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DCF Resignation "Not Enough"

State Auditor Suzanne Bump Takes on DCF



PHOTO: TOM DUGGAN

Auditor Bump discusses waste, fraud, and abuse in government, and says the resignation of the Head of Department of Children and Families is "Not Enough" to protect children from the failed agency.

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VALLEY PATRIOT OF THE MONTH

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN HEROES ON MEMORIAL DAY

THOMAS HUDNER
US NAVY, KOREAN WAR, MEDAL OF HONOR

The following speech was given by Captain Thomas J. Hudner, Jr., U.S. Navy, Korean War, Medal of Honor recipient at the North Andover Memorial Day Ceremony on May 28, 2007.

"It was 232 years ago, within a day's march of where we are now gathered, that the first shots were fired in Concord that marked the start of a war that changed history. It signaled the start of "A new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

In that battle and the ensuing war, a tiny nation stood up to the world's greatest power in its quest for freedom. Because of brilliant leadership, a dedication to the belief that all men are created equal and a relentless determination to attain lib-

erty in the face of almost insurmountable hardships, that small group of colonies conquered its former oppressor and has since evolved into the greatest nation in the history of mankind.

Close by are memorials to all those patriots of generations past who gave their lives to preserve those liberties, not only for us Americans, but also for the people of those nations around the globe who looked to us to attain or maintain theirs.

Today we are observing Memorial Day which commemorates all those who gave their lives in the defense of that "New nation's freedoms and equality of all men which are articulated in our Declaration of Independence and our Constitution." It is an occasion for the American people to reflect on the sacrifices of human lives which led to the independence and the growth and

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Cutting Fire Protection in Lawrence is not the Answer

Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera has come into office with a great deal of good will from the public and the media.

He has made some critical moves in his first few months to make Lawrence's city government more efficient. We applaud that.

But, Rivera recently cut fire protection in Lawrence, temporarily closing stations and shutting down trucks in a move he says needs to be made because of Lawrence's budget problems.

We don't buy that.

We believe this is a move to squeeze the firefighter's union and force them to give up benefits already in their contract.

This is unacceptable.

We know from his performance as a city councilor that Mayor Rivera is somewhat hostile to public safety unions. He voted to lay off 24 firefighters and 25 police

officers when Lantigua was mayor. He supported the \$35 million bailout loan for Lantigua and also supported the removal of Fire Chief Murphy, who was quite vocal about how cuts to the fire department were putting the lives of the public at risk, not to mention the lives of his firefighters. Rivera still defends that decision.

Mayor Rivera now has a chance to run the city without putting lives at risk to make a political point, as his predecessor Willie Lantigua did.

But instead of cutting administration, or frivolous government programs, instead of trying to find more revenue by raising taxes in Lawrence and forcing Lawrence resident to pay more of their "fair share", he chose to close fire stations and hold his breath hoping nobody gets hurt. That's not leadership.

Firefighters in Lawrence are over-

worked. They are using outdated equipment and often go into life and death situations minus the manpower to back them up.

Trying to balance the city budget on the backs of heroes who put their lives on the line is irresponsible and should be opposed by the Lawrence City Council and the many neighborhood associations in the city.

We know Mayor Rivera has a monumental task ahead of him. We recognize that taking over Lawrence's city government after four years of theft, waste, fraud and corruption under Willie Lantigua means he has to make unpopular and difficult decisions.

So far, Rivera has shown great leadership in firing political hacks, demanding accountability, and even micromanaging

rogue city departments that need leadership. He has made it clear that the millions paid to the DiAdamos to lease their building on Essex Street for the Lawrence School Department must come to an end.

We believe every new mayor deserves a honeymoon period to make mistakes and learn from those mistakes before being hammered and attacked in the press.

The one exception to that is when people's lives are in jeopardy.

We are not sure why Mayor Rivera is hostile to public safety unions, and frankly we do not care. What we do care about is making sure a city like Lawrence has adequate fire and police protection, and right now they don't.

We call on Mayor Rivera and the Lawrence City Council to find another way to close their budget gap without putting our heroes and our citizens at risk.

So Much for Free Speech and the 1st Amendment

Jeff Katz

VOTED AP's BEST RADIO TALK SHOW HOST
VALLEY PATRIOT EDITOR'S CHOICE AWARD

Ayaan Hirsi Ali, a Somali native, was born in to a devout Muslim family. She was raised in the religion and has maintained that she suffered because of that. She was subjected to genital mutilation, repeated beatings and an arranged marriage. She finally renounced her faith when she was in her thirties. By this time she had secured political asylum in The Netherlands where she was eventually elected to that nation's parliament.

Ali passionately spoke out against the abuse she had received over the years, all

of which she said, was done in the name of her former faith. One is certainly free to disagree with her conclusion but nobody can argue that she is not entitled to share her views. The more she shared her views and made people aware of all that had happened to her, the more death threats she received and again she has noted they were done in the name of her former religion.

Ali, who is now an American citizen, has been saluted time and again for her courage in standing up and speaking openly on behalf of women who have been subject to the same horrible abuse she suffered. She was surely making space on her wall to hang her honorary degree from

Brandeis University when she learned that Brandeis, which used to be something a free speech bastion, has now gone along with a carefully crafted effort to silence certain views which have been deemed offensive.

Just a few years ago, Brandeis presented an honorary doctorate to playwright Tony Kushner. Kushner's life has been a walk in the park compared to Ali's but his comments have been rather colorful to say the least. Kushner proclaimed that, "The biggest supporters of Israel are the most repulsive members of the Jewish community." Funny, that a university which, while non-sectarian, is Jewish sponsored and named for a proud Jew who was also the leader of the American Zionist movement was comfortable giving such an honor to someone who felt comfortable making such a vicious and ugly anti-Semitic comment.

Brandeis is a private institution and free to bestow honors as they see fit, but the leadership at Brandeis should carefully read this quote from Justice Brandeis himself, "Fear of serious injury alone cannot justify oppression of free speech and assembly. Men feared witches and burnt women. It is the function of speech to free men from the bondage of irrational fears."

Jeff Katz is a writer and broadcaster. Find him at facebook.com/radiokatz and on twitter @jeffkatzshow



Jeff Katz is a former police officer, former talk show host on Talk1200AM and won the Associated Press Award for Best Talk Show In Boston two years in a row. He is now an exclusive columnist for The Valley Patriot. He is the recipient of The Valley Patriot's 2013 Editor's Choice Award for exceptional writing about issues that effect our lives.

