against Schweinfurt, Germany in which the Eighth lost 60 bombers and 600 crewmen on one mission! Imagine the feeling within those surviving crews when they were told that they would have to go back and try to finish the job. It is easy to imagine that when those surviving aircrews heard that news there was no universal groan, but rather a slow quiet exhalation combined with a silent sense of inevitability.

Before each individual squadron takeoff it required the efforts of thousands of people involved in intelligence, target selections, weather info including not just surface conditions, but winds aloft at varying altitudes as well as icing conditions, target routes, ordinance required with fusion requirements, squadron aircraft availability, aircrew availability, alternate target choices, decoys and decoy routes, fighter escort range, expected fighter attacks, known flak (anti-aircraft) installations etc.

And it all had to work seamlessly or... some would pay the ultimate price.

As the old saying goes the ground crews especially knew the absolute necessity of getting it all right because of the all-too-triumph for want of a nail...

It was those group personnel remaining behind who knew the quiet reality of what was termed “sweating them in” as they waited for the familiar sound of the returning bombers. (To this day if I hear the rare so-distinctive sound of a B-17 it will bring me upright out of a deep sleep. No one of that era will ever forget the unique sound of those four engines.) Everyone among the ground crews back at Duxham Green worried silently about whether or not their crew and their plane would be among the survivors ... and if the landing gear was okay ... and if the flaps were not shot away ... if the brakes were working ... if the rudder was still there ... but, worst of all, if the dreaded colored flare arced upward from a stricken aircraft and then slid over and fell slowly toward the ground indicating that there were wounded, or worse, on board.

Every man knew how many aircraft had been sent, whether there had been any “aborts”, and each man silently counted the returning bombers as they did their classic “poo off” to land. Each man hoping that if “his” plane and “his” crew were missing that “ops” would get a call telling them the welcome news that those boys had been forced to land at some other airfield in East Anglia. As each plane taxied slowly to its hardstand with usually only the outboard engines running, the sound slowly died away as props stopped turning, and the entire bomber seemed somehow to sag as if in tired relief. The crews slowly emerged, faces drawn, tired, emotionally exhausted, quietly glad that once more they had survived, and waited for the ride back to the debriefing room. Sometimes they might discuss something that had happened on the mission, but usually they just wanted to get out of their flight gear, get something to eat, and sleep, if sleep could come at all.

They tried not to notice the ambulances, or the fire trucks. If they were very very lucky, they might get a pass to go to the railroad station at Attleborough and go to London. In London the most popular destination for the guys was the Red Cross-operated Mostyn Club near the Marble Arch because that was one place that actually had heated baths... and a guy could just lie there and soak in sheer warm relative luxury. They never knew when they might get another opportunity.

By the way, that railroad station at Attleborough is still there and on the wall is a plaque dedicated by the grateful British to the 452nd Bomb Group.

All of the squadrons had their stories and the 452nd alone had a wealth of them, some of them pleasant, some of them not, but all of them in their own way memorable.

NEXT MONTH PART III

B-17 Bombers Release their Payload During WWII

Unfortunately, we continue to see many issues with the Veterans Administration (VA) on a national level. Despite all the wrongdoings by administrators, few have been punished. Even senior members of Congress, including Speaker Boehner are frustrated and have brought this to the attention of national media. If you are also frustrated with any aspects of what is happening in Washington, stop complaining to your friends and family. Complain to our Congressional Delegation! Only when we hear from us will they take action. As I continue to write in almost every article, make your voice heard. Join my voice in letting Congress know what we like and what we do not like. Yes, your voice will make a difference. May God bless our troops and their families.

John Lenotte, Commander American Legion Post 4, Haverhill; Past Department of Massachusetts Commander.

