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VALLEY PATRIOT OF THE MONTH

Randy Carter, USAF and U.S. Army

Beth D'Amato
 VALLEY PATRIOT HERO REPORTER

On any given day, you will find Randy Carter of the Veterans Northeast Outreach Center (VNOC) out buying groceries for local veterans, counseling a newly discharged vet about health care, or meeting with local politicians to try and get

more resources dedicated to helping local veterans in need.

Carter and the other staff members at Veterans Northeast Outreach Center provide exceptional services for local veterans who have nowhere else to turn.

Located on 10 Reed Street in Haverhill, VNOC was established in 1985 as a pri-

vate, non-profit organization. Their mission is to provide a variety of services to assist, support, and advocate for veterans and their families. The center is funded, in part, through contracts with the Department of Veterans Affairs, MA Department of Veterans Services, US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development and private donations.

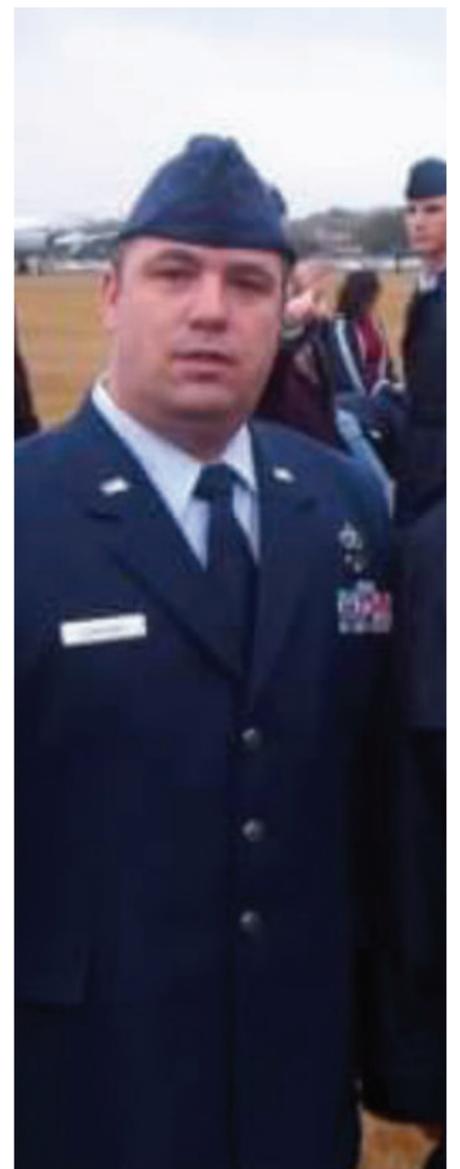
Administration fees to pay for staff comes from grants allowing 100% of all private donations to go directly to the veterans.

Carter is the Projects / Programs Manager at VNOC and he is also a combat veteran. Carter joined the Army in 1983 and served until 1992. He joined the Air Force in 1992 and retired in 2007.

He was deployed to the Middle East three times in support of Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom. Along the way, he was given numerous awards and medals for his service. Carter was honorably discharged as a Tech. Sergeant from the USAF and a Sergeant in the U.S. Army.

According to Carter, 90% of the staff at the Outreach Center are veterans, 80% are combat vets, and 60% are disabled veterans. He says that being a veteran lends a special understanding and expertise in dealing with those veterans who have unique issues like PTSD that others may have a hard time relating to.

The organization offers an array of counseling services to help assist all Veterans and their family members. Vets in these programs are not your stereotypical



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HERO: PAGE 22

It's Looking A Lot Like Christmas

Jeff Katz

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

I may not celebrate the religious holiday of Christmas, but I am certainly not offended when someone wishes me a Merry Christmas. In fact, just the opposite, which is why I am always so puzzled by the folks who claim that they think it's offensive language to wish good tidings and joy to someone.

For the past decade or so, we've all been victims in the war on Christmas. At some point, someone somewhere decided that it was best to substitute the phrase Merry Christmas with the more generic Happy Holidays. The idea, I'm sure, was well intentioned as the desire was to include those of us who celebrate Chanukah. Fair enough. That being said, I definitely don't feel that the Merry Christmas part needs to be ignored let alone vilified as it has been recently.

First, there were efforts to equate Chanukah which is a relatively minor Jewish holiday with Christmas which is clearly one of the major days on the Christian calendar. Let's be honest, it's a great marketing tool but that's about it. However, those of us who enjoy practicing the dark arts of capitalism are not against enhancing seasonal gift purchases, but there are limits or there should be, in my opinion.

The most offensive part of the new December PC agenda has been the inclusion of Kwanzaa in the mix. This is a purely fictional holiday invented by a racist and convicted felon but there are some well-meaning and rather enterprising folks, who have gotten in on the game and

begun to peddle wares for this farce on an unsuspecting public. If I had a Christmas wish, I'd wish that families who now celebrate this would do a wee bit more research before observing it again.

I love all of the old time television classics. I still chuckle when Charlie Brown is told he is the Charlie Browniest Charlie Brown around. Indeed, everything I know about buying a Christmas tree came from Charlie Brown. I am forever troubled that all of the other reindeer were really pretty creepy and nasty towards Rudolph until such time as they needed something from him. Every year at this time, my family revels in together time watching A White Christmas, A Christmas Story, A Christmas Carol, Family Man and It's A Wonderful Life. Sure they are all pay tribute to the Christian holiday but their warmth embraces all of us regardless of faith and they never fail to put a smile on my face and a tear in my eye.

For me, I will celebrate Chanukah in my home and wish my Christian friends not just a Merry Christmas but a meaningful one, as well. I hope that they will proudly celebrate their important holiday with a sense of joy and hope. They should know that many of us who do not celebrate it still wish them a wonderful day filled with a renewed sense of purpose and wonder.

Rest assured ye merry gentlemen that you may feel free to wish me a Happy Chanukah, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year or Happy Holidays. I take no offense at any of them and I wish you a very Merry Christmas! Stand stall, celebrate your holiday with pride my friends, I've got your back.

"WEATHER 101" WITH AL!

Al Kaprielian

VALLEY PATRIOT WEATHERMAN

Welcome to December and the start of meteorological winter which goes through the month of February. Now that November is over, so is this year's hurricane season. The end of November saw some episodes of heavy rain making a dent in our drought, however, not eliminating it.

With a large contrast in air masses, there were outbreaks of tornadoes over the southern states. Temperatures for November did run a little above normal. Now with December and the shorter hours of daylight we will see the colder air start to get stronger. Some of this cold air will start to move into our region during the first half of the month. As the colder air moves down from Canada, it will start to clash with warmer air across the southern states.

This will start the process of low pressure systems forming over the Gulf of Mexico/off the east southeast coast of the US. As I have mentioned in past articles it will all depend on how much phasing occurs with the northern and southern streams of the jet stream.

When these two streams join together we see these low pressure systems move farther north, closer to our region, to bring rain/snow/ mixture or even freezing rain. Also with storms to our south, we look to see if there are any high pressure systems to our north or northeast. If there are, then this could lead to more snow or mixed "precip" (precipitation). When high pressure is located over the Canadian Maritimes, this provides cold air at the surface. If warm air is aloft this can lead to mixed "precip" or even freezing rain. There is a difference between mixed "precip" (sleet) and freezing rain. Freezing rain occurs when temperatures above the ground are all above freezing 32 degrees. Temperatures at the ground are near or below 32 degrees.

Freezing rain falls as a liquid like regular rain and the drops freeze after they hit the ground. Sleet occurs when a warm layer forms in the upper atmosphere and the snowflake melts in this warm layer and then refreezes below this warm layer into an ice pellet called sleet which is in a solid form. Snow occurs when temperatures at all levels above the ground are below 32 degrees. In a snow situation the temperatures at ground level can be above 32 degrees. If we have arctic air over us during a winter storm then the snow will be dry low water content. This will cause the snow to be fluffy and contain less weight. When we do not have cold arctic air over us, the snow can contain more water and will be heavier. This will

be a wet snow and due to the weight can cause tree branches and power lines to fall causing

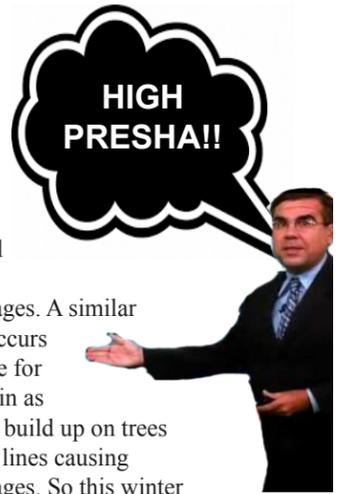
power outages. A similar situation occurs with the ice for freezing rain as the ice can build up on trees and power lines causing power outages. So this winter be prepared for winter storms before they occur; have enough food, especially non-perishable food.

Have plenty of bottled water. Always be prepared before a winter storm occurs because once it begins road conditions can worsen very quickly. Also with winter storms, their track is critical due to us being so close to the warmer ocean waters.

Remember the ocean does not cool as fast as the land during the fall and early winter. If a storm, for example, tracks over Worcester the counter clockwise flow around the low pressure system will bring air off the warmer ocean waters and rain will occur along the coast. Further inland more sleet and snow will occur. Some low pressure systems during the winter will track farther south outside the 40 north latitude 70 longitude. With this track Cape Cod & the New England south coast would get the highest snowfall amounts as they will be closer to the storm.

If the storm is intense, these areas will see gusty to strong winds during the storm causing blizzard conditions. With the counter clockwise circulation around low pressure systems this causes warmer air on the east side of the low, off the warmer ocean. The cold side of a low pressure system is the west/northwest side of the low causing a more northerly wind bringing cold air down from Canada. This causes most of the heaviest snows to occur on the west/northwest side of the storm. Living by the ocean makes the track of a winter storm critical in forecasting snowfall amounts.

Also the intensity of the storm affects how much snow we get. Lastly, we look at the speed of the storm which affects how much snow we get. If the storm is moving fast less snow will occur. An example is the Blizzard of 1978 where the storm stalled in the Atlantic Ocean causing snow to fall for a couple of days. Next month we will recap the weather in December and take another look at winter weather.



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Lawrence Mayor Failed to Ease People's Fears

Earlier this month, when the public learned about a beheading in Lawrence, rumors began to swirl and the public was left with a lot of unanswered questions.

Was it terrorism? Al Quaida? ISIS? The violent, illegal alien drug gang MS-13? Were the people of that neighborhood safe? What about the neighborhood where the victims lived? His friends? His family? If someone was going around beheading people, were the people of Lawrence in jeopardy?

We expected within hours of the discovery that Lawrence Police Chief Fitzpatrick or Mayor Dan Rivera would

have held a press conference belying the fears of Lawrence residents and quelling the rumor by stating what they knew right away; that it wasn't terrorism, it wasn't ISIS, and it wasn't MS-13.

Instead, what we got was a press release from the chief that said absolutely nothing.

This not only fueled more speculation; it heightened people's fears that, once again, government officials were covering up something and people's lives were at risk by a mad man running around decapitating people.

But, what made the situation even

worse, was the Mayor and Police Chief's press conference, a full 24 hours later, where they both took to the microphone to say that... well.... they had nothing to say at all.

Even when pressed by a Valley Patriot reporter about the lack of transparency on the issue of terrorism, Mayor Rivera refused to come clean.

For his part, Rivera repeated over and over that to release any information at all would hinder the police investigation.

We reject that claim as insulting to people's intelligence.

Alerting the public to the fact that the

murder was not terror related had no bearing on the integrity of the case.

And while, we understand, that Chief Fitzpatrick is too afraid to upset the District Attorney, (who thrives on secrecy and is never transparent on any case), he doesn't work for the DA, and neither does the mayor. They work for you.

They have a duty to be open and honest with the public in matters such as these.

They should have done so the day of the murder, at the very least the day after the murder, but they never did.

They now need to own up to it so that it doesn't happen again. We are waiting.

Auditor Bump Exposes \$15.4M in Welfare Fraud

Auditor Bump Focuses Efforts to Strengthen Public Benefits Programs by Stopping Abuse & Waste

Massachusetts State Auditor Suzanne Bump has released an annual report on her office's efforts to identify fraud in the state's social, safety net programs.

The report released this week notes that in fiscal year 2016, the Bureau of Special Investigations (BSI) identified a record \$15.4 million in public benefits fraud, marking a 12 percent increase over the previous year, and a sixth straight year of record-setting findings. In addition, the report highlights that for every dollar invested into BSI, it found \$7.06 in fraud, a 14 percent increase over the previous year.

Finally, the report notes that for investigations with findings of fraud, the average finding was \$14,783, a 21 percent increase over the previous year.

"From food assistance to medical care, public benefits play an important role in our state, the lives of its residents, and our economy," Bump said.

One case highlighted in the report describes a Rhode Island resident who was charged with fraudulently receiving benefits in excess of \$60,000 from 2012 to 2015 from the state of Massachusetts. He falsely claimed to be a resident of the Commonwealth, and improperly reported his earned income.

"It is essential that these programs operate with integrity. That means fighting abuse and fraud, but it also requires that we work to identify the barriers that prohibit Massachusetts residents from accessing benefits for which they are eligible. This is why, in the coming year, we will undertake an audit to understand how effectively government is identifying

those eligible persons who are not being served."

"Since 2011, my office has increased the amount of fraud it has identified every year," Bump said of the report.

"This is not an indication of more fraud, but that we are getting better at identifying it. We have accomplished this by focusing our efforts on the areas of greatest risk for substantial fraud such as food stamp trafficking, and fraudulent provider billing."

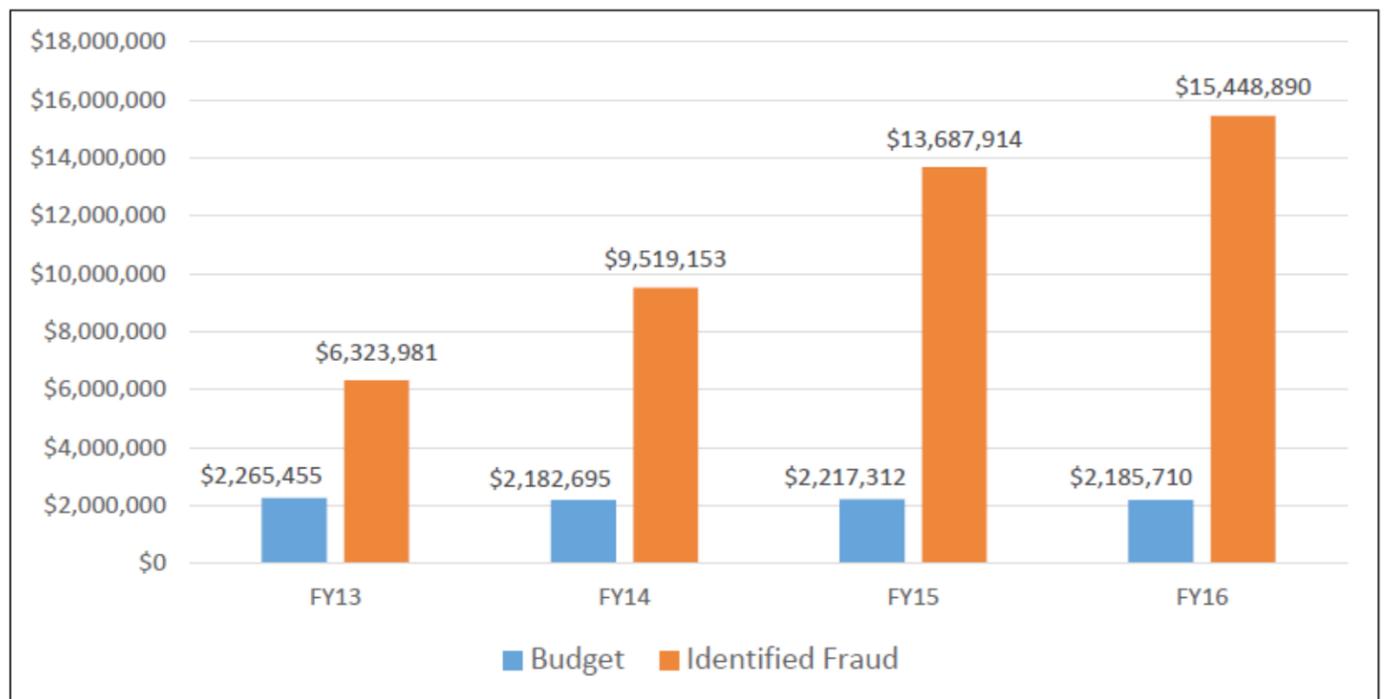
BSI examiners work with state and

federal agencies, including the Department of Transitional Assistance, MassHealth, the Department of Early Education and Care, the US Department of Agriculture, both the US and Massachusetts Attorneys General, and other government agencies to document fraudulent activity. Investigations focus both on tips related to individual recipient fraud, as well as provider fraud. The work leads to both prosecution and recovery of funds. While the majority of investigations of public assistance fraud

come from referrals from MassHealth, the Department of Transitional Assistance, or the use of data analytics, the public can also file a complaint through the BSI fraud hotline at (617) 727-6771 or by sending an email to infoline@sao.state.ma.us. All complaints are confidential.

For more information, visit www.mass.gov/auditor or follow Auditor Bump on Twitter @MassAuditor, on Facebook, or subscribe to the Auditor's Report e-newsletter.

Figure 1. BSI Budget and Identified Fraud: FY13–FY16



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Hero Police Officer Seeks to Return to Board

The Valley Patriot has learned that North Andover Police Lt. Dan Lanen, is seeking to return to the board of selectmen in this spring's town elections.

Lanen, a hero police officer who has been named police officer of the year by the Lawrence Exchange Club, and received the Officer Tom Duggan, Hero Police Officer award by The Valley Patriot, was recently promoted from police sergeant to lieutenant.

Lanen is a conservative Republican and a member of the Merrimack Valley Tea Party. He served as a medic in the US Army reserves and was originally elected to the board of selectmen in 2006, serving six years before resigning in 2011.

