



# THE VALLEY PATRIOT

"Congress shall make no law..."

2004

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## LANTIGUA DEFEATED?



**SEE COLUMN ON PAGE 21**

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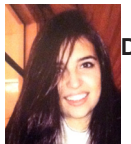
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## VALLEY PATRIOT OF THE MONTH

HERO IN OUR MIDST: LTJG GERALD L. HALTERMAN, USN, PEARL HARBOR SURVIVOR

**Helen Mooradkian**  
VALLEY PATRIOT VETERAN COLUMNIST

At 6:54 a.m. Sunday, December 7, 1941, the quiet midnight watch was about to end for 20-year old Gerald L. Halterman, U.S. Navy, Yeoman 3rd Class. An urgent message came in on the teletype in the communications office at Pearl Harbor, 14th Naval District, where he was on duty for the entire Pacific Fleet. The destroyer the USS Ward had spotted an unidentified submarine in a restricted area, at the harbor's entrance. "We have attacked, fired upon, and dropped depth charges."

Immediately below Jerry's office, in a room he didn't even know existed, Jerry sensed, from the flurry of activity, the Japanese code was being broken.

It was! Japan had ordered all existing codes to be destroyed at once—an ominous sign.

Jerry typed the Ward's message and handed it to the on-duty officer, unaware he had just typed the message that would plunge America into WWII. One hour later, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. The next day, President Franklin Roosevelt and Congress declared war.

When relieved of duty early, Jerry headed to the receiving station for breakfast, shower, and sleep.

"At 7:55 a.m., I had just turned into my bunk on the third (top) floor when low-flying Japanese torpedo planes began swooping down over the harbor, at-

**HERO: PAGE 31**

Pearl Harbor Survivor Gerald L. (Jerry) Halterman, Lt. j.g., U.S. Navy, typed the first U.S. message of WWII: a destroyer had spotted an unidentified sub in the Harbor's restricted area and had demolished it. The next day America declared war. A yeoman 3rd class at the time, Halterman had recently accepted shore duty in the communications office for the Pacific Fleet. His former ship, the USS Oklahoma, took nine torpedoes and capsized in minutes. He saw the USS Arizona explode. He received the Pearl Harbor Medal and is a member of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association; also the WWII Victory Medal, and star for the Battle of Midway. A frequent speaker, he was interviewed by Fox News. For the definitive study on the attack, he recommends the only book authorized by Secretary of War Henry Stimson, "Pearl Harbor: Final Judgement," by Atty. Henry Clausen and Bruce Lee.



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# ObamaCare: Life Lessons for America's Youth

Dr. Charles Ormsby  
VALLEY PATRIOT EDITOR

I don't understand all this complaining about ObamaCare by America's conservatives. The fact of the matter is that ObamaCare, and what we have seen so far about its enrollment Web site, should be praised by conservatives.

Since I first joined the ranks of conservatives I have constantly heard complaints that America's youth lack perseverance, and that they are unfocused, impatient, self-centered, disrespectful of their elders, spoiled, and unwilling to sacrifice for the good of their country.

ObamaCare and its enrollment Web site, HealthCare.gov, seem to be tailor-made to cure our youth of these shortcomings.

For example, take the lack of perseverance exhibited by our youth. They constantly seek immediate satisfaction of their every desire. The TV generation of the '60s has gone on steroids with the Internet, iPhones, Instant Messenger and Twitter.

When our youth want something, they want it NOW!

It is about time that our federal government has done something to address this societal problem. The ObamaCare enrollment site has not just slowed down our light-speed youth, it has slammed the breaks on them.

Now I must admit that – at a cost somewhere north of a half-billion dollars – the Web site Healthcare.gov has been a bit expensive, but you can't expect a Web site that crashes consistently, day and night, no matter how few or how many users try to logon to be designed or developed on the cheap. It takes a team of highly skilled software engineers to do that!

At last our youth have a government program to help them develop patience. Watching a rotating hour glass symbol for many hours will do them good.

If, after waiting for those hours, the Gen-Xers are disconnected, they will just have to man up, quit complaining and try again. And if that fails, they must learn to pick themselves up, brush themselves off,

and try yet again!

Perseverance is a virtue. Did our forefathers quit just because they had to walk uphill to and from kindergarten in four feet of snow? Hell no! Why should a few hours trying to connect to an Internet Web site represent such a devastating experience?

Once they finally get connected, our youth seeking to purchase a health insurance policy will naturally be anxious to browse the plans that are available and compare costs.

OK kids, not so fast! HealthCare.gov wasn't designed to maximize customer satisfaction. That would have merely re-enforced the pampering that spoiled our youth in the first place.

Instead of allowing the browsing of insurance plans based on some simple inputs like zip code, age and sex, our youngsters will be faced with endless requests for authentication data along with numerous personal questions regarding race, ethnicity, employment status, income, assets, and marital status to determine eligibility for special treatment/subsidies.

Wouldn't you think that authentication could be accomplished at the time of purchase AFTER our youth decide that they actually want to buy something? That is what users experience on Amazon or Hotels.com ... BUT not on HealthCare.gov.

No, on the ObamaCare Web site the products being sold are carefully hidden along with the prices. It is like the computer games where players have to search hundreds of rooms and fight a gaggle of dragons and sorcerers before they find the treasure. This aspect of the Web site should be considered a feature, not a flaw. When you have a bad product, it is better to hold off showing it until the buyer is worn down and is willing to do anything to end the nightmare.

The experience of actually getting through this maze on HealthCare.gov can't be adequately described because very few have actually succeeded. It appears that those who have successfully run the gauntlet are keeping the secret of their passage under wraps. Most likely they are

holding out for a book contract (The Dummies Guide to The World's Most Embarrassing Web Site).

What we do know is that when young users finally do get to see the policies offered and their prices, they be faced with their next big lesson, courtesy of ObamaCare.

What they will discover is that they have to choose between paying for an overpriced health policy crammed full of expensive coverage they don't need, want or will ever use OR they will have to go without health insurance and pay a hefty fine ... sorry, I mean a tax.

If they were previously insured, they will discover that their options under ObamaCare are 50-250% more expensive than their old policies while having substantially higher deductibles.

But ignore these shortcomings for the moment. The beauty of the ObamaCare scheme is that the excess revenue collected from these young people is slated to pay the healthcare costs of much wealthier retirees.

Our youth could throw their hands up and complain that they are really being screwed six ways from Sunday. And they would be correct. The Democrat Party has treated them worse than crash test dummies.

Soon after graduating, our young men and women will discover that there are very few jobs for them because the Democrats have created a massive regulatory jungle and insisted on high tax rates, both of which have driven employers to stop creating jobs. The situation is made worse by the inadequate education our recent graduates have enjoyed thanks to self-serving public teacher unions.

And with ObamaCare, the job market they face has gone from bad to worse. In the unlikely case that young job seekers do find a job, it is likely to be part time with no healthcare benefits. Why? Because ObamaCare's health insurance mandate discourages the creation of full-time positions with benefits.

After getting their first paycheck from a low paying, part-time job, these young-



## OBAMACARE

sters will learn that they are being forced to pay 15% of their income into Social Security - a program that is expected to face bankruptcy before they retire. It is likely they will pay the SS tax for decades and get very little if anything in return.

Finally, they will find out about the 17 trillion dollar federal debt that will be passed on to them and their children along with \$500 billion in annual interest payments. So what should our youth do? They should absorb some additional life lessons.

If they choose, they could learn to suppress their selfish instincts and commit an act of self-sacrifice. They could thank Obama for the opportunity to reduce their financial wellbeing by signing up for an overpriced plan and thereby transferring a substantial portion of their income to wealthy retirees.

OR, they could make a more sensible decision. They could refuse to sacrifice themselves and their families to Obama's failing and immoral progressive agenda. They could boycott this irrational monstrosity and make the truly moral decision to retain their assets for themselves and their families.

And finally, they could join the only political movement that is fighting for their rights and well-being: The Tea Party.



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

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# Erin Cox Owes North Andover an Apology

Former North Andover High School volleyball captain Erin Cox claimed she was being suspended from the team and lost her captaincy because of a “zero tolerance policy” at North Andover High, after being caught at an underage drinking party.

She claimed she was only there “to give a drunk friend a ride home.”

She also claimed, through her mom and attorney, that she was the victim of sexism, an out of control school administration, and a campaign of “lies” against her.

Of course, Cox, her mom, and attorney were able to say all this on national TV, knowing that school officials were legally unable to dispute any claims being made because, you see ... Erin Cox is a minor.

If school administrators had disputed any of Cox’s bogus claims they would surely lose a lawsuit for violating the privacy of a minor. Yet with no proof, in fact, with no evidence at all to show that Erin Cox’s “story” had any validity, national TV, radio

and print news ran with her version of the story without even making a phone call to verify what they were reporting.

If they had, they would have found out what North Andover Patch’s Bryan McGonigle found out; North Andover doesn’t have a “zero tolerance policy”.

Yet, Attorney Wendy Murphy and the Cox family fueled that story of Erin’s victimhood for over a week on national TV.

We find that awfully convenient ... and somewhat disgusting.

Especially after we learned last week that Erin Cox plead guilty in Lawrence District Court of not only being in possession of alcohol at an underage drinking party in Boxford ... but also consuming it. (see story page 5)

She also admits in her confession that she was at the party more than an hour before police officers showed up.

Cox agreed to enroll in a “diversion program” where she has to take mandatory

programs and perform community service.

We also learned that it was Boxford Police Officer Brian Neeley who charged her for the offense of ‘minor in possession of alcohol’; something Wendy Murphy said was “a lie”.

Neeley was the officer who wrote an email to the North Andover officials saying Erin had not been drinking.

Witnesses in the courthouse that day tell The Valley Patriot that Erin Cox showed up with an attorney, but that attorney was not Wendy Murphy.

This bogus national story was nothing more than a hoax perpetrated on the news media to affect public opinion and embarrass high school Principal Scuzzarella so she would change her decision.

We believe that Erin Cox owes an apology to North Andover High School Principal Scuzzarella, North Andover School Administrators, and indeed the entire Town of North Andover for bringing such nega-

tive attention to the town and the school system under false pretenses.

We also believe an apology is owed to the other students at that party who were not treated “special” and had to be arraigned together while Erin Cox was allowed to avoid the press, pretend she wasn’t part of all this, and then quietly plead guilty on another day... a day she THOUGHT the press was not paying attention.

We were.

And we now know the truth.

The question is, will Erin Cox be the “hero” she was portrayed to be on TV, and actually do the right thing here? Will she do what a “good kid” would do by coming clean and publicly apologizing?

THAT is something we would expect from a “good kid”. It would make Erin Cox a real hero, someone whom younger kids could look up to ... and someone worthy of a \$500 Valley Patriot scholarship.

## More Bubble Wrap ... Stat!

Jeff Katz

VOTED AP's BEST RADIO TALK SHOW HOST

Do you remember back in the olden days when dinosaurs roamed the earth and we had to walk up hill to school... both ways? You know the age when we rode bikes with no helmets and swam without goggles. There was a time when American kids were fairly sturdy creatures capable of running, jumping, throwing balls and catching them too. Young children ran around outside in an area called the playground. Sometimes the children fell and wound up with a skinned knee. Those silly little people often boasted of the minor nicks and cuts they got, even

wearing them as badges of honor, proud of just how tough they were. There was a game called “tag” that involved children chasing each other with the sole purpose of tapping another child, thereby anointing the other kid as “it.” That child would then run after yet another child hoping to tap them and pass on the awful moniker, kind of like one passes on fruitcakes at Christmas.

Well, thankfully these horrendous activities are no longer allowed to continue. No, not in our heavily protected modern age. And in that regard, I just wanted to take a moment and salute Patricia Beaulieu who is the Principal of Nashua, New

Hampshire’s Charlotte Avenue Elementary School. The good principal has reminded all of us just how delicate and fragile our modern children are by banning that old barbaric game from the grounds of her school. Citing concerns about injuries and possible litigation lest a child violate what the principal deemed the “no contact rule” while using the playground, tag is now verboten in Nashua. I hope the kids appreciate just how much safer they are today thanks to this exceptional educator. We can only hope that tag will soon be banned in every school district around America. I mean really, it is for the children, you know.



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

Let’s also pay tribute to the United States Postal Service for having the foresight to destroy millions of dollars worth of postage stamps which depicted children having fun while engaged in various athletic activities. Not just any athletic activities, but exceptionally unsafe things like riding a skateboard without kneepads and doing a headstand without wearing a helmet. Yes, the Presidential Council on Fitness and Sports decreed that children would be tempted to copy such risky behaviors if they were to gaze upon the stamps in question. Sure, you could argue that nobody under the age of fifty actually uses stamps anyway, but it is obviously better to be safe than sorry.

There’s simply no reason to expose the porcelain generation to anything which might scrape an elbow or ding someone’s self esteem. Thankfully, we now live in an age where our children can be ensconced in a roll of bubble wrap, stealing cars on a video screen where virtually no one ever gets hurt. Now if only someone would tell us what we should feed our children and when to feed them, then we’d be all set.

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

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# Erin Cox Pleads “Guilty”, Mom Filed Restraining Order Claiming Erin Was Being Punished “Based on Sex”

Court Documents Shed Light on Coach Rafferty Firing

**Tom Duggan**  
VALLEY PATRIOT PUBLISHER

NORTH ANDOVER - Valley Patriot sources at Lawrence District Court and in law enforcement tell The Valley Patriot that North Andover volleyball player Erin Cox was in court last week with a signed confession, admitting she was in possession of alcohol and consuming alcohol at an underage drinking party.

Cox claimed initially that she was only at the drinking party to give a drunk friend a ride home when police arrived. Her attorney, Wendy Murphy, went on a nationwide media blitz promoting the false narrative that Cox was the victim of a school system out of control and that the “zero tolerance policy” resulted in her suspension from the team and the loss of her position as captain.

Cox, who is 17 years old, now admits to being at an underage drinking party on September 28, 2013. Cox says that she was there approximately an hour before Boxford police broke it up.

The officer who charged Cox with possession of alcohol was Boxford Police Officer Brian Neeley, the same officer who wrote the email to the North Andover Schools on her behalf. (see continued page).

According to witnesses at the court, Erin was represented by an attorney, but Wendy Murphy was not present.

Attorney Murphy had told the Valley Patriot in October that, “Erin was not charged”.

WHAT THE COX FAMILY CLAIMED BEFORE MEDIA BLITZ

According to documents obtained by The Valley Patriot, Eleanor Cox, (Erin’s mom), was in Lawrence District Court and Lawrence Superior Court on October 11, 2013 seeking a restraining order against North Andover High officials.

In her TRO complaint, Mrs. Cox first asked Lawrence District Court Judge

Gaffney to reverse the school’s decision suspending Erin Cox from the volleyball team for five games, and return her team leadership position as captain of the team, saying her daughter was the victim of discrimination “based on sex” and that her suspension was a “civil rights” violation. The complaint also details that the Cox family was seeking money for legal fees, attorney’s fees, interests and “issue any other relief deemed appropriate and just.”

In her complaint, Mrs. Cox details the “severe emotional distress” her daughter was going through. Erin “is now experiencing serious emotional distress. She feels not only embarrassed and falsely accused of an offense she did not commit, she is distraught because she feels betrayed by officials and because she was punished for an offense she didn’t commit.”

She admits in those court documents that her daughter was at the party for nearly 30 minutes before police arrived. The media never reported this.

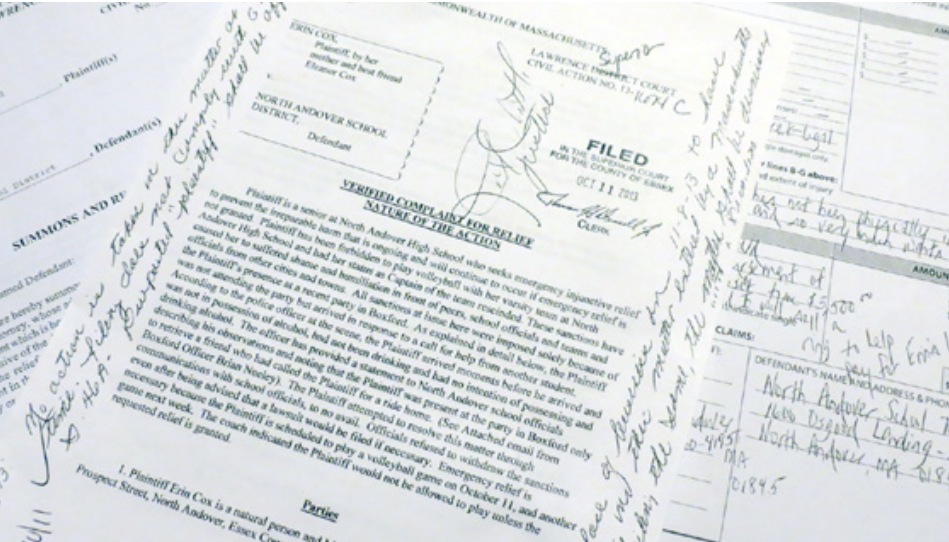
“The party was noisy and crowded and when the Plaintiff (Erin Cox) finally found her friend, she had difficulty convincing her to leave. Within 30 minutes police arrived.”

The decision of Judge Gaffney was that Mrs. Cox had filed in the wrong court and refused to take any actions on her request.

Mrs. Cox then filed the same complaint in Lawrence Superior Court where Judge Cornetta decided to take no action and refused to grant her request because there was no attorney present to represent Erin Cox, the actual defendant.

Although the Cox family had already retained famed Attorney Wendy Murphy, she didn’t appear in court that day.

Judge Cornetta’s decision states: “No action is taken in this matter at this time. Filing does not comply with MGL Ch. 221. S. 46A, purported plaintiff shall be afforded until the close of business on 11/8/13 to



have an appearance in this matter entered by a Massachusetts licensed attorney. Failing the same, the matter shall be dismissed without prejudice.”

Erin Cox has since already served her suspension. To date, the Cox family has not filed any lawsuit against the Town of North Andover or the North Andover School District.

Mrs. Cox asked both courts to “issue a temporary restraining order, immediately reinstating the Plaintiff’s [Erin Cox’s] captaincy and vacating the sanctions against her so that she can play with her team on October 11, 2013.” (the date the TRO was sought).

Mrs. Cox’s complaint requested an order preventing the school from “further sanctioning the plaintiff (Erin Cox) in any manner or retaliating against her, related to the facts at issue.”

In a hand written statement of damages, Mrs. Cox wrote: “My daughter, Erin Cox has not been physically injured, she has been severely humiliated and so very much wants her dignity back. I would greatly appreciate the reimbursement of our legal fees – at the present time. We are a very modest family and I will sell a \$3,500 ring to help pay for Erin’s legal support.”

Mrs. Cox also cited in her complaint, an email sent to North Andover School Officials from one of the police officers who broke up the underage drinking party on September 29, 2013. She presented the email as her only physical evidence to back

her daughter’s reason for being present at the party.

WHT DID OFFICER NEELEY’S EMAIL REALLY SAY?

In her complaint, Mrs. Cox stated to the court that police Officer Brian Neeley verified that Erin Cox was only at the drinking party to pick up a friend for a ride home.

“The officer has provided a statement to North Andover school officials describing his observations, and noting that the Plaintiff (Erin), was present at the party in Boxford only to retrieve a friend who had called the plaintiff for a ride home.”