WEBSITE: visionaccomplished.net

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BUMP: DCF Head's Resignation "Not Enough"

Tom Duggan

VALLEY PATRIOT PUBLISHER

Massachusetts State Auditor Suzanne Bump says, "It's not enough" that Governor Deval Patrick is replacing the state's Department of Children and Families (DCF) Commissioner, telling a crowd of women in North Andover last month that replacing the head of DCF would do little to protect children while the policies and management of the agency continues to operate without oversight and resources to ensure children's safety.

Bump was the guest speaker at a Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce luncheon at the China Blossom in North Andover, where she spoke of the need for the failed state agency to provide social services as a safety net for children, but added that having little or no oversight of the agency is a recipe for failure.

Bump spoke of government accountability and the need for more oversight in state agencies, particularly in DCF where 134 children in DCS custody, (under Governor Deval Patrick's care) have gone missing. Recently, two children have turned up dead as the result of DCF failures, and a 15 year old Connecticut girl, Justina Pelletier, has been taken from her family and abused and neglected while in DCF custody.

"We all agree that the better response, rather than shredding the social safety net is to install leadership in those agencies with the commitment to program integrity, to overhaul the agency's staffing and systems and put them in a stronger place at the outset to keep fraud from occurring," Auditor Bump said.

DCF HAS FAILED CHILDREN

"The same can be said frankly, about the Department of Children and Families, which we have seen over the past few months, is failing in its' mandate of keeping kids safe. We audited the foster care program. It was an audit that began long before the disappearance of Jeremiah Oliver.

We found a program, the foster placement program, without basic resources to ensure that children, for instance, weren't getting medical examinations when they were being placed in foster care. We found that background checks were not being performed before the kids went into those foster care settings either.

As you have read, it has been inescap-

able to read about the controversy around who should be leading that agency. The governor has decided to agree with many that new leadership is required there. But simply putting a new person in charge of that agency is good, but it's not enough to ensure that the deficiencies in that system are going to be corrected.

Lots of folks are running for office right now, you hear lots of them talking about the need for accountability; it's a very popular catch phrase especially since we have seen over the last several years, political groups on either end of the political spectrum, from the Tea Party to the Occupy Wall Street movement, calling for more accountability in government.

But to me, accountability isn't just the idea that government owns up to and explains its' decision making, [or] that it takes responsibility for its' failures. Real accountability has to be an active front-end function, not an after-the-fact acceptance of responsibility for misspent money or failed programs. It means that we have to develop and use new data to forecast needs and risks. We have to stick to objectively identified priorities in the face of political pressure.

It means we have to staff agencies with oversight professionals and compensate them appropriately. It means the introduction of new technologies that can help us reduce the risk of misspending and fraud. And it means honest performance assessment, not just of people but of programs."

We asked Auditor Bump what the state should be doing to make DCF more effective so that kids are safe and neither they, nor the parents or foster parents, are abused by state workers who may have a god complex or take advantage of the system.

"What we saw when we conducted the audit of the foster care program, and what we are understanding to be common elements of deficiencies across the whole of that agency is that in fact, it is under-resourced.

I'm not saying that it doesn't have the right number of staff, but it's not spending its' money clearly in appropriate ways.

It may well need more money, but from my way of thinking, you start with the foundation. What are the essential tools that that agency needs?

Well, it needs good technology, so that social workers are not having to spend



Tricia Lawler Sabulis, VP of Sales & Marketing for Michaud Insurance in Methuen, Massachusetts State Auditor Suzanne Bump and Trudy Lawler, President of Michaud Insurance, after a talk by Auditor Bump at the China Blossom in North Andover last month during a luncheon sponsored by Joe Bevelacqua and the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce.

literally hours at their desks trying to get information into the system, and trying to get information out of the system. They have antiquated technology that doesn't work. It doesn't allow them to go into the field with that technology. That very basic resource that the rest of us, particularly those of you in the business community know you can't function without, is unavailable to the social workers to facilitate their work.

They also do not compensate their staff efficiently. One of the Boston publications pointed out that most of the social workers there are unlicensed. Indeed they are. You don't necessarily need a license in order to do this work, but you are certainly not going to attract licensed social workers at the wages that they pay there.

They also don't have enough resources devoted to oversight.

Managers have too many people and too many projects to manage in order to provide effective oversight. They don't have enough training capacity either, to make sure that everything is being done according to their procedures. They haven't had enough time frankly, in recent years, as their budgets have been severely cut, to do enough information exchange within the agency so that everybody is working towards the same goals and has a voice in how best to run that agency.

So, new vision and new leadership for the agency is essential, but the resources to do the job are equally important."

Asked if DCF should have an internal affairs division like police departments have to investigate those in DCF who abuse their authority or neglect children or act inappropriately, Bump said that there is

an agency that is supposed to do that, but they are not doing it.

"There is an Office of Child Advocacy that is supposed to be doing some of that work. But, I will tell you that what we are seeing across from state government is that ... particularly with the recent recession but it goes back [further] ... in an effort to live within budgets, the available revenues, in an effort to keep focused on programs, to keep the services flowing, agencies all across state government have cut oversight personnel.

There used to be many more people doing that kind of job in state government but they aren't there anymore, across agencies. So, you don't have basic assessments of what the risks are inherent in your job.

Lots of agencies, like a business, you have an internal control plan. [You have to say], this is where we want to go, this is what we need to do in order to get there, and these are the things we have to guard against. There isn't enough effort put into the things we have to guard against, and these are the precautions that we have to take in order to ensure that people are properly served, or that money doesn't go astray."

It's that basic bureaucratic infrastructure that we have been whittling away at."

ON GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

It's not a problem that can be solved with rhetoric; it can only be solved by actions. I believe that the key to rebuilding public trust is by investing in government accountability. A government that doesn't take seriously ensuring accountability will lose public trust.

You can think back to the big dig, or

SUZANNE BUMP: PAGE 13

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Frank and Mr. Sid worked together 50 years ago at the Salisbury Barber Shop where they cut the hair of some of the biggest stars of the day who (for those of you who remember) were appearing at the Salisbury Frolics.

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North Andover Selectman and candidate for State Rep. Rosemary Smedile, Andover Selectman Brian Major, Former Lawrence Mayor Michael Sullivan, Andover Selectman and candidate for State Senate Alex Vispoli, State Senator Bruce Tarr (R) Newbury, and Lawrence City Councilor Marc LaPlante

Alex Vispoli Kicks Off Senate Campaign

Anne Knowles
ANDOVER COLUMNIST

Alex Vispoli, an Andover Selectman since 2004, is a candidate for Massachusetts State Senate for the Second Essex and Middlesex District. His dedication to the citizens of Andover and his pledge to work for his Senate District were highlighted by the crowd of enthusiastic supporters who attended his open meeting on Tuesday evening, March 29th at Andolini's in Andover.