Lanen was well known as a fiscal conservative who prided himself on opposing Proposition 2 1/2 property tax overrides, including for the new police station. The override for the police station failed but was eventually approved and built without an override.

"We kept the town running without rais-

ing taxes. We maintained town services. We built the Sutton Hill Reservoir, the early childhood education center, and several other construction projects while I was on the board. I'm looking forward to helping the town again as a member of the board," Lanen said.

Lanen told The Valley Patriot that he is now working days on the police department and has some time in the evening to attend meetings. "I enjoyed my time serving the people of North Andover on the board of selectmen and I think I still have a lot to offer. There are a lot of projects coming up and I think the town needs someone who is going to make sure those projects are cost efficient, and the best fit for town residents."

North Andover voters will choose two selectmen in the spring but one of the incumbent selectmen, Tracy Watson has already announced she will not seek re-election. Selectman Don Stewart says he will be seeking another term.



BAND OF HEROES - Navy Vet, EMT, Teaches How to Save Lives

Lawrence resident and United States Navy Veteran Brian Mercer teaches others to save lives through training and education. Five years ago Mercer, an EMT and owner of a wheelchair van service in Lawrence, saw a news story about 17 year old North Andover High School student Alexander Faresse, who died of a heart failure on the track. "It was such a tragedy," Mercer said, recalling the incident.

"I remember seeing a commercial the very next day of a portable home defibrillator for use by the general public."

"I said, if I can get those into the schools, into the hands of small businesses, people's boats, rv's, vacation homes, we can save a lot of lives."

A former Navy medic, Mercer served in the Navy and Marines from 1978-82 and a medical corpsman out of Camp Geiger in North Carolina.

"Now, I get to train people how to be someone's hero. Look, I've been an EMT for a long time and these EMS workers, cops, firefighters, EMTs need your help when someone is stricken with a heart issue. Seconds save lives and if someone knows what they are doing and can keep someone alive until first responders can get there, it's the difference between life and death."

Mercer also trains CPR, first aid, survival training, dealing with hot and cold

emergencies, and infant child and adult rescues.

Mercer offers a three-hour training certification class that is good for 2 years and says that teaching others and sharing his knowledge, knowing that it is going to help save lives is the most rewarding part of what he does.

"One of my students took the course and a week later he saved his mother from choking. Another student ... someone collapsed in a bar and one of my former students was there. He was able to resuscitate the victims after he stopped breathing from respiratory failure."

"Another student saved an infant from choking last year, and countless other former students have saved people from major and minor emergencies."

"The bottom line is, it's better to know it and not need it, than need it and not know it. The person you end up saving could be someone you love."

"A heart attack is the nation's #1 Serial Killer and knowledge and training is the only way that's ever going to change. Together we can save lives if we know what to do while an emergency is happening"

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Methuen Police Officers, Firefighters of the Year

The Methuen Exchange club held their annual Police Officer, Firefighter of the Year Awards dinner last month.

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR 2016

Michael Foley

Michael started with the department on March 1st of this year. He is currently attending the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy in Stow and will graduate December 23rd. A Massachusetts Certified EMT, Michael is a graduate on Bentley University. Michael is married to the former Tanya Waithe, daughter of retired Methuen Police Lieutenant Kevin Waithe and Brenda Waithe. They have two children Trinity and Gia. His parents are Mary Foley of No. Andover and Jack Foley of Florida.

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR 2016

John Hoehn

John has been a member of the department since August 2015, and is a Massachusetts certified EMT. A graduate of Methuen High School, John graduated from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy in Stow in July of 2016. John is also a member of the United States Naval Reserve serving since 2011. He is a hos-



pital corpsman with a rank of rank of 3rd class petty officer (e-4). John is not married but has a stepdaughter Tessa Therrien with Brittney Kannan. His parents are Beth and Rich Hoehn of Methuen.

Police Officer of the year 2016

Officer William Kannan

Officer William Kannan was born and raised on Methuen. William graduated from Central Catholic High School in 2004. Af-

ter high school, William attended Northern Essex Community College and received his associate's degree in criminal justice. William graduated from the Reading Police Academy on January 15th, 2013. William lives in Methuen with his wife, Meghan, and their two sons, Tucker and Cal.

Police Officer of the Year 2016

Officer Matthew Morel

A lifelong Methuen resident, Matthew

Morel has been with the Methuen Police Department since February 2015. Matthew graduated from Methuen Police Academy at Northern Essex Community College and received the highest academic average. Matthew attended the University of Massachusetts Lowell and received his bachelor's degree in criminal justice, graduating Magna Cum Laude in 2013. Matthew graduated from Methuen High School in 2009.

Legislature Will Honor Will of Voters to Legalize and Regulate Pot – But...

Linda Dean Campbell
STATE REP. METHUEN, HAVERHILL

We should begin discussions to focus upon the concerns of our local communities as well as develop better formulated estimates of cost. We need to start discussions as soon as possible so that the new commission on legalization of marijuana will be aware of our concerns from the beginning. Although the leading proponents of this ballot question generally want to allow the commission to deliberate and make conclusions with a minimum of public input – that would result in easily preventable problems, unnecessary negative consequence, and would likely delay implementation of the measure.

There is no justification why the Legisla-

ture cannot or should not solicit testimony from the public and the following groups, as to how best implement this ballot initiative:

Local Leaders: Different communities have real and different concerns. Some of our communities border New Hampshire and, because of both geography and road network, are already a waypoint for illicit drug sales, especially opiates, from suppliers South to points North. Are our communities going to end up as the marijuana market for points North? Additionally, most communities want more say as to how public spaces are defined and where use shall be prohibited. Additionally, they wonder how home grown marijuana can be effectively regulated.

Law Enforcement: Law enforcement has many concerns that, if addressed, will

prevent great difficulties later. For instance, one problem with the decriminalization ballot measure passed several years ago is that the \$100 civil fine for use in public cannot practically be enforced because individuals are not obligated to correctly identify themselves or produce identification to the police when caught. What will be effective fines and penalties that aim to prevent impaired driving?

Medical Personnel: We have many experts here in the Commonwealth on this topic who can help us protect our youth and inform us in regards to what we should anticipate in the evolution of marijuana products. We need to prepare for regulating synthetic marijuana and for regulating strains of marijuana developed to be far more potent.

Regulators, Inspectors and Code Enforcers: We should get expert testimony on how we can and should inspect both retail establishments and enforce limits on home growers. We need to accurately estimate how much effective regulation will cost the State and bring in through offsetting revenues. It is necessary to set up a regulatory process before we launch. Based upon the information available from other states, this will likely cost between 15 and 30 million dollars.

While I understand the desire of the industry and proponents to move forward quickly, we must keep in mind that it is the Legislature's responsibility to develop the laws that implement any ballot initiative in a manner that best serves the people of our Commonwealth.

Presidential Election Offers Teachable Moments for Methuen Students

DJ Deeb
METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The fall has been a busy time for students and staff in Methuen public schools. September, October, and November have been packed with numerous activities including test preparation, mock presidential elections, educator goal-setting, and maintenance repair work, among other things.

As a career educator at both the high school and college levels, I can appreciate the teaching opportunity that presents itself every four years with the presidential elections. This always seems to be the best time to teach about the primary election process involving political parties, the Electoral College, the roles and responsibilities of the Chief Executive, the checks and balances provided by both the legislative and judicial branches of our Federal Government, and the initiative process at the state level. Methuen students have been learning about these things at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Students at Methuen's elementary schools received a hands-on lesson with being allowed to vote in student mock elections for U.S. President. As is usually the case, student votes reflect

how their parents vote in the community and thus Hillary Clinton won the popular vote with the students. Being able to vote in mock elections provides a valuable learning lesson to students about the importance and meaning of voting. I am grateful that our teachers and administrators made the necessary arrangements to allow for this important lesson to take place. In addition, the MHS Democrats and Republicans worked together with the League of Women Voters to register more than 60 high school students to vote in this year's presidential election. Kudos to Methuen teachers and administrators for making this learning opportunity possible and to students for participating!

By the beginning of November, Methuen public school teachers had completed their annual Educator Plans as part of their evaluations and they have started to work on their proposed action steps. These plans help to ensure that everyone is working together in order to prepare our students to be lifelong learners.

Congratulations to our Methuen Varsity Cheerleading Team who will be competing in the National Competition to be held at the Kay Bailey Hutchinson Center in Dallas Texas on January 21-22, 2017. Best of luck to our Methuen Rangers

Cheerleaders!

Bruce Stella, Director of Facilities and Maintenance, reported to the School Committee that "Our maintenance staff has been busy on our rooftops, changing bearings, filters, and motors. They have already completed the seasonal HVAC conversion, including cooling tower cleanings, chiller turn-on and boiler switchover." Stella added, "By utilizing the talents and expertise of our maintenance staff we can claim a savings of approximately \$7,500 on each start up (as we have previously contracted outside for the service)." I am always grateful to our support staff whenever we save the taxpayers' money! Kudos to Bruce Stella and the Methuen Schools Maintenance Staff!

On a personal note, I would like to offer some reflections on the recent elections. First off, thank you to Methuen voters to overwhelmingly voting against the expansion of Charter Schools. I explained in my October column the reasons for opposing more Charter Schools in Massachusetts. Although I supported Sen. Ted Cruz in the Primary, I cannot be more thrilled about the victory of Donald Trump as President. I predicted this outcome on social media two weeks

before. As a conservative who favors slashing government spending, repealing Obamacare, balancing the budget, abolishing Federal Government agencies, eliminating Common Core, and reducing taxes, I have high hopes for President-Elect Trump and I wish him well as he takes office. We understand and expect that there will be some compromises and practical modifications that will need to be made, but we expect that most of the promises he made will be carried out, especially given that Congress remains controlled by Republicans. I hope Tom Duggan's predictions of what to expect in the November issue of The Valley Patriot hold true!

D.J. Deeb is a Methuen resident and member of the Methuen School Committee. Deeb is an Adjunct Professor of History/Government at Bunker Hill Community College and an Adjunct Political Science Instructor at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Deeb also serves as Social Studies Department Chair at Notre Dame High School in Lawrence, Massachusetts. He is the author of Israel, Palestine, and the Quest for Middle East Peace (University Press, 2013) and The Collapse of Middle East Peace (IUniverse, 2003).

Why I Voted for Donald Trump

As election day drew near, it was clear that the media was not painting an accurate picture of Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, so we all needed to look at what we saw as our biggest priorities. These were my top priorities in no particular order.

Donald Trump wants to build a wall protecting our southern border with Mexico.

Hillary Clinton wants open borders.

Trump will deport criminals who are also illegal aliens, and put them in jail if they come back illegally a second time.

Clinton will make them all citizens and give them welfare.

Trump wants those here illegally to go home and apply for citizenship.

Clinton will make them all citizens and give them welfare.

Trump will stop the flow of immigration from countries that hate us.

Clinton will open the floodgates to those countries and give them all welfare.

Trump will lower business taxes.

Clinton will raise them.

Trump will lower government regulations.

Clinton will significantly expand them.

Trump wants to stop shipping our jobs to other countries.

Clinton wants to outsource as much as



she possibly can.

Trump believes we are an independent, sovereign country.

Clinton believes we should be part of a one world government.

Trump opposes the death tax.

Clinton thinks your kids don't deserve to inherit what you leave them when you die.

Trump stands with the men and women of law enforcement.

Clinton stands with the domestic terror group "Black Lives Matter".

Trump wants to stop with the political correctness and call things what they are.

Hillary wants us all to check our white privilege.

Trump will spend more money building up our military.

Hillary will spend more money on citizens of other countries.

Trump understands you have to go in and wipe out ISIS, like YESTERDAY.

Hillary likes long protracted wars with troops on the ground.

Trump will stop the Trans Pacific Partnership.

Hillary will support and expand it.

Trump supports charter schools and local control of education spending.

Clinton thinks the Department of Education should dictate curriculum and spending on your local schools from Washington DC.

Trump is a real outsider.

Hillary has decades of scores to settle and favors owed.

Trump will appoint Supreme Court justices who will apply the constitution as written.

Clinton will appoint Supreme Court justices who think the constitution is a "living breathing document" that can change to say what we want it to say, instead of what it actually says.

Trump opposes abortion.

Hillary Clinton not only supports abortion, she supports government funding of abortion and even supports late term abortions in the 9th month where the baby is literally killed as it is exiting the womb.

Trump believes in capitalism.

Hillary believes in socialism.

Trump understands how corrupt and dishonest the news media is at the national level and takes it on.

Hillary benefits from it and says the national news media is fair and balanced... forgive the pun.

Trump lies about stupid things like who said what 20 years ago.

Clinton lies about government actions, her role in them, her own actions, and rewrites history after she is caught lying.

Trump will support term limits for congress.

Hillary does not.

Trump believes our enemies should fear us.

Hillary thinks we can make our enemies in Iran and Afghanistan like us if we are just nice to them.

For me, the choice was clear.

Lowell a Sanctuary City? And Other Interesting tid bits...

John MacDonald

VALLEY PATRIOT LOWELL COLUMNIST

As the rumor mill usually does in Lowell, it has worked overtime, through the magic of social media and not to be left out of a national discussion, the topic of being a "Sanctuary City" has reared its ugly head. As one might surmise from my series of articles in The Valley Patriot, that I am clearly not in favor of Lowell being a Sanctuary City. I have personally been involved with the issue of legal immigration and in the past I even developed and promoted a legal streamlined program for legal immigrants/aliens to become legal citizens of these United States of America. It was employer based, helped fund the application process and even worked with immigration attorneys to help people that really wanted to be part of the greatest nation on earth.

I believe anyone seeking citizenship and who follows the process, are doing things legally and prove themselves... deserves the right to become a legal citizen. Those who have come here illegally, have avoided the process, have broken the law, avoided paying taxes and put a burden on the public services that legal citizens have fought and paid for... deserve a one-way ticket out of the country. Period.

Cities that openly violate federal law, oh hell... break the law... should not receive federal funding. Public officials that promote, demand and or vote to become a "Sanctuary City" should be impeached, charged, tried and convicted in a court of law for breaking the law. Yes, public officials breaking the law should serve jail time. Period.

It's outrageous that a public official would willingly place a burden on public safety and demand that they also violate

the law. Demand that they ignore undocumented, law breaking illegal immigrants, who willingly live in the shadows and circumvent the laws of our nation. Realize that when a citizen of the United States breaks the law, law enforcement uses a database of information from finger prints to credit card purchases to track down and find the individual who has broken the law. Often undocumented illegal immigrants do not have that element to their background, making their capture all that more elusive. In addition, does it seem fair at all that these same public officials that support "Sanctuary Cities", want you, the legal citizen, to pay for all the burdens on the system that illegal immigrants cause? The answer is no. Period!

So, Lowell City Councilors should think long and hard, before they open this can or worms. I believe the outrage would turn this city on its ear and Lowellians could pretty much count on a new City Council getting elected. I like this current council, but an issue like this would turn my opinion of them... quickly.

Eliminating Plastic Bags in Lowell?

A Lowell High School teacher looking to encourage his students into civil engagement thought it a wonderful idea to promote eliminating plastic bags at local stores. Evidently the students are going to approach city council and demand that like the City of Cambridge, Lowell join in on this plastic bag ban.

My opinion... Isn't there an owl to save? How about picking up trash on the streets or finding a solution to panhandlers? How about a class for High School kids on how to cross the streets and not walk into traffic when the light turns green? How about having a "turn off the cell phones" and ITUNES for a day, so they can learn how to communicate again

THE POOR "CHILDREN" COMING TO AMERICA



like humans? How about financial literacy and balancing a checkbook?

No, instead let's place a burden on local commerce and find a way to charge and tax the consumer once again, by banning plastic bags and demanding people bring their own. BYOBag. Sorry... this is nonsense. It will probably be heard, but again... who really wants to become the City of Cambridge? Who wants to send Lowell shoppers to neighboring communities that have convenient plastic bags? I don't. I suggest Lowell City Councilors, put an end to it quickly.

Projections for a new Lowell High School soar!

So, the new projections for a brand new High School are more than expected... "SHOCKER". Construction costs and material costs have increased, since the idea was originally proposed. Only in Lowell

will a newly renovated High School cost less than a new one. Yes... Only in Lowell do we defy the laws of construction budgeting and finance and are the opposite of every other community in the state, possibly the nation, when it comes to building a new High School.

I'm calling shenanigans. Something foul has been in the pot for a long time and I don't expect things to change. There's a powerful silent majority of nostalgia lovers that want this High School to remain downtown. This might just be their way to do it.

There will be a lot more on this as time goes on, but readers keep an eye on this issue. It will be a big one as Lowell also needs a new police station. Stay tuned!

Holiday Season!

Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah to all Valley Patriot Readers! God bless!

MARK THE DATE!!

THE VALLEY PATRIOT BASH!

Fri. March 24, 2017 at 7PM

TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK

HEROES AND BOZOS OF 2016

HERO CHARLIE BAKER -

One of the most important things that happened in Massachusetts this year was the passage of a new public records law that actually holds public officials accountable for concealing public documents. When Charlie Baker was running for the governor he said on my radio show that he couldn't commit to signing the new public records bill, saying he would need to see the final details before he could support it. After four years of wrangling, deal making, debating, and rewriting the bill, a new public records bill found its way to Governor Baker's office and he signed it. The new law will take effect next month and while it couldn't have been done without the efforts of Rep. Diana DiZogio (D), and State Senator Katy Ives, Charlie Baker signed the bill that will allow you access to your government records.

BOZOS - LAWRENCE CITY COUNCILORS MODESTO MALDONADO AND NILKA ALVAREZ RODRIGUEZ- Never letting facts get in the way of a good political narrative, Maldonado and Alvarez have been two of the strongest supporters of rapists, murderers and other violent felons being given sanctuary in Lawrence. How any elected official can take the oath of office to preserve, protect and defend the US Constitution and then advocate violating that restriction by making their city a sanctuary for drug dealers, child molesters and other criminals who are citizens of other countries is beyond me. When I was growing up we had a word for people like that: traitors. Now, every time an illegal alien with a violent criminal record commits violence against a citizen in Lawrence you should all send your Thank You letters to Modesto Maldonado and Nilka Alvarez Rodriguez who are more interested in representing the citizens of other governments than the citizens of this country who elected them.