Officer Neeley’s email to Assistant Superintendent Gilligan was not sent from a Police Department email account, but rather, a personal “Hotmail” account. It was sent the day before Mrs. Cox filed for the restraining order, and was cc’d to Attorney Wendy Murphy.

In his email, Officer Neeley states to school officials what he observed about Erin Cox’s demeanor and that Erin expressed remorse. He did not state in his email any personal knowledge of what had happened before he arrived, or that had he had any evidence corroborating Cox’s claim that she was only there to pick up a friend.

Officer Neeley’s own report shows that he was not present when Erin arrived at the party, and could not have witnessed one way or the other, why Cox was present at the drinking party or what time she actually

ERIN COX: PAGE 6

## Notices From the North Andover Senior Center

**NORTH ANDOVER VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCES:** In recognition of Veterans Day, the Patriotic Observance Committee respectfully requests the attendance of you and members of your family or organization to join us on November 11, 2013, as we honor all who have bravely served in the United States Armed Forces. The parade will form at 9:45 A.M. on the corner of First & Main Street and step-off at 10:15 A.M., proceed up Main Street and march into Patriots Memorial park for appropriate services. Upon completion of the program, the parade will reform and proceed up Main Street to the V.F.W. Post 2104 on Park Street to raise the flag and salute all Departed Veterans. In the event of inclement weather, our services will be held in the Middle School Veterans Auditorium at 10:30 A.M. For questions or comments please contact North Andover Veterans Services Officer Edward V. Mitchell at (978) 688-9525.

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**FOOT CARE:** RN Catherine Languedoc, Foot Care Specialist, will be available on the third Friday of every month from 9-12. The next date is November 15. Dr. Connolly is available on the second Wednesday of the month from 1-4 pm. The next date is November 13th. Please call to schedule an appointment.

**UPCOMING TRIPS & EVENTS:**  
Men’s Breakfast: Thursday November 7th @9am. At 9:30 Brian Fraser from NA-CAM will be the speaker.

GLCAC, Inc: Greater Lawrence Community Action Council will provide an informational session about the Fuel Assistance Program, Weds. Nov 13th, 11:30 – 12:30.

Phillips Academy Student Solos Recital: Wed. Nov. 13th, Cochran Chapel, Andover. Concert 2pm, van will depart NA Sr. Center @ 1:30. FREE Open to the Public.

Monthly Supper Club: There will be no Supper Club in November.

Monthly Mystery Ride: Thurs. November 14th. Bus departs at 10:00. Cost TBD.

**LECTURE SERIES:** Every Monday @10 a.m. November 4th, Anne Stork. Subject “The Farms of North Andover”

News & Views: Every Wednesday at

10–11:30. Come and join in the lively discussion of current events, politics, history and you never know what else.

**MEET WITH AN ATTORNEY:** Atty. Bahrawy November 19th, 11:30-1pm and Atty. Cannon Nov. 6th, 10- 11:30. Schedule with Reception-first consult is free.

**MR. FIX IT:** November 4th and the 18th, 12-3pm. We repair almost as good as new. Lamps, with cords and sockets, replace watch batteries, small tables and chairs. Anything that is not listed, we will give it a shot! Your cost is \$2 - \$4 depending on work needed, plus parts. Proceeds benefit the Senior Center.

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

Hearing Clinic: November 20th Miracle-Ear will be at the Senior Center (3rd Wed. of every month), 10 to noon. Sign up with reception for a free screening.

### ZUMBA WITH TALLIE!

**Summer Schedule:**  
**With Zumba Girl TALLIE!**  
**Mon, Tue, Wed, & Thu, 4:30pm**  
**ALL ages & abilities welcome!**

FROM PAGE 5: ERIN COX

arrived.  
His email reads, in part: "Erin did not have the slightest odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from her person. She was polite, articulate, steady on the feet and very remorseful for her decision to go into the residence, but was only helping out a friend who had called for a ride."

**MISLEADING PUBLIC ON ZERO TOLERANCE**  
Despite stories by the Cox family appearing in the national news media, North Andover School Superintendent Hutchinson says that North Andover doesn't have a "zero tolerance" policy.

According to an interview with the North Andover Patch, Superintendent Hutchinson says:  
"We do not have a 'zero tolerance policy.' Each incident is fully investigated and decided upon based on the individual facts and circumstances. Our administrators are tasked with applying the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) rules pertaining to student-athletes and alcohol in a consistent and fair manner," Hutchinson wrote. "To be clear, the MIAA's, and by extension North Andover High School's, 'chemical health rule' prohibits student-athletes from possessing alcohol, in addition to prohibiting its use, consumption, or distribution."

**COX FAMILY FIRST CLAIMED SEX DISCRIMINATION, TITLE IX**  
The complaint filed by Mrs. Cox accused North Andover school officials of violating her "civil rights" because she is a female, and accused school officials of giving preferential treatment to male athletes.

"Because the punishment imposed on [Erin] appears disparate "based on sex" the North Andover School District is subject to equitable and other relief under Title IX and analogous state civil rights laws that prohibit unequal treatment of students in educational program "based on sex".  
In addition to poor judgment, North Andover's decision to punish the Plaintiff (Erin) violates her equal protection rights and rights under Title IX of the Education Acts, and Title IV of the Civil Rights Act because serious offenses committed by male athletes have not resulted in similar actions."

FINALLY, AN ANSWER TO THE

**COACH RAFFERTY MYSTERY**  
Eleanor Cox cited as an example in her complaint, a case in 2012 where a North Andover football player was "arrested" at an underage drinking party and was only excluded from playing the Thanksgiving football game as well as two basketball games when that season started up.  
NAHS Football Coach John Rafferty was fired over that incident, when High School Principal Scuzzarella announced he would not be returning as coach the following year. Rafferty, a well-loved 12 year veteran coach was fired according to sources at the North Andover Patch "because he didn't follow protocol when he disciplined two students this past fall."  
One of those students was the high school quarterback who was supposed to play in the Thanksgiving Day game.  
Rafferty was eventually rehired after intense public outrage from parents, residents, students and former students. A "Support Coach Rafferty" Facebook page

**From:** Brian Neeley <gpdbeeley@hotmail.com>  
**Date:** October 10, 2013, 6:48:13 AM EDT  
**To:** "gilligan@northandover.k12.ma.us" <gilligan@northandover.k12.ma.us>  
**Cc:** "wmurphy@northandover.k12.ma.us" <wmurphy@northandover.k12.ma.us>, "emc657@gmail.com" <emc657@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Erin Cox

Mr. Gilligan on September 28, 2013 at 22:44 I responded with several other officers to a under aged party at 732 Main St., Boxford. Erin Cox was one of many people under the age of 21 at the residence. I had the opportunity to speak with and observe Erin Cox while waiting for her mother to arrive. Erin did not have the slightest odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from her person. She was polite, articulate, steady on her feet, and very remorseful for her decision to go into the residence but was only helping out a friend that had called her for a ride. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

**Officer Brian Neeley**  
**Boxford Police Department**

drew more than 500 supporters in one day.  
Though officials kept silent at the time and never revealed the exact reason the coach was terminated, Eleanor Cox's court filing may hold the answer to that long sought question.  
As an example of sex discrimination at North Andover High, Eleanor Cox states:  
"For Example, a police log entry dated November 20, 2012 states that a male student was arrested at age 17 for underage possession of alcohol at the intersection of Boxford Street and Candlestick Road at 9:55pm on Friday, November 16, 2012. That student was suspended from playing

the team's last football game, which was Thanksgiving Day and the penalty was carried over for only two games when he began his basketball season thereafter."  
In opposition to Mrs. Cox' complaint, North Andover School District's Attorney, Geoffrey Bok, of Stoneman Chandler and Miller, addressed the quarterback issue in a footnote on page 10.  
"5/ Plaintiff's [Erin Cox] claims of an equal protection violation are similarly without merit. The male student referred to in Complaint ¶ 22 was punished, just like the Plaintiff [Cox] for 25% of the scheduled games in a season (as computed under the formula provided by MIAA rule 62). He served half of this penalty by being prohibited from playing in the final football game of the season, and the rest of the penalty by being prohibited from paying (SIC) in the first two basketball games when that season began. Since football has many fewer games than volleyball or basketball, half of the 25% penalty was served with fewer games in football than the other two sports. Of course, for a North Andover High School football player to miss the school's



derage drinking party (the party took place Saturday night) but never notified school officials that she had been caught by police at the party the previous weekend. She attended classes that day without saying a word and then Monday evening, played as team captain for the Scarlet Knights volleyball team.  
None of the other 41 students at the party informed officials until Tuesday, after Erin had already played one game after the party.  
The other student who turned himself in was also involved in extra-curricular activity, and received the same level of punishment as Erin Cox.

Officials say that Cox was not punished for refusing to come forward as required of all students participating in high school athletics and extra-curricular activities.  
MIAA rules also state that any student found to have been present at such parties where underage drinking is taking place will "lose eligibility for the next consecutive interscholastic contests totaling 40% of all interscholastic contests in that sport."  
Students can reduce the penalty to 25% of the remaining games in the season by taking a chemical dependency or treatment program. Documents show that Erin agreed to take the chemical dependency program, and thus was only suspended from the volleyball team for five games by Principal Scuzzarella and stripped of her position as captain.  
If you have a news tip, story idea or would like to advertise with The Valley Patriot you can email us at valleypatriot@aol.com

To the voters of Methuen, I am deeply grateful for all your wonderful support over the years. Thank you!!

**Jennifer Aziz Kannan**

**MAYOR**

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**WEST DISTRICT COUNCILOR**

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- ☒ Observe Her Social Life  
Are there signs of active friendships, or isolation?
- ☒ Open the Medicine Cabinet  
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- ☒ Check the Mail  
Look for unopened mail or unpaid bills
- ☒ Inspect the Kitchen  
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# The Sustainable Materials Recovery Program

Linda Dean Campbell  
METHUEN STATE REPRESENTATIVE

State Representative Brian S. Dempsey (D-Haverhill), Chairman of the House Committee on Ways & Means, along with State Senator Kathleen O'Connor Ives (D-Newburyport), Representative Linda Dean Campbell (D-Methuen), Representative Diane DiZoglio (D-Methuen) and Representative Lenny Mirra (R-West Newbury) announced today that the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has awarded the City of Haverhill \$2,000 and Methuen \$1,500 through their Sustainable Materials Recovery Program.

The Sustainable Materials Recovery Program Grants that are offered by MassDEP, provide essential funding for cities and towns to continue moving forward on recycling initiatives that each city or town has developed in their communities. These funds would support initiatives such as recycling, composing, reuse and source reduction activities that will increase diversion of municipal solid waste and household hazardous waste from disposal.

Grant eligibility is based on whether a city or town has certified that they have "buy recycled" by-laws, ordinances or policies in place before applying.

"This grant will provide additional

funding to recycling programs in the Cities of Haverhill and Methuen for their on-going efforts in reducing waste" said Representative Dempsey. "Continuing to fund these essential recycling initiatives will produce an environmentally friendly future for the Merrimack Valley Region."

"The Cities of Haverhill and Methuen are to be congratulated for their continued aggressive and successful efforts to reduce landfill waste disposal and to increase recycling" said Representative Campbell. "These state grant reflects those effective efforts and a priority for increased recycling by the legislature.

"This grant is an excellent opportunity to further strengthen Haverhill's and Methuen's waste reduction initiatives. Whenever the city can reduce the amount of solid waste being produced and increase recycling, composting and hazardous waste collection, it's not only good for the environment, but also saves the city money on hauling trash," said Senator Kathleen O'Connor Ives.

"I am delighted to see the City of Haverhill and Methuen receive these grant from MassDEP and I stand with Chairman Dempsey and my colleagues in celebrating this terrific news," said Representative DiZoglio.



Congratulations to Wesley Gangi and his family for their successful toy drive hosted by Wesley at the Methuen Loop. Wesley has been very ill for quite some time and has spent many days at the Floating Hospital for Children in Boston enduring several life threatening surgeries and procedures. Having spent so much time in a room that you cannot leave, Wes decided bring matters into his own hands and bring to the hospital toys that his fellow patients could enjoy within the confines of their beds. Wes received outstanding support in his efforts by his two brothers (they are triplets) Austin and Rylan. The whole family participated including his parents, Amy and Paul, and Grandparents Bob and Betsy Travers

# Celebrity Chef, Cookbook Author Mary Ann Esposito of Ciao Italia to Appear at Festival of Trees

The 20th Festival of Trees will kick off with the Emerald Anniversary Taste of the Festival on Friday, November 22, 2013 with special guest, celebrity Chef Mary Ann Esposito, of the famed cooking series Ciao Italia. This culinary celebration, officially opening the 20th Anniversary Festival of Trees, will showcase signature dishes from many local restaurants as well as the unveiling of more than 240 spectacular Christmas trees and wreaths.

"We are honored to have Chef Mary Ann Esposito as our special guest this year to help celebrate the Festival's incredible 20-year milestone," said Sharon Pollard, President of the Festival of Trees. "To have an internationally known chef of her caliber is sure to bring excitement to both the guests and participating restaurants."

Mary Ann Esposito is the creator and host of the PBS series, Ciao Italia, seen nationally and internationally. This year the series celebrates its 25th Anniversary, making it the longest running cooking series in America. She is the author of 12 cookbooks including the best selling Ciao Italia and her most recent book Ciao Italia Family Classics.

Mary Ann honed her skills in regional cooking schools throughout Italy and got her start in Perugia. She continues to teach classes in cooking schools throughout Italy each year. She has appeared on the Today Show, Food Network and has been featured in newspapers and magazines, including People Magazine, TV Guide, Family Circle, Yankee, and USA Today.

On September 14, 2013, Chef Mary Ann Esposito was in Forlimpopoli, Italy to receive the prestigious Premio Artusi Award, presented yearly to the individual who best exemplifies the art of preserving the traditions of regional cooking.

"It gives me great pleasure to participate in an event that brings together community and wonderful local food," said Chef Mary Ann Esposito. "I am looking forward to the opportunity to mingle with guests and sample some of the great cuisine the Merrimack Valley has to offer."

The Festival of Trees is the largest festival in New England and is the model



and inspiration for many other festivals in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Since it began in 1993, more than 1000 people, businesses and organizations have donated trees and 1500 volunteers have donated their time. The Festival attracts over 27,000 visitors annually from 14 states and over 380 communities who come to view 240 beautifully decorated trees and wreaths. Festival participants include school children of all ages, businesses, organizations and people who annually enjoy the fun of decorating a tree and making an important contribution to the heritage of their communities.

The Taste of the Festival is Friday, Nov. 22, from 6 -10 p.m. Tickets are \$50.00 and can be purchased by calling 978-685-8878 or via email at [www.methuenfestivaloftrees.com](http://www.methuenfestivaloftrees.com). A limited quantity of aprons and cookbooks will be available for sale and signing by Chef Mary Ann Esposito.

The 20th Festival of Trees officially opens Nov. 23, 2013 and runs through Dec. 7, 2013. Open weekdays from 5-9 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving. General Admission is \$8 on weekdays, \$10 on weekends and children 12 and under are always FREE. The Festival is located at Valley Office Park, 13 Branch St., Methuen.

For more information, visit [www.methuenfestivaloftrees.com](http://www.methuenfestivaloftrees.com). For more information on Chef Mary Ann Esposito, please visit [www.ciaoitalia.com](http://www.ciaoitalia.com).



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# Spending on Absent Teachers Nearly Exceeds Fire Dept. Outlays

Lonnie Brennan  
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

According to the 2012 Georgetown earnings records, recently obtained by The Valley Patriot, the Georgetown School Department spent \$331,585.09 on substitute teachers in 2012, just \$6,892.13 less than it spent on its entire fire and ambulance salary outlays for the year.

The records revealed that 106 individuals received pay as ‘School Substitutes’ for 2012. One long-term substitute grossed \$24,359.25, while most earned in the \$1,000 to \$5,000 range. Expenditures for ‘Teacher’ salaries totalled an additional \$8,627,219.27 for 163 listed as teachers (with earnings from \$1,442.40 to \$98,156.66). Additional spending for school ‘Support’ personnel exceeded \$1.8 million. Administrative expenditures exceeded \$511,000, and school lunch salaries totalled \$216,033.58.

The town spent \$14,383.05 on its Park and Recreation salaries (Richard Whitehouse \$8,292.92; Richard Gardella \$3,013.69; and Janet Dalton \$3,076.44).

The town spent \$63,941.79 on its part-time Board of Health salaries and contract inspectors.

Absent Teachers Cause Town to Spend Almost as Much on Substitutes as Entire Fire/Ambulance Department

For 2012, the Georgetown earnings listing was once again topped by Superintendent of Schools Carol Jacobs who hauled in \$180,362.81. Now retired light department manager Wayne Snow grossed \$130,097.00, and was followed closely by Chad Cunningham of the light department with gross earnings of \$113,432.05.

Additional gross earnings are listed below. The total listing for 2012 included 596 individuals receiving checks for services rendered for the Town of Georgetown.

Note that town hall employees receive an additional 10 weeks of what is loosely referred to as ‘vacation’ time (approximately 50 extra days off per year, as Town Hall is closed every Friday), and almost all employees will receive 60-80% of their earnings each and every year in their re-

tirement. So, remember, it’s not about the salary, it’s about the retirement and other benefits.

Top 40 Earners:  
Carol Jacobs \$180,362.81 School Adm; Wayne Snow \$130,097.00 Light Dept; Peter Lucia \$121,662.29 School Adm; Chad Cunningham \$114,432.05 Light Dept; James Mulligan \$112,850.76 Police Dept; Scott Hatch \$106,873.56 Police Dept; Donna Tanner \$102,004.99 School Adm; Donald Cudmore \$101,910.97 Police Dept; David Thomson \$99,257.34 Police Dept; Brian Gill \$98,156.66 Middle/High Teacher; Michael Farrell \$97,702.30 Town Hall; Kevin Defeo \$96,820.60 Police Dept; Julie Deroche \$96,457.24 Middle/High Teacher; Kyle Morse \$93,775.74 Light Dept; Margaret Maher \$92,961.63 Perley Teacher; Elizabeth Carroll \$91,117.15 Pennbrook Teacher; Stephen Umbro \$90,798.80 Middle/High Teacher; Peter Durkee \$89,693.63 Highway Dept; Deborah Difruscio \$86,966.78 Middle/High Teacher; Guy Prescott \$84,437.03 Middle/High Teacher; Cerise Cauthron \$83,090.56 Middle/High Teacher; Michael Goddu \$83,043.04 Police Dept; Glenn Smith \$82,016.10 Water Dept; Dennis Sullivan \$81,893.28 Police Dept; Troy Carr \$81,886.31 Middle/High Teacher; Julie Lamoly \$80,771.70 Middle/High Teacher; Derek Jones \$80,584.82 Police Dept; James Rodden \$80,202.68 Police Dept; Robert Dash \$79,460.59 Water Dept; Richard Hastings \$79,197.52 Middle/High Teacher; Joseph Pittella \$79,060.60 Middle/High Teacher; Heidi Begin \$78,761.52 Perley Teacher; Dawn Rezendes \$78,312.43 Pennbrook Teacher; Diane Weldon \$78,222.41 Middle/High Teacher; Sandra Starratt \$77,755.73 Middle/High Teacher; Kimberly Leonard \$77,565.88 Pennbrook Teacher; Eileen Lee \$76,620.53 Middle/High Teacher; Heidi Mongeau \$76,474.33 Middle/High Teacher; Janice Downing \$75,289.60 Middle/High Teacher; Michelle Pallotta \$75,255.92 Middle/High Teacher.