Fellow selectman Brian Major introduced Alex, as a fair and honest member of the Board of Selectmen. He has "been, tough but fair" and outspoken about the way tax dollars are spent. Alex has been frustrated by the cavalier way the state has misused the taxes collected from the citizens of this state. The serious misuse of tax dollars, the lack of response to the needs of the people, as well as the "anti-business" culture on Beacon Hill, are only a few, of the serious problems that must be addressed.

Alex said he will focus on job growth, so that Massachusetts will, be able to attract companies that want to take advantage of the skilled work force in the state. Now, many of the people, whether new graduates or older workers, have been discouraged by the lack of job growth and left the state. Massachusetts must become "business friendly".

The gross mismanagement of state agencies, Alex says, has resulted in a lack of respect for these agencies. One of the most egregious is the Department of Children and Families, DCF. This agency has been in the national news for the lack

of supervision, which has resulted in the deaths of minor children. The mismanagement of the agency, which seems to have contributed to three deaths of minor children, has resulted in the resignation this week of the director of DCF.

In another example, Massachusetts has been embarrassingly slow in dealing with gross misconduct by a chemist at the Hinton State Lab. First reported in June 2011, lab management did not report the problem until December 2011, when supervisors notified the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. HHS however did not launch a full investigation until June 2012, when the scandal was finally made public, according to Lawyer's Weekly, April 2013. This has resulted in numerous drug related charges being reviewed.

Alex spoke about the attempt of a repeal of the automatic gas tax, which was passed by the General Court, and is expected to be on the November 2014 ballot. This bill allows for an automatic increase in the gas tax annually to account for inflation. The concern about this tax is the unknown – how much will it cost the public in the coming years? He used this as an example of the abuse of imposing taxes on the citizens without full disclosure.

State Senator Minority Leader, Bruce Tarr spoke about the need to send Alex Vispoli to the legislature to provide true representation of the people of Massachusetts. Good government starts at the local level with people who know the candidate.

"Make Massachusetts a better place."



Moderator: Voters Will Participate in Town Meeting Via Internet

Tom Duggan
VALLEY PATRIOT PUBLISHER

NORTH ANDOVER – Town Moderator Mark DiSalvo says that he is trying something revolutionary this year at Annual Town Meeting.

DiSalvo will allow town voters to ask questions of Town Meeting participants via the internet and have their concerns addressed during the meeting.

"I have always been concerned about the fact that Town Meeting has two constituencies; the people in that room at that time when judgments are being made, and the people of the town who are not in that room who will be affected by the judgments of people who are making judgments the room."

Moderator DiSalvo says that only registered voters will be allowed to participate in the meeting via the internet. Voters can log on to the town website during Town Meeting where they must submit their real name, a phone number where they can be reached to confirm their identity, and their question about the warrant article being discussed," the Moderator said.

North Andover Town Moderator Mark DiSalvo vouched for the character of convicted felon Lenny Degan at his sentencing hearing.

North Andover Town Moderator Mark

DiSalvo will allow participation at Town Meeting via the Internet.

The voter's question will be sent directly to a laptop at town meeting where members of the League of Women Voters (a liberal, women's rights organization) will verify the voters identity, confirm their status as a town voter and the question will be read aloud as well as the voter's identity.

"I will have nothing to do with knowing who is asking the question," DiSalvo said.

"If the question is redundant or has already been answered in some way I will have the discretion to skip over it. I will require that voters only ask a question on an article up for discussion at the time, if their question comes in while we are talking about another [warrant] article, that question will not be asked. The one thing I am not going to do is let people from outside the room hijack or take over the courtesies of the meeting. So, if we are in the middle of a long night, I have no problem curtailing the number of questions per article that come in online, just as I can for those participating in the room."

DiSalvo says that those who participate online will not be able to vote or make motions on Town Meeting articles, and hopes that those who participate online will be inspired to physically attend a

TOWN MEETING: PAGE: 23

Activities, Announcements North Andover Senior Center

Exercise is one of the key things that you can do for yourself in helping maintain your independence. Monday morning Yoga class at 9:00 can increase your coordination and maintain flexibility. Immediately following, there is a Pilates/Strength Training class at 10:00. Tuesday morning at 9:00 we offer a multi-level Tai Chi. On Thursday mornings, Joy of Exercise is held at 10:00. This class is taught by our PT instructor, and is well rounded with strength and flexibility movements. As the weather becomes warmer, maybe you should consider our outside walking group. This group meets every day down at the Old Center at 9:00. Please call the North Andover Senior Center for additional information on any of the above classes or programs. 978-688-9560.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

TUESDAY NIGHT DINNER BUFFETS: The second one in a monthly series of dinners being offered at the Senior Center, is June 10th at 4pm. The Meadows Health Center at Edgewood will be our host with a delicious gourmet dinner. Home Health VNA, Merrimack Valley Hospice, Home Care, Inc., will present "Golden Years: Staying Happy & Healthy." Cost is \$3 and you must sign-up in person with

reception, which begins May 27th. Limited to 35 North Andover seniors.

MENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL- June 25th at The Stoneham Theatre, 2pm Wednesday Matinee. Tickets \$35. Deadline is June 4th. Bus Departs 1pm. Max. 12 guests.

ONE ON ONE COMPUTER INSTRUCTION: 45 minute sessions for \$7. Tuesdays 9-12 with George Chory, Thursdays 9-12 with Tom Kookan. Make your appointments with reception, 978-688-9560.

GADGETS CLASS: Mini series of classes focused on learning how to use electronic gadgets such as iPads, Nooks and Kindles. Tuesdays 10-11:30. \$12.00 for a two-week class. iPad 2 week class will begin with a 4 person commitment. Check with reception for the start of this first class. 978-688-9560.

NEWS & VIEWS: Every Wednesday from 10-11:30. Come and join in the lively discussion of current events, politics, history, and you never know what else.