HERO MARCOS DEVERS

One of the saddest things to happen in 2016 was the defeat of our good friend Representative Marcos Devers in the legislature by a left wing regressive Juana Mattias. Devers often broke with his party as an independent thinker, supporting Voter ID, opposing abortion and angering his party bosses by not towing the party line. But more than that, Devers spent a



Kelly Tatten of Billerica. \$100,000 prize (less tax withholdings). She purchased her ticket at Alltown, 900 Chelmsford Rd. in Lowell.

great deal of time helping the people of Lawrence by getting funding for the city and working well with the mayor and other officials. Devers poured his heart and soul into being a state representative for the people of Lawrence and as such he deserves to be remembered as one of the best advocates Lawrence has ever had.

BOZOS - MCKESSEN CORP. OF METHUEN

For months the people of west Methuen have been complaining about the excessive noise coming from McKessen at 3AM, 5AM and other ungodly hours. They complained to McKessen and got nowhere. They complained to the city and got nowhere. They complained to the state and got nowhere. On request of one neighbor, I took a drive over there late one night (at 2AM) to see for myself what was going on and was horrified to hear loud construction type noises echoing through the residential neighborhood near the plant. One would think that McKessen would want to be good neighbors and restrict their excessive noise to day time hours, but the response from McKessen has been to claim that according to decibel meters they are in compliance with the law, which we now know cannot be true.

A BIG BOZO to the people of McKessen as well as city officials for letting this issue fester for as long as it has. We hope 2017 will be much more peaceful for the neighbors of west Methuen who have put up with this nonsense for far too long.

BOZO - STATE REP. JIM LYONS

While it is hard to find a politician in Massachusetts that I agree with more on issues, earlier this year Rep. Lyons made a commitment to participate in a Valley Patriot debate with his Democrat opponent Oscar Camargo. He made that commitment while I was handing him a check for his campaign. But, when it came time to actually make good on his commitment, Lyons took a walk. Now, I have known Lyons a long time and have always considered him to be a man of his word, but for some reason he didn't just refuse to show up for the debate, we didn't even get an apology or a reason why. The Valley Patriot holds candidate debates each year to educate the public, not to benefit ourselves. So, it's no skin off my teeth that he didn't show. But, it does show a level of contempt for the voters that he refused to debate an opponent who had zero chance of beating him anyways. While Lyons deserves great praise for some of his stands against government corruption, he deserves a SUPER BOZO this year for not being transparent enough to sit on a stage and debate before the voters.

HERO - PHIL LAHEY of METHUEN.

Former Methuen City Councilor Phil Lahey has a daughter who was hooked on heroin and as such his life became a living hell that far too many families have experienced since the opioid epidemic hit the area a few years ago. But, being a leader in the community, Phil didn't just sit home and wallow in his family's personal misery. He went out and did something about it. First, he started a cable access TV show to educate people on the dangers of the opioid epidemic. Then he started a community organization to get family members of drug addicts together as a support group which quickly became a vehicle to educate parents and family members on how to recognize addiction, where to go for help and who to talk to for help and advice. What's more, Lahey visits local schools and has enlisted the help of high school and middle school kids across the Merrimack Valley to raise awareness of the dangers of addiction. Phil Lahey and all those who help in this effort are real community heroes and were recognized by the Methuen Exchange

Club with the "Book of Golden Deeds" award last month.

BOZO - SENATOR LIZ WARREN "Donald Trump will never be President of The United States," Senator Warren said a few short weeks before Trump won.

HERO- STATE AUDITOR SUZANNE BUMP - The one thing I never understood about my fellow conservatives is their refusal to give credit where credit is due to Democrats like Suzanne Bump. Let's face it, before Suzanne Bump came along you would never see a state auditor aggressively going after fraud in social and welfare programs for fear it would give those programs a bad name and they would lose funding. Bump believes, as I do, that the more fraud you expose and the more of that money you being back into the state coffers the more truly needy people can be helped. One of the biggest sticking points for us conservatives is waste, fraud, and abuse in our social safety net programs. Why then, can't we support a Democrat who is helping to expose and recover some of that waste, fraud, and abuse? I say we have an obligation to support Democrats who think outside the box and do their jobs well. Bump may be a left wing ideologue when it comes to political issues, but when it comes to being an auditor for the state taxpayers she is an effective leader and she is deserving of being named one of our HEROES of 2016.

HERO - METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEEMAN JANA DINATALE

Earlier this year The Valley Patriot held a pro police rally in Methuen. While we had a tremendous amount of help from dozens of people, one person who unexpectedly stepped forward to help was Jana DiNatale. This wasn't the first time Jana reached out to us to help out, whether giving us needed information for a story or just looking into something she thought we might be interested in here at the paper. Thank you Jana for stepping up!

BOZO - BOXFORD POLICE CHIEF JAMES RITER - I think you will agree that I am one of the most pro-cop people you have ever met. So, it gives me no great pleasure to add a police chief to the BOZO list for 2016. Last month, I got a tip about some activity in Boxford and rather than let it bother me that cops were being accused of bad stuff I submitted a public records request to see for myself what was really there. One of the things I asked for was 24 hours of 911 calls and the corresponding police scanner calls for that same day. The response I got from the chief was \$736.70 bill to pay for the Chief himself, at his hourly rate, to listen to all 24 hours of recordings in case anything on those tapes were not considered a public record and (in his opinion) needed to be redacted or deleted.

But, public phone calls, made by members of the public, to a public police station, answered by a public employee, to dispatch to publicly paid police officers is by definition a public record and shouldn't be redacted or hidden from the public for any reason. Of course, I filed a complaint with Secretary of State Bill Galvin's office and I suspect that the \$736.70 bill will be wiped clean. In the mean time it shakes one's confidence in any police department when their chief believes public 911 calls might not be a public record. I will keep you posted on what we find, if anything.

BOZO - LAWRENCE MAYOR DAN RIVERA - Yeah I like the guy, in fact I like him a lot. However, earlier this year he hired someone to run the Lawrence Public Library over two very highly qualified people who already work there.

NOTEBOOK: NEXT PAGE



A few months ago, seventeen people with disabilities began working at jobs they never thought possible.

- Tom Connors, American Training President & CEO



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FREDDIE SAYS

So Trump took a phone call from Taiwan ... Big deal! China doesn't tell us who to talk to, neither does CNN!

**Freddie also Says
EAT AT THE DAILY DOSE
CAFE at PENTUCKET MEDICAL
IN LAWRENCE
978-557-8601**

The person Dan hired does not have even close to the qualifications as Kemal Bozjurt and Rosemary McCullough-Ghali. You can read our editorial on page two for my second reason Dan gets Bozo this year.

BOZO - SALISBURY TOWN MANAGER NEIL HARRINGTON

As scandals go it's not Watergate, but the town manager has been violating the open meeting law for a long time and this time he got caught. A man named Patrick Higgins filed a complaint with the Attorney General's Office because the town held a Board of Selectmen executive session where they never informed the public exactly what was being discussed, and never published the address where the meeting was being held.

HERO - KELLY ANNE CONWAY

A mother of four, Kelly Anne Conway is the first woman to manage a successful presidential campaign. She tolerated disgraceful accusations of racism and a news media that was so corrupt and so biased against the Trump campaign that the win alone is monumental. But, I have to wonder why Senator Elizabeth Warren is not touting the accomplishment of the first woman to successfully run a presi-

dential campaign? Maybe because Senator Warren only cares about women who share her Alt-left, extremist views and not women in general.

BOZO - JEB BUSH, MITT ROMNEY
It's hard to think of anyone who had more wrong this past year than Jeb Bush and Mitt Romney. Like Elizabeth Warren, both men predicted that Donald Trump would not even win the Republican nomination, much less the presidency. The old guard of the Republican Party needs to get what happened here in 2016. The Republican Party won a landslide mandate, taking the house, the senate, the presidency, and by default the Supreme Court and all lower courts. This proves that the path the old guard of the GOP was on, moreover, their cowering to left wing assaults on our culture, was a losing formula they would have kept repeating over and over no matter how many times they lost. Donald Trump changed that. Pro-gay, anti abortion, anti fair trade, but pro tax breaks, Trump proved you don't need to disagree with Democrats or only agree with the Republican philosophy 100% of the time. Despite his stand on transgender bathrooms, the far right, social conservatives still voted for him in record numbers.

EVENTS

KNIGHTS CHRISTMAS PARTY
On December 15th the Knights of Columbus Council 202 is sponsoring a Christmas Party. This event is free of charge and will be held at Maria's Restaurant in Haverhill, MA. Dinner is included. There will be a series of raffles to benefit our Pro-Life and Ultrasound Fund. This is a great opportunity for all of us to get together and celebrate life! Please RSVP by December 10th. This will be a great event. Deacon Tom Anthony, 40daysforlifehaverhill@gmail.com

ATTENTION METHUEN RESIDENTS

There is a contractor now in front of the Methuen Zoning Board requesting to build a six-story, 175 unit, Chapter 40(b) (affordable housing) high-rise across from the Loop between Target and TD Bank.

With 1, 2, and 3 bedroom units, the number of residents could exceed 500. This will have a negative impact on Methuen. Traffic will increase in the Loop area, there will be additional strain on public safety resources, our schools will be overcrowded, and the list can go on. The need for additional public safety resources and the possibility of needing another school will mean higher property taxes for homeowners. You can help stop this project! Please plan to attend the next Zoning Board Meeting to voice your disapproval of this project on Tuesday, January 3rd. at 7pm at the Searles Building - Great Hall, 41 Pleasant St., Methuen, MA.



Ella's Lazarus House
Holiday Fundraiser

Seven year old Ella Gabryjelski of Methuen thought it was so important to help people less fortunate than she during the holidays that she started a fund raising page on the internet to raise money for Christmas presents for low income families at Lazarus House in Lawrence. Ella's mom says the original goal was to raise \$100 for Lazarus House, assuming people would give \$1-5 per donation, as an introductory exercise on what it

would be like to raise funds (and all the follow up responsibility that comes with it).

But Ella was blown away when the original goal was exceeded within hours, "so we encouraged her to set an aggressive target of \$300, but in less than a week, she has raised over \$800."

To visit Ella's page go to: razoo.com/us/story/Ellashea

PSYCH CENTER GETS \$2,500 GRANT

The Psychological Center, Inc. has been awarded a \$2,500 grant from the Essex County Community Foundation (ECCF).

TPC received the grant from ECCF's Merrimack Valley General Fund, a field of interest fund serving agencies in the areas of arts and culture, education, social and community services, and youth service in the Eastern Merrimack Valley.

Funds from the grant will be used to help support TPC's programs -- Daybreak Shelter, Pegasus House and Women's View -- which have 80 beds combined to assist individuals struggling with addiction and homelessness.

"We are so thankful for the generosity of organizations like the Essex County Community Foundation who help support our programs," said Carina Pappalardo, CEO of The Psychological Center. "Because of their kindness, more of our guests will be taken off of the cold streets and given a hot meal and a warm place to sleep."

NECC - BEST FOR VETS - For the second year in a row, Northern Essex

Community College has received the prestigious designation as one of the "Best for Vets: Colleges 2017" by the "Military Times". It ranked 17 out of hundreds of colleges and universities.

Northern Essex is just one of 25, two-year schools nationwide to receive this honor and one of 175 colleges and universities to receive the designation overall. More than 500 colleges took part in this year's survey. It was one of four Massachusetts community colleges to rank in the top 25.

If the rankings seem thin, they are for a reason.

"We limit our list to encourage competition, and we genuinely hope this helps raise the bar for veterans on campus," said Amanda Miller, editor of "Best for Vets". "We award the Best for Vets designation to the very best - the colleges that really are setting the example."

TOYS FOR TOTS, TOY DRIVE

The Massachusetts State Lottery is encouraging customers to participate in its Holiday Toy Drive to benefit the U.S.

NOTEBOOK: PAGE 12

J. Brian's pub & grille

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IN YOUR CORNER WITH SENATOR KATY IVES

An Urgent Threat to Road Safety

Kathleen O'Connor Ives
MASSACHUSETTS STATE SENATOR

The sight of military-style vehicles barreling down the narrow streets of Boston is a common one to those who live or work in the city. People may wonder how the iconic duck boats can safely manage to navigate the streets with bikes, motorcycles and pedestrians, all while giving tours. The truth is—they cannot.

On April 30, 2016, a young woman named Allison Warmuth stopped her scooter at a red light just down the street from the State House. The duck boat idling behind her lurched forward when the light turned green, unaware of Allison hidden in the bulky vehicle's blind spot. The tour boat struck and killed her.

This incident mobilized her parents, safety advocates and lawmakers to demand common sense measures to reduce the likelihood of a similar tragedy happening again. When I heard the news of what happened at the corner of Charles and Beacon, I was eager to co-sponsor a bill filed by my colleague, State Senator William Brownsberger, in order to put an end to the dangerous operational practices of some duck boat tour and trolley companies.

Senate Bill 2473, "An Act Relative to Amphibious Sight-Seeing Vehicle Safety," not only mandates the installation of blind spot cameras and sensors on amphibious tour vehicles, but critically, it would also not allow drivers to simultaneously drive and give tours to passengers. Instead, a second person, who is not driving, would be the tour guide. Critically, this bill was enacted in both the Massachusetts Senate and House of Representatives on December 1. The Governor has ten days to sign the bill in order to make it law.

For there to be any modicum of reasonable safety, there should be a driver focused on driving, and a tour guide focused on providing tour descriptions. Presently, tour operators may have one



staff person, responsible for both driving these large vehicles, and giving detailed audio tours through Boston's busy streets. And there are no requirements for blind spot cameras.

In response to the tragic death of Allison Warmuth in April, as well as several other incidents thereafter, some duck boat tour companies offered empty solutions meant only to quell a growing public relations storm, rather than a true desire to quickly improve safety conditions. Their lack of responsiveness and insensitivity to the loss of human life on account of their operations was inexcusable, and created the urgency of this legislation. To put it simply, if the company does not want to pay two staff people to ensure a safer operation for passengers, drivers and pedestrians, then this legislation will hopefully mandate it.

The requirements of this legislation should already be happening in response to this tragedy, but they are not, and that is why this legislation is so important. I thank State Senator Will Brownsberger for filing this bill and drawing needed public scrutiny to these dangerous practices, and I look forward to Governor Baker signing the bill into law.

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

State Again Fines Healey Donors
\$10K for Illegal Contributions

An Avon-based businessman and his bookkeeper who illegally contributed to Attorney General Maura Healey's political campaign have agreed to pay \$7,500 and \$2,500 respectively to resolve a review by the Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finances.

The state fined Brian Bairos, the owner and president of Colorado Ave., LLC, in Rhode Island, and McIsaac and Bairos New England Distribution, LLC, in Avon. Ashley Arruda is the bookkeeper for the Avon distribution company.

According to the disposition agreement with Bairos and Arruda, Arruda's parents made contributions to candidates in October and November 2015 totaling \$3,000. Arruda used her personal funds to reimburse her parents for those contributions. Subsequently, Bairos used \$6,000 in corporate funds to fully reimburse Arruda in December 2015 for contributions she, her boyfriend and her parents made to candidates.

Three candidates received prohibited funds – Attorney General Maura Healey (\$4,000); Boston Mayor Martin Walsh (\$4,000); and Quincy Mayor Thomas Koch (\$1,000).

According to the disposition agreement, Bairos' company, and Arruda personally, made contributions to three candidates in 2015 by arranging for multiple individuals to make contributions in their own names, totaling \$9,000.

The campaign finance laws prohibit contributions made in a manner to dis-

guise the true source of the funds, and prohibits corporations from contributing to candidates directly or indirectly. This is the 11th "true source" case resolved by OCPF since 2013, resulting in a total of \$566,000 in civil forfeiture payments. All disposition agreements are posted on the OCPF website here.

In a press release Monday, officials at OCPF said there is no reason to believe that the candidates knew they received illegal contributions. The candidates have voluntarily disgorged, or will disgorge, the prohibited funds by Dec. 31, 2016. Disgorgements are made according to the "residual funds clause" in Section 18 of the campaign finance law – to the state, a municipality, charity or scholarship fund.

The agreement, available here, was signed by OCPF Director Michael J. Sullivan, Bairos and Arruda.

Using personal funds, Bairos made a \$2,500 civil forfeiture payment to the state's general fund when the disposition agreement was signed, and has agreed to make \$2,500 payments by Dec. 31, 2016, and March 31, 2017. Arruda made a \$1,250 civil forfeiture payment to the state's general fund when the agreement was signed, and agreed to make another \$1,250 payment by Dec. 31, 2016.

A disposition agreement is a voluntary written agreement entered into between the subject of a review and OCPF, in which the subject agrees to take certain specific actions.



FROM THE OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN AND POLITICAL FINANCE

State Fines Illegal Donors to
Political Campaigns

The Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance (OCPF) defines a "straw donation" as donations from individuals who funnel money to candidates or campaign committees using funds that were given to them by another person or entity for that purpose. For example, state law prohibits corporations from donating to political campaigns.

OCPF has resolved 11 "straw donor" legal cases since 2013, including four so far this year, with total civil forfeiture payments of \$566,000. They say the recent uptick is likely due to audit procedures and an increased public awareness, which drives complaints and investigations.

"It's a problem we'd like to resolve through education, not by opening more cases," said OCPF Director Michael Sullivan.

"We urge candidates to ask questions if they receive several employee contributions from one company. Before depositing, ask the question, 'are these funds really from the individuals signing the

checks?'"

The campaign finance law prohibits disguising the true source of contributions, and bans most business contributions to candidates, PACs or party committees that are made directly or indirectly. In each case reviewed by OCPF since 2013, individuals or their businesses gave money to employees, friends, or family, and those straw donors gave to candidates.