More information to follow. Refer to [www.GeorgetownTODAY.org](http://www.GeorgetownTODAY.org) for summary charts.

# The Military Connection

Ann Knowles  
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

The Military Connection, Inc. founder Eugene Smith, is a retired army soldier, who has found a mission for himself, in order to help others.

Gene has spent several days over the past two years putting his operation together, and spreading the word about this “one on one” program to provide services to any man or woman who have served or are serving in the United States Armed Forces.

There are many organizations that attempt to help our servicemen and women, and they should be supported. While these outlets help in many ways, there is always someone, who “falls through the cracks”. The reasons this can happen are many and individual to that person.

Gene came into this program quite by chance, when he was at his doctor’s office and heard the anguish of an elderly woman who was trying to find a way to find the money to pay funeral expenses for her brother. Gene spoke to her and asked if she had tried some of the organizations that help families of veterans. She said she had tried to talk to someone, but didn’t “find any help”.

Through no fault of the woman, she did not know how to make a request and who to speak to about this problem. Gene explained to her about many of the options she might have and set about to help her through the red tape.

From that incident, plus his volunteer work, he has found that some ex-service personnel find it difficult to ask for help. They or their families might have no idea how to proceed, what options are available or are just too reticent to ask for help.

Gene understands after his 33 year military career, that there are so many veterans, that fall off the charts for one or another reason. Some are without family or friends that “look” out for them. Many are left alone due to their fault or the lack of interest of others. In other words, they need just that reaching out that Gene provides. He has had veterans referred to him from many sources. Gene can be reached by phone at 978-273-9255 or by mail at 256 North Main Street, Building K-7, Andover, MA.

The Military Connection, Inc. is a registered Massachusetts non-profit organization. Donations are accepted, clothing, groceries, funds to provide transportation, mailings, and other requirements necessary to keep this local and personal help to local veterans.

Gene joined the Army in 1957 and has received many commendations for his work in the service. Working with and alongside fellow soldiers, both active duty and discharged from service, gave Gene an understanding of what some experienced, isolated and removed from their families and friends. The transition into civilian life can be very difficult for some. Many times, it is the unseen wounds that can be the most difficult to overcome.

Gene welcomes suggestions from supporters for outreach, community fund raisers, and those who would like to work with him to help with this effort.

Note: “Salute to the Veterans”, a book recognizing local veterans and their stories, from The Civil War to Iraq and Afghanistan, will be available in December and orders can be taken before November 13, 2013 for \$29.95 and after that date for \$39.95. The Eagle Tribune can be contacted for details.

## What Are My Legal Rights to a Job?

Attorney Timothy F. Stark, Esq.  
VALLEY PATRIOT GUEST COLUMNIST

Massachusetts, like many states, follows the common law doctrine known simply as “at-will” employment. In its simplest form, the concept means that either party (the employer or the employee) can terminate the relationship at any time and for any reason or for no reason. The doctrine can be explained by simply understanding that an employee who does not have an employment contract is an “at-will” employee, and therefore subject to the doctrine. It is axiomatic, however, that an employment termination cannot violate a statute or an established social policy.

The “at-will” law is severe at times, since an employer can indeed terminate an employee for unfair reasons. The doctrine actually goes back to the 19th century and was intended to support capitalism and the concept that labor was simply a commodity. Over the years, the harshness of the concept has been eroded by statutes that designate reasons that, in addition to being unfair, are indeed also unlawful.

A good example of such a statute is M.G.L. c. 151B, which prevents terminations based upon what are called “protected classes.” Examples of these classes include age, race, ethnic background, religious preferences, sexual preference, recovering addiction and handicap. The interplay between the statute and the doctrine is the type of dialectic that keeps attorneys employed. For example, it is generally not unlawful for an employer to use various incentives to “encourage” employees to retire, yet it is unlawful to terminate someone because of their age. Consequently, it is legal to terminate someone because of their age if they are less than 40 years of age, but

may be unlawful to do so if they are 40 and above. The reason for the difference is that M.G.L. c. 151B makes employees in the 40 years of age and above category a “protected class,” while people under 40 are not. Therefore, the termination of an employee under the age of 40 is a simple “at-will” analysis while the termination of an employee 40 years of age or older must include an analysis under M.G.L. c. 151B. It is important to note, however, that M.G.L. c. 151B does not convey the older employee a legal right to their job since they remain an “employee at-will,” but only makes unlawful a termination based upon the employee’s age. In other words, the statute is a “shield” but not a “sword.”

There are, of course, many other exceptions to the employment “at-will” doctrine, including a number of federal statutes as well as many other state laws. If you are interested in finding out if a particular employment termination is legal or not, whether you are an employee or an employer, it would probably be a good idea to check with an experienced employment attorney.

In the coming months, I am looking forward to offering additional analyses of employment issues and how the law affects both employee and employer’s rights. Remember, the only person who has legal rights is the person who knows what their legal rights are.

*Attorney Timothy F. Stark, Esq. has over 25 years of legal experience in Employment Law, Divorce Law, and Divorce Mediation, with backgrounds in both Human Resource Management and Psychology. Please feel free to contact him by calling (978) 685-8777 or e-mailing him at [info@timfstark.com](mailto:info@timfstark.com). His law office is located at 805 Turnpike Street, Suite 101, North Andover, MA 01845.*



## FEASTER FIVE ROAD RACE

Ann Knowles  
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

On Thanksgiving Day 2013, Andover will welcome 10,000 people to town. This will be the 26th year of the Feaster Five Thanksgiving Day Road Race. A great way to celebrate family, friends, fitness and Fun. Starting point will be Brickstone Square, just minutes from route 495.

The race is sanctioned by the Road Runners Club of America. People of all ages come from Massachusetts, Maine, and New Hampshire, as well as New York, Canada and Switzerland.

Runners and walkers can choose races for kids, 100 to 400 yards, 5K run and walk, 8 mile run and walk. Participants are encouraged to pre-register at [www.feasterfive.com](http://www.feasterfive.com).

Activities will begin at 7:15 a.m. Routes for the race can be found at the website.

Proceeds from the race benefit the Merrimack Valley YMCA, Ironstone Farm, Bellesine Academy and the host club, the Merrimack Valley Striders.

Welcome to Andover and enjoy the 26th annual race.

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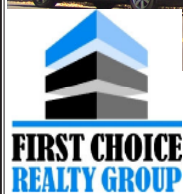
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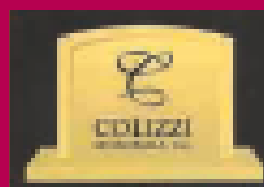
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West End City Council Race



☒George Kazanjian  
1,764 Votes



☒Sean Fountain  
1,577 Votes



☒Ken Willette  
1,283 Votes



☒Mayor Steve Zanni  
4,967 Votes



Methuen Councilor Jen Kannan  
3,693 Votes

AT-LARGE



☒James Jajuga  
4,984 Votes



☒Joyce Campagnone  
4,773 Votes



☒Daniel Grayton  
3,422 Votes



Sharon Birchall  
3,224 Votes



Robert LeBlanc  
1,629 Votes

EAST END CITY COUNCIL



☒Ron Marsan  
1,852 Votes



☒Tom Ciulla  
1,589 Votes



Tom Firth  
1,206 Votes

CETRAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



☒Lisa Yarid Ferry  
1,434 Votes



☒Jamie Atkinson  
1,238 Votes



John Cronin  
934 Votes



Tom Duggan  
VALLEY PATRIOT PUBLISHER

Methuen Mayor Steve Zanni won a landslide victory over popular City Councilor Jen Kannan by 1,274 votes on Election Day, securing a second term of office for the accountant turned politician.

Kannan, a three term At-Large City Councilor out raised Zanni in campaign contributions taking in \$43,190. Mayor Zanni raised only \$25,734 from supporters.

Zanni will serve as mayor fo the next two years. Methuen has a limit of three terms for mayor.

In the At-Large City Council race former State Senator James Jajuga topped the ticket as voters chose three of the five at-large candidates to sit on the city council.

Also winning a seat on the council were incumbent Joyce Campagnone, and newcomer Daniel Grayton.

In the East End City Council race, both incumbents Tom Ciulla and Ron Marsan were re-elected. Former School Commit-

teeman Tom firth came in 3rd place, just 383 votes behind Councilor Tom Ciulla.

In the Central District City Council race where two of three candidates were elected to sit on the council, former Councilor Jack Cronin was defeated by Jamie Atkinson and Lisa Yarid Ferry.

In the West, it was former Methuen School Committeeman George Kazanjian topping the ticket with a lot of help from outgoing Councilor Jeanne Pappalardo. North Andover Firefighter Sean Fountain was re-elected over a very popular former Councilor Kenneth Willette.

In the School Committee race, Methuen voters chose Mary Jean Fawcett, Lynn Hajjar Kumm, Bryan Sweet, Richard Bis-hara, DJ Deeb, and Roberto Vogler.

In the Technical School Committee race, newcomer and sticker candidate Jessica Finocchiaro was elected as was incumbent Barbara Grondine.

Frank Gallo and Kenny Henrick were both elected to the Methuen Housing Authority, and Joe Napolitano and Arthur Nicholson were elected to the Nevins Memorial Library Board.

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Weekends	10:00am-9:00pm
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Friday, November 29	10:00am-9:00pm
Saturday, December 7	10:00am-9:00pm, Tree Raffle at 9:00
Sunday, December 8	Tree Pickup 12:00 noon-4:00pm

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Children's events sponsored by



# Our Pawsitive stay at the Marriott Residence Inn

Tracey Zysk

VALLEY PATRIOT DOGGIE COLUMNIST

On April 24, 2013 the unthinkable happened. I had just completed a very long day of work. In fact it was my busiest day of the week. I had walked twenty four dogs and was absolutely exhausted.

I was looking forward to going home, spending time with my adorable Boston terrier, Lani, and possibly ordering some take out. Once I walked into my condo, I knew, I just knew something was wrong. My Lani was trembling on the couch. Behavior of a very scared little dog, not common for my super cuddly pup. Then I saw why?

OH MY GOD, water was gushing, everywhere. I stood there in shock. The unit upstairs was flooding into mine, it wasn't a simple little drip, this was a wave that had burst through the ceiling. End result: My bathroom was a complete loss!

Holding onto my dog, to comfort and protect her from this unexpected disaster, the thoughts in my head were spinning. What was I going to do? Where were Lani and I going to live? Yes...where were BOTH Lani and I going to live. We're not separating, she is my dog, and she is my family.

I called my insurance company and got the process started. My rep at Horace Mann couldn't have been any more supportive during this crisis; he took ownership of this situation and calmed my nerves. He stated: "You will need a place to live and your policy covers your hotel stay."

Immediately without hesitation, I responded "It needs to be pet friendly, you need to find a place where my 22lb Boston can stay with me."

My representative made a few phone calls and all was taken care of...he found



THE place. The Marriott Residence Inn, Andover, MA.

I packed up my car, Lani and I drove over to the hotel. I had that "momma/daughter" talk with my baby girl, letting her know that things were going to be a little crazy for the next few weeks and I needed her to be a big brave dog. She knew what I was saying, she understood and she gave me a big kiss.

I really didn't know what to expect. I had never had to live in a hotel for an extended stay, and I had no idea how my dog would do in this new environment.

As with any construction rebuild, delays are going to happen. However, mine turned into a four month project. This was not in my game plan. I never

expected to live in a hotel with my dog for four months!

From day one, the staff made me feel at home. What I never expected was the way the staff went up and beyond for my dog. My Lani tends to be shy with strangers and doesn't really do well with new situations. But every single staff member made her feel comfortable. Lani was spoiled with a gift basket of toys and treats, was known by every employee on a first name basis and she even got to hang out at the front desk every night.

Yes, the Marriott Residence Inn is pet friendly and I am proud to say every person checking in was welcomed by my Lani and received kisses when departing.

My Lani was treated as more than just

a dog staying in a room, Lani was made to feel at home. For me, that is what I needed and feared wouldn't happen. I wanted my dog to feel at home, and she did.

Life can toss situations at you when least expected, but when it does occur there needs to be a resource, a solution to the situation, and it has to happen.

The Marriot Residence Inn in Andover MA, part of the Marriott Corporation, is a pet friendly hotel. Exactly what I needed, they were my resource, they were the solution to my situation and they made it happen!

To anyone that may be traveling with their pets or become displaced from their home and need a place for their family including pets, I cannot express my gratitude enough to this wonderful corporation for allowing pets to stay in their hotels.

Literally, a lifesaver for my dog and me.

And to the entire staff at the Marriott Residence Inn Andover, Lani sends each and everyone of you a BIG WET SLOPPY KISS!



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



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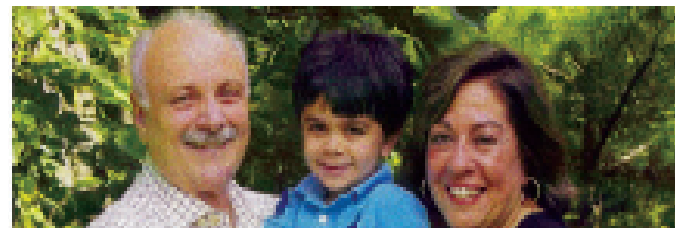
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## FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS...

### THANK YOU!



# George Kazanjian

West District Councilor

## THANK YOU!

to all who supported me and had faith in my leadership abilities.



**METHUEN CITY COUNCIL AT-LARGE**

# Robert LeBlanc

## THANK YOU!!



# Sharon Birchall

## Methuen City Council At Large

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Sharon Birchall

# PUPPY LOVE! with Kate Whitney

## One Tail at a Time Dog Rescue

Kate Whitney  
VALLEY PATRIOT PUPPY GIRL

One Tail at a Time Rescue is a small home based rescue located in Georgia and Massachusetts. We are helping to place at-risk dogs from shelters into preapproved, reference checked, home visited homes. An application is the first step in One Tail's adoption process. One Tail at a Time Rescue does not usually have dogs on-site. Each application is reviewed and approved applicants are sent photos of current dogs or pups available for adoption. Together, applicants and One Tail help choose the pet that will best fit into the adopter's lives and family.

Every dog or pup adopted through One Tail at a Time Rescue is fully updated with all recommended immunizations, heartworm tested and given heartworm and flea/tick prevention meds, micro-chipped if available, and spayed or neutered prior to adoption. No animal will be placed prior to being altered. Each adoption includes all of the above, plus leash, collar, dog food and natural biscuit samples, and transportation to the adoptive family's home.

We also include information on crate training, tips for helping to keep your pet

healthy and happy, and free helpful advice for the lifetime of your dog!

We are always in need local families interested in fostering one of our great, loving dogs. Sometimes fosters are only needed overnight the night prior to transport to the dog's new homes. Overnight fosters need to be able to transport their guests to the meeting place early the following morning. If you are interested in long-term or short-term fostering for One Tail at a Time Rescue, either in Massachusetts or Georgia, please email us for more information.

Please help... We are always in need of small donations. Most needed are collars, leashes, old towels and flannel sheets for crate comfort, instant dog tags called "Fastags", and used crates in good condition. Monetary donations can also be made to help pay for unexpected vet bills for specific animals that we pull from shelters.

Donations for this purpose will only be accepted by the treating veterinary establishment which will be provided to you upon request.

If you'd like to help or need more info about helping, please email us. [onetail@comcast.net](mailto:onetail@comcast.net)

Phone: 978/373-4167 or 978/387-5619



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## Festival of Trees Continues to Share the Holiday Magic as it Celebrates Emerald Anniversarty

The Festival of Trees, Inc. proudly announces its Emerald Anniversary Festival of Trees holiday event. This milestone celebration will kick off with the Emerald Anniversary Taste of the Festival on Friday, November 22, 2013 with special guest, celebrity Chef Mary Ann Esposito of the famed PBS cooking series *Ciao Italia*, seen nationally and internationally. This year the series celebrates its 25th Anniversary, making it the longest running cooking series in America. She is the author of 12 cookbooks including the best selling *Ciao Italia* and her most recent book *Ciao Italia Family Classics*. This culinary celebration, officially opening the 20th Anniversary Festival of Trees, will showcase signature dishes from many local restaurants as well as the unveiling of more than 240 spectacular Christmas trees and wreaths.

"We are honored to have Chef Mary Ann Esposito as our special guest this year to help celebrate the Festival's 20-year milestone," said Sharon Pollard, President of the Festival of Trees. "To have an internationally known chef of her caliber is sure to bring excitement to both the guests and participating restaurants."

The Festival of Trees is the largest festival in New England and is the model and inspiration for many other festivals in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Since it began in 1994, more than 1200 people, businesses and organizations have donated trees and 1500 volunteers have donated their time. The Festival of Trees attracts over 27,000 visitors annually from 14 states and over 380 communities who come to view 240 beautifully decorated trees and wreaths.

Over the past two decades, The Festival of Trees has grown to become one of the most visited holiday events in New England as well as the largest contributor to historic preservation throughout the Merrimack Valley and its surrounding communities. To date, the Festival of Trees has provided over \$1.4 million in grants to fund over 140 preservation projects throughout Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

"It's been very rewarding to see the incredible growth of the Festival over the last 19 years," said Pollard. "We are truly grateful to the many organizations, businesses and individuals that have contributed to our success through the years."

The Festival of Trees will officially open on Saturday, November 23, 2013 and run through Saturday, December 7, 2013. All 240 sparkling Christmas trees and wreaths, decked out in the most creative and imaginative themes, will be on display for 2 weeks and raffled off on the closing day of the festival.

The 20th Festival of Trees Schedule of Events

TASTE of the Festival - November 22, 2013 - 6PM - 10PM

Tickets are \$50.00 and can be purchased by calling 978-685-8878 or via email at [www.methuenfestivaloftrees.com](http://www.methuenfestivaloftrees.com).

Emerald City Treasure Hunt - A community wide treasure hunt kicked off on September 1st and will run through December 7th. The hunt leads you to historic sites, businesses, and our festival program book in search of numbered "emerald" medallions. Those players who collect and record all of the numbers correctly and turn their form in at the Festival of Trees will be entered into the Emerald Isle Grand Prize drawing - "Taste of Ireland" trip for 2. (Generously donated by AAA Southern New England). To register and for more information, please go to [www.methuenfestivaloftrees.com](http://www.methuenfestivaloftrees.com). Entry fee is \$10.00.

Festival Hours

Weekdays 5PM - 9PM

Weekends 10:00 AM - 9PM

Nov.27th - Special Hours 12PM - 9PM

Closed Thanksgiving Day

November 29th - 10:00 AM - 9PM

December 7th - 10:00 AM - 9PM

Admission - Weekdays - \$8.00 for adults

Weekends - \$10.00 for adults

Children 12 and under are always FREE!

Children's Events - Sponsored by Macy's

November 24th - Pictures with Santa Claus 10:00 AM to 2PM

Romper Rhythm Puppet Christmas Show 3PM and 4:15 PM

November 29th - Pictures with Santa Claus 10AM to 2PM

BJ Hickman Magic Show 3PM and 4:15 PM

Story Time with Mary Ann Fleming 6:30 PM

November 30th - Pictures with Santa Claus 10:00 AM to 2PM

Mad Science "Santa's Secret Science Lab" Show 3PM and 4:15 PM

December 1st - Pictures with Santa Claus 10:00 AM to 2PM

Kangaralien "Christmas Sing-Along" 3PM and 4:15 PM

December 7th - Pictures with Santa Claus 10AM to 2PM

Red Sox Mascot "Wally the Green Monster" Appearance 3PM and 4:15 PM

Senior and Red Hat Member Days

November 23rd - 10 AM to 9PM.