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Empty Chair Dedicated at Lawrence Stadium

Veterans Helping Veterans dedicated an “Empty Chair” at Lawrence’s Veterans Memorial Stadium last month to commemorate Prisoners of War and Missing in Action servicemen. State Representatives Marcos Devers, Diana DiZoglio, Frank Moran, Linda Dean Campbell and Senator Barbara L’Italien joined Mayor Dan Rivera and Councilor Marc LaPlante.
Baker-Polito Administration Announces Justice Assistance Grant to Cities and Towns

Today, Governor Charlie Baker, Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito and Secretary of Public Safety and Security Dan Bennett announced that 27 cities and towns will receive a total of $1,169,409 in funding from the Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program offered by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Office of Grants and Research (OGR), to strengthen community and local law enforcement efforts, including programs for prevention and education, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, crime victim and witness initiatives. The grants announced today are specifically aimed at helping local police departments develop and implement programs for the prevention of crime, and to address the opioid and substance abuse crisis.

The grants are to be used for local law enforcement efforts, including programs for prevention and education, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, crime victim and witness initiatives. The grants announced today are specifically aimed at helping local police departments develop and implement programs for the prevention of crime, and to address the opioid and substance abuse crisis.

The program is co-sponsored by 980-WCAP, Lowell City Council Candidates Forum. The event will be held on Thursday, June 12, at 10am, and on Friday, June 13, at 10am. The event will be simulcast on 980-WCAP & LTC channels 8 & 13.

THE STATE ON CRIME IN MA

With June being National Safety Month and summer being the prime season for family travel and outdoor activities, the annual crime and safety website WalletHub conducted an in-depth analysis on 2015’s Safest States to Live in. The goal of the analysis was to help prospective movers find a safe location in which to lay down roots, and to give families a sense of their chances of safety. WalletHub analyzed the 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia across 20 key metrics. Some of the metrics in our data set include the number of assaults per 100,000 residents, the number of fatal occupational injuries per 100,000 employees and the percentage of the population lacking health insurance coverage. Safe State Rankings (1 = Safest, 50 = Least Safe):

1st – Share of the Population with No Health Insurance
9th - Number of Murders & Non-Negligent Manslaughters per 100,000 Residents
11th – Estimated Property Losses from Climate Disasters per 100,000 Residents
2nd - Number of Fatal Occupational Injuries per 100,000 Employees
2nd – Number of Fatalities per 100,000 Motor Vehicle Injuries
22nd – Number of Law Enforcement Employees per 100,000 Residents
22nd – Unemployment Rate
5th – Birth Rate
9th – Number of Sex Offenders per 100,000 Residents

LOWELL SUMMER FESTIVAL

On Friday, June 19th, Saturday, June 20th, Lowell will kick off the summer season with a mini-festival in the heart of the downtown, featuring artist booths, children’s activities, music, en plein air painting, and of course, Lowell’s own “gator” family – Canisgillator, Millie-Gator and Allie-Gator – will also be on hand to meet and greet our many fans and friends. For Hours of the event will be Friday from 2-7pm and Saturday from 12-6pm. Palmer Street will be closed between Market and Middle Streets during these events on both days. Friday will focus on art and music, and Saturday will feature market stalls while others set up their easels. Watch as artists’ visions of downtown scenes come alive on their canvasses. On Saturday, the artists will be joined by a pod of the City of Lowell’s Recreation Department who will organize games for children and by teams of Spotters’ colorful and cuddly mascots. Youngsters are invited to display their artistic talents by creating sidewalk chalk art.

Post Summer Kickoff Festival is a great way to begin the season and to showcase all that the City has to offer,” said City Manager Kevin Murphy. “With a growing artist community, unique restaurants and family friendly attractions, there certainly is a lot to like about Lowell this summer!”

Food and games hand-in-hand and hungry visitors will have no shortage of options as they enjoy a meal or a snack at one of Lowell’s many fine restaurants or pick up locally and organically grown goodies at the Mill City Growers market. Sidewalk sales at participating businesses will offer great deals for shoppers. Parking in the Leo Roy Garage on Market Street will be free during the event.

The weekend also marks the start to the Lowell Summer Music Series at Boardinghouse Park. The Kickoff Festival is a made possible in part through the City of Lowell, The Lowell Office of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, Downtown Lowell Merchant’s Association, Lowell Neighborhood Association, and Made in Lowell. For complete details, visit Lowell.org or call (978) 674-4260.

NECC OPEN HOUSE HOSTED

Are you still uncertain about your plans for the fall? It’s not too late to enroll at Northern Essex Community College. Enroll full time, part time, or take just one class.