The subjects of the reviews settled with OCPF and paid civil forfeiture payments to the state's general fund (in one case, money was also paid to municipalities). OCPF had no reason to believe that any candidates knew they were receiving contributions from straw donors. One of the most recent settlement payments, \$185,000, was the largest in OCPF's history and is described in detail on line. If OCPF decides not to settle a case, or cannot, the individuals involved can be referred to the Attorney General's office, resulting in possible criminal charges.

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NOTEBOOK: FROM PAGE 9



MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL THE VALLEY PATRIOT READERS, FROM EVERYONE AT MICHAUD INSURANCE IN METHUEN!

Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program, while raising awareness that lottery tickets are not suitable gifts for children.

From now through Friday, December 16, new, unwrapped toys can be dropped off at the Lottery's Braintree headquarters and at its New Bedford, Springfield, Woburn and Worcester regional offices. Hours are Monday through Friday, 8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Toys will be donated to Toys for Tots campaigns in the respective regions.

"Lottery employees have been loyal contributors to Toys for Tots for many years through our internal program and this year we are pleased to extend this effort to include our customers," said Michael Sweeney, Executive Director of the Mass. Lottery.

"By putting the focus on giving toys to children, this is also a great opportunity to remind the public that while lottery tickets may be great gifts for adults, they are not appropriate gifts for anyone under the age of 18."

The Mass. Lottery joins lotteries across North America on an annual basis in participating in a Lottery Holiday Campaign conducted by the National Council on Problem Gambling and the International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors at McGill Uni-

versity. The mission of the campaign is to promote responsible lottery play by discouraging the giving of lottery tickets as gifts to children.

The Mass. Lottery is a member of the Massachusetts Partnership for Responsible Gambling. If you or someone you know has a problem with gambling, contact the Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling at 1-800-426-1234 or visit www.masscompulsivegambling.org.

DOWNTOWN LOWELL RESTAURANTS FEATURE THE WORK OF LOCAL ARTISTS

Exhibits Run: Nov 4, - Dec 31, 2016

Local community arts organizer, Mary Hart, is very pleased to announce the opening of two new art installations in downtown Lowell. David R. Jones at TreMonte Pizzeria Restaurant and Bar and Blake Brasher at Mandarin Asian Bistro.

David R. Jones: Since his years in Paris, France, in the 1970s, David R. Jones worked primarily in black and white ink drawing. It was only in the last decade, at the suggestion of an artist friend, that Jones switched to oils, combining intense color with meticulous line...and has never looked back. The selection of work at TreMonte includes work inspired by his travels and meditations on the human

condition. As a full-time artist he creates unique works that he hopes "will speak to people in the depth of their being, bringing light to the imagination, the mind and the eyes."

TreMonte Restaurant will host an opening reception for David R. Jones on Thursday, Nov 10th, from 6 - 8 PM. Jones is active in the Arts League of Lowell and the Brush Art Gallery, where he is a studio member.

Blake Brasher: Contemporary painter, Blake Brasher splits his time between a consulting job as a robotics researcher for Google and a prolific studio practice, producing at least 4 new paintings a week.

Working on many small paintings at a time allows him to develop a theme and work out the details of media layering,

color and proportion. This process enables the resulting larger painting to emerge. Brasher says his works are "an exploration of human consciousness."

Mandarin Asian Bistro will host an opening reception for Blake Brasher on Sunday, Nov 13, from 4 - 6 PM. A former Industry Lab artist-in-residence in Cambridge, MA, works out of his Gates Block studio in Lowell. Both exhibits are curated by Mary Hart.

TreMonte Pizzeria Restaurant and Bar is located at 44 Palmer Street; Mandarin Asian Bistro, a Chinese food and Sushi restaurant, is located at 24 Market Street, both in Lowell. Receptions are free and open to the public.

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KATHY'S LAWRENCE NOTEBOOK

Election Post Mortum

Kathy Runge
LAWRENCE COLUMNIST

The election is finally over, but it just won't go away. Donald Trump is our president-elect and the crybabies won't stop whining. When it was speculated that Trump could win the popular vote and lose the Electoral College there were no complaints from the Hillary supporters, but now they're complaining. Here's a message for all of the complainers:

Both sides campaigned to win the Electoral College, which Trump won. Magnificently. If the winner of the election were decided by the popular vote, both sides would have spent their campaign money and time differently. They'd have gone to different states and advertised differently. I don't know what the results would have been, but it's certain that the final vote tallies would have been different. Trump won. Get over it.

It was disappointing to watch some of our local Democratic politicians being good little robots, jumping on every hash tag that the political elite came up with. I don't want to see another hash tag about Chachi or "nasty hombres" ever again.

I went to two city polling locations around closing time and was concerned by what I saw.

At precinct B2, which votes at Valebrook, Councilor at Large Brian DePena was hanging out behind the check-in table, inside the voting area. No one's supposed to be inside the rail except poll workers and people who are voting. I took a picture of him and a few minutes later DePena, with a policeman beside him, asked me if I took his picture. He told me that it was illegal to take pictures at a polling location. I denied taking the picture. What was he going to do? Tell the officer to arrest me? Make me delete the picture? Pictures aren't prohibited; photographs of people's marked ballots are prohibited. Councilor DePena had no business hanging out inside the vot-

ing area, he shouldn't have been anywhere near there.

Also at Valebrook, before the 8pm closing there was a stack of ballots sitting on one table. I assume they had been taken out of the envelopes they were placed in during early voting. After 8 PM they started running these ballots through the machine. I don't know how long that stack had been sitting around, but it doesn't look good having a pile of uncounted completed ballots laying on a table, especially with a City Councilor wandering around. When a ballot comes out of the envelope it should be fed into the machine.

After 8 PM I went to the Brien building, where C3 votes. The doors to the voting room were locked. There were stacks of ballots in their envelopes and poll workers visible through a small window in the door. Council President Kendrys Vasquez was inside the locked room observing. Elections are a public process. They should never be conducted behind locked doors, and an elected official should never be locked in there with them.

Elected officials and candidates should be made to vote early (both DePena and Vasquez did) and stay 150 feet away from the entrance to polling locations with the sign holders.

The Board of Registrars was supposed to meet on Nov. 9 to discuss the election. The meeting was cancelled. The Board of Registrars was supposed to meet on Nov. 15 to discuss the election. The meeting was cancelled. The Board of Registrars was supposed to meet on Nov. 16 to discuss the election. The meeting was cancelled.

Next month we'll have an analysis of the voting list from the election and yes, we have many cases of potential fraudulent voting. Was there a connection to early voting?

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Make America Great Again!



Methuen Police donate nearly \$3,000 to Cops for Kids with Cancer as part of No Shave November. Methuen Police show off their beards grown as part of No Shave November to benefit Cops for Kids with Cancer. (Courtesy Photo)

Methuen Cops Help Kids with Cancer

The Methuen Police Department and Methuen Police Patrolman's Union raised \$2,920 for Cops for Kids With Cancer through their participation in No Shave November.

Each of the 55 participating officers pledged a donation to Cops for Kids with Cancer, and, in turn, were granted a month-long waiver from the department policy restricting facial hair growth. This year's participation was double the number of officers who gave in 2015.

The department raised \$1,460 as a result of the 30-day-fundraiser, which was then matched by the Methuen Police Patrolman's Union, resulting in a total of \$2,920 donated to the charity.

"Cops for Kids with Cancer is a worthy cause for the Methuen Police Department to represent," Mayor Zanni said. "We believe in leading by example here in Methuen, and that starts with our police officers giving back to the community in a variety of ways."

This is the second year that Methuen has participated in No Shave November on behalf of Cops for Kids with Cancer.

"I'm proud of the strong turnout from this year's officers," Chief Solomon said. "In particular, I'd like to recognize Detective Eric Deleon for organizing this initiative and building upon last year's success."



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6:00pm, December 15th
15 de diciembre

Hennessey School

9:30am, December 16th
16 de diciembre

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5:30pm, December 20th
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One of The Valley Patriot's biggest fans, Ann Marie Levesque Senese eagerly awaits her newspaper every month and is never shy about her support for what we do. She posted this photo on Facebook last month to let all her friends know the paper was in!



Ten month old Rylee Willette of Salem, NH and 8 year old Joshua Willette from Methuen enjoy time in fire truck. Rylee's mom says she loves bringing them to community activities. Rylee's grandfather was a hero captain in the fire department.



YAY AVA! This "Support Our Police" Christmas Tree was voted best tree at the Methuen Festival of Trees this year and wouldn't you know it, Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan's niece Ava Kruschwitz won this very tree. It currently sits in Ava's living room in Pelham, NH, just waiting for Santa to come and put presents under it.



If you have not seen our Valley Patriot TV commercial yet, we will be running it through March of 2017 on CNN, FOXNEWS, MSNBC, and NECN. Potential advertisers who mention the TV ad will get 10% off all advertising. Thank you Attorney Andy LaCourse, Rosanna Zingales-Lopez of TEAM ZINGALES, and the Tarshi Law Office for participating in the shooting of the commercial.



Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker spent a lot of time in Lawrence during the election trying to shore up votes for Sue Laplante who was running for state senate. Here Charlie talks to one of his biggest fans while touring the Colonial Heights neighborhood.

Ye Gay Ol' Valley

Methuen LGBTQ Youth
Weigh in on Trump

Dani Langevin

VALLEY PATRIOT LESBIAN COLUMNIST

I am blissfully now teaching sophomore U.S. History at the newly and beautifully renovated Methuen High School and loving it. I am also the co-advisor for the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA). My colleague, Brendan Cripps, and I have the privilege to meet with an incredibly vibrant, creative, and eclectic group of teenagers who define themselves as gay, straight, lesbian, bisexual, pansexual, asexual, queer, bigender, and so on. These students, who can number close to 30 on any given Thursday afternoon when we meet, are intelligent and well educated in the world of sexual identity and its fluidity. For the rest of the school year, I will be posing a question to the members of the GSA that centers on the LGBTQ youth of Methuen. Their answers will be the content of my monthly columns. This month's question: HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT OUR NEW PRESIDENT ELECT AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY?

As an adult member of this community, as soon as I heard of Trump's victory, I felt a wave of panic rush through my body. It wasn't just because I am lesbian, but also because I am a woman and a teacher, too. With that said, I will stick to the topic at hand: what does this mean for the young LGBTQ community. As a historian, so many times in history passed through my mind when marriages of certain people were either thought to be less valid, deemed illegal, or disallowed. Marriages between slaves were not allowed during the 3 centuries of the slave trade, the Nuremberg Laws of Nazi Germany disallowed marriages between Jews and Germans and even revoked the marriages of couples who already were married, whites couldn't marry blacks until June of 1967 in America. In fact anti-miscegenation laws have and still exist in places like Egypt, China, Saudi Arabia, Africa, India, and France. Marriage between same sex couples has only been legal for 12 years and, although it has moved into its second decade, there are still those who can't get over it and want it to be made illegal again. So why wouldn't the LGBTQ youth in America be concerned when a man, who is about to be given the keys to the most powerful office in the world, admits that he hasn't, "Given much thought," to the treatment of its community?

The concern for their own future in a country that Trump will be running for the next four years is strong and not at the least optimistic. One member of my GSA who is also a member of one of America's many minority groups stated, "It makes me feel even more alienated by a society who already has a preference for the 'normal'." Add to the fact that she's also female is, in Trump's ideological world, three strikes. The day after Trump was elected one of my very out students walked into my room swinging his oversized purse announcing, "Miss, I gotta me a ticket outta here, I'm gay and I'm black which means I'm totally screwed and honey," he says looking at me and pointing to my gay pride flag, "I'd take that big ole rainbow flag off that wall cuz Trump will be coming after you." After a chuckle and reminder to "watch his language", the comic relief was short lived because of how frighteningly apropos his statement was.

Several members of the GSA are more worried about the vice president elect Mike Pence who is a proponent for conversion therapy. Conversion therapy! I wonder if



Pence believes that, if he was given conversion therapy, he could become gay.

Fear is an emotion that is echoed within Methuen's LGBTQ community. If it's felt in our city, I know that it is felt in our state and country, too. Andrew, a member of the GSA, said that Trump being president frightens him. Can you imagine not having even reached your voting age and being frightened of the leader of your country because you fear that he is not supportive of you? Elijah feels, "like America will be taking a huge step backwards in the goal to equality. These are the words of our children, our prosperity, our legacy and they are telling those who voted for Trump that they are frightened. What can we do, as adults, to assure that their future is bright, protected and promising? I wish I had the answer."

Samantha is one of the officers of the GSA at MHS. Her response to the question posed was poignant and powerful, "With Donald Trump's back-and-forth method of thinking, and his tendency to say whatever he thinks pleases his listeners, he could be very dangerous for the LGBTQ+ community. Both (Trump and Pence) have shown time and time again that they are not for the LGBTQ+ community, are openly against us, and if they're not for us, we're not for them. Donald Trump is not my president."

Unfortunately for Samantha, he is her president and he is America's president. I did not vote for Trump. I am not one of his "uneducated" supporters that he so vehemently loves nor are any members of my GSA. That being said, I will support him. I will hold the highest of hopes that he is most successful in upholding the beliefs, laws, and expectations of our founding fathers and all those that came before him and us to create a nation that respects life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. I do not want Mr. Trump or Mr. Pence to fail because it would mean the demise of all of us. They are flawed men running a flawed country, but let me make this perfectly clear: they will not and cannot make America great again because we are already GREAT! We are great, but not perfect. We can certainly use some tweaking, refinement, polishing, self-reflection, and modesty. What we don't need is a demagogue. From what I'm seeing, Trump is beginning to deflate, come down to earth, and become a bit more grounded. That is what I hope I can offer my students and members of the GSA who are "frightened" and disenfranchised with our new leaders.

What I want most is to promise Andrew that his dream will come true, "I just want to be happy with the person I love."



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 dblankgevin@aol.com

Beneath the Surface

O Holy Night

Paul Murano

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Christmas season brings out many timeless songs that have been sung for generations, both religious and secular, which brings warmth to the heart. I enjoy the secular side of Christmas and its mythological figures of Santa, Frosty, and Rudolph. In essence it is a celebration of winter in its unique beauty and wonder. It adds to the intrigue of the season for children, and makes the long winters of New England much more bearable for adults. This is why Dennis Prager, a prominent and devout Jew, considers Christmas his holiday. It is a national holiday for every American, those who believe Christ to be divine Savior and those who do not. It is a holiday that uniquely brings 'peace on earth to people of good will.' Why would anyone stop saying "Merry Christmas", Prager sadly wonders.

Yet, Christmas celebrated by Christians comes with an additional astonishing claim; one that is either absolutely bizarre or absolutely life-changing. Christmas claims that the invisible eternal infinite Creator of the universe took on a human nature and became part of His own creation – one of us – with a body and soul, in time and space. That is either the most arrogant androcentric claim ever made in the history of the world or it is the most profound truth demanding our continuous attention and awe. One cannot sort-of, kind-of believe this claim and then live daily life normally. It is an earthquake, not a rainbow.

Although Christians come to believe this amazing doctrine through the supernatural gift of faith, there are ways to come to knowledge of God's existence as well as the Incarnation (God becoming man) through natural human reason. Let us examine beneath the surface one line in my personal favorite Christmas carol, O Holy Night:

"Long lay the world in sin and error pining, 'til He appeared and the soul felt its worth."

This is rife with meaning. Not everyone calls it sin, but on some deep level everyone senses the reality that something is lacking. We live in a world of injustice, selfishness, and suffering. Every human heart pines for more. We see this in the "happily-ever-after" themes of plays, novels, movies, and songs from the beginning of our existence. We seek perfect happiness in marriage, but that falls short. We seek it in money and material goods, but this doesn't satisfy. Sometimes life is so painful we seek to dull the ache with drugs, alcohol, pornography, and "relationships". This makes things worse. In pre-Christian times life was brutal and human dignity was recognized only in the powerful few. In post-Christian times that same indignity has reappeared, this time more subtly in the killing of the unborn. Like the body pines for water in

the desert, which is where we have been metaphorically since our departure from Eden, the soul pines for grace – divine life, which Christ won for mankind through His sacrifice. No other animal experiences this kind of "pining" because only humanity was made for this kind of union with God. Nothing else fully satisfies.

What might it mean that the soul felt its worth? What are you and I worth? There are two ways to answer this question through faith. First, we recall: "God made man in His image. In the divine image He created him, male and female He created them" (Gn 1:26-27). No other earthly creature was made in God's image with a mind to know truth and a will to love. No other earthly creatures are persons, like God is. We have the magnificent ability to rise above our physiological constitution to govern ourselves freely according to the true and good. Further, we possess the breathtaking gift of being able to have a relationship with the divine personal Creator, who is Love, without whom our souls pine and know not their worth.

A second place to discover our worth is in the Incarnation. God broke into history, His-story, and became man at the Annunciation (March 25th) as an embryo, and was born nine months later at Christmas. This is how the soul feels its worth: Out of His infinite love for each one of us, God came to save us from ourselves, from the temporal and eternal misery we made for ourselves. He became the new Adam, saying 'Yes' to God to nullify the effects of the first Adam's 'No'. Each human being is immeasurably valuable to God, regardless of who we are, how much money we have, or how attractive we are to the world. Knowing this is liberating.

The real message of Christmas is both natural and supernatural; temporary and eternal. It celebrates the new birth of the sun (winter solstice), but more importantly the new birth of the Son. Understood and embraced, it makes the world cry out:

"The thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new a glorious morn!"

May you have a merry, and joyous, Christmas season!



Paul Murano teaches philosophy at Rivier University and North Shore Community College and is host of Beneath the Surface radio show on WCAP, Mondays 10-11pm, with podcasts available at [facebook.com/fellowtruthseekers](https://www.facebook.com/fellowtruthseekers). Paul

teaches adult enrichment at St. Patrick's in Nashua, is founder of Heartbeat Pregnancy Help center in Burlington, and is a singer-songwriter-musician. E-mail Paul at PJDM@aol.com



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PHOTO: BETH D'AMATO

The Tipping Point in the National Security Crisis

Beth D'Amato

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Dignitaries Speak at Ahavath Torah Congregation in Stoughton

Four prominent speakers visited a Synagogue in Stoughton last month to talk about the dire state of American national Security and America's relationship with Israel. Retired Lieutenant General Jerry "Blackhawk Down" Boykin (Mogadishu); Frank Gaffney, President of the Center for Security Policy in Washington; and Tom Trento, President of the United West joined former Congresswoman Michele Bachmann (R) - MN in sounding the alarm that America is doing poorly in defending itself against our enemies, both foreign and domestic.