November 24th - 10AM to 9PM

All Seniors and Red Hat members are FREE.

Raffle - Visitors have a chance to win one of the beautifully decorated Christmas

## The Merrimack Valley Irish Connection

### Nailor's Brae

Jack Doyle, County Sligo  
VALLEY PATRIOT IRISH COLUMNIST

"At the beginning of the nineteenth century, a nail maker lived in a hut with a small forge behind it in a hollow on the hill that is now known as Nailor's Brae, on the road between Conway's Cross and the Gleann post office.

Nailor's Brae got its name from the fact that a man lived on the side of the road and had a small forge where he made nails for the local people of the area. This nail-maker was a spy, and every place people were making poteen on their stills he went there; and unless he got as much as he could drink, he threatened that he would report them to the authorities.

One night he went to a house that he knew was making poteen and because the people there were sick and tired of his demands on them, they decided to do

away with them him. After killing the nail maker they hid his body under the bed until the next night when they put his body, wrapped in an old bag, into a bog hole in Boggadh Bog, not far from Conway's Cross. After some time however, the bog rotted away and one day men were clearing the banks to go cutting the turf and they threw a few big screws into the boghole. They went in to trample them, but the screws were placed on the dead man's feet and when weight came on the feet; of the nailor, he stood up almost frightening the life out the poor men.

After they recovered from their fright they decided to cover up the body, fearing that there would be an investigation and the people who killed the poteen spy would get into trouble." (Schools manuscript collection, St. James Well NS 1937) "In the Shadow of Carran Hill".

## DiZoglio Celebrates Passage of Valor Act II

House Votes to Enact Bill That Will Benefit the Commonwealth's Veterans

With Veterans Day on the horizon, State Representative Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen) joined her colleagues in the Legislature to enact the Valor Act II, which will expand services and opportunities for veterans and their families in the Commonwealth.

The Valor Act II, which garnered unanimous support in both the Senate and House, is designed to improve how the Commonwealth serves those who have so courageously served the nation.

Among the provisions in the legislation is the assisting of college students who are called to active duty. The bill will allow students who are unable to complete their coursework to finish those studies at a later time or withdraw from the course with a full refund. Another key provision of the bill establishes a Massachusetts service member Post-Deployment Council to

deliver recommendations on the implementation of a program to support military members who transition to civilian life after deployment. This Council will focus largely on mental health services.

Under the Valor Act II, new license plates will be created for veterans, including those awarded a Purple Heart. There is also a provision that strengthens regulations in prohibiting persons from fraudulently claiming to fundraise for a veterans' charitable organization when the donations would go elsewhere.

"In the Merrimack Valley and across the Commonwealth, we owe it to our veterans and their families to provide them with the strongest services and opportunities," said DiZoglio. "I am proud to support the Valor Act II and delighted it will become law in advance of Veterans Day."

trees to enjoy in their own home by purchasing raffle tickets and depositing them in their choice tree ticket containers. Tickets are \$5.00 for 25 chances. Each visitor who purchases a sheet of raffle ticket will be entered into a special Emerald Raffle Grand Prize drawing for a chance to win a dazzling Emerald ring worth \$2000, generously donated by Nazarian Jewelers. Tree Raffle will take place on Saturday, December 7th, after the Festival has closed for the evening. Calls to winners will begin the following day at approximately 9:00 AM.

Gift Shop & Café - Unique ornaments, holiday decorations and one-of-a-kind collectibles can be found at the festival gift shop located at the entrance. Visitors can

enjoy snacks, soups, sandwiches, desserts and drinks at the café during festival hours.

Auction

The Festival of Trees online auction will open on November 1st and will feature fun and unique items ranging from exotic vacation getaways and restaurants to autographed sports memorabilia. Simply visit [www.biddingforgood.com/methuenfestivaloftrees.com](http://www.biddingforgood.com/methuenfestivaloftrees.com) to register and bid in this year's auction.

The Festival is located at Valley Office Park at 13 Branch Street in Methuen (Exit 46 off Rt. 93 to Rt. 113). For more information, please call (978) 685-8878 or visit [www.methuenfestivaloftrees.com](http://www.methuenfestivaloftrees.com).



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# Condon, Knowles Back Tomaselli Sisters on Cost of Sewer Project

On October 7, 2013 the Salisbury Board of Selectmen held a meeting where the “\$80 Million Lie” was discussed.

See story online: [valleypatriot.com/an-80-million-lie-sisters-discover-sewer-project-100-paid-for-with-grant-money](http://valleypatriot.com/an-80-million-lie-sisters-discover-sewer-project-100-paid-for-with-grant-money))

The Tomaselli sisters have long contended that the total cost of the sewer project was \$18M and 100% grant funded, but town officials told the Appellate Tax Board and the Federal Court that the cost of the project was really \$80M, to justify the local share charge for rate payers at \$7.8M (or 10% of the total cost of the project). Last month, The Valley Patriot ran a story from Town Manager Neil Harrington who was “outraged” that anyone could claim the cost was \$80M and said the project was not 100% grant funded.

But at the following meeting, Selectmen Condon and Knowles both backed up the Tomaselli’s claim by saying it was “absurdly false” for “anyone” to claim the cost of that project was \$80M. [Editor’s note: Harrington and the town have claimed the cost was \$80M. all along].

Condon and Knowles now seem to be backing the Tomaselli sisters’ claim that the project cost was never \$80M.

The Tomasellis say the rate payers were swindled out of “fake betterment charge.” Below is a transcript of Condon’s speech.

FREEMAN CONDON: I wish Tom [Saab] had stayed around because I wanted to ask him one thing and that was whether he had read the article before he forwarded it or forwarded the link. Because I believe that the manager’s response was measured and moderate, and I am in complete agreement with the way he handled it. The



Salisbury Selectman Freeman Condon now backs the Tomaselli’s claims that the sewer project never cost \$80M.

charges in the article were absurd, and if Tom had read it, he would have known it was absurd. So, he said that his fingerprints are not on it, he had nothing to do with it, but simply, sending the link to 400 people infers that there was some support for that.

When the manager, Mr. Harrington, said that some of the things were inaccurate and false, they were absurdly false. The project number was given at \$80M, it is not even realistic.”

[EDITORS NOTE: It was the Town which contended in court it was an \$80M project, see right]

“The people were told in the article that the federal government paid for the whole project. You know that kind of thing had to be dealt with and it had to be repudiated, because they were totally false, and you can’t have people try to buy into things like that, that don’t have a single shred of basis in fact, so, I agree completely with Mr. Harrington’s response. And again, I thought it was most appropriate.

SELECTMAN FRED KNOWLES: I just will concur with Mr. Condon.

## Town Officials Told Federal Court Judge Saris, Cost of Sewer Project was \$80 MIL

With Salisbury Town Manager Neil Harrington expressing “outrage” at the Tomaselli sister’s claim that the sewer project was not \$80M, Selectman Freeman Condon (left) expressed his own outrage at the last Board of Selectman Meeting saying it was “absurdly false.” The Valley Patriot got a hold of the Federal District Court



Was Federal District Judge Patti Saris Lied to by Town Officials?

Transcripts to see if Manager Harrington is correct about the sewer project costing \$80M, or Freeman Condon is right about the project being only \$18M: Here is a portion of the transcript we unearthed.

### 2/4/09 Transcript, United States District Court

TOWN COUNCIL - ATTY. MCENANEY: “I represented the town at the proceeding before the Appellate Tax Board on the appeal from the denial of their abatement application by the assessor and the DPW director. That case, a full hearing on the merits was held before the Appellate Tax Board. The Appellate Tax Board ruled in favor of the town. They have taken an Appeal.

JUDGE SARIS: Well, let me ask you this: How does one explain the difference between the \$80 million and the \$18 million? Are they just wrong?

ATTY. MCENANEY: I think they’re just wrong.

JUDGE SARIS: Or was there a mistake made?

ATTY. MCENANEY: I believe that they’re

wrong, yes. Furthermore the documents --

JUDGE SARIS: Well, how do I know that? I mean, in other words, did the Appellate Tax Board rule that, that they made a mistake?

ATTY. MCENANEY: I don’t believe they addressed that specifically, but they found -- they have a specific finding in their opinion that the testimony that was offered by the DPW director was credible in support of the decision. ....

JUDGE SARIS: But let me just ask you this. Maybe they should have discovered it, whatever, but are they right that it was \$18 million and not \$80 million?

ATTY. MCENANEY: My understanding based on the testimony of the DPW director, is the total project cost was \$80 million. The local share was \$7.8 million.”

## Newburyport Guide.com

### Begin your Holiday Shopping with three fantastic choices here in Newburyport MA

Rebecca Pearson  
VALLEY PATRIOT NEWBURYPORT COLUMNIST

Glitterati on Merrimac Street, - has something for everyone: affordable fashion jewelry, scarves, handbags, wristlets, wallets and evening bags. Sterling silver- a large selection of rings sizes 2-15, Swarovski crystal, sea glass and lots of fun pieces. Dress up for an affordable price and look dazzling. There’s a great selection of affordable hair accessories and elegant glass/dichroic handcrafted barrettes. Winter wear will be in soon, hand crocheted/knitted bands and hats; it’s time to think about keeping warm. Recycled and fair trade products are a growing part of the shop. We feature recycled wine bottle products-clocks, candle holders, whimsical cheese platters and serving dishes, all made from recycled wine bottles. When you see our green recycle man it means this product has been recycled or repurposed to help save the earth. Nuts and bolts, soda tabs, fused glass-jewelry, it’s all here, all hand crafted by USA artists using recycled product. We also have Fair Trade items that support women and men in other countries that would otherwise not have an income. Complete the purchase with one of Alice Briggs Illustrations, Suze Shaw cards or a Linda Dahlberg photo card, all this for a one stop shopping experience. Holiday time will soon be here and Glitterati has lots to choose from for gift items, metal sculptured wine caddies, notecards and ornaments. How about giving a decorative insulated travel thermos to a friend for a gift? How about an Oriental mouse pad, coaster set or bookmarks- really different great gifts. Glitterati has something for everyone, as you can see, and it’s affordable and fun. It’s extra-

gance for less so come visit! Glitterati, 1 Merrimac Street, Unit #5, Newburyport, MA 01950

A new face has arrived at Body Sense in Newburyport, Massachusetts. Dawne Schofield Fusco began her mission to bring organic essential, perfume oils and bath needs to Newburyport in 1973 when Body Sense was located on Thread Needle Alley. Her concept was simple: use good ingredients and a low cost to provide her customers with an amazing product. Body Sense continued to grow over the 40 years of being in Newburyport, making her one of the longest stationary stores here in the city which to this day offers the largest bath and body products in Newburyport. Body Sense is one of the first stores in the area to use essential and perfume oils to customize a full line of skin care products. The end of an era has begun, a long adorned employee has bought Body Sense, with hopes to continue Dawne’s mission. Lisa Testaverde of Ipswich began working with Dawne over 15 years ago. Falling in love with the community, the oils and blending, and creating customers own personal touch and product line that makes the store individual from others now that are in the city. Lisa will both keep the original feel of Body Sense while bringing new and exciting things for her well established customer base that visit the shop on a regular basis.

With over 400 oils and everything from sprays and lotions to bottles that are encouraged to be refilled, Body Sense is a green store that works to find products that are affordable and work for you. “Pick a product, pick a scent and let us customize it for you” says Testaverde, “come on in and check out our favorite product lines, or have us make you something that you’ll

love - this is a fun stop as you shop Newburyport!” This changing of ownership begins on their 40th anniversary here in Newburyport. During the month of Nov., Lisa and her staff will be offering holiday specials, treats, new product introduction, new VIP programs, and more! So swing on down to Body Sense and say hello to the new face that will take Body Sense over and hopefully keep it in our great city of Newburyport for another 40 years! – Body Sense, 6 State Street, Newburyport, MA 01950

Urban Elements goal is to offer their customers a truly unique and refreshing furniture shopping experience. They started in 2007, and have steadily grown and established themselves as one of the north shore’s most popular furniture, decorating and gift stores. Awarded BONS (Best of North Shore) 2012 Reader’s Choice for Furniture and Editor’s Choice for Home Décor, and voter’s choice by the Newburyport Guide. Their customer base has expanded throughout the country. We’ve helped create happy homes in MA, ME, NH, NY, MD, CA, and more.

They carry the highest quality products available today and name brands such as Voluspa, Archipelago, Aquiesse candles, Sagaform, Joseph Joseph, Umbra, Roost, and much, much more. Keeping things simple and to the point seems to work. They love life, love what they sell, offer quality products, and have amazing customer service.

Decorating your home for the holidays will be a breeze at Urban Elements in Newburyport, so get ready for making your home a beautiful masterpiece! Stop by today! – Urban Elements, 20 Pleasant Street, Newburyport, MA 01950

Theatre and Music  
Sheila Linehan – Live Music ~ Nov. 15 ~ 7 - 9pm  
The Latin Quarter – Live Music ~ Nov. 16 ~ 7 - 9pm  
17 Cent Coffee All day ~ Nov. 17 ~ 7am - 2pm

Martin England Live Music ~ Nov. 23 ~ 7 - 9pm

David Corson Live Music ~ Nov. 29 ~ 7 - 9pm

The Firehouse Center for the Performing Arts, Market Square Newburyport MA 01950 [www.firehouse.org](http://www.firehouse.org)

Frederick Knott’s “Wait Until Dark” ~ Nov. 14-24

Nutcracker Sat Nov. 30 & Sun December 1

Belleville Roots Music Concert Series ~ 300 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950

An Evening with Rising Stars Molly Tuttle and Hannah Logan  
Saturday, Nov. 9 at 8pm

Nov. Events in the Greater Newburyport Area

Wednesday Story Hours ~ Come to the Emma for Story Hours on Wednesdays at 9:30 and 11am for 3 & 4 year olds; and again at 1:30 pm for 4 & 5 year olds, starting September 9 through December 18, 2013. Parents, Nannies, Grandparents must stay. Stories, crafts and snacks. Free Event.

Sea Festival of Trees Nov. 29, 2013 - December 1, 2013 ~ Experience a magical holiday wonderland by the sea as dazzling trees and seasonal festivities come to life for one amazing weekend to benefit local non-profit organization - 100+ Sparkling Trees & Wreaths - Giant Gingerbread House - Holiday Stage Entertainment - North Pole Café & Candy Shoppe - Story Time with Santa & Mrs. Claus - Special Event and More! Proceeds to benefit Anna Jaques Hospital, Salisbury Beach Partnership

Atlantic Pro Wrestling, 3 Morgan Ave., Newbury, MA 01951 ~ ATLANTIC PRO WRESTLING returns with another great night of wrestling action! Tickets are \$10 at the door, advance tickets sales available at Express Video located in the Tannery for \$7. This is a family friendly event, does include a cash bar for 21+ with proper ID. Doors open at 6:30pm

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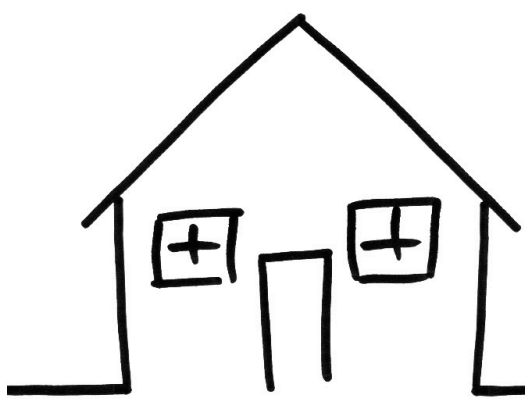
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# THE VALLEY PATRIOTS



PHOTO: ALLAN KNOWLES

## 2013 ANDOVER D.C.S. CO-ED SOFTBALL CHAMPIONS

UNDEFEATED REGULAR SEASON, UNDEFEATED IN PLAYOFFS: Back Row: Lynette Rawding, Doug George, Rich Mazzaresse, Josh Entner, Nick Ferullo, Alex Schuck, andy shaw, Joe Mcdermott, Doug Grearson. Front Row: Sandra Bolduc, Jenn Shoemaker, Dana Malloy, Kyle Beattie, and Valley Patriot publisher, Tom Duggan. Not Pictured: Susan Moynihan



Methuen City Councilor Jamie Atkinson and Methuen Mayor Steve Zanni take a break from the campaign to play a little Texas Hold'em at Methuen Village to raise money for charity. Methuen Village is located at 4 Gleason Street in Methuen.



Former Methuen School Committeeman George Kazanjian doing some last minute campaigning outside Manzi Park Gardens, before he topped the ticket for West End District City Council.



## Lawrence Catholic Academy Student Council Officers

Student Council Officers, (L to R) - Principal Jorge Hernandez; Celia Murphy, President; Sara Cowley, Vice President; Christine Gonzalez, Secretary; Charles Carberry, Treasurer



Former State Senator Steve Baddour with his two daughters campaigning for his former boss (and former Senator) James Jajuga.



# TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK

**NEW WORKS FESTIVAL 2014 AUDITIONS ANNOUNCED** - Firehouse Center for the Arts in Newburyport, MA is pleased to post an audition notice for roles in the upcoming New Works Festival 2014. Auditions will be held Sunday November 24, 2013 from 10AM - 1PM at the Firehouse's Arakalian Theater in Market Square.

There are many roles available (17 ten-minute plays, 1 one-act play, and 1 full-length) for men and women ages 14-70. All those interested in participating are asked to schedule an audition time by calling Janice at 978-499-9931 or you may email her at [janice@firehouse.org](mailto:janice@firehouse.org)

Actors should prepare two contrasting monologues, not to exceed a total of one minute per monologue. The monologues do not need to be memorized. A resume/bio of theater experience is suggested. Please submit a head-shot if you have never performed at the Firehouse. The full-length play will be presented as a staged reading and all ten-minute and one-act plays will be memorized.

Actors may only accept roles in two pieces during the run of the festival, preferably not on the same weekend. The show order will be posted on the day of auditions.

Since 2002 The Firehouse Center for the Arts and the New Works Festival have fostered the development of New England writers, directors, and actors, as well as provided insight into the play-writing process from conception to presentation.

The 12th Annual New Works Festival will be presented January 24 & 25, and January 31 & February 1, 2014. For more information, including future notices and updates concerning the New Works Festival, visit the Firehouse website at [www.firehouse.org](http://www.firehouse.org)

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

**CHESS** - The Lawrence Chess Club will meet on Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2013 from 6-8pm At the Lawrence Public Library, corner of Haverhill & Lawrence streets. This is always a FREE event, held the third Wednesday each month. Please bring a friend and a chess set. ALL ages and abilities welcome.