S.H.I.N.E. Volunteers: (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders): Free, confidential counseling on all aspects of health insurance to North Andover residents on Medicare; Call center for an appointment. First Tuesday of the month 10am-1pm and

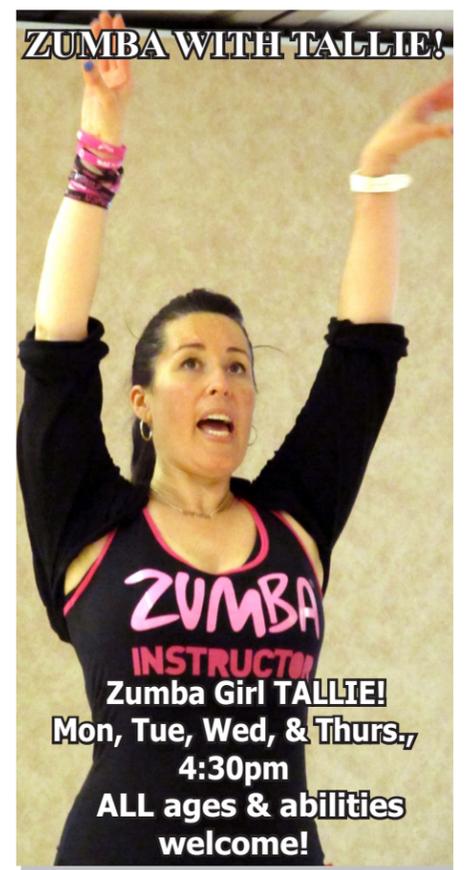
third Tuesday of the month 12-3pm.

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

WALK IN CLINIC: Every Wednesday 9am-12 pm. The North Andover Senior Center and Home Health Inc/VNA operate a wellness clinic. If you are a North Andover Senior, we urge you to take advantage of this opportunity to check your blood pressure, blood sugar, weight and blood oxygen levels. Consult privately with an RN regarding any medication and health issues that you are concerned about. There is no charge for this service. Donations are gratefully accepted.

MONTHLY MYSTERY RIDE: Thursday May 28th. Visit a local senior center for a chef's lunch & explore Garden In The Woods – The NE Wildflower Society. Sign up in person with Reception beginning May 14th. Cost \$15, includes lunch, van and venue. Bus leaves at 10am.

SR. CENTER: PAGE: 30



TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK

MA DEMOCRATS PATHETIC LACK OF LEADERSHIP

Massachusetts is a one party state. Democrats hold every executive elected state office from Governor all the way down to State Auditor. Democrats also control both the State Senate and the House of Representatives. Yet with 133 children missing from DCF care (the Department of Children and Families), with the Justina Pelletier case still in the headlines every day and daily horror stories of DCF out of control, where is the leadership from the party that claims to "care about children"?

We have seen zero leadership from the governor. We've seen zero leadership from house and senate Democrats. The list of Democrats fiddling while DCF children burn is staggering in this state. We have heard crickets from Attorney General Martha Coakley (who wants to be governor), Steve Grossman (who also wants to be governor), and Secretary of State Bill Galvin also has nothing to say. You have to go all the way down the list of elected state Democrats to the State AUDITOR Suzanne Bump to find an elected Democrat showing any leadership at all.

Kudos to State Auditor Suzanne Bump for being brave and speaking out about the despicable service Massachusetts children are receiving at DCF. But Auditor Bump's brave actions on this issue shine a huge spotlight on the apathy and complacency of Massachusetts Democrats on this issue.

So the next time a Democrat says they "care about the children" when they are running for office, remember that when children were turning up dead, when 133 DCF children were missing, when Justina Pelletier was kidnapped from her family by DCF agents ... only ONE leader in the Democrat party had anything to say about it at all.

So much for "caring about the children".

SALISBURY - The Slueth Sisters may be on their way to beating city hall. Yes, for 20+ years the Tomaselli sisters have been fighting the Town of Salisbury and the bobble-head board of selectmen over a fake sewer betterment that resulted in the town closing their restaurant and trying to take their property. The sisters have lost at land court, the appellate tax board and several other courts in the state. But now, finally, a federal bankruptcy judge has actually asked the single question that no other judge or court bothered to ask in years. That question: where is the lien on the Tomaselli's property and where is proof the sewer betterment was recorded at the registry of deeds?

You see, the Tomaselli's bought their property after Salisbury voted on a sewer project, but never bothered to record this vote to create a lien at the registry, then retroactively charged the Tomaselli's for the sewer bills that belonged to the previous owners. But that didn't matter to Neil Harrington and the bobble-heads.

If the federal court judge rules in favor of the Tomaselli sisters the corrupt house of cards in Salisbury is going to come tumbling down, and everyone in Salisbury who was charged the fake sewer betterment and lost their property can then petition the court to get their money back too.



Victoria Deshaise - Winner of Valley Patriot Scholarship 2014

North Andover High School Senior Victoria Deshaise was awarded a Valley Patriot Scholarship at our 10th Annual BASH last month but could not attend because of her busy work schedule. Today we caught up to Victoria to present her check in person. Victoria will be majoring in psychology at Providence College in the fall. **GOOD LUCK IN COLLEGE VICTORIA!** Please keep us updated on your progress!

GOOD LUCK LADIES! Since the day we started investigating the shenanigans in Salisbury, we have uncovered SO much corruption by Neil Harrington and the board of selectmen that I could hire a full time staff just to compile the information. And with more and more people coming forward in Salisbury with stories and documents on other stories of corruption every day, my readers are about to get a monthly dose of exposes starting in June... just in time for the summer rush.

HES BACK! Willie Lantigua is about to pull off another election win. Lantigua is now running against Marcos Devers as an Independent. Devers is a Democrat. But to make sure he wins the election, Lantigua put Lawrence City Councilor Roger Twomey in the race. You see, Twomey is a Republican and with two candidates now in the race splitting the anti-Lantigua vote, Lantigua is almost assured a win on Election Day. The fact is, a vote for Roger Twomey is a vote for Willie Lantigua. It's just a function of basic math. And when Lantigua pulls off another win and is once again an elected official, we can all thank Councilor Twomey for helping him make it happen. I for one, am supporting Marcos Devers and I am asking all our friends and family in Lawrence to do the same.

PICK PILE ON DIZOGGIO - State Representative Diana DiZoglio is under attack by her own party. The one term rep. will face two Democrat challengers in the September primary; conservative Oscar Camargo of North Andover and ultra-liberal Phil DeCologero. If DiZoglio gets past her two challengers in the primary, she will face one of the two Republicans looking to unseat her in the November final; Stan Novak or Selectman Rosemary Smedile.

IVES UNDER ATTACK FROM THE LEFT - State Senator Kathleen O'Connor Ives has a primary challenger on the September ballot. "Progressive" Jessica

Finocchiaro, who is in her first term as a member of the Greater Lawrence Technical School Committee. The winner of that primary race will face failed Republican candidate Shaun Toohey in the November final.

NORTH ANDOVER SHEEP SHEERING

This is one of my favorite events all year. The North Andover Festival Committee presents the 42nd annual Sheep Shearing Festival on Sunday, May 18th from 10am to 4pm on the Old North Andover Common. Activities include sheep shearing and herding demonstrations, pony rides, craft fair, food vendors, hayrides, and cow pie bingo. There will be a free shuttle from the Franklin and Middle Schools. For more information, call Jeff at 978-490-6505.