The group specifically spoke about radical Islam and "Sharia" being hidden under the guise of CAIR (Council on American Islamic Relations) and the terrorists of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Anti-Semitic Propaganda from The Boston Globe

Prior to the event Dr. Charles Jacobs, (President of Americans for Peace and Tolerance), issued a press release about the event resulting in a pro-Islam, anti-Semitic demonstration outside the Jewish synagogue. The press release was ignored by The Boston Globe, who then highlighted the propaganda against the event and its speakers. By Lisa Wangness - The Boston Globe Staff November 02, 2016:

"More than 100 prominent Boston-area interfaith leaders have signed a letter

calling upon a Stoughton synagogue to revoke a speaking invitation to three well-known critics of Islam, whom the interfaith objectors called "known purveyors of vitriol and acrimony." Ahavath Torah Congregation is hosting a discussion on Wednesday evening Nov 2nd titled National Security Chaos: Are We Passing the Tipping Point?" The program features Frank Gaffney Jr., founder and president of the Center for Security Policy, who argues "creeping Sharia" law is a serious threat to the American government; Tom Trento, founder of the Florida-based group, The United West; and William G. "Jerry" Boykin, a retired US General. The Southern Poverty Law Center, which monitors hate groups, calls the Center for Security Policy and The United West anti-Muslim extremist groups; Boykin is also a leader of the Family Research Council, which the center has designated an antigay hate group."

The Southern Poverty Law Center is a left-wing organization that declares, based on their own political ideology, what is, and what is not a "hate group". The Boston Globe didn't reach out to anyone at the Ahavath Torah Congregation before, during or after the event to inquire exactly what the speakers or guests in attendance had to say, but instead went along with the usual suspects to silence free speech. Well here's a little background on the guests at the Synagogue and what they actually spoke about:

ISRAEL: PAGE 24

That Israeli Moment

Forest Rain

VALLEY PATRIOT ISRAELI COLUMNIST

I just experienced one of the most Israeli moments you can possibly have.

That Israeli moment when your man helps his son decide which IDF unit to request. Enlistment is mandatory but the IDF gives pre-inductees the opportunity to rank their preferences. Final decisions are made according to need and, of course, the capabilities of each individual soldier.

I watched two versions of the same man, so similar and yet so different, one grown up, one almost grown up, sit shoulder to shoulder, to choose the destiny of the younger.

To watch a father watch his son read about each army unit and what they do.

"This commando unit is better than that one, isn't it dad?"

"Yes. They go first in to fire."

To watch a father imagine his son die a thousand ways - in Gaza, in Lebanon, in Judea and Samaria. Arresting terrorists. In urban combat. Sneaking behind enemy lines on a special mission. By a sniper shot, in an explosion, in a battle.

The nightmare floating in front of his eyes. The sound of the dreaded knock

on the door ringing in his ears...

"If you don't pass the tests for the elite unit you want, you should go to the anti-aircraft defense unit."

"Dad, there is no way I'm going to sit in a base and push a button to knock planes out of the sky when I could be in the field, directing combat."

That expression on his face, simultaneously glowing with pride and drowning in the horrible possibility of losing that which is most precious... I watched him sit silently, listening.

"Dad, dismantling bombs is kinda cool, don't you think?"

That moment when a father watches his son make his choices, explain his priorities and preferences. When a son asks his father, "Is it ok dad? Did I choose well?"

"Yes son."

That moment when a father waits until his teenage son walks out of the room to let the tears well up in his eyes.

Quietly I said, "You should tell him that you are proud of him."

"I want my son to come home, not a [dead] hero."

"I know dear. I know."

My God. What a moment.



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Facet Joint Disease ~ THE DOCTOR IS **IN**

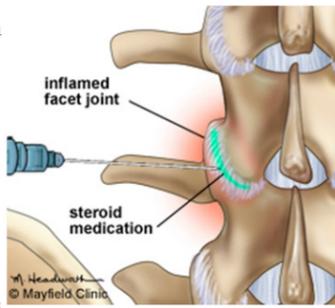
Dr. Rami Rustum

VALLEY PATRIOT MEDICAL COLUMNIST

There are numerous facet joints in the body; they are the small joints behind and between each of the vertebrae in the spine, allowing you to bend forward and backward but controlling twisting motion of the spine. Everyday wear and tear, arthritis, or a single injury can damage these joints, damaging the joint's cartilage and creating chronic and sometimes debilitating low back pain.

Chronic facet joint pain is defined as pain originating in the facet joints

which has lasted for three months or longer. When facet joint pain becomes chronic, it may also be known as facet joint syndrome. The facet joint



pain may occur on its own, or in combination with other sources of low back pain. If you believe your low back pain is caused by the facet joints, learning about the causes, symptoms, diagnosis and treatment options can help you find the

relief you need.

Causes:

Facet joint syndrome can be caused by a combination of aging, pressure

overload of your facet joints, and injury.

Pressure overload on your facet joints is probably caused by degeneration of

the intervertebral discs in your spine. As the discs degenerate, they wear down and begin to collapse. This narrows the space between each vertebra. This narrowing of the space between each vertebra affects the way your facet joints line

up. When this occurs, it places too much pressure on the articular cartilage surface of the facet joint. The excessive pressure leads to damage of the articular surface and eventually the cartilage begins to wear away.

When facet joint arthritis gets bad enough, the cartilage and fluid that lubricate the facet joints are eventually destroyed as well, leaving bone rubbing on bone. Bone spurs begin to form around the facet joints. When bone spurs develop, they can take up space in the foramen (the opening between vertebrae where nerve roots exit the spine) and press into nerve roots. As the bone spurs begin to grow larger, they can eventually extend into the spinal canal itself. This leads to narrowing of your spinal canal, called spinal stenosis.

Symptoms:

Patients with facet joint syndrome have difficulty twisting and bending their spine. If you have facet joint syndrome in your cervical spine (your neck), you may have to turn your entire body to look left or right. Facet joint syndrome in your lumbar spine (low back) may

make it difficult for you to straighten your back or get up out of a chair.

Pain, numbness, and muscle weakness

associated with facet joint syndrome will affect different parts of your body depending on which of your nerves are being affected. If the nerves affected are in your cervical spine, you may have symptoms in your neck, shoulders, arms and hands. If the

nerves are in your lumbar spine you may have symptoms in your buttocks, legs, and feet.

Diagnosis:

The diagnosis of facet joint syndrome usually begins with a complete history and physical exam. Your doctor may order other diagnostic tests as well. X-rays may be recommended to determine whether there are abnormalities in your spine. A CT scan can sometimes show more detail about your facet joint surfaces. If the X-rays suggest something may be affecting your facet joints, your doctor may recommend a CT scan to get a better look. A bone scan can be useful in determining whether your facet joints are inflamed. An inflamed facet joint usually shows up as a hot spot on a bone scan.

Treatment Options:

Conservative Treatment

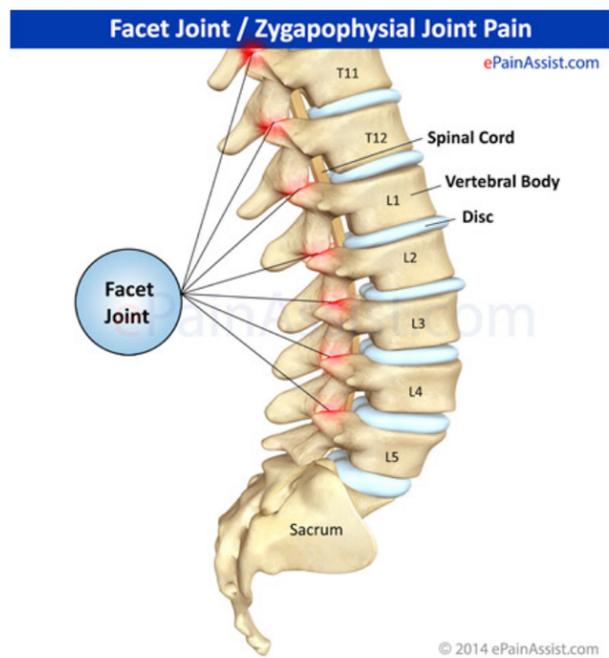
Once a diagnosis of facet joint syndrome has been confirmed, your doctor will likely recommend course of NSAID's (Ibuprofen, Naproxen..) and muscle relaxant with some rest. Physical therapy is usually added for maximum benefit. A well-rounded rehabilitation program assists in calming pain and inflammation, improving your mobility and strength, and helping you do your daily activities with greater ease and ability. Physical therapy may also include the use of ice to decrease blood flow to the affected area and reduce swelling. Ultrasound and electrostimulation may also be used to treat muscle spasms. Massage and muscle stretching may also be helpful. When you're feeling better, exercises will help you regain joint mobility, flexibility, and strength.

Spinal Injection

An injection into your facet joint using cortisone can be helpful for calming pain and inflammation. The injection usually gives temporary or extended relief for several weeks or months.

Surgical Treatment

Surgery may become an option if all conservative methods of treatment fail. Surgery on the facet joint usually consists of a fusion of the joint (also called an "arthrodesis"). To join the two vertebrae together, the doctor will usually insert several metal screws across the joint. Bone graft may also be placed around the joint to help fuse it. The bone graft is usually removed from your pelvic bone right beside the SI joint.



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Trump Must Block Govt Control Over Medical Practices

Bharani Padmanabhan, MD, PhD
MEDICAL CORRUPTION COLUMNIST

Left to itself, the government naturally exerts greater and greater control over people's lives and requires prior permission for everything.

In the case of medicine this literally costs lives.

We need government to ensure certain basic safeguards. Only government is big enough to push back against greedy pharma executives such as those that pushed to import Grünenthal's Contergan (thalidomide) into the United States in the 1960s even as data came in from Europe and Australia about the catastrophe it caused.

However government becomes a danger itself when it begins to micromanage what doctors have always done for their patients and requires doctors to now seek the government's approval for long-standing traditions.

Recently the State of New Jersey revoked the license of Dr Manoj Patharkar for prescribing a medicine off-label, meaning outside of the government's official FDA indications.

The state trumpeted this news prominently.

This is a very dangerous development.

That Dr. Patharkar deserved to lose his license at age 45 is in no doubt as he stole \$3.6 million and cheated on his taxes as well.

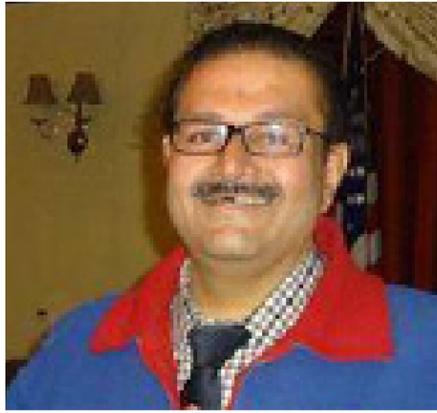
But it is chilling that the government highlighted revocation based on off-label use. Doctors have used medicines off-label for centuries as official FDA indications came in to use only well after WW2. In the timeline of medicine, FDA indications are the new kids on the block.

It is therefore outrageous that the government is happy to announce the revocation of a license based on off-label use.

Off-label is what the use of baclofen for spasticity in MS patients was for decades. Off-label is what the use of amantadine for fatigue in patients is. Off-label is what the use of sildenafil for erectile dysfunction was for years. Off-label is what the use of minoxidil for hair growth was for years. Off-label is what the use of diazepam rectally to stop bad seizures was for years. Off-label is what the use of Neurontin for diabetic neuropathy was for years.

Off-label use if how doctors learn what medicine works for their patients.

And off-label use is what leads to new immediately life-saving treatments such as



the use of the anti-parasite drug nifurtimox for neuroblastoma, a type of brain cancer seen only in children.

Another anti-parasite drug used off-label, eflornithine, is now seen as a real cure for this childhood cancer - an anti-parasite drug to cure brain cancer. The government would never have officially come up with that by itself.

Read - <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4729051/>

This same medicine, eflornithine, is also used to remove unwanted facial hair. That indication was approved by the FDA so it is available for facial hair but a doctor's license may be at risk now for curing childhood brain cancer.

If doctors had been under threat of license revocation a few years ago for using medicines off-label, this new cure for childhood brain cancer would never have been available to children and their parents right away as it is now.

The only people to benefit from the government revoking doctors' licenses for using a medicine off-label are pharma executives whose control over the supply of medicines will become even tighter.

One can easily envisage pharma executives and their hedge fund supporters purchasing people in the government to scare doctors away from off-label use.

One can only hope Dr. Price, chosen to be President Trump's Secretary for Health and Human Services, will put an end to this dangerous trend and keep the Statist swamp away from the daily practice of medicine.

Only doctors can and must determine what medicine they should use for their patients, regardless of what the government thinks.

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

Robin's Kitty Corner

Christmas Kitty

Robin Desmet
VALLEY PATRIOT KITTY COLUMNIST

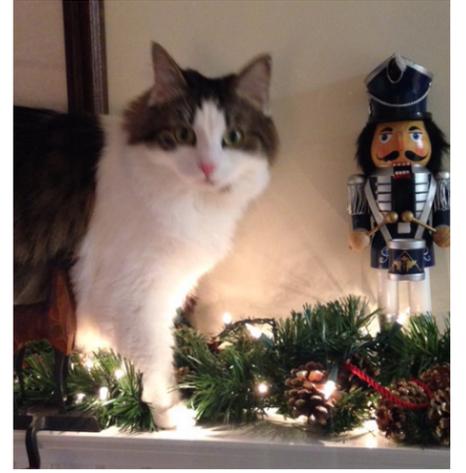
What greater gift than the love of a cat.....Charles Dickens

December---a time to share the joys of the season with family and friends. But in addition to the fun, the holidays can be a dangerous time for our furry friends. A little caution and awareness this time of year can help keep your pet safe so that you can enjoy the holidays and avoid a trip to the vet.

If you are a cat parent, you are probably already aware of the potential for mischief and mayhem that cats can bring to any situation. Add lights, shiny objects, ribbon, and paper and you've got trouble. Try to wrap presents with your cat in the room and you'll know what I mean. Keep the paper but nix the ribbons and bows to keep your cat safe. Ribbons, bows, and strings can easily be ingested and can cause gastrointestinal problems and blockages in your cat.

Decorative holiday plants around this time of year. Although you always hear about the dangers of the Poinsettia plant, they are actually not poisonous and are considered only mildly irritating, unless they are treated with pesticides or ingested in large quantities. Holly and Mistletoe, on the other hand, are poisonous to cats. Mistletoe can cause severe stomach upset, reduced blood pressure, seizures, and death. Lilies and Amaryllis are also toxic to cats. Lilies can cause vomiting, abnormal heart rhythms and kidney failure, and Amaryllis can cause vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, and tremors. What is a safe holiday plant? - The Christmas cactus.

The Christmas tree can pose many dangers to your beloved pet. My cats generally gaze at the tree in wonder and curl up contentedly beneath the branches, occasionally removing a favorite ornament and bringing it me as a present. But some cats thrive on drama. They chew the needles and the electrical cords. They ingest the tinsel, break the ornaments, and even knock the tree down. If you have one of those cats, it is actually a bit safer to have an artificial tree than a real tree. The needles of the Christmas tree are sharp and can be dangerous to cats if swallowed.



This can result in nausea and vomiting, bowel obstruction, or intestinal puncture. Pine oil is toxic to cats and can cause anything from nausea and vomiting to liver damage. The water at the base of the tree can contain chemicals and pine resin and is highly toxic to cats.

Decorating the tree can be a challenge to many cat owners. For years I decorated my tree with delicate, breakable ornaments that I collected from a lifetime of travel. Then came the foster kittens.

I replaced all of the breakables with a pile of soft, plush ornaments with one trip to Target. I'll take kittens over crystal any day of the week. If you have cats in the house, tinsel is a definite no. This material is easily ingested and can cause intestinal obstruction. Frayed or damaged electrical cords can cause burns and electric shock. Make sure your tree base is secure

so that your tree is not easily toppled.

Oh, and forget about artificial snow spray -and chocolate - toxic and toxic.

You could say that I'm taking all the fun out of the holidays. What is Christmas without bows, ribbons, and shiny, breakable stuff? Forget the things and remember the true meaning of Christmas.

Get together with friends and family and take some time to bring joy to others. Make a donation to your favorite charity. Pour yourself a candy cane martini and



watch your favorite Christmas movie. And remember what your cat really wants for Christmas---some quality time with you.

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IN THE GROOVE with Cindy Annis



Cindy Annis

VALLEY PATRIOT VINYL COLUMNIST

Back in the 1960's, there were plenty of "Girl Groups," singing about the boy they were going to marry or the boy next door. Then out of Washington Heights, New York comes this innocently forward group that was singing TO the boy next door!

The Ronettes were a couple sisters, Veronica and Estelle Bennet, and their cousin Nedra Talley. There were a lot of other family members in music and show business so it wasn't a surprise that these three got the bug at a very young age. The idea of a great Saturday night would be going to grandma's and entertain each other. Grandma loved to hear them sing so they wanted to perform for her. Even at the age of 8, Veronica, later known as Ronnie Spector, was already fine tuning harmonies and putting on little "sets" for the family.

Around 1957, Veronica formed their first group called "The Darling Sisters." Veronica and her sister, Estelle, and their cousins Nedra, Diane and Elaine. By this time Estelle had been into dancing school and Veronica was into Frankie Lymon and The Teenagers. Doing a great job on harmonies at grandma's house the girls added their cousin, Ira, and got signed up for the amateur show at the Apollo Theatre by way of friends of Veronica's mom. Their song was supposed to be started by Ira, but he got stage fright so Veronica stepped in. A disaster was averted and the more the audience approved, the louder Veronica would sing.