NECC is both flexible and affordable. Classes are offered during the day, in the evening, online, and on campus. Attend an upcoming Admission Information Session on Wednesday, June 4, at 10am or Wednesday, June 24, at 5pm. in the Berkshire One-Stop Student Services Center on the Haverhill Campus, 150 Elliott Street or Foxboro Campus, 222 East Street, Foxboro, July 14, at 10am. In the Dr. Ibrahim El-Hefni Allied Health & Technology Center on Lawrence Campus, 414 Common Street.

NECC Representatives will be on hand to answer questions on financial aid, career choices, transfer options, dates not convenient? Walk-in hours are Monday through Thursday, 9am-6:30pm, and Friday, 9am-12pm. For general information contact NECC’s Enrollment Services at 978-556-3700, or write to admissions@necc.mass.edu. Or visit the NECC website at www.necc.mass.edu.

**** R OCKINGHAM WITERS CLUB

The Rockingham Writers Group is seeking active members. If you have an interest in writing a novel, short story, memoir or poetry, consider joining our Self-Help book, contact briantales@comcast.net

This is not a writing course, therefore we expect writers to have a rudimentary grasp of the craft. We have a focused group whose objectives is to assist one another to improve our writing skills and to become published writers. These interested members are published writers and one is a published novelist. We meet the second Tuesday of each month, 7:00 PM, at the Kelly Library in Salem, NH.

AUSTIN PREP HONOR ROLL

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

DRACUT: HONORS: Rebecca Lowe, Alexis Nichols, Evan Zondervan, Dublin Haigh, Zdrojewski, HONORS: Alexander Gilmore

LAWRENCE: HONORS: Natalie Arena

LOWELL: HONORS: Bryan Snow MTHEUEN: HONORS: Adriana Farias, Maria Lucisano, Eric Naish

METHUEN: DISTINCTION: Alexandria Arenas, Zdrojewski.

METHUEN: HONORS: Adriana Farias, Maria Lucisano, Eric Naish

MILLFORD: HONORS: Daniel Keough, Joseph Fortunato

MILFORD: HONORS: Cheryl Miller, Joseph Fortunato, Jennifer Viti

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METHUEN: DISTINCTION: Michael Kamelle, Emily Mastrocola, Michael Roche


GLACG AWARDEDGRANTS FOR HUNGER LITERACY PROGRAMS

The Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc. has been awarded more than $58,000 in grants to assist adult literacy and the prevention of homelessness.

The program will fund ongoing GLACG programs to teach English to non-native-speaking individuals, including literacy assistance to individuals facing the loss of housing due to financial hardship.

“Two of the barriers to individuals escaping poverty and finding employment are language skills and housing insecurity. These grants will help us create opportunities for individuals to learn new skills and careers by first learning to communicate in English. The funds will also prevent the dissolution of individuals who are unable to make a positive impact in their communities,” said Evelyn Friedman, Executive Director of the GLACG.

Lawrence Mayor Daniel Rivera awarded a $15,000 Federal Development Block Grant fund for GLACG’s English for Speakers of Other Languages, an educational program that teaches English to adults during this economic time. “We’re very grateful that the City of Lawrence meet our goals to strengthen the community and make Lawrence a better place to live,” Rivera went on to say, “I’m excited that the grants will help us support the programs we’ve developed over the years to help our neighbors. We’re even more excited to work with the City to expand our services to meet the needs of more people.”

In addition, GLACG received $18,392
from the federal Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program, admin-
istered locally by the Salvation Army in Haverhill. The money is intended to pro-
vide emergency financial assistance to prevent eviction or foreclosure.
GLCAC is a social services agency that annually assists 29,000 individuals in
Greater Boston and Merrimack Valley. For more information on GLCAC, visit www.glcac.
org.

CORRECTION - Last month, we ran a book review in the notebook section
called Dig and Dig Deep but forgot to credit Susan Piazza for the book review.
Sorry Susan.