AMESBURY, MASS. WALK SUNDAY, JUNE 22ND - The Walk 'n Mass Volkssport Club invites walkers to participate in either a 5 km or 10 km (3.1 or 6.2 mile) recreational walk in Amesbury Mass. The start point is the Stop and Shop, Carriage Town Market Place, 100 Macy Street, Amesbury, MA, 01913. Registration for the walks is 9am - 12pm and finish by 3pm. The Amesbury walk is part of a tri-state weekend of events in New Hampshire, Maine, and Massachusetts celebrating the summer solstice. The walk routes in Amesbury traverse paved city streets through the historic downtown. Enjoy walking Amesbury's Riverwalk along the Powow River. The 10km route also includes a section along the Merrimack River.

The walk routes are on paved sidewalks, and relatively flat unpaved walk paths, suitable for strollers but not for wheelchairs. Leashed pets are welcome but clean-up laws apply. This walk is not a fundraising event and is sponsored by the Walk 'n Mass Volkssport Club. Volkssporting events promote fun, fitness and

friendship by providing non-competitive walking and other sporting events free to the public. Volkssporting also offers an achievement awards program. For further information contact Charlie at (978) 227-6775 or visit the club website at www.walknmass.org.

Haverhill Mayor Appoints Attorney as Asst. City Clerk - Mayor James J. Fiorentini announced that he has appointed Attorney Laura Angus to fill the position of Assistant City Clerk after Heather Budrewicz left the position. Attorney Angus will begin her new position on May 5th. There were many qualified applicants with diverse backgrounds, and Attorney Angus surfaced as the number one choice after careful review and consideration. She has run her own daycare business in Haverhill for the last ten years.

Attorney Angus graduated from the University of New Hampshire and the New England School of Law. Attorney Angus was a practicing attorney for many years overseeing a legal office of 12 attorneys before she entered the childcare field. In her free time, Laura serves on the Board of Directors of the Bradford Swim and Recreation Club. She lives in Haverhill with her husband and three children.

AMESBURY WHITTIER HOME MUSEUM OPENS FOR SEASON - The John Greenleaf Whittier Home Museum opens weekly for guided tours on Saturdays from May 3rd through October 25th. In addition, special tours and groups can be accommodated by calling 978-388-1337 or 978-465-5964. Saturday tours run from 11 am to 4 pm The last tour begins at 3:30pm. If you are interested in conducting research, an interview, or any other activity that is time sensitive, please contact us and we will make every effort to accommodate you.

The Whittier Home, one of the "Amesbury Treasures" located at 86 Friend Street in Amesbury, is the home where John Greenleaf Whittier lived with his sister, Elizabeth, also a poet, his mother Abigail and Aunt Mercy from 1836 until his death in 1892. As a committed Abolitionist, faithful Quaker, creative thinker, environmentalist and freedom lover, Whittier published inspired poetry most of his life and is famed for his poem "Snow-bound," and especially his anti-slavery activism.

Visit the home and see the family furnishings, artifacts and memorabilia, along with the gift shop's publications of John Greenleaf Whittier's works and his history. One can also take an online virtual tour by visiting the website www.whittierhome.org.

Relatively new on the website is the J.G. Whittier Curriculum Guide, a valuable teaching and research tool resulting from an IMLS (Institute of Museum Library Sciences) grant. It is a free download.

For over 100 years, volunteers of the Whittier Home Association have been stewards of this historic house museum, maintaining the property and collections, and striving to educate others about the life, legacy and works of J.G. Whittier.

Admission is adults \$6; Students (age 7-17), seniors \$5, and children under 7 free. Group rates on request. Proceeds help toward upkeep and maintenance of museum and garden where public teas are held each summer. The teas this summer will be held on July 17th and Aug. 21st. The major annual fundraiser is Celebrating Whittier on Saturday Sept. 13th. An updated calendar of events is on our website www.whittierhome.org.

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At 9:30 am, on May 24th, the Saturday before Memorial Day, the Methuen Sons of Italy are putting on their 25th 5K (3.1 mile) race and walk at their new Lodge, located at 459 Merrimack St, in Methuen.

The theme of the day is first and foremost to honor our Armed Services and Veterans. All runners and walkers (including youth) may designate a person or persons on their application form that they wish to honor by their participation, and certificates are made up for them to keep or present to whomever they wish. It is a great way to honor a family member or friend who has served our country.

As well as trophies and cash prizes for the first 3 male and female finishers in the 5K race, trophies are given to the first 3 male and female finishers who are Veterans or Active Military Personnel. In addition, there is a special awards category for any Sons of Italy member. There is also a youth race for various age categories between 5 and 14 years old, which is run prior to the main race.