**SENATOR IVES' OFFICE HOURS**  
Sen. Kathleen O'Connor Ives' upcoming office hours in Haverhill

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

**IN METHUEN** - Senator Kathleen O'Connor Ives will be hosting office hours in Methuen on Friday, November 15th between 3PM and 4PM. Office hours will



The Lowell Lions Club Recently Elected Their New Officers For The 2013-2014 Lionistic Year At The Olympia Restaurant In Downtown Lowell.....Pictured Left To Right Are Dr.George Robert Montminy, President, Debbie Lussier,Financial Secretary And Jose Cr

be held at the Nevins Memorial Library, Trustee's Room. Appointments are not required. For any questions, please contact her office at (617) 722-1604 or by emailing [Christopher.Power@masenate.gov](mailto:Christopher.Power@masenate.gov)

**METHUEN VILLAGE** - Belly Dancer Performs at Methuen Village: Methuen Village at Riverwalk Park, a senior community offering assisted living and state-of-the-art Alzheimer's care, invites the public to a belly dancing performance by Sufiya of Shimmy Express on Thursday, November 14 at 2PM This will be in conjunction with our day-long Middle Eastern celebration! Methuen Village is located in the heart of downtown Methuen at 4 Gleason Street. For more information, call 978-685-2220 or visit [www.MethuenVillage.com](http://www.MethuenVillage.com).

**"POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST"** Presentation at Methuen Village: Methuen Village at Riverwalk Park, a senior community offering assisted living and state-of-the-art Alzheimer's care, invites the public to a presentation entitled, "Postcards from the Past: Methuen Through the Years" on Tuesday, November 26 from 2PM -3:30PM and Saturday, November

30th from 3-4:30PM. Methuen Village is located in the heart of downtown Methuen at 4 Gleason Street. For more information, call 978-685-2220 or visit [www.MethuenVillage.com](http://www.MethuenVillage.com).

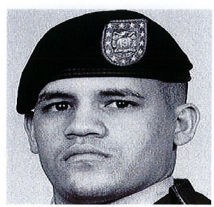
**FOSTER KIDS OF MERRIMACK VALLEY CALLS FOR SANTA'S HELPERS** - Foster Kids of the Merrimack Valley (FKMV), a non-profit organization

dedicated to serving the needs of foster children in the Merrimack Valley, issues a call for Santa's Helpers to support the Annual Foster Kids Christmas Party. The Santa's Helpers is a volunteer program designed to anonymously match up individuals or groups from the local community with one or more foster children to help fulfill their Christmas wish lists. This program is part of the Annual Foster Kids Christmas

Party organized by the FKMV, whereby age appropriate toys are distributed to local foster children along with a gift for each foster mother. The Santa's

Helpers program provides a personalized, unique kind of gift-giving and creates a memorable holiday season for foster children. The Annual Christmas Party is scheduled in early December 2013. To

PLEASE JOIN MAYOR WILLIAM LANTIGUA  
MEMBERS OF THE LAWRENCE CITY COUNCIL  
BRIDGE DEDICATION IN THE MEMORY OF OUR  
FALLEN HERO KILLED IN ACTION DURING  
OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM  
**STAFF SGT. ALEX R. JIMÉNEZ**  
4TH BATTALION, 31ST INFANTRY REGIMENT, 2ND BRIGADE,  
10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION-UNITED STATES ARMY  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2013  
12:00 PM  
MARSTON AND CANAL STREETS  
FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT MAYOR WILLIAM LANTIGUA'S  
OFFICE @ (978) 620-3013



register as a Santa's Helper, please contact Eileen Giordano: 978-683-2220

**NORTH SHORE BUSINESS FORUM - CUSTOMER APPRECIATION**

DANVERS, November 15th - Erin Calvo-Bacci, of Reading's The Chocolate Truffle, will speak about customer appreciation at the North Shore Business Forum on November 15th. The North Shore Business Forum meets at 7:30am at the Danversport Yacht Club, Rt. 62 East, Danvers, MA. The \$11 admission fee include a continental breakfast and pre-registration is not required.

**SELECTING WINES FOR THE HOLIDAYS** - DANVERS, November 22 - Donna Martin, of Mill River Wines, will speak how to select wines for the holidays on at the North Shore Business Forum on November 22nd. The North Shore Business Forum meets at 7:30am at the Danversport Yacht Club, Rt. 62 East, Danvers, MA. The \$11 admission fee include a continental breakfast and pre-registration is not required. For more info - [www.nsbforum.org](http://www.nsbforum.org)

**POLICE DEATHS** - Statistics collected by the FBI, 95 law enforcement officers were killed in line-of-duty incidents in 2012. Of these, 48 law enforcement officers died as a result of felonious acts, and 47 officers died in accidents. In addition, 52,901 officers were victims of line-of-duty assaults. Comprehensive data tables about these incidents and brief narratives describing the fatal attacks are included in the 2012 edition of Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted, released today.

**FELONIOUS DEATHS** - The 48 felonious deaths occurred in 26 states, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. The number of officers killed as a result of criminal acts in 2012 decreased by 24 when compared with the 72 officers who died in 2011. The five- and 10-year comparisons show an increase of seven felonious deaths compared with the 2008 figure (41 officers) and a decrease of four deaths compared with 2003 data (52 officers).

**Officer Profiles:** The average age of the officers who were feloniously killed was 38 years. The victim officers had served in law enforcement for an average of 12 years at the time of the fatal incidents. Forty-three of the officers were male, and five were female. Forty-two of the officers were white, and six were black.

**Circumstances:** Of the 48 officers feloniously killed, 12 were killed in arrest situations, eight were investigating suspicious persons or circumstances, eight were conducting traffic pursuits/stops, six were ambushed, five were involved in tactical situations, and four were answering disturbance calls. Three of the slain officers were handling, transporting, or maintaining custody of prisoners; one was conducting an investigative activity, such as surveillance, searches, or interviews; and one officer was killed while handling a person with a mental illness.

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Platinum Nails & Spa

Platinum Nails & Spa of North Andover has reason to celebrate this fall. It has recently come under new ownership. The salon was purchased by Nancy Nguyen who brings with her over a decade of experience in cutting-edge nail techniques. She began her career in the Atlanta area.

As the weather turns cool Platinum Nails invites you to come and explore the rich colors of fall available in a vast array of polishes and chip-resistant gels. The extensive line of gels now includes: Axxium, Gelish, Shellac and Artistic color gloss.

As temperatures drop, indulge yourself with a Deluxe Hot Stone Pedicure that includes moisturizing paraffin mask, oil massage and hot stones for your legs. Or choose one with sugar scrub and massage; either is guaranteed to leave your skin soft and silky—forty-five minutes of sheer delight! Receive all of this in soothing and serene surroundings, complete with massage chairs. This recently updated environment is sure to leave you in a relaxed mood!

Nancy and her fulltime staff of four make every effort of accommodate individual requests as well as busy scheduling needs. Like her predecessor, this Vietnamese native has an extraordinary work ethic. She and her husband, Tan, an engineer employed in Chelmsford are North Andover residents raising two young daughters in the community. They are also thrilled to become an active part of North Andover’s vibrant business community, having already participated in National Night Out last August!

Platinum Nails continues the tradition of offering superior customer service at some of the lowest rates in the Merrimack Valley. Please call or visit to receive the above mentioned services in addition to an extensive list of traditional nail care and waxing options.

Platinum Nails & Spa is conveniently located: 67 Water Street, North Andover, 978.681.8917, Mon. - Sat. 9:30AM-6:30PM. Sun. 10AM-3PM, (seasonal): [www.platinumnailssalon.webs.com](http://www.platinumnailssalon.webs.com)



Former North Andover High School Volleyball Captain Erin Cox has confessed to drinking at an underage drinking party. Her family hired Attorney Wendy Murphy, who spoon-fed a story to the news media about Erin being punished by the school for giving a drunk friend a ride home, and violating the school’s “zero tolerance” policy ... none of which turned out to be true.

Student Inducted into the National Junior Honor Society

**DRACUT** – A local student was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society at Austin Preparatory School in Reading on Monday, Oct. 21st.

Eighth-grader Alexis Nichols of Dracut was among the 28 students selected for induction into Austin Prep’s new chapter of the NJHS.

This first class was ushered in during a ceremony in the school’s Chapel of Saint Augustine, which culminated with a lighting of candles.

After, the students and their families celebrated their accomplishment at a reception in the dining hall.



North Andover’s Santa Parade - Nov 30th

**Tracey Zysk**  
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

November 30, 2013 North Andover will convert into its own Santa's Village. It is time for the North Andover Santa Parade.

The Parade will start at 12PM on Main St at the Middle School, down Main to High to East Water back onto Main.

Last year was a record breaking year but this year is already looking to be bigger and better.

Want to be a part of this celebration?

Well.. Lt. Foulds is looking for the following:

1. Floats, 2. Businesses and residents to make financial contributions to sponsor bands, 3. Bands that are interested in marching

Floats - Would you like to showcase your business on a float? Or do you want to march in the parade with your business? All is possible. Contact Sgt. Foulds at the NAPD for float and participant guidelines.

Financial sponsors - Are you interested

in advertising your business parade day but are unable to walk or enter a float. You can still help by sponsoring, co sponsoring or group sponsoring a band. You will be able to put your company banner in the parade while helping defray the costs the bands endure.

FACT: For a band to march in a parade it can cost them \$1500.00 - \$4000.00 to participate. This is why we are reaching out to the businesses and residents that would like to help make a donation towards supporting a band.

Bands - They're signing up and the list already has more participants than last year.

So Far.... 10 floats, 2 high school marching bands, 3 bagpipe bands and 3 smaller musical groups and quite a few businesses have signed up to march..JOIN THE FUN!

CONTACT: If you have any questions or are interesting in participating/donating please contact Sgt. Foulds at the NAPD 978 683-3168 or email [EFoulds@napd.us](mailto:EFoulds@napd.us)

November in Georgetown,

Lonnie Brennan

Saturday Nov. 9: Erie 4 Harvest Supper, 4:30 -7:00 P.M. Join all of Georgetown for a wonderful meal with friends old and new.

Family-style dining at America’s Oldest Privately Owned Fire Company still actively fighting fires. Saturdays’ fare includes ham and beans, home made pies, potato salad, cole slaw, rolls and butter, coffee, milk, and cider. Adults \$7:00. Children \$3.00. Tickets may be purchased at the door. Scouts will serve you! Enjoy a delicious home-made ham and bean dinner and help support Erie 4.

Saturday, Nov. 16: “Lungs for Scott” - We hope you will help pack the VFW Post at 435 Andover Street on Saturday, from 5:00 – 10:00 p.m. as residents and friends drop in for an hour or two to support “Lungs for Scott”. Georgetown Water Department employee Scott Collin, age 45, needs of a double lung transplant to live. He’s been suffering from Scleroderma. There will be raffle items, gift baskets, a silent auction, and music! Donation is \$10 per person. Contact Kathy Collin at 352-2276.

Tickets can also be purchased at the door. [www.youcaring.com/lungsforscott](http://www.youcaring.com/lungsforscott). “Bring your appetite, good spirits, lots of love and prayers for Scott!”

Troup 51 is going door-to door selling holiday wreaths until November 16th.

Friday Nov., 22 - PTA Auction: The PTA will hold their gala auction at the Black Swan Country Club. Admission

is \$25 for a great evening. If you have never been to a PTA auction, it’s a great time to re-connect with friends old and new, and take in some fun times. Desserts are always just wonderful, and of course there’s always a laugh or two from some competitive bidders. Silent and live auction items make this a great place to do some Christmas shopping. Hope to see you there.

Christmas Trees at the Knights of Columbus: Watch for the sale of Christmas trees at the Knights of Columbus home and campus on E. Main Street. This year the local boy scout troops are gearing up for another tremendous year of fun and Christmas tree sales on the Knights of Columbus’ West Lawn. There is plenty of parking and we’re told there might be some special events with Christmas Tree lighting, a special nativity scene on the Knights East Lawn, and perhaps other fun events! Stay tuned.

Neighborhood leave recycling is making a comeback after taking a break for years it seems. This year, you can add to the growing pile at the end of the driveway at 9 Hamilton Terrace (across from St. Mary’s Church).

Your clean bagged leaves will find their way into various gardens this spring. Just please, don’t throw your leaves into your regular trash. With a little care, they can be transformed into natural weedblock, and fertilizer. Your donations are accepted now through Thanksgiving.

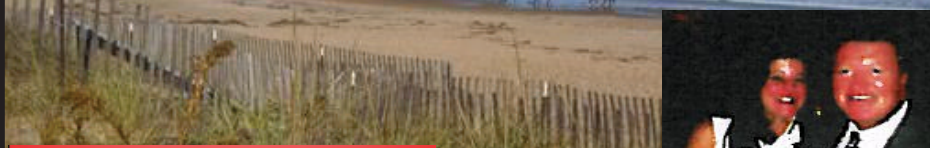
More details, as always, posted to [www.GeorgetownTODAY.org](http://www.GeorgetownTODAY.org).

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## Family Fall Festival Celebrates Three Merrimack Valley Family-Run Businesses

Jaffarian Volvo Toyota celebrated its 75th Anniversary along  
with Rogers Spring Hill Farm and Butcher Boy



PHOTOS BY KIM DAWLEY

From left: Gary Jaffarian, CEO and president of Jaffarian Volvo Toyota; Cailyn Scharneck, Rogers Spring Hill Farm; Butcher Boy family members Todd Brown and Donna Yameen; Mara and Gavin Jaffarian; and Rogers Spring Hill Farm family members Barbara Rogers-Scharneck, niece Hillary Rogers, Betty and Richard Rogers; and Mark Jaffarian.



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# Lantigua Defeated: For Now.... We Think....

As of the time we went to press, Lawrence Mayor Willie Lantigua had been defeated by City Councilor Dan Rivera.

With the possibility of a recount and even a lengthy court challenge, there is no telling how this will actually turn out.

Our sources close to the situation in Lawrence say that Rivera's lead will hold and the initial count is very unlikely to swing in Lantigua's direction.

If this was any other community this would probably be the end of it, and the end of an embattled public official too arrogant to understand why some people take exception to his behavior.

But this isn't anywhere else. This is Lawrence, Massachusetts. A city where Willie Lantigua has been able to get himself and his slate of hand picked candidates elected year after year with forged nomination signatures, illegal donations, illegal expenditures, late or no filings of campaign finance reports, and on ... and on, and on.

But this year there were so many people



watching from so many different corners of the political world, that Willie Lantigua was unable to pull his usual shenanigans.

In fact, Lantigua wasn't even seen on election day working the polls as he has in previous years.

This paved the way for a more fair election and gave Dan Rivera a legitimate shot at defeating the dictator once thought unbeatable.

But, don't count Lantigua out. Even if he loses a recount or a court battle to retain his seat as mayor, he will surely be challenging Marcos Devers for State Representative next year.

Lantigua's strongest base of support lies in the very neighborhoods that make up

the district Marcos Devers now represents. Lantigua could be back ... AGAIN ... with a fury. Those who are celebrating the defeat of Willie Lantigua are doing so quite prematurely. And perhaps, at their own peril. This is not a man who gives up easy, and he is not a man who goes away.

In true Nixonian style, Lantigua has spent the last two decades building a political empire that has shaped the attitude, culture, and very direction of Lawrence's future. The effects of which will be felt by Lawrencians and state taxpayers who pay for most of Lawrence's bills.

The devastation left in the wake of Lantigua's rule in Lawrence includes: a state takeover of the schools, laid off cops and

firefighters, a state takeover of the city's finances, a \$35M bailout loan, a closed fire station, city workers who paid for their jobs, competent city workers illegally fired, a spike in violence, and an image of Lawrence that has never been this bad.

If Dan Rivera does become the next mayor of Lawrence, he will have a near impossible task turning around decades of Lantigua's influence and abuse of power.

We only hope that Rivera will get to the bottom of the Nixonian-style corruption (complete with an enemies list) over the last four years and conduct a full investigation, and he doesn't decide to be Gerald Ford.

That would be the biggest tragedy of all because, one thing I know for sure, we have not seen the last of Willie Lantigua.

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

## A One on One Interview with Superintendent-Receiver Jeff Riley

Part 2

*This is part 2 of an exclusive interview with state appointed receiver Jeff Riley who is now in control of the Lawrence School System.*

**VP:** Talk a little bit about the grants that come in that are not part of the budget process.

**JR:** There are different opportunities to go out and write grants. Some are easier to get than others. We are trying to write a federal grant, but the odds are really bad to get resources in. I support the grant process, and we will go hard to get this additional money. When we got level four schools for instance, we had to apply to get these school improvement grants. It's a competitive process. We knocked it out of the park, we did really well to get the dollars in, but they are short term grants. So, part of the problem is always that these things run out after three or four years. So, you can't really base the focus of your school system on that. You have to use them [as a] supplement.

**VP:** When does the state plan on leaving Lawrence?

**JR:** The commissioner has been pretty clear that we are going to be here until the job is done. What that means? I don't know. What I would say is, we have had some early gains, our graduation rate is up pretty substantially, our dropout rate is down, test scores after the first full year of receivership came back and we reversed after years of decline, in English we are up. Probably not as much as I would like. But we are up, both in absolute performance and in growth. In Math we're way up, the highest ever in the history of the Lawrence Public Schools. So we had a good first run out of the gate, but there is a lot more work to do.

**VP:** Why is that, why are the children in the Lawrence Public Schools lowest performing?

**JR:** First of all I don't accept the idea that these are poor kids and they are second language [English] learners. You know some of those are challenges that we are going to have to deal with, I get that. But, I was the principal of a school in Boston where, in a few short years, by the time my kids were done in eighth grade ... we didn't go from being the worst performing middle school in Boston to the highest performing, we were actually beating the state average in math. In English we were neck and neck with the state average.

These were kids who had 90% poverty, two-thirds were second language learners, and a third were special education. So, I don't accept that kind of excuse stuff. It's a challenge, we totally agree, and we get that. But we have had things like outdated curriculum. In math for example, they are using these CMP (Connected Math Program) books from the 1990's, which are teaching standards that the kids aren't expected to know, or they are obsolete, or they're not being tested on. So we are not even aligned with what the state is saying your kids need to be assessed on.

Listen, I'm not into this 'constructive based math' as you know ... this kind of "get the concept behind it" ... as opposed to the algorithm based math as we all learned it. I'm kind of a moderate on that, I'd like to have both, but it's gone so far to this 'constructivist based math' approach for so long, that kids started losing the algorithm based math and having the right answer. The kids need to know the concept but they also have to be able to do it. So we have changed that. We've reformed the

curriculum. There were some quick things here that we were able to do that got us two quick wins. But there's a lot more work to do. I don't have all the answers but I think we are going in a good direction, and I think we are going to do better in the coming years.

**VP:** But, what do you think is the problem with the kids of the Lawrence public Schools? Is it environment? Is it culture? Is it the teaching or the administration in the schools? In other words why Lawrence?

**JR:** No, I think we had to make some pretty drastic changes when we got here, but I think the people we have in place here right now are pretty talented people. I think our best days are yet to come. I would stack the teachers here in Lawrence up against any teachers in Massachusetts. That's no lie. I came out of Boston where you have some great teachers. We've got good people, and we're going to get better results for our kids.

I think some of it has been about expectations. Some people have held this belief that if you are from another country and you are new, you cannot perform academically. So, we have had to change some of that mindset. Our kids can do some amazing things, and we're going to do even better for the future.

Then there is a negativity that surrounds this city, right? The City of the Damned, this kind of stuff ... people would rather be pulling people down than actually celebrating the good stuff. You know, I beat up your friends at the Tribune when I first got here. I said: 'all these negative stories all the time, what about talking about the positive stuff? What about the 80 kids who got a perfect score on the MCAS this year? Who's going to talk about that?'