After the win, there were a few changes to the group. Ira, Elaine, and Diane were out, leaving Ronnie, Estelle and Nedra, and now calling themselves, "Ronnie and the Relatives." "They started with singing lessons and doing a few local shows and smaller parties, and sock-hop kinds of gigs. During these small gigs, they met Phil Halikus. Phil hooked them up with Colpix Records.

Stu Phillips, producer for Colpix played the piano for the girls' audition. He liked what he heard and that was the "in" for the group. They recorded 4 songs in June of 1961. Colpix records released 2 of them. "I Want A Boy" in August of 1961 and the other one was "I'm Gonna Quit While I'm Ahead" in January of 1962. These songs were the very beginning of a tremendous career!

Ronnie and the Relatives made their big debut at New York City's Peppermint Lounge, in 1961, by way of a case of mistaken identity. So, to get into the lounge, the very young- looking Estelle and Ronnie had to pile on the make-up. They were getting in by being the backup dancers for Joey Dee and the Starlites who were big with "The Peppermint Twist." When the chance arose, Ronnie had the microphone and was belting out Ray Charles' "What'd I Say." They soon became regulars at the Peppermint Lounge earning the big bucks; ten bucks a night per girl to do the Twist and sing an occasional song. During this time is when they became "The Ronettes."

They went down to Miami to open up a Peppermint Lounge there. After the opening show, Murray The K, the radio host, wanted the Ronettes to perform, regularly at his "Brooklyn Fox" in New York. At this time Colpix released the first two songs by The Ronettes, "Silhouettes" and "I'm Gonna Quit While I'm Ahead." Neither song would chart for them. The girls would do one more song with Colpix Records. "Good Girls" missed the charts, also, so they decided to find another label to go with.

Ok. This is all you get this month as it would be impossible to get it all in one column. Next month we will be into the Phil Spector Era of The Ronettes.

Remember to listen to Cindy's Vinyl Vault. We play the best music ever recorded on vinyl. We're at 980 WCAP Radio every Sunday night at 10:00, Monday night at 11:00 and Wednesday night at 9:00, and remember folks, it's not how old it is, but how great it sounds!

TV TALK WITH BILL CUSHING



Bill Cushing

VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST



An unlikely trio of heroes follow a criminal through time as they hop through significant events in world history, trying to change them. That's the premise of NBC's new time travel series

"Timeless."

"Timeless" is set in the present, where a tech company has developed a time machine only to have it stolen by a shadowy figure who wants to change the past for reasons that are not yet clear.

The series stars Abigail Spencer ("Rectify") as history professor Lucy Preston, brought in by the government, along with scientist Rufus Carlin (Malcolm Barrett) and US military operative Wyatt Logan (Matt Lanter), to chase the time-hopping villain Garcia Flynn (Goran Visnjic).

Each week the team chases Flynn back to some pivotal moment in the past that he has gone to and try and prevent history from being changed. So far they have traveled back to such events as The Hindenburg disaster, President Lincoln's Assassination, The Alamo, Nazi Germany, Watergate, and The Moon Landing just to name a few.

The team quickly learns that their actions in the past can have drastic consequences in the present. They are very careful not to interfere with the historic events and figures that they encounter. But there is also the temptation to change things for the better. For example, will saving the life of someone in the past cause other tragic events to occur that didn't occur before?

The team has been given very little information on the reasons behind Flynn's

actions. They only know that they need to stop him and bring him back. As the story progresses and our heroes learn more about Flynn, they start to wonder if he is really the bad guy after all.

The show delivers action, humor, and at the same time deserves credit for trying to be as historically accurate as possible while giving the viewers history lessons. For example, John Wilkes Booth's brother saved the life of Abraham Lincoln's son less than a year before the assassination. Bet you didn't know that.

The actors are all very appealing in their roles. Spencer is especially good in her role as Lucy. She is torn between what she feels is the right thing to do and what she is being told is the right thing to do. She is also dealing with a personal crisis at the same time.

Rufus Carlin, in my opinion, is the best thing on the show. He plays a reluctant hero. He never asked for this and yet somehow feels obligated to uphold history and prevent Flynn from causing catastrophic changes; all while being pressured to provide intel on his team members.

Created by Shawn Ryan ("The Shield") and Eric Kripke ("Supernatural"), the series is well executed and a lot of fun. There is also a cool thought-provoking sci-fi premise that could have been clumsy but the show pulls it off.

"Timeless" airs Mondays at 10 on NBC.

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

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



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Shawn Hansen's Comedy Corner with Pablo Francisco

Shawn Hansen
MUSIC COLUMNIST

In the midst of the holiday season, I interviewed comedian Pablo Francisco the day after Thanksgiving and ironically will be going to his show the day after Christmas on December 26, 2016.

The Wilbur Theatre has sat comfortably at 246 Tremont Street in Boston since 1913 as comedians and musicians have entertained venues there for the past century "plus three years."

Going to the Wilbur Theatre the day after Christmas, Francisco said, "The experience is absolutely phenomenal" when performing at the club.

For the holidays, the comic that hails from Tuscan, Arizona jokingly said he goes to a place called Christie's Cabaret, gets \$5 dances, \$2 pot stickers and said it is fun for the entire family. Comedy aside, Francisco said he enjoys spending time with his family in and around the Tuscan area.

Known to be one of the most popular comedians to venture out of the country, Francisco went to Australia, South Africa, Amsterdam and London to perform and mentioned, "I went to Community College, so I don't really know how much countries are out there." Bringing his comedy into play, Francisco said the best countries in the world are Boston and Miami (even though he knows they are cities in Massachusetts and Florida).

Performing with Steve Kramer for the past three-years and knowing him for 20-years, Francisco said he learns how to impersonate different people from Kramer.

"Steve Kramer is a guy I do shows with and he's the one that teaches me impersonations and he is going to be on the show as well." Talking to



Francisco about the impressions he does, he did a dead on Mark Wahlberg saying "Hey man, yah doing good" and said "You need to come down to the show my friend" sounding like Donald Trump. "I do dead-on impressions sometimes but nothing like Frank Caliendo, Rich Little or those guys. I am lucky to be in the mix with these guys."

For more information about Pablo Francisco, go to www.pablofrancisco.com. For more information about the Wilbur Theatre, visit www.thewilbur.com.

Besides journalism, Shawn Hansen is a Full Time Real Estate Agent at CENTURY 21 Advance Realty in Medford and sells homes in all of Massachusetts. If you or someone you know, whether it is a friend, relative, co-employee or someone you overheard talking while out and about speaking of Selling a home or Buying a home, have them call Shawn Hansen today at 978-621-6763 as I can help anyone with their Real Estate needs!

Holiday Excess: Staying on Track

Rick Bellanti
VALLEY PATRIOT EXERCISE GURU

Ever notice Santa Clause is a little on the husky side? (As my grandmother would call me), let's face it Mr. Clause by today's standards is well overweight, but he's such a nice man and full of Christmas joy; everyone just calls him jolly. Funny, I'm all of those things but no one has ever called me jolly.

Whether you like it or not, the holiday season is now in full swing (sorry Grinch). Holiday work parties, family gatherings, special planned feasts for Thanksgiving, Christmas and even New Years, and for some people the holidays are a stressful time, with all the shopping, wrapping gifts, secret Santas, Yankee swaps, Christmas trees and decorating, it seems like all of December is filled with overindulging.

Along with all the fun, we are also tempted with food, including many sweets like Christmas cookies, Yule logs, cakes, pies, eggnog and alcoholic beverages, just to name a few. With all this together, we could have a recipe for disaster if you are trying to stay on track with your weight loss goals.

Truth be told, the average person may only gain between one or two pounds during the holidays so don't get too overly stressed, but remember that's for an average person, if you are not the average person and tend to overeat and take on that mountain of Christmas cookies by yourself it could blow up more than you want on the scale.

Sticking to whatever program you are on is always the best choice during these times and having an extra cookie or a piece of pie is not going to reverse all your hard work, so don't deprive yourself.

Do not give up completely and put off your weight loss goals until New Years and after the holidays, you've worked so hard to come this far to throw it all away for more pie - and that Elf, on a shelf, will be reporting everything back to Santa, so no sneaking food. Some people tend to shift into a maintenance mode until after

the holidays and celebrating is done which is not a bad idea. The weight you do gain through the holidays will not disappear so easily when you pack away your holiday decorations.

Don't let a month on the calendar dictate how you will eat based on the holidays. Try to maintain a balance like always; keep up with your exercise routines and continue to hit that gym (maybe even extra if you are planning on going to eat more at an upcoming party). Make good food choices when at the parties sticking to salads and healthy vegetable dishes, pick lean meats and fish, keeping away from the trigger foods like potatoes, pastas and breads. If it's a pot luck dinner you are attending then bring your own healthy food to share so at least you have a dish you know is healthy and you can enjoy.

I highly recommend staying away from sodas, coffee and alcoholic beverages, adding unnecessary calories and sugars. Drinking water is so important; remember, your daily water should be half of your body weight in ounces daily, keeping you fuller longer and flushing out your system. The holidays are about celebrating with family and friends and not about dieting, so indulge if you want to, but keep it within moderation.

Lastly, don't stress that the end of the year is here and you haven't reached all your weight loss goals, there is no finish line or expiration date on our journeys; take it one day at a time and if the year ends, we will continue through into the new one together. So celebrate all you've accomplished so far in 2016 (no matter how big or small the victory) and look forward to the New Year, New Goals and a New You!

Rick Bellanti is a wellness columnist and is on a journey himself to lose 241lbs, and has lost 160 lbs since the start of 2015. If you have any questions or comments, please post them to his Getting Healthy with Rick Bellanti Facebook page and once a month he will address a few of the topics here.



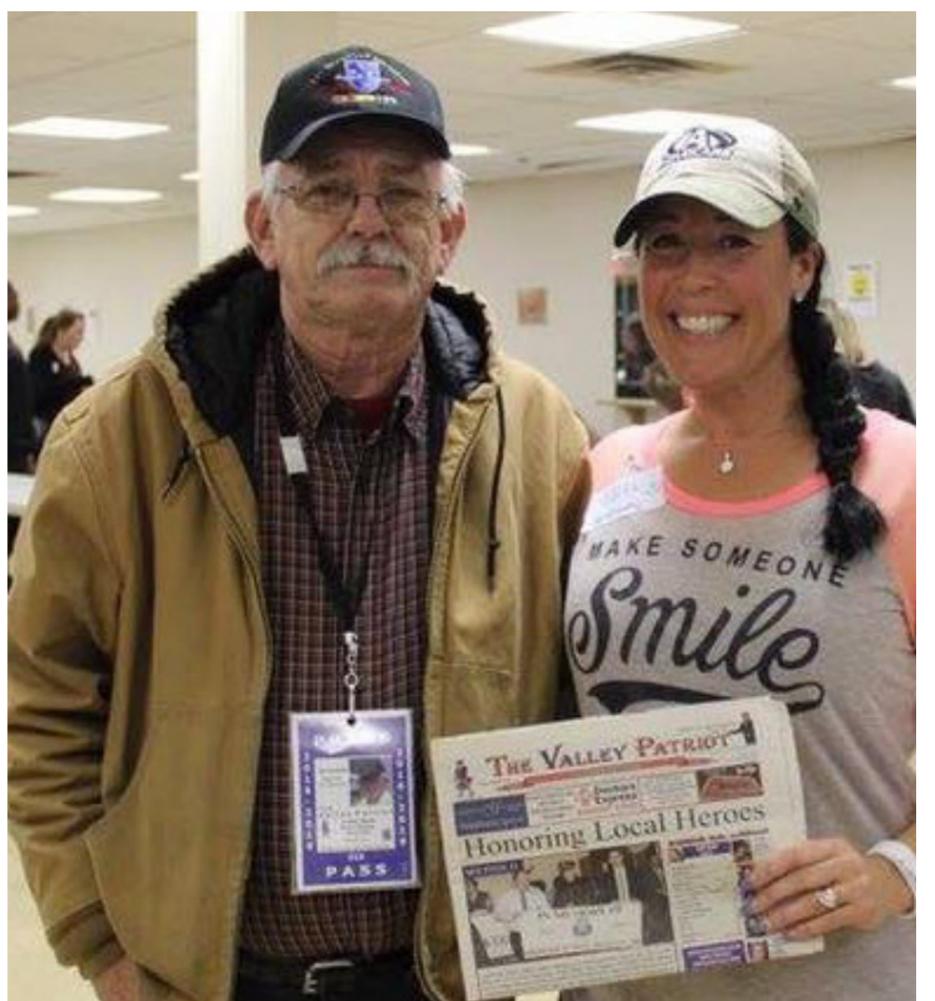
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Valley Patriot Ace photographer Rich Russell with The Valley Patriot's ZUMBA Girl Tallie Abernathy with their copy of The Valley Patriot wish you all a Merry Christmas.

NEWS FROM THE AMERICAN LEGION

John Lenotte

VALLEY PATRIOT VETERAN COLUMNIST

As the Christmas and New Year's holidays approach us, let us not forget the men and women in our military, many of whom will not be with their families this season. This is a sacrifice that most cannot imagine unless they have been through it. Some of them are your family and neighbors. They deserve our kindness and appreciation and perhaps some help. Ask what you can do to help them and their families, some of whom may be in need at this time of year.

You may have seen in the news recently about Hampshire College in Amherst, MA. On November 9th, students at the college lowered the flag to half staff in protest of the presidential election results. A day or two later, the US Flag was burnt in protest, it was replaced and set at half staff by the college. Later the college administration decided to not fly the flag. On Sunday November 27, an estimated 400 veterans and citizens protested in favor of flying the flag. And this is but one example of the disgrace that too many in this country are showing to our flag.

It is encouraging that President-elect Trump is supportive of protecting the flag. As The American Legion and the Citizens Flag Alliance have been proposing for many years, perhaps we will finally get a constitutional amendment to protect the flag. What is proposed is a very simple amendment that would allow Congress to pass a law that would make it illegal to destroy the flag as an act of protest. I am very much in support of the 1st amendment allowing freedom of speech. But there are many ways to do so without using our flag in a detrimental way. Old Glory has led our troops into battle, covers the casket of our dead veterans and is placed at their graves for Memorial Day



each year. For more information on the flag and the proposed amendment, go to this website <http://www.citizensflagalliance.org/>

Does all of this make you frustrated? Angry? If so, you need to contact your elected officials and let them know. We vote them into office. They should be addressing our concerns. But they don't know what those concerns are unless we let them know. Let us make our voices be heard!

May God bless our troops and their families this holiday season.

John Lenotte, Past Commander American Legion Post 4 Haverhill MA, Past Commander District 8/Essex County, Past Commander, Department of MA. I may be reached by email at JohnLDistrict8@verizon.net



PHOTO: RICH RUSELL

Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans Services Francisco Urena and Congressman Niki Tsongas at 124-126 Phillips Street in Lawrence where Habitat for Humanity volunteers, comprised mostly of veterans, built a home for local veterans in need.

HERO: FROM PAGE 1

WWII aging Veteran but instead a group of young men and women who were recently discharged and facing combat and non-combat physical and psychological issues.

Carter also said that many of the newer veterans are homeless (some with children) living in the street or in their vehicles, not even knowing there is a place like VNOC they can reach out to. "When children are involved it makes the situation more urgent," he said. That's when the staff at the Outreach Center will act quickly by contacting local landlords to arrange three to six months worth of rent to be paid up-front.

During this transition period the children are safely off the streets while the veteran-parent is undergoing treatment and/or job training through the Outreach Program. Carter also highlighted the difficulties in placing homeless female veterans (with or without children).

Carter says that Veteran facilities are populated only by men, and that adding women to the facility is not in the best interest of the vets or the staff, especially if veterans in the facility are suffering from PTSD or other illnesses. Other arrangements are made by the center to accommodate female veterans and their unique requirements. Carter says this is critical as all veterans need to feel safe and at ease in order for them to begin the healing process.

A FACILITY LIKE NO OTHER

Inside the remodeled church at 10 Reed St. is the activity center, which is a day program among the most unique of all VNOC programs. There, veterans are provided a structured environment where all vets, including disabled vets, can participate in recreational activities, work training, group support and other activities that are both satisfying and challenging.

There is also a food pantry available where food and clothing donations take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10am-2pm. If there is a veteran and family in need, the staff at VNOC will make special arrangements to assist them immediately.

It's a friendly space for the vets to gather together and share a meal and play a game of billiards. This program is funded, in part, through the US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development.

The Outreach Center offers employment services which are provided by Career

Resources Corporation and Valley Works Career Center. Services include job training, resume preparation, career assistance and job placement. The employment team works hard to assist Veterans within our local communities in every way possible. The ultimate goal is to help veterans get a job and have a safe place of their own to call home.

Veterans Northeast Outreach Center received a \$2,000,000 Renewal Grant for the program called: Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF). This grant helps veterans trying to get housing or in imminent risk of losing housing. VNOC is dedicated to helping end veterans home-

lessness. SSVF provides personal outreach and case management services and will assist participants to obtain VA benefits and other public benefits.

Also, through the SSVF Program, the VA aims to improve very low-income Veteran families' housing stability.

The following housing properties are owned and run by the Outreach



Center. The first housing unit is the Veterans Mansion. The mansion serves twenty two homeless veterans that offers a supportive and working environment as they make their way back into society.

The second one is the Veterans Campus - this housing facility added 25 VA Grant Per Diem housing units in Haverhill, MA. Next is Bedford Veterans - this facility is located on the campus of the Bedford VA Medical Center. It is a sixty unit facility that offers the services of both the VA Medical Center and VNOC.

The next facility is O'Neill Hall in Haverhill - this property was built in 2003 to add ten permanent affordable rental units to the Veterans Campus. Finally there is *Freedom House which is located in North Andover. This complex provides housing for three North Andover Veteran families.

Along with all the benefits and services offered to our veterans, the VNOC staff also hosts holiday parties, outings and other events all through the year for veterans and their families.