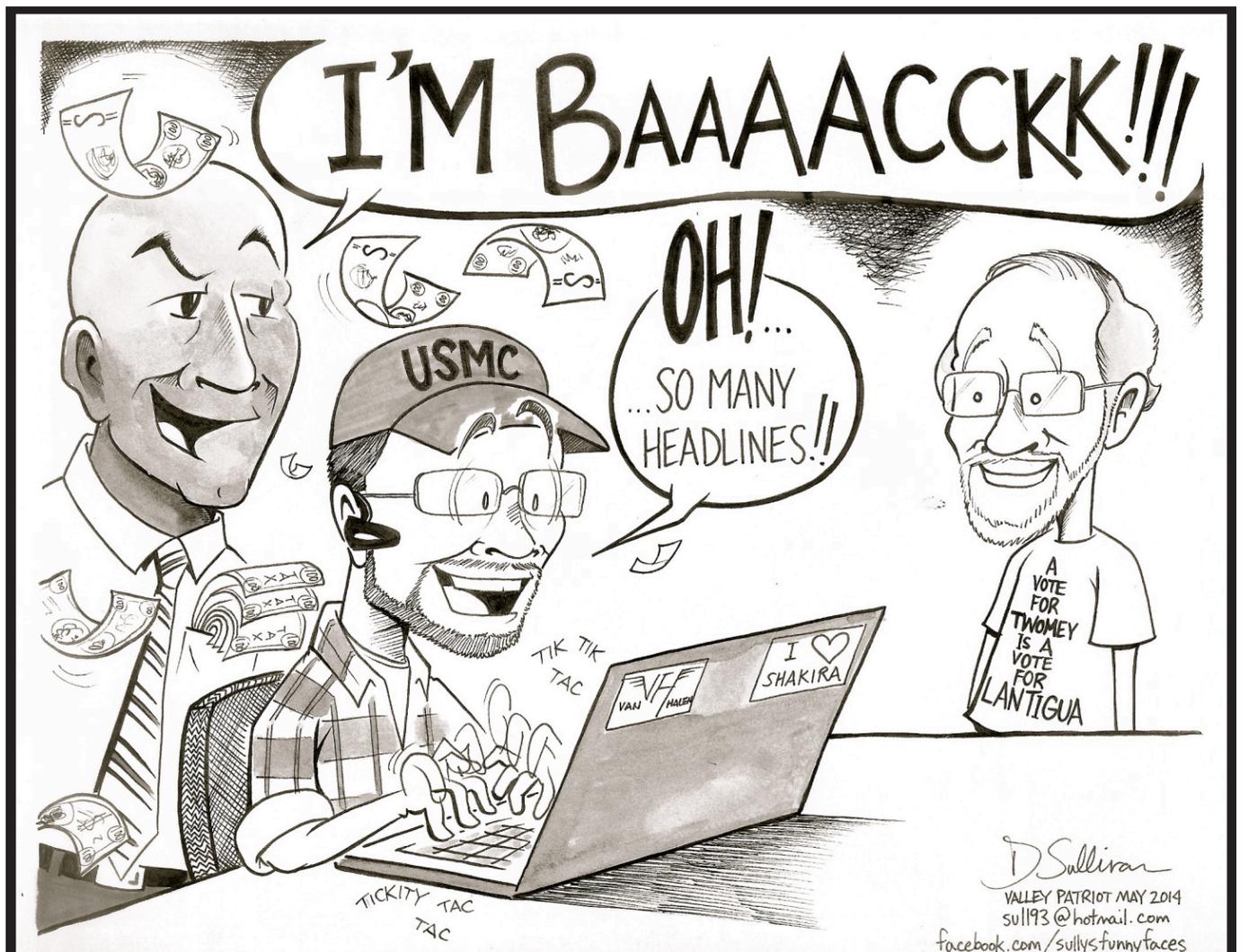
The race's primary beneficiaries are the Veterans Northeast Outreach Center, which serves veterans and their families in the greater Merrimack Valley, and Merrimack Valley Hospice.

The Sons of Italy Lodge, where all events will start and finish, is located about one mile east on Merrimack St from 495, exit 46. There is plenty of parking available in the vicinity, and signs will direct you to parking and the race course. Race applications have been distributed to a number of locations in the Merrimack Valley, athletic clubs, etc., which can be filled out and mailed in. Registration is also available on-line on www.coolrunning.com. In addition, runners and walkers can register for the events from 7am up until approximately 9:30am at the Lodge on the morning of the race, Saturday, May 24th. The youth races start at 8am this year, the walk for non-runners starts at 8:30am.

The Sons of Italy provides a superb homemade pasta meal following the conclusion of the races, at which time there will also be a raffle of prizes donated by various sponsors.

A special discount on entry to both races which constitute The Memorial Weekend Challenge is given. Finish both the Sons of Italy 5K Race on Saturday and the Baldi 5 Mile River Run in Haverhill on Sunday (the next day) and receive a special commemorative cup noting your accomplishment.

AUSTIN PREP - Four local teenagers were inducted into the National Honor Society at Austin Preparatory School in



Former Lawrence Mayor Willie Lantigua is running as an Independent for his old State Rep. seat currently held by Marcos Devers. With Councilor Twomey Running as a Republican he may split the vote enough for Lantigua to win. Bad news for Lawrence, GREAT news for The Valley Patriot.

Reading on Monday, April 7.

Inductees were welcomed into the NHS by current members during the ceremony in the Chapel of St. Augustine, which culminated with a lighting of candles. After, the students and their families celebrated their accomplishment at a reception in the dining hall.

The guest speaker for the evening was alumnus James Connolly of North Andover, a member of the class of 1980. Connolly is an environmental scientist at Wheelabrator Technologies in Hampton, N.H. He travels the globe helping China and countries throughout Europe develop and operate waste-to-energy projects that convert municipal solid waste into energy in the form of steam and electric power.

Connolly congratulated the students on their accomplishment, and reminded them to always be thankful for everything they achieve.

Among the 57 inductees were: Sophomore Haley Norris of North Andover, Sophomore Olivia Zdrojewski of North Andover, Junior Shuruth Raju of North Andover, and Sophomore Kristen Behrakis of Dracut

LAWRENCE HISTORY CENTER 5K ROAD RACE & WALK - on Sunday, May 18, 2014, this will be the flattest and fastest course in the area. Here is a great chance to set a new personal best or meet a goal for a Couch to 5K challenge. This is a family friendly event for persons of all ages and abilities. There is a 5K run & walk, as well as a kids fun run starting at 9am. Attached is a promo flyer with all the details. You may sign up at the race website <http://www.lawrencehistory.org/northcanalclassic>.

Volunteers are needed. Please share this with your friends and neighbors. See you at the starting line!

METHUEN - On June 7th and 8th at Mann Orchards (27 Pleasant St, Methuen, MA 01844), the Arts Institute Group of the Merrimack Valley is holding their Annual Spring Show: Art in the Orchards at Mann Orchards. This two-day, family friendly event is free and open to the public. All of the artwork at the event has been created by local artists of the

NOTEBOOK: PAGE 14

Local Artist Claims Discrimination Against Hispanic Week Organizers

Tom Duggan
VALLEY PATRIOT PUBLISHER

The Hispanic Week (Semana Hispana) festival in Lawrence is my absolute favorite event to attend all year. I have not only been the only non-Latino writer and publisher to support the annual event, I even served on the Hispanic Week Board of Directors for two years.

So it gives me no pleasure to bring controversy to the organization, but local artists have called The Valley Patriot offices over the past few years complaining about the way musical acts are chosen. World famous singer Bylli Crayone was snubbed by festival organizers in the past few years and this year, one of Lawrence's premier hip-hop artists Andres (DraMatik) Gonzeles is also being snubbed.

And since Bylli and Andres are members of The Valley Patriot family I am compelled to weigh in.

Before I decided to write my column on this issue, however, I spoke with two of the members of Semana Hispana Board of Directors to see if I could smooth things out and save the organization the embarrassment of bringing the controversy to light.

As much as I love all of the people on the Semana Board, I was very disappointed to hear about the way local musical acts are treated when trying to participate in the festivities.

"What makes you think DraMatik is going to be on MY stage this year," one organizer asked me when I playfully said I was looking forward to watching Andres on stage at this year's festivities.