* NORTH ANDOVER SENIORS *

The Massachusetts Emergency Manage-
ment Agency (MEMA) is the state agency
responsible for coordinating federal, state,
local, voluntary and private resources
during emergencies and disasters in the
Commonwealth of Massachusetts. MEMA
provides leadership to: develop plans for
effective response to all hazards, disasters
or threats; train emergency personnel to
protect the public; provide information
into the citizenry; and assist individuals,
families, businesses and communities to
mitigate against, prepare for, and respond
to and recover from emergencies, both
natural and manmade.
MEMA TIPS FOR DEALING WITH
THE EXTREME HEAT

Slow down, avoid strenuous activity. Do
not try to do too much during the
hottest hours of the day. Drink plenty of
water regularly and often, even if you do
not feel thirsty. Limit intake of alcoholic
beverages. They can actually dehydrate
your body. Eat well-balanced, light, regu-
lar meals. Avoid high protein foods that
increase metabolic heat. Stay indoors as
much as possible.

Wear lightweight, loose-fitting, and
light-colored clothing. Light colors will
reflect heat and sunlight and help maintain
normal body temperature. Protect your
face with a wide-brimmed hat. If you do
not have air conditioning, stay on your
lowest floor, out of the sun. Electric fans
do not cool the air, but they do help evap-
orate sweat, which cools your body. Go
to a place where you can get relief from
the heat, such as air conditioned schools,
libraries, theaters and other community
facilities that may offer refuge during the
warmest times of the day. Avoid too much
sunshine. Sunburn slows the skin’s ability
to cool itself. If you are outside, use sun-
screen lotion with a high SPF (Sun Protec-
tion Factor) rating. Never leave children
or pets alone in a closed vehicle. Check on
family, friends and neighbors. For addi-
tional information during a heat wave, call
#211 for information on Cooling Stations.

Upcoming Socials:
North Andover Country Club Golf
Passes are available with reception. Two
(2) 7 week programs are available to
North Andover, age 60+senior residents.
 Courtney Pizzale is 86, one program per
senior with proof of residency only. Tee
times are on Mondays, from 12:30 – 2:30:
9 holes $15 and 18 holes $20. Dress code
required.

In June we will once again be starting
the in-house meals. Wednesdays we will
be returning with the Fresh Table. Sign
up is limited to 30 seniors and you must
pay ($5) at time of sign up. Friday
before. Menus available with reception.

SUPPER CLUB: Thursday June 18th,
at FUSION Restaurant in Methuen. Sign
up begins June 3rd. Bus transportation $4
payable at time of sign up. Dinner reserva-
tion is for 4:30.

DAY TRIP TO HAMPTON BEACH:
to see the Annual Sand Sculptures. Friday
June 19th. Bus $6, lunch on your own.
Trip departs 10:30 from the Senior Center.
PIZZA LUNCH WITH THOMSON
SCHOOL 4TH GRADERS: Friday June
19th at 12 noon. Sign up limited to (50)
North Andover Seniors. STACHEY’S
donates the pizza.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL: Sponsored
and served by Peregrine’s Lending Assisted
Living. Wednesday June 24th, 12:30 at
the North Andover Senior Center. Sign up
required at reception.

MORRISEY BOULEVARD MUSEUM
HOP: Thursday June 25th. Travel to Mor-
rissey Boulevard in Boston to explore the
Harbor Point Museums: JFK Presidential
Library, Edward M Kennedy Institute for
US Senate or The Commonwealth of Mas-
Cost for van $6, museum admission $12,
(Commonwealth Museum is free) and
lunch at a picnic lunch or on your own at
the JFK café.

GREATER LOWELL MUSIC THE-
ATRE presents “ANYTHING GOES”
Sunday June 28th. Tickets and transporta-
tion $25. Bus departs at 1pm. Sign up
with reception. Limited to 12 seniors.

CHESS CLUB: Interested in LEARN-
ING OR TEACHING? Tuesdays 1-3 Call
reception 978-688-9560 to sign up.
ONE ON ONE COMPUTER IN-
STRUCTION: 45 minute sessions for $7.
Tuesdays with George Chory and Thurs-
days with Tom Koochen. Hours 9-12.
Make your appointments with reception.
978-688-9560. This time can accommo-
date gadgets, too, if necessary (Phones,
Tablets, etc.)