I get it, that stuff doesn't sell necessarily, but you've got to take some pride in what's happening. We've got a lot of good things happening in the school system. And we'd like to share and have people talk more about it.

**VP:** So you don't have a real solid belief as to why Lawrence always tends to be at the bottom. Why Lawrence? You have an outside perspective.

**JR:** I think that clearly there was some bad stuff that was happening. The question now is where do we go from here? We've got some positive good results. I think there are good things happening here in the schools, I really do. I think we can do some great things in the school system here, and if I didn't, I wouldn't have come.

**VP:** Do we have teachers who cannot speak English?

**JR:** No, I don't think so. You have people who are bilingual who may be stronger in Spanish than in English.

**NEXT MONTH: PART 3**

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# The Journey Continues

**Kenneth Willette**  
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Having served as a Methuen City Councilor at Large for six years and as a School Committeeman for six years, I have been honored and humbled by the support entrusted to me by the voters of Methuen. While not ultimately victorious on Election Day in the West District Council race, I want to thank everyone who expressed confidence in me on November 5th and helped in some way with my campaigns over the years. My opponents worked very hard and I wish them all the best as they serve the people's business. I am not sure what the future holds for me, but I am truly blessed by my family, my children and my many friends. Plus, the Red Sox and the Patriots are having a very special year!



people, who then resoundingly defeated the resolution at the ballot box. I would imagine the absence of a permanent term limits provision played a key factor in that demise. Therefore, the most expedient action that the Council could immediately entertain would be a Home Rule Petition authorizing permanent term limits, which I advocated during this past campaign.

While there were calls for management audits highlighted by the charter commission that I would support and encourage the new Council to adopt, under no circumstances would I ever support extending the term of office of Mayor to three or four years. All we really have to do is look to the adjacent community of Haverhill,

which has a similar two-year term of office for both mayor and city council. Although their elected officials are not subject to term limits, they are nevertheless accountable on the same ballot at the same time. Their system is working fine. Our system works fine and gives direct accountability to the voter every two years. If the system isn't broken, why fix it?

By the same token, I would never advocate any efforts to stagger or extend the duration of a councilor's term of office. I would also oppose changing the overall composition of the council, especially if God forbid, a councilor has a long-term disability or sickness preventing that individual from attending meetings and voting. The end result could easily be a 2-2 tie vote stalling important council business. The voters of Methuen spoke loud and clear about all facets of the charter over the course of numerous televised public meetings, hearings and competing reports and publications.

It is to be hoped that the councilors, serving as a co-equal branch in Methuen's local government, will not merely serve as an advisory board to the mayor on addressing our local constitution. In closing, I will pledge to observe and comment in the months ahead on this and other items of interest.



# Now the Real Healing Begins!

**Peter Larocque**  
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

First let me say congratulations to Mayor Elect Dan Rivera. I am so proud of the kind of campaign that you ran. You kept it clean! You didn't go down to your opponent's level and play in his backyard. You stayed above the negativity and stayed the course! You will be a good mayor for Lawrence. Thank you for stepping up and running for mayor!

You have a real opportunity to make right on a promised made to the citizens of Lawrence 4 years ago. We were all told by the former mayor that he would be the mayor for all of Lawrence. This proved to be a bold face lie! Once he became mayor, in actuality he was mayor for just his family, and close friends and campaign supporters. The rest of us never really had a mayor. Thank God that has all changed now!

You Mr. Mayor Elect will have no problem filling your City Boards and Commissions. Citizens will love to volunteer to be a part of something positive and do their best to help you move the city forward.

God Bless you, Dan Rivera and also your wife Paula. She will be sharing you with the city of Lawrence. Dan, you will have to remember to take time and make time for her. You will be tempted, especially at the beginning of your administration, to become a workaholic. That my friend is not good for you and will ultimately be not good for us, you will have to have a good balance between work and family.

As far as mistakes go, don't be afraid of them. They will happen, and when they do, be open and honest with the public and move forward. Remember; don't forget to ask God for direction, He will guide you through your day.

So once again Mr. Mayor Elect, congratulations for a good, well-run Campaign!

God Bless you and God Bless Lawrence!

*Peter Larocque is a former member of the Lawrence School Committee and is a regular columnist for The Valley Patriot. You can email him at: peterlarocque@hotmail.com*





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Are We Asking too Much of Teachers and Students?

D. B. Langevin  
VALLEY PATRIOT LESBIAN COLUMNIST

This is the mission statement of the Common Core Standards (CCS) that has been adopted by the Massachusetts Department of Education. "The Common Core State Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. With American students fully prepared for the future, our communities will be best positioned to compete successfully in the global economy."

The standards sound wonderfully ambitious, appropriately rigorous and yet written in a way that any parent could clearly understand them and be able to assist teachers in helping their children achieve each and every one of them by the end of the school year. The state, however, is under the delusion that all parents are actively involved in their children's education. I highly doubt that most parents have actually taken a look the standards. Let's survey some of them now.

This is standard 3a for grade 8 language: Use verbs in the active and passive voice in the conditional and subjunctive mood to achieve particular effects in language. Here are standard 4 for grade 8 math functions: Construct a function to model a linear relationship between two quantities. Determine the rate of change and initial value of the function from a description of a relationship from two (x,y) values, including reading these from a table from a graph. (This isn't even the complete standard. It goes on). A first grade literacy standard reads: Produce and expand complete simple and compound declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory sentences in response to prompts. This is a second grade math standard: Determine whether a group of objects (up to 20) has an odd or even number of members, e.g., by pairing objects or counting them by 2s; write an equation to express an even number as a sum of two equal addends. And for good measure, a sixth grade math content standard:

Understand that a set of data collected to answer a statistical question has a distribution which can be described by its center, spread, and overall shape.

These are only a few of the hundreds of CCS that the average student needs to master at the end of every school year. When teachers are working on certain standards, they are to be displayed in the classroom for students to refer to so that they are aware of what it is they are expected to master.

Every teacher has to be familiar with every standard in every subject they teach. However, there is only CCS for math and language arts. For lower school teachers, they need to know the standards for both of these subjects because they teach all academics (math, language arts, science and history) of which they must be highly qualified to teach. For those teachers who only teach history, they are required to know the standards for language arts as applicable to their subject. Science teachers need to know them for language arts and math as applicable to the subject of science. This is no small task since there has been no training on the CCS. It must be done on their own time.

Along with adopting the CCS, Massachusetts has also adopted a new evaluative tool for teachers. Teachers have to create goals for themselves and their students. These goals are both individual by teacher and/or by teaching team. Everything is based on evidence of student learning. Some of these goals are known as S.M.A.R.T. goals. Meaning the goals are Specific and Strategic, Measurable, Action oriented, Rigorous and Realistic, and Time tracked. In essence, every teacher in every school in every district will need to show evidence of improvement on every student. This is above the tracking and assessments every teacher has been practicing since entering the classroom. On top of the state mandated assessments on reading, writing, and math and along with the MCAS exams, teachers must collect more data and more evidence to prove every student's growth. Teachers have to look at data from previous years to determine weaknesses, devise and formulate an action plan with measured results, collect data and pray to the teaching gods that

COMMON CORE: PAGE 31

MORALITY MATTERS

Remembering the Dead

Paul Murano  
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

November is the month when religious traditions remember the dead. It is a fitting month to do so. The clock gets turned back an hour and the world becomes a darker place; leaves fall, grass dies, birds evacuate, and various mammals hibernate until spring. Death is in the air in November. And yet, it is both peaceful and hopeful. The holidays on the horizon remind us that death is temporary, and daylight becomes longer each day beginning in December.

There are two things to consider about death in human beings - the disembodied soul and the resurrection of the dead. The first can be discerned through reason while the latter depends on divine Revelation.

Before looking at these claims we should first look at the two extremes of human nature common in history. The first is that man is purely material and completely vanishes when the body dies. This view is popular with modern atheism and secular humanism. The other extreme is that man is really his soul; his body is just a temporary covering like clothing, or even worse, like a prison from which he is freed upon death. This body/person dualism is popular among Platonists, Buddhists, and contemporary new-age philosophies, lending itself to the notion of reincarnation.

The traditional western view of man avoids these two extremes and sees the human being as a body-soul composite, with the spiritual soul being the form of the body, possessing intellect and will. This view sees death as separation of soul from body as the result of sin, to be remedied in the resurrection of the body at the end of history when Christ comes back as just Judge.

The soul survives bodily death but anticipates its reunion with the body in its glorified state. This view of man, the middle of the two extremes, is the faith underscoring the Christian heritage that built western civilization to its zenith.

Catholics remember the souls of the dead especially on All Saints Day and All Souls Day, specifically memorializing the souls in heaven and purgatory respectively. The souls in hell are not celebrated. Only that which is perfectly pure can enter the fullness of the presence of God in heaven, hence purification in purgatory is for those who leave this life in union with God but are still suffering the lingering effects of sin.

It is beyond sad that new-age philosophy has permeated popular thought so much so that "everyone goes to heaven" upon death. This happy-talk masquerades as Christian doctrine and can be heard at wakes, among friends, and in casual conversations if you just scratch the surface. It is a terrible mistake. Although it may serve as consoling language to the grieving, it is detrimental to both the living and the dead. If "everyone goes to heaven" the living have little motive to seek to live God's will, and the dead get seriously shortchanged with no one praying for them.

All Souls Day reminds us that while the souls in hell are lost forever and the saints in heaven are praying for us to avoid damnation, the souls in purgatory depend on our prayers for relief. God has designed it that like cells in a living body, all affect each other's eternal destiny within the mystical body of Christ by their prayers and sacrifices.

May we resist the politically correct and detrimental notion that everyone automatically goes to heaven. The fate of many souls living and dead may depend on it.



Paul Murano teaches philosophy at Middlesex and North Shore Community College and theology at Magdalen College. He is host of Beneath the Surface on WCAP radio 980AM Sunday nights 10pm-midnight, and is co-host of the Paying Attention! radio program. Paul is also chairman of Heartbeat Pregnancy Help center in Burlington and is a singer/songwriter/musician.

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# An Interview with Former Ambassador John Bolton

Transcribed by Kathleen LaPlante

Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan (TD) and columnist Christine Morabito (CM) recently had a conversation with former U.N. Ambassador John Bolton about Muslim Nazis, foreign affairs and the propaganda in our American news media.

**Transcribed by Kathleen LaPlante**

**CM:** Do you believe national security will play a big part in the 2016 Presidential election? If Hillary Clinton runs, how do you think her record on foreign policy will likely be viewed?

**JB:** I think national security should play a major role in the 2016 election and indeed all of our elections. It is an issue that has a profound impact on our way of life in America. Stability and peace in the world are pretty fragile as it is. If the United States has a less active role, the potential growth for anarchy in the world increases, then that will have direct impact on us. People fill their gas tanks and cars regularly. That is the paradigm example of the intersection of national security policy and domestic economic policy. And I think if Hillary Clinton is the Democratic nominee, you couldn't get a better example. Her principal qualification for the Presidency is her four years as Secretary of State. I think that means that's going to be open to considerable scrutiny, beginning with the debacle at Benghazi on September 11, 2012, when our ambassador and three other Americans were killed, and the subsequent year, when nothing was done either to avenge their death, to retaliate for the murders, or to do anything to capture the people who committed the atrocity.

**CM:** Speaking of the 2016 Presidential election, what would you look for in the next candidate for President of the United States?

**JB:** I think, whether the nominee is the Republican or the Democrat, obviously I'm going to support the Republican, but you need somebody who knows how to run the Executive Branch of the government. Now that may seem like a small point, but unfortunately, over the past 4 1/2 years, we've had a President, agree or disagree with him on the policy decisions he's had to make, he barely knows where his government is. We haven't had a President this ineffective since sometime in the 19th century. He's ineffective politically. He can't run his own government. He acts like it's independent of him, that the only thing he controls is the White House staff, and the result, it's certainly true in foreign defense policy, but I think it's true in domestic policy as well, is you have a government that just roams around on its own. I think that's one of the

reasons people are concerned with the uncontrolled growth of federal spending, federal regulatory authority domestically. The President is the Chief Executive Officer of the Government of the United States, and if he's not on top of his job, things are going to happen that can only be detrimental to the rest of society.

**TD:** Mr. Ambassador, how frustrating is it, knowing what you know about the UN and knowing what you know about world affairs, being in this country and listening to, I guess what Colonel Allen West would call the woosification of America, where everyone just wants to love the Muslims and think that they love their children too, and there's really no difference between anybody.

**JB:** Well, it's frustrating, but more significantly, I think the failure to pay attention to threats to the United States and its friends and allies, doesn't mean that those threats don't exist, and won't get more serious. The President never talks about national security policy unless he absolutely has to, when something is forced on to him, as with Syria's use of chemical weapons back in August, or where the President can claim credit for something that he had very little to do with, like the killing of Osama Bin Laden, which was an operation 10 years in the making. I am also disturbed, I have to say, that the Republicans over the last 4 1/2 years have not taken the President on, on the subject of national security, whether they're uncomfortable with it themselves, or they're afraid to state their positions.

The net effect is you don't have the President talking about these threats; you don't have the Republicans talking about these threats, and yet, they continue to grow and pose risks for the country down the road. Our adversaries are not gracious enough to wait for us to get our economic house in order here at home. They calibrate they've got a weak, inattentive President in the White House, so for the next three years, I'm really worried that the pace and the scope of the challenges we're going to face internationally is going to grow, as our adversaries try to take advantage of what they see as a window of vulnerability.

**TD:** Why is it that you think Americans are so naïve that they think all these Muslims just love their children too, and we're all the same, and if we just could understand life from their perspective, everything would be ok.

**JB:** I think the vast bulk of the American population is much more aware, much more pragmatic than their political leaders or political operatives give them credit for. I think the people understand other countries have adverse interest to the United States,



PHOTO: CHRISTINE MORABITO

and they expect the President to defend the United States against these foreign threats.

I really think this is a disease of a segment of the intellectual elite in America, and the Left Wing of the Democratic Party, both of which are exemplified by Barack Obama. You can love your children and want a better life for them, and still believe that the Western Civilization that we live in is fundamentally corrupt and immoral, and that is a threat to the type of theocracy that many terrorists and Islamic Radicals want to create, not just for their own lands, but for others as well. The fact is it is not always just a failure to communicate that causes problems internationally. It's a clash of interests and ideologies. We saw that in two World Wars in the 20th century; we saw it in the Cold War; I think we see it again from the threat of radical Islamists' terrorism.

We can either deal with it as what it is, which is a Global War which is being waged against us and our friends and allies like Israel, or we can treat it like President Obama does, like a form of law enforcement problem, sort of like a robbery of the local Starbucks, maybe a little bit more serious. I think that law enforcement approach is what we followed in the 1980's and the 1990's, and it brought us the first September 11th. We understood at that point, I think, we were in a Global War on terrorism. We now, large parts of the ruling class have forgotten that. I hope it doesn't come back to us with another terrorist attack this time using weapons of mass destruction, nuclear, chemical, or biological. And that's why I think it's so important that all of us, as citizens, understand why national security has to be at the top of the list of priorities in the national debate. Those issues, those threats, do not go away just while we talk about the government shutdown, or the debt ceiling, or anything else. These are important issues; I don't denigrate them in the slightest. What bothers me is the absence of debate on foreign and defense policy.

**CM:** It appears as if the Obama Administration, either knowingly or unknowingly, is supporting the overthrow of one secular government after another secular government, and he seems to be supporting regimes that are allowing for Christians to be slaughtered. Is this just a coincidence or

do you think there's something else going on here?

**JB:** Well, I think part of it is sheer incompetence. There's a saying that a federal judge once gave to me, that in the federal government, 99% of all conspiracies turn out to be simple mess ups, and I think there is a lot in that, but I think the administration has a view that's very comfortable with the decline of western power and American power in particular. They don't see anybody as being particularly advantaged over anybody else, and I don't think they're especially concerned with issues of religious freedom. I don't think they understand that democracy is more than just holding an election and counting votes; it's a culture; it's a way of life. We're still perfecting it in this country, and the view that they have taken, for example, the Muslim Brotherhood Government of Mohamed Morsi in Egypt, is divorced from reality. That's why the people of Egypt went into the streets to get rid of the government, because they saw it would impose strict Sharia law; it would not return to true democracy, and they weren't about to have that. So, it's very troubling, I think, this misguided view this administration has, and it's even more troubling we've got three years to go.

**TD:** Where can the average American go to find out what's really going on with the Muslim threat around the world that cuts through the white noise of cable news media, which doesn't really seem to get it.

**JB:** There's the American Institute web site. There's the Gatestone Institute. There's Frank Gaffney. There are a range of Secure America [Now], securefreedom.com, and many others. I think it's important that the public take time to educate itself. You know, nobody's going to defend us if we don't defend ourselves first, and if we don't focus on these issues, we're going to be at risk. I think a lot of it rests on the American people, and I think when the issue is brought to their attention, they will respond. This goes back to the point that I've made, that it's the fault of our political leaders for not presenting these issues to the people and letting them make a choice. If they're not made aware of the threats, how are they ever going to be in a position to respond?

**TD:** Thank you very much for your time, Ambassador.

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## Senate Passes New Veterans' Bill

Senator Katie O'Connor Ives  
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

In the latest effort to support veterans, military members and their families in Massachusetts, the Senate unanimously passed legislation in October to expand benefits, increase access to services, and strengthen the recognition and honor given to our service men and women.

Senate Bill 1876, "An Act Relative to Veterans' Allowances, Labor, Outreach, and Recognition," known as Valor Act II, also includes language from a bill I co-sponsored with Representative Michael Costello called "An Act Relative to the Medal of Liberty." This language amends the 2009 law to expand eligibility for the Medal of Liberty. Currently, the Massachusetts Medal of Liberty is given to service members from Massachusetts killed in action. The amended language broadens the definition of eligibility to not only include those killed in action but also includes those "... who died in service while in a designated combat area in the Line of Duty." This will allow us to honor an even greater number of deserving Massachusetts service men and women who have sacrificed their lives for their country

while on active duty.

The Valor Act II also extends to veterans and their families enhanced property tax relief opportunities, employment support services, and new license plates honoring military veterans.

The term "Gold Star" is widely used in the military community to identify a service member killed in action while on active duty, but this term had not been defined by law. This bill establishes a definition of "Gold Star" that includes active duty military and also expands the definition to include service members killed during inactive duty training, or training between periods of active duty.

To assist students who are called to active duty, this bill allows students who are unable to complete their coursework the option to complete the course at a later date or withdraw with a full refund of fees and tuition. If the student decides to withdraw, the academic record must reflect that the withdrawal was due to active military service.

This bill also requires the Division of Professional Licensure, the Department of Public Health and boards of registration to waive license and certification fees for

service members and their spouses in areas where they have received training in the field. In addition, this bill allows private sector employers to have hiring priorities for veterans and spouses of 100% disabled veterans in their hiring practices.

Municipal veterans' agents in Massachusetts provide veterans with information and access to resources they need at the local level when returning to civilian life. Under Valor II, veterans' agents will be trained and certified to ensure they are aware of employment, education, health care, retirement and other veterans' benefits available to veterans. There is currently no provision mandating such training or certification. This will bolster veterans' access to consistent and comprehensive information from municipal veterans' agents, regardless of the veteran's town of residence.

To aid disabled veterans and allow them to function more independently in their homes, this bill requires the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission and Department of Veterans' Services to establish guidelines for a veterans' home modification program.