Thank you to Randy Carter and all the staff at VNOC for not only going off to serve our country abroad but for making the lives of returning veterans a little better here at home as well.

To contribute or learn more about this non-profit organization, please visit: northeastveterans.org



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The New Harry Potter

Susan Piazza

VALLEY PATRIOT BOOK REVIEW

“Harry Potter and the Cursed Child Parts One and Two” Based on an Original New Story by J.K. Rowling. John Tiffany & Jack Thorne © Text 2016 by Harry Potter Theatrical Productions Limited, Harry Potter Publishing and Theatrical rights © J. K. Rowling, Published by: Arthur A. Levine Books an Imprint of Scholastic Inc.

Hardcover: 327 pages includes: A section About the Production, Biographies of the Original Story Team, and Acknowledgements.

Genre: Fiction. Fantasy.

4.75 out of 5 Bookmarkers

Credits on all three individuals associated with this work are impressive. J.K. Rowling needs no introduction to those familiar with Harry Potter. John Tiffany is an award winning theatrical director. Jack Thorne, the winner of several television awards, also writes for theater, film, and radio. This eighth Potter book by J.K. Rowling was first performed on stage in London 30 July 2016.

The last Harry Potter novel ends with the Battle of Hogwarts. This wizard story picks up nineteen years later. People are married, children are born and these offspring are now at Platform Nine and Three Quarters on their way to Hogwarts to begin their studies much as their parents had done.

Harry and Ginny are the parents of three children. While one, Albus, is featured prominently in this story the other two, James and Lilly, are barely mentioned. I had to go back to the dust jacket to confirm there was more than one child. Maybe the other two children are slated for sequels.

Albus, Hermione and Ron’s daughter, Rose and Draco Malfoy’s son, Scorpius become acquainted while on the train. They turn out to be major players in this tale.

The plot, through its characters, engages

quickly. These new characters are as well developed as are the old established ones. Old favorites such as the brothers Weasley, Severus Snape, Hagrid, and of course the ultimate villain Voldemort, return. Familiar scenes resurface, The Sorting Hat, The Triwizard Tournament, and Moaning Myrtle in the girls’ bathroom. While the people and scenes are familiar they have a new twist.

Though this book is all about a magical world, the struggles facing the characters are believable. Fathers and the relationship to their sons are explored. Teenagers coming into their own sense of self battle feelings of isolation, love, and rejection. All the normal emotions facing normal teens are examined. And defiance. It is through defiance that the plot moves along.

The genius of J.K. Rowling is her ability to make the reader feel. Feel the wonder of magic. Feel the pain of isolation. Feel how it is to be different, to not fit in. Teen readers may even be able to get some insight into their own lives and issues plaguing it.

For those who want to get to the meat of the matter, whom said what to whom, a play is the perfect medium. There is no “The sun shone brilliantly through the amber and green colored leaves while the smoke from the old man’s Mescher pipe filtered through the partially bare branches.”

This four-act play is a fast read. Many of the scenes comprise only two pages. Even though this play is classified as a “Special Rehearsal Edition Script” stage descriptions are kept to a minimum. “Stage left” or “character moves downstage right” directions are limited. The reader is spared such obvious notations.

I love plays. Love reading them, love seeing them. My hope is that this book will do for plays what J.K. Rowling did for adolescent (and adult) non-readers (turned readers), which was to open minds up to new experiences and new vistas.

This is definitely something to put on one’s gift giving list.

Pray a Prayer of Protection Over Your Children!

Peter Larocque

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Greetings and God bless you all in the powerful name of Jesus Christ! In light of what happen recently in the City of Lawrence to one of its young citizens, I would like to use this month’s column to admonish all parents of young children to pray “The Prayer of Protection” over them. This Prayer of Protection is found in Psalms 91:1-16.

It begins with, “He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.” Where is this secret place you may ask? This secret place for the believer, the Christian today is in Christ Jesus! As Christian parents you have every right to pray this Prayer of Protection over your child. The prayer continues; “2 I will say of the LORD, “He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust.”3 Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler And from the perilous pestilence. 4 He shall cover you with His feathers, And under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler. 5 You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, Nor of the arrow that flies by day, 6 Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday. 7 A thousand may fall at your right hand; But it shall not come near you. 8 Only with your eyes shall you look, And see the reward of the wicked. 9 Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place, 10 No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; 11 For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways. 12 In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone. 13 You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.14 “Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name. 15 He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. 16 With long life I will satisfy him, And show him My salvation.”

This promise of protection for your children is from the only one who can make it happen and keep your children safe! As Christian parents we can pray and plead the blood of Jesus Christ over our children! We have the Blood Bought Right to plead the blood of Jesus Christ over our children and the devil has to keep his stinky paws off of them!

In Proverbs we read the following,

Proverbs 18:10, “The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.” Proverbs 29:25, “The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.”

We are living in a time where the world is just going to get darker and darker. But for Christian believer’s with the Lord on their side, we do not have to fear or be afraid because we will be saved from the wrath to come. Look at Romans 5:9, “Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.” See we are justified by the blood of Jesus Christ and saved from the wrath to come!

1 Corinthians 6:20 goes on to say, “For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.” And the last part of Acts 20:28 reads as follows, “the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.” We as Christians have been purchased, bought with a price and the price paid was the blood of Jesus Christ The Son of God who is our Secret Place, our Strong Tower, and our Safe Place!

Let me conclude with Psalm 91:9-11, “Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place, 10 No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; 11 For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways.” God promises us that no evil will come our way or near our homes! God even has His Angels looking over us! We are protected! Finally my friends, we are admonished in Ephesians 5:15-16, “See then that ye walk circumspectly, [wisely] not as fools, but as wise, 16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”

I humbly exhort every Christian parent to take some time each day and pray this prayer of protection over their children!

Love to all of you,
Peter Larocque.



Peter is married to his wife Pam (34 years), 3 wonderful children, and is blessed with 3 grandchildren. He is a former Lawrence School Committee Member-2006-2009, and now a baker

with Demoulas, Market Basket 16 + years. To email peter: peterlarocque@hotmail.com

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ISRAEL: FROM PAGE 17

THREATENING POLICIES

Congresswoman Michele Bachmann said that American national security is seriously threatened by the policies of the Obama Administration which failed miserably to address Islamic terrorism.

While working for the House Select Intelligence Committee, Congresswoman Bachmann raised the question of how Huma Abedin got a security clearance? Bachmann sited that Huma Abedin (close confidante of Hillary Clinton) was a serious threat to national security because of her background and who her parents were.



Abedin's parents run a magazine in Saudi Arabia, and "its purpose is to spread Islamic Sharia law in non-Islamic countries." The magazine was partly financed by a financier of Osama bin Laden and Al Qaeda. Congresswoman Bachmann directed this inquiry to five federal agencies and received no answer, but was vilified by fellow Republicans. As if that wasn't enough she was called out and chastised by Senator John McCain on the Senate floor.

The second speaker was retired Lt. Gen. Boykin who said that the terrorist group, the Muslim Brotherhood, has an active campaign it's been waging to spread Sharia in America. Per the General, the American people need to know the truth and part of the truth is that there are a lot of Muslims in this country who reject Sharia and Jihad, but nobody brings attention to them. The General said his friend Dr. Zuhdi Jasser (a devout Muslim who is an outspoken supporter of Israel and who believes that "America provides the best atmosphere for Muslims to practice our faith") speaks for those silenced few.

The General mentioned he is extremely concerned about the current leadership of our military.

"We have to cut off the top echelon of our military," he said – both military and civilian and bring up the real war fighters. Our military readiness is appalling. The "social experiments" routinely run through units, such as diversity training, takes away from real training and the result is "devastating."

The last speaker was Frank Gaffney, President of the Center for Security Policy in Washington. Mr. Gaffney said Sharia is being pushed by Islamic radicals across

the world, including into America and has been for decades. Mr. Gaffney stated the radical Islamic terrorists such as ISIS, al Qaeda have one thing in common: they push Sharia Law. Sharia is a totalitarian system and is not compatible with the

Constitution of the United States. Sharia compliant funding is a \$1 trillion industry.

Per Mr. Gaffney, Jihad is the method used to achieve the goal of Islamic supremacy over the whole world. While violence is the preferred form of Jihad they use, Mr. Gaffney also spoke of Hijrah: which is Coloni-

zation. We see this with the refugee influx in Europe. There is also Civilization Jihad: reforming the host nation's culture.

The Muslim Brotherhood's overall strategic goal is to "destroy western civilization from within." They have been active in America for over fifty years. Mr. Gaffney said America needs to stop importing Jihadists and designate the Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist organization as Great Britain and the United Arab Emirates has already. Frank Gaffney said one last thing...he said "Paul Revere was a hero because he rode through Lexington, MA warning the people that the enemy (British army) was on the march. Fast forward to 2016 and Paul Revere would be called an intolerant bigot for warning people of the impending enemy!"

The American people spoke loudly and proudly on November 8th 2016 in their choice of Donald Trump for president. In that decision it was made clear that the citizens want to secure the borders and not accept any "refugees" or anyone else that is not thoroughly vetted from countries that hate America. The threat is real and the speakers who came to the Synagogue believe in educating the people on these issues and to sound the alarm. They did not encourage violence against Muslims nor did they oppose or try to shut down the protestors outside as the Boston Globe and other interfaith leaders tried to do to them. In America we have the right to speak out against the dangers of radical groups in our country. And that right is protected by the First Amendment. That same right is extended to the people protesting outside. God bless America and her right to Freedom of Speech.

YOUR MONEY WITH ALEX TALCOTT

**Is Your Child Considering a Gap Year?
Ask These Questions First**

Alex Talcott

VALLEY PATRIOT MONEY COLUMNIST

Teaching college and high-school students of all backgrounds in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, and advising families on how to finance their education goals, has been exciting and changing, as fundamental questions are being asked about what college is—and when to do it.

A growing number of U.S. students are taking time after high school to expand their horizons before pursuing further studies. Most students who take a year off, also known as a "gap year," use the time to gain real-world work experience, become more involved in volunteer work, or learn more about other cultures through traveling. While a gap year can be rewarding, the prospect of taking a year off from academics may create some anxiety for you or your child. Asking your child some important questions can help you both get on the same page about whether a gap year makes sense.

What do you want to accomplish by taking a gap year?

First, help determine your child's motivations for wanting to take a gap year. Why is it important? Then, challenge your child to create a specific plan with a goal, so his or her time isn't spent watching Netflix or sleeping in. Has your daughter wanted to start her own business? Encourage her to draft a business plan to execute. Does devoting time to charity pique your son's interest? Suggest that he design a project that will make a big difference for an organization.

The more specific your student can be with his or her intentions, the better you both will feel about the open months ahead. Look for websites and organizations dedicated to helping students embark on a meaningful and productive gap year. Or, encourage your child to interview several people who have completed gap years to learn about their experiences. Have your student review their plans with a trusted teacher or guidance counselor to get an outside perspective.

Can you afford to take a gap year?

If your child was accepted to the college of his or her dreams, check to see whether the school has a gap year policy. Some colleges will accommodate requests for deferral and save any scholarships your student has earned for their return. Others may reduce the scholarship or require your child to reapply. Sit down together and discuss how to best finance his or her gap year. Calculate the price tag of a gap year together to determine if it's within financial reach. To raise additional funds, suggest that your child save as much as



possible, fundraise or secure a second job over the summer. In some cases, asking for financial support from a family member or applying for grants and scholarships may make sense.

Can you afford not to take a gap year?

The gap year can be invaluable if your student is uncertain about what school to attend or which major to pursue. Time away from academics can also allow him or her to refresh and recharge, so your student enters college ready to focus on the future. It can be expensive to attend college and pay for coursework that ultimately doesn't lead to a satisfying career path. Students who take a year off to work or travel give themselves a chance to mature and also learn the value of a dollar. Adult responsibilities loom in the future, making a gap year after high school quite possibly a "now or never" proposition.

Taking a gap year isn't the right option for every student. If your child is excited for college or if it makes sense financially to continue with his or her studies right away, keep in mind that college will provide ample opportunities for new experiences.

Alex Talcott, JD, is a Financial Advisor with Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. in Portsmouth and Bedford, New Hampshire and Middleton, Massachusetts. He specializes in fee-based financial planning and asset management strategies and has been in practice for 10 years. To contact him: (603) 319-3108; 25 Chestnut St., Ste. 300N, Portsmouth, NH, 03801; www.ameripriseadvisors.com/alex.talcott

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Property Sales, Foreclosures for NOVEMBER, 2016 in Andover, North Andover, Lawrence, & Methuen. From Northern Essex Registrar of Deeds M. Paul Iannuccillo (All properties are listed in order; seller, buyer, address, and price.)

ANDOVER

36 Central Street Unit 1 Nominee Trust, William H. Brown, 36 Central Street Unit 1, \$340,000.00

William & Doreen Ann Cleary, William & Christine Cleary, 7 Mary Lou Lane, \$650,000.00

Madelaine Stamand & Marion Sugden Lill, Jane Axelrod, 117 Bailey Road, \$425,000.00

Jennifer Sohn & Christian Baumgaertel, Kathleen & David Cosentino, 26 Morton Street, \$1,100,000.00

Jeffco Inc., Raul & Keisha Perez, 18 Boston Road, \$902,175.00

Paul Arguin, Antonio & Daniela Catricala, 22 Avery Lane, \$775,000.00

Academy Nursing Home Inc., LG-OHI Andover LLC, 89 Morton Street, \$14,329,662.00

Thomas & Suzanne Lynch, Stephen & Anna Maria Cortner, 3 Old South Lane, \$888,500.00

Michael Kafantis, Todd Lindsay, 18 Summer Street Unit 3, \$625,000.00

Louis & Carolyn Napolitano, Chandrasekhar Chinna Gounder, 2 Douglas Lane, \$874,000.00

Louis & Carolyn Napolitano, Kumudha Ramaswamy, 2 Douglas Lane,

Patch Development LLC, Eric Ewald, 6 Atwood Lane, \$1,215,000.00

Patch Development LLC, Stephanie Lenzi, 6 Atwood Lane,

Deborah Lane, Gregory Marc Laflamme & Jamie Leigh-Bateman Laflamme, 89 Lowell Street, \$300,000.00

Brian & Michelle Epstein, Karen & Kylie Branch, 1 Sweeney Court, \$342,000.00

RDM Lowell Junction LLC, Huseyin & Erin Akkaya, 11 R Lowell Junction Road, \$847,500.00

400 Minuteman Park LLC, DCII-400 Minuteman Road LLC, 400 Minuteman Road, \$37,000,000.00

Jim Lamb, Anthony Rotsart, 16 Balmoral Street Unit 114, \$280,000.00

Thomas Nelson, Kingdom Trust Co., 22 Railroad Street Unit 306, \$265,000.00

Matthew & Pamela Preston, Obrien Homes Inc., 58 Haverhill Street, \$308,000.00

Russel & Kristen Hayes, Natalie Anne & Matthew Cohen, 25 Lowell Street, \$600,000.00

G F Layden Trust, Justin Shing, B3 Colonial Drive B3-10, \$135,000.00

Thomas Walsh, Jeffco Inc., 9 Lovejoy Road, \$415,000.00

Erika D. Hessman Family Trust, Stephen & Jennifer Plouffe, 12 Rolling Ridge Road, \$552,500.00

Mary Joyce Kernan, Black Door Properties LLC, 47 Hidden Road, \$512,000.00

Christopher & Sheryl Doherty, Two Bunnies Realty Trust, 7 Chestnut Street, \$560,000.00

Sheryl Allen Doherty, Lilly Realty Trust, 5 Chestnut Street, \$515,000.00

Michael & Francine Gikow, Vaishnavi Rajagopal, 41 Sagamore Drive, \$587,000.00

Michael & Francine Gikow, Ashutosh Morde, 41 Sagamore Drive,

Construction Properties LLC, Jason Sanchez, 24 Marland Street, \$430,000.00

Paresh & Shamee Mane, Zenith Padikara Chandrahasan, 19 Paulornette Circle, \$740,000.00

Paresh & Shamee Mane, Ramitha Meloor, 19 Paulornette Circle,

Ming Hua Xiong, Gagandeep Dhingra, 8 Cormiers Way, \$1,512,800.00

Ming Hua Xiong, Nidhi Aggarwal, 8 Cormiers Way,

Nancy Grammas, Claudia & Darryl Schfield, 4 Deerberry Lane, \$530,000.00

Bobbie & Timothy Tryder, John & Jillian Deshaies, 64 Stevens Street, \$363,000.00



Ruth Babcock, Kevin & Usalia O'Brien, 4 Cottonwood Circle, \$474,500.00

Vincent & Robin Loporchio, Michael & Josephine Dunn, 10 Belle-Isle Way, \$593,535.00

Abigail Ohara, Brian & Melissa Connell, 5 Wolcott Avenue, \$651,000.00

LAWRENCE

Rosa Garcia, Gerald Benitez, 147-149 Saratoga Street, \$380,000.00

Rosa Garcia, Anny Ramirez Lugo, 147-149 Saratoga Street,

Reader Family Revocable Trust, Long Term Rentals LLC, 690-692 Haverhill Street, \$246,000.00

R. James La Belle, Michael Cyr, 82 South Bowdoin Street, \$216,500.00

R. James La Belle, Nicole Wood, 82 South Bowdoin Street,

Basilina Batista, Yomayra Avila-Mercedes & Radhames Mercedes, 11 Lowell Street, \$295,000.00

Orlando Almanzar, Jessica Cubi, 37 Allston Street, \$270,000.00

Orlando Almanzar, Yasmani Fernandez, 37 Allston Street,

Cindy & David Rebinskas, Harry Nunez, 87 Groton Street Unit B, \$159,200.00

Clara Russo, Maxwell Trejo, 28 Orchard Street, \$80,000.00

Jack & Lucy Maserejian & Jeffrey & Suzy Naroian, 7 Stars Group LLC, 46 Amesbury Street Unit 2D, 3B, 3C, 4B, 4C, 5C, 5D, 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D, 8A, 8B, 8C, 8D, \$650,000.00