When I told them that I had heard of the controversy and was trying to smooth over the rift to avoid bad publicity for the organization, another organizer said that they simply did not want Hip-Hop or Raggaeton artists to play at the event because the reputation of Hip-Hop wasn't a good fit for the family friendly atmosphere Semana Hispana tries to ensure.

But this reason rings hollow when you consider the positive message in most of



DraMatik's songs.

While nobody should ever dictate to the organizers of Hispanic Week who should and shouldn't be chosen for their event program, I believe the board is, and has been making a huge mistake in the way they snub and insult local talent trying to help bring customers to the festival.

In the last five years we have seen a dramatic decline in attendance at Semana Hispana. The board has done little to reach out to members of the press to promote the event and moreover, while their musical acts have always been amazing, doing what has not worked in the last five years is only going to lead to the same results ... declining attendance and more debt for the Semana Hispana Committee.

"My music doesn't encourage violence," Gonzales told us last month when discussing the controversy. "In fact, most of my songs have a positive uplifting message. If they want to grow their audience and appeal to more people so the festival can make money and be more successful, they need to stop being rude to local artists and

HISPANIC WEEK: PAGE 14

House Announces Comprehensive Autism Legislation

Representative Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen) has joined her colleagues in the House of Representatives to pass comprehensive autism legislation that will help foster independence for autistic individuals and provide their families with financial tools for long-term planning.

The bill permanently establishes a state Autism Commission and creates new programs and enhances resources for individuals, families, and education professionals. The Autism Commission will be responsible for making recommendations and monitoring the implementation of policies to improve autism care in the Commonwealth.

"With this legislation, we set forth a comprehensive proposal to provide additional services to individuals with disabilities," said House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Brian S. Dempsey (D-Haverhill).

"By implementing these changes that require additional teacher training, extend state services, and encourage financial planning, we recognize the unique needs of residents with autism and provide them with the flexibility necessary to meet those challenges. Our focus is on increasing access to quality services that provide the best foundation of care for both children and adults with autism."

"I am proud to join my colleagues in passing legislation to support individuals with autism" said DiZoglio. "Among the things to celebrate in this legislation is that families in the Merrimack Valley and across Massachusetts will now be able to proceed

with greater peace of mind as their children become more independent into adulthood."

One provision, widely referred to as the ABE program (Achieving a Better Life Experience), is designed to encourage and assist families with financial planning for individuals with disabilities. Modeled on a federal bill pending in Congress, the tax-advantaged savings accounts can be used to help plan for disability-related expenses, enabling parents of children with disabilities, as well as older individuals with disabilities, to pay for long-term costs.

Contributions to the account grow tax-free and distributions from the account for qualified disability expenses are also tax-free. Eligible costs include expenses for education, medical and dental care, job training, housing, transportation, financial management, assistive technology, home improvements and other uses.

The legislation also ensures that as the number of students with autism increases, school districts and teachers are able to provide effective education.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) will develop a training program to help teachers educate those with autism in a manner that is individualized and allows them to stay in classrooms, if appropriate. The bill will also expand the IQ-based eligibility requirement for adult services provided by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) so that these services can be effectively extended to those requiring care.

Methuen Native Brittany Baldassari in Judas' Chariot Attends Movie Premier

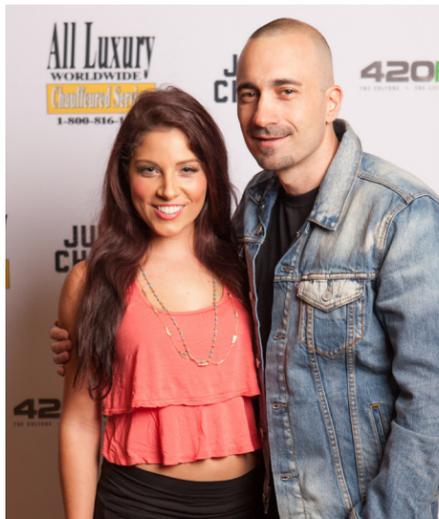
On Sunday, April 13th, Grammy-nominated and Dorchester-bred DJ/personality Clinton Sparks, hosted a premiere party for Judas' Chariot, a short film that is being turned into a feature film later this year.

On hand to toast Sparks' first foray into movies were the film's directors, John Swab and Corey Asraf, co-stars Sam Quartin and prolific Boston actor Jay Giannone (Gone Baby Gone, American Hustle, The Departed), car czar Ernie Boch Jr., former Baywatch babe Traci Bingham, local rapper/actor Slaine (The Town) and Brittany Baldassari (of MTV's "Are you the One?" and NESN's "Wicked Bytes").

After the movie premiere at AMC Boston Common, Clinton hosted a listening party for his soon-to-be-released EP, Disco Ball & Chain, at Cure Lounge.

In addition, Corey Asraf and John Swab of Iscariot Films have a new short film, Let Me Make You A Martyr, with Judias Chariot being the prequel. Let Me Make You A Martyr has 30 days to reach its goal of \$50,000.

To watch a trailer and see the Kickstarter campaign, visit <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/652961894/1376868815?token=d436f390>



Pictured left to right in the attached photo are: Brittany Baldassari-Methuen native and Jay Giannone at the premier.

www.tinyurl.com/martyrstarter

Please also take time to watch the prequel to LMMYAM, titled Judas' Chariot at the private link below:

<https://vimeo.com/88860214> password: diceman12

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/images/clear.dot.g>



MA House Budget Rejects calls for Increased Taxation and Spending

Linda Dean Campbell
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

The House of Representative concluded its annual budget debate passing a 36.18 billion dollar budget. This reflects an increase of about 5% over last year's budget.

As I write, the media is reporting that revenue in the Commonwealth is up and that the revenue picture is consistently improving. As you would expect, there are calls by many policy makers and interest groups in the Commonwealth to substantially increase taxation and spending. I am relieved to report that the House of Representatives rejected these calls.

When the Great Recession hit, the Commonwealth was able to navigate the storm far better than most states in our country because we had sizeable reserves. In fact, our Reserves were in the top five in the country. We retain this position in this fiscal budget after relying on these reserves in a responsible proportion to get us through this on-going recessionary period.

Our current comparative national position in this regard is significant in that the few states that have more in reserve than MA are those that have tremendous natural energy resources i.e. oil and gas - resources which Massachusetts does not have.

The other aspect of this budget that will contribute to maintaining the best bond rating in the Commonwealth's history is

the targeted appropriation to reduce our pension schedule. The appropriation in this budget will accelerate full funding of the pension system by 4 years. However, much more needs to be done to reduce our long term pension liabilities and to ensure that pensions are modest, transparent, and provide fair and reasonable compensation.