This bill also does the following:

- Makes "Gold Star" families eligible for funds from the Military Family Relief Fund;
- Updates license plate designs for indi-



viduals who have been awarded the Order of the Purple Heart to also read, "Combat Wounded," to clearly characterize this honor;

- Creates a new "Support our Veterans" license plate in honor of the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces;
- Prohibits a person from claiming to fundraise for a designated veterans' charitable organization when donations would benefit a different organization;
- Increases the buffer zone of 500 feet to 1,000 feet for demonstrations at any military funeral.

This legislation now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration.

## Citizen Watchdog Training: This One's for You, Andrew Breitbart

Christine Morabito

PRESIDENT, GREATER BOSTON TEA PARTY

On September 16, 2011, conservative activist and whistleblower, Andrew Breitbart visited Lexington, Massachusetts. Little did we know how significant that visit would become. Andrew was a hero because he was completely unafraid and committed to exposing a biased media, challenging corrupt government officials and the corrupt government programs they champion.

Breitbart, a former liberal, best known for uncovering the ACORN scandals and "exposing" Anthony Weiner's sexting escapades, feared nothing and no one. And that was exactly what Americans needed in this time of out-of-control political correctness.

On the morning of March 1, 2012, we received the devastating news that Andrew Breitbart was dead. He was only 43.

The spirit of Breitbart lives on, in groups like the Tea Party that are passionate about, informing average citizens of the corruption they would never otherwise hear about and encouraging folks to get more involved in their communities. We can no longer afford to sit by and wait for the government or the mainstream media to fully inform the public about what is going on behind closed doors.



For the past several years, conservatives have been extremely effective in getting their message out by "becoming the media," via alternative outlets, such as blog sites, Twitter, Facebook and other forms of social media.

But we need more watchdogs out there to ensure that people are getting the truth, and can therefore make informed decisions about how they are to be represent-

ed. That is why the Greater Boston Tea Party is partnering with the Massachusetts Liberty Movement and the Franklin Center for Government and Public Integrity, for our Second Annual Citizen Watchdog Training, where you will learn to hold your elected officials accountable and set this country on a better path for future generations.

Please join us on Saturday, November 16 from 9 to 5 in Worcester, MA, as we provide a full day of in-depth training to equip you with the tools and skills to become a more effective activist.

Jeff Kuhner, WRKO radio host and columnist for the Washington Times, has graciously agreed to be our keynote speaker. Kuhner was a rock star when he spoke at our Tax Day Rally on the Boston Common earlier this year.

We will be joined by some of the leading experts in information activism and investigative reporting. You will hear from a panel of legislators and public policy experts, including Paul Craney of Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance and State Representatives, Marc Lombardo and Matt Beaton. They will discuss the successful effort to repeal the technology tax and other current legislation being considered

on Beacon Hill.

Tom Duggan of the Valley Patriot and WCAP returns this year to offer a compelling segment called "Your Dwindling First Amendment Rights and Media Propaganda." Red Mass Group's Rob Eno, will guide folks through the process of accessing public documents, known as FOIA requests.

You will be inspired by area activists who walk the walk, with a panel including Stephanie M. Davis, blogger and radio host, Clare Donegan, who is leading the fight against Smart Meters, activist and blogger Jim Ettwein, and John Niewicki who represents the region's Right to Refuse Amendment.

Chris McCoy and Adam Ulbricht from the Franklin Center will be on hand to demonstrate social media techniques and the power of citizen activism.

Unbeknownst to many taxpayers, our new gas tax is now tied to inflation, which means it will continue to increase without our cowardly legislators ever having to vote to increase it again. That is why we affectionately call it the tax to infinity and beyond. Activist, Steve Aylward will update us on the statewide effort to repeal the new Massachusetts gas tax.

If you want to make a difference, please don't miss this event. You can register at [www.greaterbostonteatparty.com](http://www.greaterbostonteatparty.com)

For only \$15 per person (the cost of lunch and materials), you will learn:

- How to use investigative reporting tools and skills
- How to enhance state transparency with open records laws
- How to hold elected officials accountable through social media
- Legal tools to protect your liberties and empower citizens

Together, we can begin the hard, but important job of taking back America.



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



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# Open Letter to Attorney General Martha Coakley

Dr. Bharani Padmanabhan  
VALLEY PATRIOT OPINION COLUMNIST

Dear Madam,

For a year now I have been waiting, living off my savings, to hear from you and your office about my written criminal complaint regarding Dr Julian Harris at Mass DPH and his controllers at Cambridge Health Alliance. Despite numerous pleas there has been absolute silence from you.

Recently I understood why, when I read, thanks to the State House News Service, that Dr Julian Harris had been selected by President Obama to work inside the White House. After a written criminal complaint to an Attorney General, a complaint that was legally signed for.

Since you do not have the spine to go after politically connected criminals, I figured I should now seek your assistance with something more at your level.

This is a simple case involving a parking ticket and the Town of Brookline. Since your office has already helped the Cambridge Chronicle newspaper with a brave ruling that public records are indeed public (and I know, trust me, how much even that ruling cost you) I assume you will be equally brave in this matter.

I was parked at a meter. I paid for 30 minutes at 1154h. The stub was within the car and visible when I left it. I returned within 11 minutes and found a ticket for \$25 on the windshield. The ticket had been issued at 1201h. I immediately drove to Brookline Police Station and explained the situation. The lady at the counter informed me that she was powerless to remedy this and that I needed to send in a

written appeal to the Parking Clerk, even though I was in her presence before my paid time had run out. I did so. There was no response from the Clerk. A few weeks later a reminder showed up demanding higher fees. I wrote again to the Parking Clerk. This was followed by a notice that I had been reported to the Registry of Motor Vehicles and that my license and registrations would not be renewed unless I gave the Town of Brookline \$65.

I wrote to Town Counsel and the Parking Clerk. The Town Counsel claimed in an email that the street officer did not see my stub on the dashboard. I had already made it clear that I had no problem with the individual officer and that it was the Parking Clerk's responsibility to look at the evidence and dismiss the ticket.

I finally heard from the Parking Clerk for the first time. A page arrived simply stating Appeal denied. No explanations.

Naturally this is bad governance. It is also undeniably coercive.

The evidence has been sent to you via certified letter.

I would be grateful for a letter from you to the Town of Brookline stating that this was bad governance and dereliction of duty on the part of the Parking Clerk, who despite being salaried by the public clearly did not serve the public in this case. Unlike a tough heavy like Dr Julian Harris, surely the Parking Clerk is well within your capabilities.

Yours sincerely,

Bharani Padmanabhan MD PhD

## WHAT IS HAPPENING?

Tom Weaver  
VALLEY PATRIOT OPINION COLUMNIST

I never imagined years ago, when I was young, that this nation would slip so far in the defense of human rights and freedom. I never imagined that there could have been a President who knew less than Sargent Schultz of Hogan's Heroes. I always knew that there were many ways to solve a problem, but it never dawned on me that the Socialists would be fighting those that believed in the Constitution and founding principles. I never thought the transformation of a diverse society to a class-based society of workers, welfare recipients and establishment elites would ever occur.

Today the flavor of the month is Health Care and did the President know about all those that would lose coverage? Last month it was the IRS scandal and did the President know that Tea Parties where being targeted? And the list goes on. You must realize that it does not matter if he knew or not, what matters is that he is the President and as such, he is responsible for what is happening. He should be impeached, but that will never happen, as the elites do not have the backbone to protect this nation from a fundamental attack from within, yes, domestic enemies of the Constitution.

I maintain that the White House and whoever is actually running this nation is two to three steps ahead of us. They play us like Houdini in so many ways. How long will they sparse the President's message, the actions of Pelosi and Reid? How many more comedy routines will feature this asinine health care bill? And who will win Dancing with the Morons? And in the meantime, below the surface, the Socialists of both parties are negotiating the nail

that will forever close tight the coffin. What is that you say?

Comprehensive Immigration Reform, as presented by the Senate reckless gang of 8, will forever transform this nation into a third world despotic tyranny. It completely abandons the Rule of Law, it provides benefits to those that would enter your home and steal the contents, and it drives the living wage to the bottom. It is all in the name of fairness. And coupled with voting rights, it will pit those that believe in the right of self-determination versus those that believe they are entitled to whatever the "rich" have.

Do you need proof? What has happened to Lawrence? Once a thriving city of legal immigrants working themselves into a better position, it is now a city in ruin, where basic needs are lacking and many of the residents vacation during the winter in their native land, with welfare money provided by those with jobs.

Citizens, the government is lying about health care, the IRS, Benghazi and so many other things. But this lie, this immigration lie, this will destroy this nation. Do not be fooled. Start calling Congress, send letters, and send emails. Demand that prior to any legislation, all existing immigration laws be enforced. Demand that the loophole in the naturalization process, which allows immigrants not to learn English, be removed. A country can only survive if like-minded people, of similar character and beliefs, populate that nation. We are a nation founded on equality under the law; it is time that we return to that before all is lost forever.

Join Tom Weaver on Saturday at noon on 980AM WCAP, where everybody gets it.

### TEEN TALK WITH ANA DEBERNARDO

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

Over the summer, I attended a Christian camp called C.A.M.P.S., an acronym that stands for Christ As My Personal Savior. This was my second consecutive year attending C.A.M.P.S., and I had also gone to SnowCamps, the week-end retreat version of C.A.M.P.S., during the winter. I can honestly say that my time spent at these camps has not only consisted of the best experiences of my life, but also the most fun I could ever possibly imagine having.



but I'll try. In one corner, someone with a full-length beard, wearing a suit and top hat, was reciting the Gettysburg Address. In another corner, a group of hula dancers were choreographing their own Hawaiian dance. There were about four or five people dressed as massive lobsters scooping up random campers onto surfboards and parading them around the room.

The coordinators of the camp later told us that the point of all these shenanigans was to point out that everyone should expect the unexpected. Some people are forced into attending Jesus camp.

But by the end of the weekend, they honestly all wish they could stay forever. The things you do are totally ridiculous and fun beyond imagination. You sing songs. You play games of all kinds and have a giant bonfire and roast s'mores. Most importantly, you can start a relationship with God or improve on an existing one. Not to mention, their hot cocoa is scrumptious.

In the summer camp, we had a giant quidditch tournament, re-enacted the Hunger Games, and played Mission Impossible around the entire campgrounds, all of which may sound a little cheesy, but afterwards you are left with lasting memories. It is extremely fun to participate in these activities, and hilarious to see how competitive people get. A few kids, who took the game a little too far, were sent to the hospital, shattered in their efforts to get the most points for their team.

If you are given the opportunity, Jesus camp is highly recommended! Even if you're a shy person, or you don't know anyone going, TRUST ME when I tell you that you'll make friends. I've made more friends at C.A.M.P.S. and SnowCamps than I have made in all my 15 years of existence. When I'm with my camp friends, I can completely be myself without fear of being judged.

It has made me a more outgoing person, made me open to so many more new things, and most important of all, has made me so much closer to my God. At the end of the day, He is the most important thing in my universe and being close to my Heavenly Father gives me the energy to keep going in life. He is the one who picks me up when I fail my chemistry test and says "I only allow you to hit rock bottom to realize I AM the rock at the bottom."

Father George Morin, the pastor of Holy Redeemer Church in Merrimac, sparked the C.A.M.P.S. initiative. His goal was to create an environment for teens either struggling with their faith, or happily living out their faith in today's prejudiced societies. With the help of countless people and their determination and hard work, the C.A.M.P.S. dream was brought to life and has been going strong for 30 years.

There are many reasons why I keep going back to this camp. But to tell you the truth, I think everyone would go if they had the chance to experience it themselves. A community where you are greeted by swarms of hugs from people you might not even know. An environment where you can worship and praise God and not care about what the people around you are thinking. As a person of deep faith, it was especially eye-opening to me to discover that there are other people my age who aren't afraid to live out their faith.

From the beginning I have had a very close relationship with God. However, being a shy person, I had always worried about what people said or thought of me. Being a "Jesus freak", as my friends call me, and being a reserved person doesn't go hand in hand. In order to know The Lord, and moreover, proclaim your faith, you have to have oodles of self-confidence, something which, in my opinion, I lacked.

So, when my friend first introduced me to this "Jesus camp", I brushed it off. Of course, what was best for me wasn't relevant. The only important thing was coming off as socially "normal" to other people. So, I put it off until the last minute. It was my enthusiastic friend who finally convinced me to go.

When I stepped into the gathering hall of SnowCamps for the first time...I cannot even begin to describe the scene before me,

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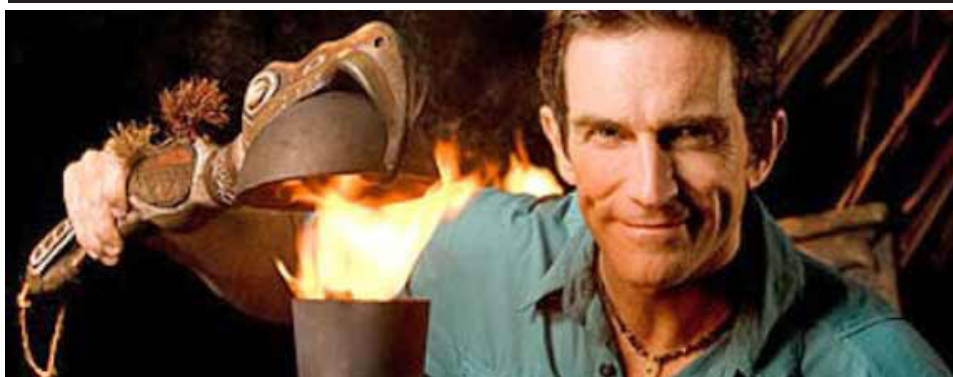
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## TV TALK WITH BILL CUSHING



## Survivor – Still the King Of Reality TV

Bill Cushing

VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST



Survivor premiered on May 31, 2000 on CBS, and quickly became a TV phenomenon. It was the first show of its kind. A competition between 16 Americans, stranded on a deserted island off

the coast of Borneo. Together they would learn to live in a self-made society, build shelter, and ration food; all the while competing for a \$1 Million dollar prize.

The rules were simple. The groups were split into two “tribes,” each living in their own camp. Each week, the two tribes would compete against each other in challenges for either rewards or immunity. Rewards would consist of things like fishing gear, flint to make fire, food, etc. The immunity challenges determined which tribe would be safe for the week. The losing tribe would need to visit the tribal council, and one member of their tribe would be voted out. After 39 days, a winner would be crowned and awarded the million dollars.

The buzz for the show grew throughout the summer and ratings were surging; 51 million people tuned into the finale to see Richard Hatch crowned the Sole Survivor. It is still the highest rated episode for any show of its kind.

One of the keys to the show’s continued success is that, over the years, the show has tweaked its format here and there, sometimes having 18 or 20 players, some of them returning players from past seasons. Redemption Island was added. This was a place that players who were voted out could go and compete for a chance to return to the game after a period of time.

Since its premiere, other reality competition shows have come and gone, often imitating Survivor’s formula. Getting a number of contestants together and competing for a cash prize, eliminating one player per week. But Survivor has endured.

One of the keys to the show’s success has been its ability to cast very popular and interesting players. Rob Mariano, known as Boston Rob to Survivor Fans, has become one of the most popular Survivor players of all time. He met his wife Amber Brkich on the show, she was a competing player. They teamed up and she won the million dollar prize on the show’s “All Star” edition. Mariano returned in a later edition to win as well.

Another key to the show’s popularity is its host, Jeff Probst. Probst is more than just a host, he is part of Survivor. He has won multiple Emmy’s for his hosting duties. He is incredibly popular with the fan base. So much so, that fans could never imagine the show being hosted by someone else.

Now in its 27th edition, Blood vs. Water, the show has once again reinvented itself, adding yet another twist to its formula. This time, pitting a tribe of returning players against a tribe consisting of their loved ones. The show has proven that it can continue to evolve and make changes to keep fans intrigued and interested.

Survivor shows no signs of slowing down. It is a staple of CBS programming and still draws consistent ratings. Still drawing 10 million viewers per week to a very strong and loyal fan base. My guess is that the show will continue as long as creator Mark Burnett wants it to. It is the undisputed King of Reality Competition TV.



## Is Your Social Media Photo Keeping You Connected?

Salem, NH—We all know how relevant social media has become in today’s age. It is how we connect with long lost friends, stay updated on current events, share adorable puppy videos, and most importantly, stay visible in a competitive professional market. Our profile photo is the first thing potential clients or employers view on social networking sites ranging from Facebook to LinkedIn, and isn’t a first impression the quickest way to make a positive impact? Lord and Taylor understands this, and is bringing back their Social Media Makeover event.

Lord and Taylor is offering a Social Media Makeover during their promotion on cosmetics and fragrances. Cosmetics and fragrances are rarely offered at a discount in department stores as we all know. When all brands are discounted at 10%, the opportunity is one that’s hard to miss. At Lord and Taylor’s first Social Media Makeover event last month in the Mall at Rockingham Park, 25 men and women sat at the cosmetic counter, got their hair and makeup done by professionals, and snapped a new profile picture; quick and painless. One may even dare to say fun. “I just said, ‘I’m a blank canvas,’” Deb Hoffman told professionals as she walked into the Lord and Taylor last month without makeup on before purchasing her discounted cosmetics. “This has been the most fun,” she raved after receiving her complimentary makeover. If you missed this great opportunity to upgrade your social media profile, you’re in luck: Lord and Taylor is hosting a second Social Media Makeover event on Saturday, December 14th. Here’s how it works: you spend a minimum of \$50 at Lord and Taylor’s cosmetic counter with a fabulous and rare 10% discount, receive your complimentary makeover, enjoy a new hairdo, sit in our chair and smile. Yes, it really is that easy and that wonderful. You already enjoy Lord and Taylor’s great assortment of cosmetics, now you can enjoy all the brands available to you at a discount.

How could this get any better, you may be asking yourself. Well, to make your Social Media Makeover even more efficient, make an appointment in advance for your makeover. This way, you guarantee a spot at this popular event and avoid any chance of waiting in line. Walk in, pick out your cosmetics, and smile. Yeah, we went there. Men may be thinking this is not an event for them, but this is not at all the case. Lord and Taylor carries multiple skin care lines just for men. There is the popular men’s line from Kiehl’s, for example, featuring moisturizer, shave care, anti-aging and more. With the December Social Media Makeover being right around the Holiday season, men can also feel free to purchase cosmetics for the women in their life that day to reach the \$50 minimum. This is one event that is beneficial to everyone, as younger professionals are always looking to have a presentable photo on their LinkedIn page while job hunting, and those already a part of the business world need a photo on their Facebook or Google+ page that isn’t ten years old. Lord and Taylor is here to help.

If you’re social media profile is in need of an upgrade, head to Lord and Taylor in the Mall at Rockingham Park on Saturday, December 14th from 12:00 pm -6:00 pm to receive your complimentary makeover after your minimum \$50 purchase of cosmetics and fragrances. To make an appointment for your photo in advance, visit [www.drinkwaterproductionsevents.com](http://www.drinkwaterproductionsevents.com) or Lord and Taylor at 99 Rockingham Park Blvd in Salem, NH.

About Drinkwater Productions  
Drinkwater Productions LLC based in Exeter, NH, is a full-service event planning and promotions company, working to help its clients realize profits through unique marketing opportunities. To learn more about Drinkwater Productions, please visit [www.drinkwaterproductionsevents.com](http://www.drinkwaterproductionsevents.com).