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

Supper Club

Methuen Police Officer Jeff Torrisi with an eyeball mounted camera.

“The work I’ve found is that people actually act nicer once they know
they are on camera,” Officer Torrisi
says. “They are much more coopera-
tive. It’s good protection for us as
well as police officers, because people can’t
make things up anymore when they get
themselves in trouble. There are
still some glitches I think that have
to be worked out, but overall I like them,
and the other officers I’ve talked to
like them as well.”

Detective Mc McMenamon says that
there are two different kinds of police
body camera being tested in Methuen.
The camera used by Officer Torrisi
during our ride along (pictured above)
was a camera mounted to his eyeglass-
es. The other kind is a shirt-mounted
camera on the chest.

“So some officers prefer the camera
on the glasses because the camera
sees exactly what you see,” Officer Torrisi
says. It can see over the dashboard
while you are driving, whereas the
chest-mounted camera don’t. Also,
officers who have used this in other
areas have said that when they pull
their weapon and extend their arms out
in front, their arms obstruct the view
of the chest-mounted cameras.”
Christian Film Festival: Faith of our Fathers

Next month The Valley Patriot will be publishing an interview with one of the writers of Faith of Our Fathers, Tom Saab of Salisbury. The movie will be shown at Visionax on Rt. 110 in Salisbury, MA on July 1st-5th. Any group interested in purchasing 750 tickets can contact Tom Saab to bring a movie to your city.

Pure Flix Releases ‘Faith Of Our Fathers’ Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War starring Stephen Baldwin; Features Duc Dynasty’s Si Robertson; Contact: Michael Conrad, 214-616-0320, Michael@Lovell-Fairchild.com Faith of Our Fathers is a moving story of faith and friendship in time of war, and for generations—premieres nationwide July 1 as the nation commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. A Downes Brothers production in association with Pure Flix, FAITH OF OUR FATHERS stars Stephen Baldwin, Kevin Downes, David A.R. White, Candace Cameron Bure, Rebecca St. James and Si Robertson, Duc Dynasty’s ‘Uncle Stu,’ who is a Vietnam veteran. Carey Scott directs. Pure Flix and Samuel Goldwyn Films distribute.

With the Vietnam War raging in 1969, two young fathers report for duty. A man of great faith and a doubtful cynic. A quarter-century later, their sons, Wayne and John Paul (David A.R. White and Kevin Downes), meet as strangers. Guided by letters handwritten from their fathers from the battlefield, they embark on an unforgettable journey to The Wall—the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Along the way, they discover the devastating war cannot break the love of a father for his son.

“FAITH OF OUR FATHERS is coming out at a strategically important time in American history as our nation is currently commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War,” said Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Doug Carver, USA-Retired, 22nd Army Chief of Chaplains (2007-2011). “Beginning July 1, stand up for faith, freedom and family as Pure Flix, the studio that created GOD’S NOT DEAD, presents FAITH OF OUR FATHERS. A story of fatherhood. A journey of brotherhood.

“FAITH OF OUR FATHERS honors all of those who served,” said Pure Flix Co-Founder and president Michael Scott. “Pure Flix is thrilled to partner with Downes Brothers and Samuel Goldwyn as we commemorate this important moment in our nation’s history.”

“Samuel Goldwyn Films is about unique voices bringing original stories to a wide audience,” said Meyer Gottlieb, president of Samuel Goldwyn. “In that spirit, FAITH OF OUR FATHERS is a fresh look at brotherhood forged in battle and love’s lasting power into future generations.

“FAITH OF OUR FATHERS reunites Stephen Baldwin, (THE UNUSUAL SUSPECTS) with the Downes Brothers (Baldwin previously starred in the Downes’ film SIX: THE MARK UNLEASHED),” and marks Candace Cameron Bure’s (Full House) return to feature films. It also features Grammy and Dove Award-winning Christian singer, author and actress Rebecca St. James. For David A.R. White (GOD’S NOT DEAD, THE VISITATION), a founder of Pure Flix, FAITH OF OUR FATHERS is the latest collaboration with the Downes Brothers. And Si Robertson brings his signature humor to his role as a man of faith.