Laura Ruiz & Hashby Casado, Laura & Hashby Casado, 59 Stevens Street, \$32,000.00

LLB Construction Inc., Victor Cruz, 30 Kingston Street, \$260,000.00

Thuy Loc Vu, Diego & Wildania Her-

era Rodriguez, 27A Boston Street Unit 1, \$152,850.00

Mary Michaud, James Blatchford, 75 Pearl Street, \$179,500.00

Mary Michaud, Laura Santana, 75 Pearl Street,

Ellen Hatfield, Kaprisky Santiago, 39 Abbott Street, \$265,000.00

Ellen Hatfield, Jose Castillo, 39 Abbott Street,

Roger & Jean Ann Marquis, Pavielle Lora, 90 Wachussetts Avenue, \$215,000.00

Timothy Sullivan & Ida Mildred Keefe, Lora & Marquez Trust, 27 Allston Street, \$92,000.00

La Belle Maison LLC, Cavallo01 LLC, 81-85 South Broadway, \$550,000.00

Wayne Leavitt, Teresa Gonzalez, 156-158 Olive Street, \$199,000.00

Jenny Parra, Ronan Deleon, 103-105 Farnham Street, \$335,000.00

Kevin Lagrasse, William, Doris, & Kerri Bruner, 65B Inman Street, \$100,000.00

Kevin Lagrasse, Paul Moore, 65B Inman Street,

Magnolia Advisory Corp., Kiu Management LLC, 222-224 Broadway, \$390,000.00

Oscar Loaiza, Magalite Jackson, 63 Nesmith Street, \$390,000.00

Oscar Loaiza, Jocelyne Thomas, 63 Nesmith Street,

Hanson Family Trust, Perri Brandalise, 27 Cyr Drive, \$319,900.00

Charles Hope Co. LLP, Teodusia Cabela, 5 Crescent Street, \$165,000.00

Federal National Mortgage Association, Alejandra Valoy, 31 Byron Avenue, \$264,900.00

Ricardo Arevalo, Alicia Garcia Rodriguez, 521-523 Hampshire Street, \$373,000.00

Anthony Longo, Jean Alcantara, 6-8 Sargent Avenue, \$449,000.00

Kevin & Donna Lemay, 21 East Haverhill Street LLC, 21 E. Haverhill Street, \$237,000.00

Teofilo Villa, Sonnia Carbonneau, 168-170 Abbott Street, \$190,000.00

Robert & Kristin Coe, Desiree & Johnny Ngen, 3 Strawberry Lane, \$484,900.00

Daher Group Inc., Jessica Grullon, 488 Riverside Drive, \$299,900.00

Daher Group Inc., Massiel Munoz-Deleon, 488 Riverside Drive,

Merrimack Street LLC, Milan & Martha Peguero, 109-111 Exeter Street, \$390,000.00

Daher Group Inc., Juan Rozon, 75 Ferry Street, \$299,900.00

David Terburgh, Ralph Matthes, 45 Cambridge Street, \$215,000.00

Lawrence Malco Nominee Trust, Anny Delaosa, 3-5 Wolcott Avenue, \$375,000.00

Henrey Bencosme, Leocadio Paulino, 47-49 Brookfield Street, \$363,000.00

Patriots-Gus Real Estate LLC, Charles Gus, 34A Salem Street, \$315,000.00

USA Housing Urban Development, Jahaira Marte, 87-89 Columbus Avenue, \$190,000.00

Ruth Rojas, Santiago Reyes Encarnacion, 43-47 Summer Street, \$387,000.00

Ruth Rojas, Antonia Cruz, 43-47 Summer Street,

Dorothy Ouellette & Ethel Atkinson, Franklin Espiritusanto, 14 W. Beacon Street, \$225,000.00

Clarde & Edwin Mercado, Clarisa & Junior Duran, 109-111 Abbott Street, \$375,000.00

Manuel Joaquin & Winston Omar Calderon, Sadie Tejada, 18 Hamilton Street Unit 18, \$235,000.00

M&E LLC, Katherine Elizabeth & Curtis Scott Leonard III, 7 Sherman Street Unit 7, \$200,000.00

Denise Abreu, Anthony Tejada, 25 Katherine Street, \$270,000.00

Baggett Joint Revocable Trust, JNR Realty LLC, 53 Allston Street, \$160,000.00

Nester Lopez Urena, Ysabel Suarez, 50 Loring Street, \$225,000.00

Nancy McNeely, Sandy Duran, 100 Foster Street, \$378,000.00

Wayne & Judith Robinson, James & Christel Nazario, 47 Jefferson Street, \$294,900.00

Tracy Lynn Tabacco, Johan Farias, 10 Steiner Street, \$235,000.00

Tracy Lynn Tabacco, Elisanta Torres, 10 Steiner Street,

Curran Capital Group LLC, Junior Peralta, 89-91 Brookfield Street, \$393,000.00

Alberto Nunez, Eddy Mendez, 318 Ames Street, \$375,000.00

Alberto Nunez, Angel Pastrano, 318 Ames Street,

VIP Development LLC, VIP Development LLC, 167 Margin Street, \$167,741.96

Elisa Obrien, Glen Macisaac, 121 Mount Vernon Street, \$322,000.00

Ricardo Fragoso, Gary Laing, 10 Weare Street, \$245,000.00

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Property Sales, Foreclosures for NOVEMBER, 2016 in Andover, North Andover, Lawrence, & Methuen. From Northern Essex Registrar of Deeds M. Paul Iannuccillo (All properties are listed in order; seller, buyer, address, and price.)

CONT. FROM PAGE 25

Daniel Concessi, Ramon & Belkys Reynoso, 493 Andover Street, \$149,000.00
 Gloria Guerrero & Luis & Felicia Lara, Leodan Cortez, 47-49 Springfield Street, \$365,000.00
 Alfred & Helen Cristaldi, Brendan & Michelle Mallon, 9B Sumner Avenue Unit 2, \$107,142.00
 Alfred & Helen Cristaldi, Scott Konieczka, 9B Sumner Avenue Unit 2, Winwin Properties LLC, Alexis Reynoso, 17-19 Jennings Street, \$331,000.00
 Adela Hernandez, Ana Hiraldo, 61-61A Tenney Street, \$402,000.00
 Adela Hernandez, Julio Rodriguez, 61-61A Tenney Street, Kristen Perry, John Brown, 40 Floral Street, \$41,000.00
 Michael Armano, Jeannette Guerrero, 15-15A Lenox Street, \$345,000.00
 Aurelia Santos, Angel & Juan Abreu, 8 Avon Street, \$399,900.00

METHUEN

Rosmary Andujar, Rosario Rosado, 49 Cypress Avenue, \$274,900.00
 Rosmary Andujar, Reynaldo Rodriguez-Laureano, 49 Cypress Avenue, Alexandra Johnson, Elias Zakaria, 49 Larchwood Road, \$250,000.00
 Alexandra Johnson, Musammat Salma Siddiqua, 49 Larchwood Road, M A R Nominee Trust, Domingo Espinal, 31 Locust Road, \$305,000.00
 US Bank NA & Methuen City, Peluso Painting & Restoration LLC, 38 Ponderosa Avenue, \$222,000.00
 Michael Gillis, Genesis Property Group LLC, 66 Hampshire Street, \$525,000.00
 Stephen & Bonnie Kelley, Margaret Conlon, 1 Rachel Road, \$273,500.00
 Jayson Martin, Alyssa Coco, 65 Pilgrim Circle Unit 65, \$171,500.00
 Lori Violanto, Daniel Swarbrick, 19 Elmore Street, \$272,000.00
 Eva Castro, Ellen Hatfield, 45 Christopher Drive Unit 120, \$183,000.00
 North Shore Receivership & Development, North Shore Receivership & Development, 4 Agnes Terrace, \$250,000.00
 North Shore Receivership & Development, Randy Mejia, 4 Agnes Terrace, \$329,900.00

Johnny & Wanda Cruz, Diana Casado, 22 Myona Street, \$299,900.00
 Peter Rousseau, Eva Castro, 45 Washington Street Unit 4, \$232,900.00
 Christopher & Lauren Elliott, Joseph & Jennifer Morico, 903 Riverside Drive, \$299,000.00
 Charles Russo & Judith Niceforo-Russo, Lauren Garrison, 70 Arnold Street, \$284,000.00
 Charles Russo & Judith Niceforo-Russo, Jaime Spofford, 70 Arnold Street, William Willet & Leslie Riemitis, Zina & Alexandre Goncalves, 15 Cypress Avenue, \$232,500.00
 Neil Schubert, Jose Espinal, 41 Fenwick Circle, \$435,000.00
 Guleyhan & Yakup Alparslan, Jonathan Vega, 33-35 Bicknell Avenue, \$365,000.00
 Joseph Difrancesco, Louis & Kathie

Silva, 122 East Street, \$370,000.00
 Vanessa Isola, Romeo Tellez, 13 Oakland Avenue, \$259,000.00
 Sandra Mitchell Woods, Richard & Rita Latulippe, 1 Chausse Drive, \$395,900.00
 Joseph & Jennifer Ares, Heba Alolabi, 45 Ayer Village Road, \$319,500.00
 Joseph & Jennifer Ares, Samer Abdelsalam, 45 Ayer Village Road, Sick Boy Homes LLC, Arelis Olivarez, 15 Dottie Lane, \$300,000.00
 Daniel Lombardi, Jean Fugge, & Carole Diodati, Francis & Angela Mccarthy, 18 University Lane, \$250,000.00
 Austin & Carolyn Doherty, Renne Soucy, 14 Sherwood Drive Unit 182, \$587,500.00
 Bryan & Ashley Silveira, Joseph Fizzimmons, 10 Majorie Street, \$319,900.00
 Bryan & Ashley Silveira, Mariaelana

Deandrade, 10 Majorie Street, Gaby & Adele Maroun, Charbel Maroun, Ivy Street, \$50,000.00
 Gaby & Adele Maroun, Jeannette Abisamra, Ivy Street, Albert M. Ghassemian Realty Trust, Barry & Bernadette Stamm, 1 Lauren Court Unit 69, \$259,000.00
 Joseph Ratte, Santiago & Adelina Cardona, 206 Hampstead Street, \$364,900.00
 Lillian L. Menihane, Filipe Melo, 2 Lorenzo Circle, \$272,500.00
 Sana Pride, Allan Cuscia, 18 Filbert Street, \$187,000.00
 Wendy Latorre Leccese Trust of 2010, Rebecca Sharkah, 140-142 Jackson Street, \$400,000.00
 Wendy Latorre Leccese Trust of 2010, Moses Tucker, 140-142 Jackson Street, David Dolce, Allan Murphy, 28 Brandee Lane Unit 14, \$200,000.00
 Christopher Donahue, Rosanne Erazo-Cornejo, 146-148 East Street, \$400,000.00
 Christopher Donahue, Laura Frances Erazo, 146-148 East Street, Hai Doung & Nhi Duong, Sofia Marshall, 20 Washington Street, \$210,000.00
 Richard & Lori Tremblay, Denny & Karla Sanchez, 115 Pleasant Valley Street, \$300,000.00
 Pauta Reaty Trust, Anthony Dello Russo, 20 Washington Street Unit 58, \$143,000.00
 Gannon Paris & Tina Cutuli, Ebenezer Ofori-Afram, 6 Simone Street, \$300,000.00
 Joseph & Rita Golec, Erin Flanagan, 22 Garfield Street, \$335,000.00
 Joseph & Rita Golec, Thomas Quinn, 22 Garfield Street, Edmud Yankowsky, Jose Ramirez, 16 Mary Lou Street, \$280,000.00
 Keith & Lizabeth Leveille, William & Janice Gaudet, 1 Riverview Blvd. Unit 5-206, \$208,000.00
 Adele & Ludger Pelletier & Lorraine Boucher, Jason & Jamie Boucher, 90 Comet Road, \$248,000.00
 Michael Solomon, Marilyn Hugh, 3 Harvard Avenue, \$310,000.00
 Mark & Donna Sullivan, George & Aida Kushakji, 17 Stone Castle Drive Unit 31, \$530,000.00
 Zaven & Mary Bogosian, Sandra J. Carlson Lustenberger, 336 Howe Street, \$305,000.00
 David & Kimberley Dickson, Muhammad Naeem, 71 Cox Lane, \$445,000.00

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Andrea Nacewicz, Michael Baxter, 31 Jane Road, \$290,000.00
 Andrea Nacewicz, Leeza Ferrara, 31 Jane Road,
 Jennifer Monroe, Amanda Silva, 1 Riverview Blvd. Unit 8-207, \$210,000.00
 Rober Medina, Willy Acosta, 129-131 Center Street, \$426,000.00
 Leo William & Albert J. Lambert, & Corinne Lucier, 446 Prospect Street LLC, 446 Prospect Street, \$500,000.00
 George Koontz, Manuel Henriquez, 175-177 Tenney Street, \$233,000.00
 Charles Hope Co. LLP, Samuel & Eunice Zeiger, 25 North Street, \$305,000.00
 Michael & Alexandra McNary, Thomas & Cynthia Drozewski, 35 Timber Lane, \$381,500.00
 Daniel & Holly Stewart, Kenneth & Donna Canning, 7 Hill Street, \$312,500.00
 Dennis & Jennifer Hart, Patricia & William Devine, 184 Hampshire Street, \$289,900.00
 Johanna Rodriguez, David Williams, 95 North Lowell Street, \$290,000.00
 Toll MA IV LLC, Bonnie Alexander, 3 Sierra Court Unit 14, \$587,915.00
 Joan Cook & Linda Francescone, Associate Solutions LLC, 9 Partridge Road, \$168,710.00

NORTH ANDOVER

Nicholas Devivo & Diane Miche-

lotti, Daniel Crean, 29 Elmwood Street, \$347,000.00
 Nicholas Devivo & Diane Michelotti, Nanneth Rivera, 29 Elmwood Street, Sophia Egiz-Milliken & Shaun Milliken, Marc & Lauren Perry, 78 Vest Way, \$719,900.00
 Peter & Denise Roemer, Mark & Sheryl Trombly, 174 Candlestick Road, \$655,000.00
 James P. Gordon Revocable Trust of January 26 1996, Michael & Deborah Giunta, 148 Main Street Unit A-107, \$195,000.00
 Charlotte Hopping, Sirius Development LLC, 562 Boxford Street, \$260,000.00
 Maryam Tangrouy, Norris Revocable Trust, 148 Main Street Unit S427, \$205,000.00
 Gregg & Kimberly Griffin, Robert & Sheila Dugan, 23 Village Green Drive Unit 26, \$198,900.00
 Bartholomew & Brenda Galvin, Chester & Colleen Jackson, 25 Surrey Drive, \$540,000.00
 Prescott Nursing Home Inc., LG-OHI Prescott LLC, 140 Prescott Street, \$26,641,063.00
 Nursing & Retirement Center of the Andovers Inc., LG-OHI Turnpike LLC, 1801 Turnpike Street, \$19,879,884.00
 George & Diana Mouzakis, Elanor McGlashing, 91 Autran Avenue Unit 91, \$354,900.00

George & Diana Mouzakis, Kelly Solano, 91 Autran Avenue Unit 91, Helena Makarewicz, R&Q MA Realty Trust, 3 Walker Road Unit 11, \$110,000.00
 Mark & Nicole Tina, Allan & Rachel Wood, 64 Sugarcane Lane, \$715,000.00
 Satish Chandra Takkalapalli & Lavanya Gujja, Balasubramanian Guruswamy, 21 Peterson Road, \$455,000.00
 Satish Chandra Takkalapalli & Lavanya Gujja, Vidya Chandrasekaran, 21 Peterson Road,
 Steven & Elyse Seero, Supriya & Rajesh Sadasivan, 61 Chadwick Street, \$475,000.00
 Eric & Brooke Guthrie, Julia Delmuro, 254 Barker Street, \$490,000.00
 Eric & Brooke Guthrie, Stefan Schulz, 254 Barker Street,
 TKZ LLC, Gene & Felicia Kosman, 10 Great Lake Lane, \$922,000.00
 Bailey Irrevocable Trust, Jennifer Darling, 35 Margate Street, \$125,000.00
 Patrick Spain & Anna Nguyen Spain, Dana & Karen Elizabeth Mawn, 855 Winter Street, \$425,000.00
 Scott & Brenda Magennis, Patrick Spain, 136 Rocky Brook Road, \$675,000.00
 Messina Development Co. Inc., Anthony & Anna Aliberti, 51 Wellington Way, \$800,000.00
 Donald & Sylvia Moulden, Joseph Mas-

trocola, 210 Chickering Road Unit 107A, \$148,500.00
 Nancy Rocheleau, Rise Development LLC, 497 Wood Lane, \$251,000.00
 Berry Co. LLC, Monier Quabira, 60 Compass Point Unit G1, \$468,300.00
 Michael & Jane Eagan, Tracey Kavanagh, 71 Millpond, \$405,000.00
 C & L Trust, Beth Vellante, 180 Chickering Road Unit 206C, \$269,000.00
 David & Lisa Cordima, Michael Brown, 49 Wentworth Avenue, \$405,000.00
 David & Lisa Cordima, Kimberly Johnson, 49 Wentworth Avenue,
 SJH Revocable Trust, Ashley Lucibello, 85 Autran Avenue Unit L, \$200,000.00
 Jennifer Griffin, Ruth Taylor, 3 Harvest Drive Unit 113, \$287,500.00
 Key-Lime Inc., Gregory & Virginia Adamson, 8 Mayflower Drive Unit 1, \$545,000.00
 James & Ann Fitzgibbons, David & Lisa Cordima, 63 Highwood Way, \$505,000.00
 Newll Family Realty Trust, Alan Awerman, 39 Farrwood Avenue Unit 5, \$151,000.00
 Kevin & Haidee Sullivan, Armand & Lynne Barrasso, 24 Marengo Street Unit 6, \$345,000.00
 Harold & Harriet Traub, Joanne Lynch, 53 Millpond, \$489,000.00
 Arthur & Martha Larson, TKZ LLC, 440 Osgood Street, \$350,000.00



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