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# Why You Should Go Grain-Free

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

If you have a chronic health condition you should consider going grain free for 30 days to see if there is reduction of you symptoms. Listed below are the top 10 reasons why you should give this simple change your lifestyle.

**1. If you can get it from grain, you can get it elsewhere.**

If you can find the nutrient in grain, you can find the nutrient in better quantities in other foods.

**2. Grains aren't good for your gut.**

Intestinal health is critical to your overall health. If you're gut isn't healthy, you can't absorb nutrients from the foods you eat. If you can't absorb nutrients from the foods you eat, your body is malnourished and is more prone to disease. Grains are associated with a condition called leaky gut syndrome. Tiny particles of grains, when ingested, can slip through the intestinal walls causing an immune response.

With your immune system excessively taxed by constantly attacking these out-of-place particles of grain, it cannot effectively fight against true threats like pathogens.

**3. You're probably gluten-intolerant.**

If you're white, there's a good chance that you're gluten-intolerant to some degree. Current research estimates that about 1% of the population suffers from celiac disease, an autoimmune condition related to the ingestion of gluten-containing grains like wheat and barley; however, some researchers on celiac disease and gluten intolerance estimate that 30% to 40% of people of

European descent are gluten-intolerant to some degree. That's a lot of people who are regularly consuming a food that makes them sick.

**4. Grains cause inflammation.**

Due to a high starch content, grains are inflammatory foods. The more refined the grain, the more inflammatory it is. For example, unbleached white flour is more inflammatory than whole grain flour; however, whole grains are still moderately

inflammatory foods and certainly more inflammatory than other foods like fresh vegetables and wholesome fats. Chronic inflammation is linked to a myriad of degenerative, modern diseases including arthritis, allergies, asthma, cardiovascular

disease, bone loss, emotional imbalance and even cancer.

**5. Grains are fairly new on the scene.**

Prior to the advent of agriculture, humans relied on hunting and gathering for their foods. They foraged for wild greens, berries, fruits and other plants. They hunted wild animals. They fished for wild fish. They didn't plant a garden, or grow any amber waves of grain or, for that matter, drink dairy from domesticated animals since there simply wasn't any domesticated animals. Humans survived like this from the development of the appearance of the first homo sapiens about 47,000 years ago to the advent of agriculture some 10 – 12,000 years ago. So, for the better part of human existence grains did not comprise any notable portion of the human diet. In essence, what has become the bulk of our modern diet was missing from the diet of our prehistoric ancestors.

**6. Grains aren't good for your joints.**

Due to their inflammatory nature, grains – even whole grains – are linked to joint pain and arthritis. Grain's amino acid composition mirrors that of the soft tissue in your joints. Because both synovial tissue and grains are chemically similar, your body has difficulty differentiating between the two. So, when your immune cells get all hot and bothered by inflammation caused by grain and begin to attack it as a foreign invader, they also begin to attack the soft tissue in your joint – leading to pain, autoimmune diseases like rheumatoid arthritis and, of course, more inflammation.

**7. Poorly Prepared Grains prevent mineral absorption.**

When improperly prepared as they most often are, grains can inhibit vitamin and mineral absorption. Grains contain substances like phytic acid which binds up minerals and prevents proper absorption. Essentially, though your diet might be rich in iron, calcium and other vital nutrients if you eat improperly prepared grain, you're not fully absorbing nutrients from the foods you eat.

**8. Grains are bad for your teeth.**

Due to those high levels of phytates in grain, grain is linked to dental decay. With high levels of mineral-blocking phytic acid coupled with low mineral absorption rates and plenty of starches for bacteria to feed on, grain contributes to dental decay.

**9. Grains aren't good for your skin either.**

Grains have a very high carbohydrate content, and while the carbohydrates in grain are complex they are still broken down into sugars nonetheless. These sugars instruct your body to produce more insulin and insulin-like growth factor (IFG-1). Elevated insulin levels lead to a cascading hormonal response and these hormones activate the sebum-producing glands in your skin – encouraging them to produce more oil. IFG-1 is also linked with the increased production of keratinocytes which also contribute to acne.

**10. Eating grain makes you crave grain.**

Foods rich in carbohydrates give you quick energy, but that energy wears off just as quickly as it came. Since grains break down into sugar, they create a rise in insulin levels when those levels fall you crave more.

*Dr. Jin Sung is a chiropractic physician who helps his patients both neurologically & metabolically to solve complex health issues. He can be reached at 978 688-6999. Or visit his website at*

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## BABIES AND BRIEFCASES

ERIN COX: TOSSING THE  
BLAME AROUND

Cheryl Hajjar

VALLEY PATRIOT MOMMY COLUMNIST

By now everyone has heard some kind of version of the teenage volleyball captain Erin Cox at North Andover High who was demoted from being captain of her team and had to forfeit 5 games because she violated the rules of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Association by being present at a party where underage drinking ensued. This is not an easy situation. There are a few ways to look at this however. Here's the scenario.

Her friend calls her for a ride home from a party because she has had too much to drink and doesn't want to drive. This is what we are told to do. "Don't drink and drive, call for a ride." Erin knows she is not supposed to be at the party where drinking is going on. She is faced with a moral issue here. The teenager feels that going to get her friend at the party is the right thing to do, even though she knows that she is breaking the schools athletic rules and could put her position as captain in jeopardy. She goes anyways. Police arrive, she is among the young underage kids and the police cannot differentiate between who has been partying and who hasn't.

There is a lot of he said she said going on here and we all need to understand this. Even though Erin's story of her just going to pick up her friend could very well be true, there is no hard evidence that this is a fact. The officer that arrived at the party would have no way of truly knowing if Erin was just there to pick up her friend or was indeed partying with the other kids. That is the problem. The school had no choice but to suspend her from 5 games and strip her of her captainship because the MIAA rules state that they make no distinction between minors who consume alcohol at a party or those who are just present. Erin was fully aware of their rules but made a conscious decision to go and pick up her friend anyways. A chance she took and is now paying the price for. We do have to feel empathy for this girl, of course we do, but sometimes in life doing the right thing morally is not always the easy thing, and it's actually a good lesson for her to learn at such a young age. Situations like this will build her integrity and prepare her for future situations.

The question is though that because

she was punished for doing the morally right thing, as she gets older would she be more likely to not do the right thing in the future? Would this experience harbor her abilities to make conscious decisions like this one in the future? A question we will never know the answer to, but food for thought.

Civil Rights violation? I'm not so sure about this one. Discrimination is a quick hand to draw when you do not like the outcome of a situation. Its like yelling the word shark in the movie Jaws only to find that when you swim up to a fake fin in the water, you're left with that feeling of disappointment and relief at the same time. So, why the need for that card? In the Cox's complaint, their counsel cited an incident where in 2012 a North Andover football player was excluded from playing the Thanksgiving football game as well as two basketball games. Both Cox and this football player lost the same percentage (25%) of games that the MIAA says in their guidelines they should lose for being at an underage party. So where is the civil rights violation? Yea I'm not seeing it. Both students broke the rules on their own accord and were punished for it.

Erin's parents should be proud of their daughter. They raised her correctly to always help out a friend in need. She did the right thing even though she was punished for it by a set of athletic rules. Yes she lost her captainship and a few games. It's not the end of the world. She will be remembered as the girl who did the right thing but in the wrong situation. We need more women like this to stand up for what's right, what's ethical and what really matters in life.



Cheryl Hajjar is a lifelong resident of the Merrimack Valley. She keeps busy by fulfilling her duties as a mother to her young son. She is an entrepreneur and the CEO of

Indigo Magic, an interactive children's company. One of her passions is music, songwriting and classical piano which she incorporates into all areas of her life. EMAIL: [babiesnbriefcases@gmail.com](mailto:babiesnbriefcases@gmail.com)

## News from the American Legion

John Lenotte

VALLEY PATRIOT VETERAN COLUMNIST

I would like to thank Joe Bevilacqua, Sal Lupoli and the entire Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce for recognizing veterans at their annual dinner program on October 2nd.

The VIP Speaker was Steve Grossman and the Special Guest was Boston Police Commissioner, Ed Davis. The Chamber chose to honor the following Veterans Agents: Ed Mitchell (North Andover), Jamie Melandez (Lawrence), Mike Ingham (Haverhill), Kevin Hunt (Newburyport) and Mike Burke (Andover). A few others were invited but not able to attend. Also honored were John Ratka, Executive Director, Veterans Northeast Outreach Center and myself, John Lenotte from The American Legion.

In addition to the recognition, the Chamber announced that they are putting together a program to assist veterans who are looking to start a business. This plan is still in the formulation stage but the resources will be excellent given the size of the Chamber and the members involved. The Chamber also donated a very generous gift of \$1,000 to the Veterans Northeast Outreach Center. Obviously, the Chamber is an organization that recognizes the contributions of veterans but also the value that is added to the community. Kudos to them!

We all saw the impact of shutting down the federal government last month. Thank goodness it did not last any longer than it did. The American Legion National Commander was in the news talking about the impact to veterans. I can tell you that I personally sent emails to my Congressional delegation in Washington and did get responses from them. Did you reach out to them? Were you upset? Did you make your voice and opinions heard? Or did you just sit back and complain?

Will you vote in the upcoming elections? If you remember taking Civics in



school, we were taught about the importance of voting. Yet the numbers that turn out in any election are small. We should show our support for elected officials we like and on the other hand vote against elected officials we do not support. Please join me in voting this time around!

Veterans Day is coming up again this month. It is a chance to show thanks to living veterans. Statistics from the Veterans Administration show that there are 2 million plus veterans. Forty-three (43) percent are age 65 and older; ten (10) percent are female. These numbers are but a small percentage of the overall population.

I hope you will come out for the local parade and cheer on the veterans and their families. And take a moment to think about those in uniform today who are all around the world looking to keep us safe. The sacrifices they and their families make can not be measured. Keep in mind too that they are all volunteers. No one forced them to sign up. See you out on the parade route this November 11.

May God Bless our troops and their families, bringing them home safe and sound.



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

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A FAMILY BUSINESS FOR FIVE GENERATIONS

FROM 1: LTJG GERALD L. HALTERMAN

tacking our ships,” says Halterman, now 92 and living in Sudbury. “I heard a terrible noise. My bunk was near a front window. When I looked out, I saw the planes coming toward our building—I was directly in their flight path—and flying as low as 50 to 100 feet. As they flew toward my window, then made a sharp right-angle turn, I stared right into the faces of two Japanese pilots, wearing goggles, in open cockpits. The huge red ball, Japan’s symbol, was plainly visible. Forty planes dropped their torpedoes, their wakes going into our ships.

“The first to be hit was my former ship, the USS Oklahoma, taking nine torpedoes. It capsized in 8 to 12 minutes, taking 429 men to their graves, including my three closest buddies. When I ran to a back window, I saw the USS Arizona explode in a ball of flame, a blazing inferno, as bombs hit its am-



Yeoman 3rd Class Gerald L. (Jerry) Halterman typed two crucial messages in WWII. The first, on December 7, 1941, warned of a Japanese sub in Pearl Harbor. The second, six months later, warned of a Japanese attack on Midway Island. He enlisted in 1939 after hearing a radio speech by “that madman Hitler” during a high school assembly in Carbondale, Illinois.

munition supply—1,777 men aboard died.

“The Japanese attacked in two waves. The first wave began at 7:55 a.m., with low-flying planes dropping torpedoes on Battleship Row. Because of Pearl Harbor’s shallow 30 to 40-foot waters, no one had expected torpedoes to be launched from altitudes below 100 feet. Yet the Japanese achieved this, replacing the heavy steel fins with lightweight wooden fins.

“The second wave began at 8:55 a.m. High-altitude bombers and dive bombers flew back and forth across the harbor, attacking more ships. They left untouched my building, used as a marshalling point, and also the repair facilities and oil storage tanks. They expected to return to Pearl Harbor and use this fuel six months later to seize Midway Island, on their way down to Australia.”

By 9:45 a.m. it was over. The Japanese left Pearl Harbor to begin a day-long attack on American bases in the Philippines.

More than 2,400 Americans lost their lives at Pearl Harbor on the “Day that will live in infamy,” and 1,778 were hospitalized.

“In the midst of the horror, I always knew God was with me. I felt my mother’s prayers. They carried me safely through the war,” Jerry said.

The high cost of freedom

Jerry grieves deeply for the black-oil-soaked survivors, only the whites of their eyes and teeth showing. For those burned beyond recognition. For the lives cut short. For the terror his former shipmates suffered on the Oklahoma, trampling in the dark on oil-slicked linoleum decks...water gushing through doors left unfastened for an Admiral’s inspection...a single ladder for radio-men stationed three decks below...the 32 men trapped inside until rescued the next day.

“The attack on Pearl Harbor was a turning point for America,” says Halterman, a member of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, Boston Chapter, and one of the incorporators. “It united our nation to declare war against Japan and the Nazis, supporting our ally Great

Britain, who stood alone after the fall of France. It saved Great Britain. It saved Australia. It saved America and our freedoms.”

Six months later, June 1942, Jerry typed a crucial message addressed to Admiral Chester Nimitz, Commander of the Pacific Fleet. U.S. planes had spotted four Japanese aircraft carriers near Midway. Admiral Nimitz’ reply, which Jerry also typed, was: “Sink the b---s!” The Battle of Midway, June 4–7, was a decisive victory for America and the Allies, and a turning point in the war.

Jerry cherishes President Ronald Reagan’s words: “Freedom is a fragile thing and is never more than one generation away from extinction. It is not ours by inheritance; it must be fought for and defended constantly by each generation, for it comes only once to a people. Those who have known freedom and then lost it have never known it again.”

Miracles—and a mother’s prayers

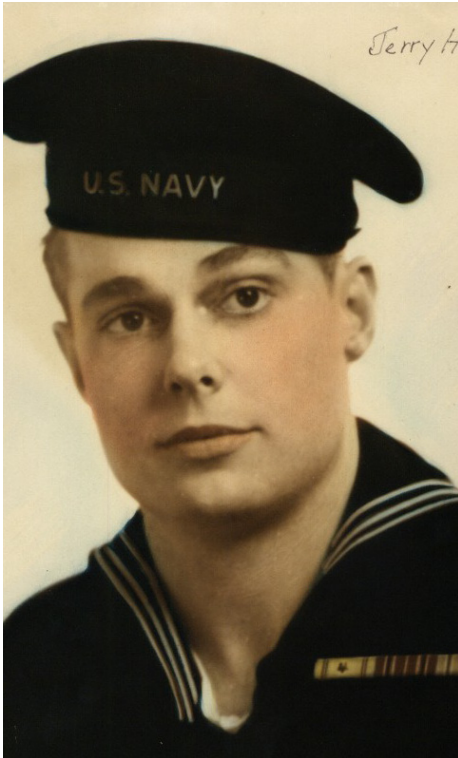
Before Jerry Halterman left home for the Navy in 1939, after graduating from high school in Carbondale, Illinois (population 3,000), his mother took him aside and said, “Get down on your knees. We’re going to pray together for your safety.”

“To this day, I vividly remember that time of prayer. It saved my life. I always felt the presence of the Lord with me. She did the same for my two brothers, who served at Okinawa and Iwo Jima. We all came home without a scratch. I firmly believe it was my mother’s fervent prayers, throughout the war, that carried us all through.”

As a child, he remembers lying on the hard wooden pews of Grace Methodist Church each Sunday, the youth groups later on. He chose his companions carefully. In the Navy, he preferred to play baseball and tennis instead of going on shore leave with others. He sees “the hand of God” in the choices he made throughout his life. “In the Navy, I was at the right place at the right time, and my superiors helped me achieve my goals.”

As yeoman 3rd class, he was offered the unheard of privilege of shore duty at Pearl Harbor’s communications office. Despite the “pull” of his friends on the Oklahoma, he felt strongly led to accept it, knowing God was with him.

When Japan attacked, his building



was left standing. He ran to grab a gun to fire at the planes but they were all locked up, so he took refuge in a ditch.

He chose Harvard Business School for Naval Supply Corps training rather than amphibious training in Florida, and this prepared him for his 35-year career at Raytheon Missiles Systems Division, in engineering and public relations. The Atomic Bomb ended the war just as he was preparing to take part in the invasion of Japan.

“Each one of us has a purpose in life,” says Jerry. A son born with Down’s Syndrome, now 53, “has been a blessing to our family.”

In the wake of Pearl Harbor’s unspeakable horror and tragedy, we can draw comfort from the Scriptures: “He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust’...and under His wings you will find refuge” (Psalm 91:1-2, 4).



Helen Mooradian is our Valley Patriot Hero columnist and a former business writer. She is also a member of the Merrimack Valley Tea Party. You can email Helen at hsmoor@verizon.net

COMMON CORE: FROM PAGE 23

the students show improvement by the end of the year and have mastered every single Common Core Standard. Coupled with that is every teacher’s self-evaluation which involves measuring and assessing what they did throughout the year that either supported or hindered every student’s individual growth.

On the student’s end, they have to pass the MCAS which has been forcefully spoon fed to them since its inception, or they can’t graduate. They must show that they are consistently improving academically by having a certain personal growth percentile and now familiarize themselves with the hundreds of Common Core Standards in both math and language arts for their grade level, and master each and every one.

The documentation of it all is daunting and exhausting. No extra planning time has been given along with these extra tasks, which cuts into the time teachers need to plan actual lessons. The only training that is being received is how to fill out the paper work, not how to implement the program. First year teachers have the same expectations as twenty year

veterans. There are no interns, residents or fellows. You’re out of the gate at the same pace no matter what your experience. The anxiety and tension in schools across the state is palpable. Teachers are told that, “Everyone feels the way you do. We’re all in the same boat.” These words are about as comforting to teachers as they would be if uttered to the victims of the Titanic. Even though everyone feels like they are drowning, the fact is they’re drowning. The pressure is on and it’s heavy. Teachers feel like the Salem witches that were crushed by thousands of pounds of solid rock. The message is clear: ask for more weight or get out. No doubt this pressure will trickle down to the ever growing demands of our twenty first century students.



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

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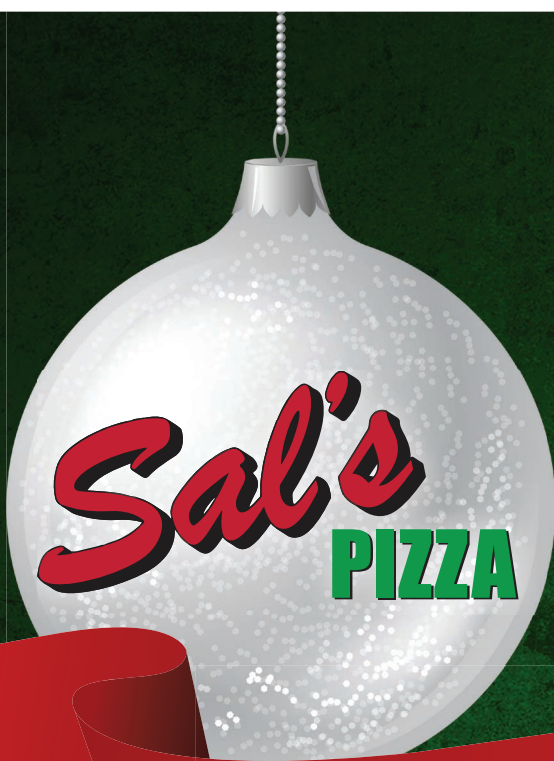
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