Bobby Downes, Kevin Downes, Michael Scott and David A.R. White produced. Executive producers are Bill Herren, Kevin Malone and Christopher Morrow.

For interviews, contact: Michael Conrad Michael@Lovell-Fairchild.com 214-616-0320 FaithOfOurFathersMovie.com Twitter: (@FaithFathers Facebook.com/FaithOfOurFathersMovie Downes Brothers DownesBrothers.com

Sheila Mullins is a commentator and former politician. She is the daughter of former Rep. Larry dead of cancer in 2014.

TRES LECHES COFFEE CAKE
Cake: 1 egg 1/2 c milk
1/3 c sugar 3 T canola oil 1/2 c flour 1 T baking powder 1 t vanilla

Filling & topping: 1 can coconut milk, chilled overnight in the refrigerator
1 can cream cheese, chilled overnight in the refrigerator
1/4 c whipping cream 1/2 c powdered sugar 1 cinnamon stick 1 pinch freshly grated nutmeg

In a large mixing bowl, place all cake ingredients & mix with a spoon until combined. Pour into the prepared pan & bake for 25 minutes or until just set. Remove from oven & let cool in pan for 10 minutes. Remove cake from pan to plate with a raised edge. Slice cake in half horizontally & set top half aside. While cake is baking, prepare the filling & topping mixture. Remove the 2 coconut milk/cream cups & separate the liquid from the semi-solid mixture. Reserve those for another use. Into a large saucepan, place the coconut cream, coconut milk, rum (if using), vanilla, coconut extract, cinnamon stick, nutmeg, sweetened condensed milk. Cook over medium low heat for 15-20 minutes or until thickened. Remove the cinnamon stick. Remove from heat; pour into a measuring cup & reserve. In a bowl, place the whipping cream & powdered sugar & heat until stiff peaks form. Fold the filling into whipped cream. Poke holes in top with a fork. Place 1/3 of the filling/topping mixture onto lower half of cake & spread to edges. Place top layer back on. Top the top layer with the rest of the filling/topping mixture. When ready to serve, sprinkle the toasted coconut on top. 

Serves 10-12. This needs to be refrigerated if not being served.

Recipes are created by Sheila Mullins & tasted tested by Jerry & Sheila Mullins. Sheila lives in Newburyport & is a personal cook, among other things. She can be reached at Sheila A. Mullins@ hotmail.com & she looks forward to hearing from you.

SHEILA’S RECIPE CORNER

SWEET POTATO CURRY
3-3.5 lb. sweet potatoes, peeled & cut into cubes
1-2 oz. champagne tomatoes
2.25-2.5 lb. onions, sliced
2 T oil
1-24 oz. bag French sliced green beans
1-2 oz. bag of frozen peas
32 oz. yogurt, regular, low fat or fat free
¾ c ground coriander seed
⅛ c cumin powder
1.5-1 tayenne pepper
1 t salt
1 t black pepper
Water

Brown Rice, cooked

Into a Dutch oven over medium heat, place the oil & heat until hot. Add the onions & salt. Stir to coat & stir occasionally. Cook over medium-low heat until caramelized but not burnt. Note: Do not try to rush this step. This takes about 25-30 minutes. Lower heat if onions begin to burn.

Add black pepper, cayenne pepper, curry powder, ground coriander seed, & tomatoes. Place in the sweet potatoes. Add water. Note: I found I needed about 36 oz. water; your water amount will vary. Cover & cook over medium low to low heat stirring every 5 minutes. Add water as necessary. Cook until the sweet potatoes are tender, about 25 minutes.

Add the beans, peas, & yogurt. Heat up until beans & peas are cooked. Serve over rice.

My buddy Alex & I frequent Oya Café in Malden. I wish they had Tres Leches cake on the menu. It’s Cuban after all! Maybe I’ll talk to Roberto about that… Anyhow, as I was thinking about this, my mind wandered to the fact that it turns out coconut seems perfect… and rum. And coffee cake. Jerry wanted coffee cake for breakfast! Fast food, we come on, coffee cake with rum, coconut, & tres leches? It’s a winner! WARNING: this is RICH. REALLY rich. Although I call this a coffee cake, it would make a fine dessert as well.
to public documents, we cannot claim that there is transparency in government,” DiZoglio said. “If we don’t have some kind of penalty, there is no enforcement and people are not going to comply … this is what I’m saying, public accountability, transparency in government; this definitely has to be done.”

Also a co-sponsor of the bill is Milieu State Representative Linda Dean Campbell.

“The one thing we need to ensure is that our government can be held accountable for their actions, it’s not just the public officials that get to see the public records. I absolutely believe this law needs to be changed and we absolutely need to have stiff fines and penalties for those who refuse to release records to the public,” Campbell said.

Senator Ives said that the proposed penalties in her bill would “incentivize timely compliance with reasonable public records requests and encourages increased government transparency and accountability.”

“I think it’s great that we have been able to put together a coalition of left wing democrats and right wing republicans, people who generally do not agree on anything, to work for more, open, more transparent government,” Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan said.

“When someone like Neil Harrington, the town manager of Salisbury, or former Lawrence Mayor Willie Lantigua can comfortably sit back and break the law with impunity because there is no penalty for breaking the law, its time to change the law. That’s what I’m trying to do. As publisher of a newspaper, we submit a lot of records requests and most officials comply. But when you are dealing with certain officials who do not want the public to see what they have been up to, you have to jump through hoops, sometimes for years, and then never get the records because they know they can get away with concealing them.”

“Electronic Records
Secretary Bill $1700 is one of many public records bills making their way through the legislature. State Senator Jamie Eldridge has also filed a bill mandating public agencies, including cities and towns, put all their public records online in an easily searchable format to ease the number of requests for public records.

“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 decisions as public officials, available online and as accessible as possible. GALVIN WANTS TO LIMIT AMOUNT OF RECORDS PUBLIC CAN REQUEST

While Secretary Galvin says he supports penalties and court costs being added to the public records law, he also said that he wanted the legislature to narrow the scope of what kind of public documents a member of the public can request. He cited instances where people had asked for volumes of information over a period of years so they could sift through the documents themselves instead of telling officials what they are looking for and letting them filter the information.

“Let me tell you why that’s a bad idea,” Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan said on his radio show on 980WCA/P in response to Galvin’s statement at the committee hearing.

“If we cannot request volumes of documents as a member of the public can do our own research, we are stuck having to accept that a public official has gone through them and accurately pulled out the information we are looking for? That’s not acceptable. The mere fact that Galvin wants to narrow this means less accountability. It means we have to tell the officials who or what we are investigating, and in the case of corrupt officials like Willie Lantigua and Neil Harrington, it gives them a heads up as to what we are working on. In my experience, and I’ve been doing this a long time, that is when documents start to disappear.”

Duggan says he expects his bill, S1700, to be reported favorably out of the legislature committee and is readying a fight in the full House and the Senate.

“It’s not enough that we brought together Democrats and Republicans to support this as well as the Tea Party and left wing groups, what we need now are commitments from the rest of the legislature and Governor Baker. I will be on the phone with every legislator who will take my call over the next few months lobbying for this bill, and anyone who cares about holding their government officials accountable should do the same.”

A WELCOME CHANGE

State Representative Jim Lyons says he is pleased that there are Democrats willing to back their party leadership to stand for changes in the public records law. Lyons has been calling for reforms for years.

“Having Democrats beat this drum is wonderful,” he said gigging. “I wish more of them would do that. With a little help from rank and file Democrats we can send a clear message that the way it is now, is simply unacceptable. I welcome any help and I will work with anyone who is sincerely interested in holding our public officials accountable. I believe the timing could be right on this one and we might be able to get real meaningful legislation passed. I think at the end of the day, what you will see is a revolt on Beacon Hill. A revolt where the members say to the leadership ‘something has to be done here’, this has to stop… and the leadership will have to listen.”

“There is absolutely no need for The Valley Patriot or anyone else out there to fight this hard to find out what our government officials are up to. But at least now we can do something for future cases and make sure things like what is going on in Lawrence will not happen again. I give The Valley Patriot a lot of credit here, you guys are making a difference and I think, working together we are going to get this law changed.”

Secretary of State Bill Galvin wants to limit the information the public can request.
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