The greater challenge to our long term fiscal health in Massachusetts is increasing health care costs for retired public servants. While much has been done by the Legislature to attack this problem such as offering cities and towns the option to enroll all employees in the GIC, increased co-payments for all employees, and reforms at the MBTA, we also must also require government employees to serve longer in state government before they can purchase health care in retirement.

In addition to the above, the House budget includes policy initiatives and targeted spending priorities for substance abuse and mental health treatment, a responsible increase in local aid, an increase in investment in public higher education to prevent unacceptable increases in tuition and fees, and increased funding for Community Colleges. These policy initiatives require additional commentary which will be provided in a forthcoming article.

State Representative Linda Dean Campbell represents the Cities of Methuen and Haverhill in the State Legislature and is a member of the House Committee on Ways and Means.



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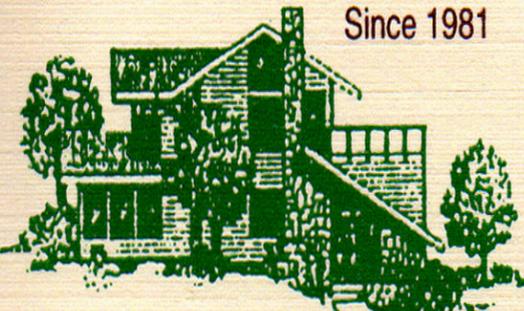
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Senator Kathleen O'Connor Ives Invites Senate Committee on Drug Addiction Treatment to Methuen for Hearing

The Massachusetts State Senate has formed a special committee to study drug addiction and treatment options in Massachusetts and aims to address an epidemic of opiate addiction in the state. In response to rising levels of drug addiction, the committee plans to review current treatment options and will make recommendations on how to fully address this public health crisis.

The committee is chaired by State Senator, Jennifer Flanagan, and its members are Senators William Brownsberger, John Keenan, Joan Lovely, Linda Dorcea Forry and Richard Ross.

The committee has been holding hearings throughout the Commonwealth. I wanted to ensure that they heard from stakeholders in the Merrimack Valley, so I invited these Senators to hold a hearing in Methuen on Monday, March 31. The Great Hall in Methuen City Hall was filled for the entire hearing as the committee heard testimony from advocates, clinicians, law enforcement, first-responders and residents in the Merrimack Valley about this challenge. The high level of interest is a testament to the fact that substance abuse affects everyone and is a public health epidemic that demands our attention. Clearly there is an urgent need for the Legislature to act quickly.

During the hearing, Police Chief Joseph Solomon of Methuen, Marshall Thomas Howard of Newburyport, Police Chief Thomas Fowler of Salisbury, Lt. William Scholtz of Amesbury, and Methuen Superintendent Judith Scannell amongst

IN YOUR CORNER ... WITH SEN. KATY IVES



others, attended the hearing and testified about the importance of funding preventative and treatment programs. The general consensus in the law enforcement community is that we cannot arrest our way out of substance abuse and its related crimes.

Senator Flanagan said, "Individuals suffering from the disease of addiction need long-term, holistic treatment options suited to their personal situation. Through this series of hearings, the committee seeks to increase access to long-term treatment solutions that integrate individuals with their families and communities for best outcomes. I thank Senator O'Connor Ives for hosting the committee and look forward to hearing about this issue in the Merrimack Valley."

District Attorney Jonathan Blodgett submitted written testimony that said, "As District Attorney I see first-hand the havoc that drug addiction wreaks on our commu-

nities. Since 2007, my office has administered a drug diversion program to allow non-violent offenders with a drug problem to get treatment in lieu of prosecution. At the same time, we continue to vigorously prosecute those individuals who are engaged in the drug trade and responsible to trafficking this poison into our communities."

Phil Lahey, a vital drug prevention and treatment advocate, spoke passionately about the issue during his testimony saying, "As a family member of an addict, I want people to realize that addiction is a disease and the best treatment is prevention. There should be no shame in treatment."

Testimony included discussion on efforts to prevent and treat drug addiction in the community, as well as barriers to treatment that currently exist and care options for individuals struggling with drug addic-

tion. Unlike many other illnesses where people seek treatment to address their conditions, addiction is unique because when people finally do seek treatment, not enough beds are available for them to begin recovery.

Today, families and law enforcement are often limited to bringing someone struggling with addiction to court to be incarcerated as a last resort for finding treatment. This Section 35 commitment is a process for committing individuals with substance abuse issues following a judicial finding that there is a likelihood of serious harm on account of the substance abuse. It is unsustainable for these Section 35 Commitments to continue being utilized as a viable treatment option for those struggling with addiction.

Families need more options along the way. In addition to expanded prevention programs, there need to be more detox facilities and step-down programs following detox in addition to long-term treatment options. Providing these programs will benefit the community by giving people a place to seek help and address the true complexities of addiction, ideally before the police and courts are involved. Most importantly, it will save lives.

The committee will make budget and policy recommendations this spring. If the Legislature continues to pursue this with the focus we've seen so far, we can effect real change in our communities on this critical issue.

You can Email Senator Ives at: occonnor.ives@gmail.com

Local Man's Heartwarming Success Story Serves As Reminder That Autism Awareness Doesn't End in April

Matthew O'Beirne walks into work each day with a big smile on his face, not only because he loves his job at the North Reading Stop and Shop, but because he loves the independence it gives him.

O'Beirne, 24, of Methuen, has Pervasive Developmental Disorder, or PDD, a diagnosis that places him on the autism spectrum. He went to American Training last fall and was trained through the StarWorks program and placed at Stop and Shop in a job that allows him to move beyond that diagnosis, giving him freedom and responsibility that he might not otherwise experience.

"I like the independence," O'Beirne said of the job. "They trust me enough to let me do my job the way I need to do it to get it done on time. I like that they trust me that way."

He's been on the job, his first, for six months. In that time he's seen an increase

from 12 hours per week to 15 hours spread over three days each week, as well as a steady increase in responsibilities.

"I feel like they're trusting me with more responsibilities now," O'Beirne said.

Among those responsibilities are porter duties like taking out the trash, mopping up spills, and cleaning counters, as well as bagging and cart collection duties. He said as new things are added, he adjusts accordingly.

"It's kind of difficult when they throw me off my routine by adding something else," he said, "But after about a week, I seem to get the hang of it again."

O'Beirne said the job has been a positive experience.

"It's been pretty good so far. I have a nice boss and get along well with a lot of my coworkers," he said.

North Reading Store Manager Rick Capistran said O'Beirne brings great morale to the store.

"When I see Matt come in, he's always ready to work and happy to be here," he said, adding that his positive attitude is something for others to emulate.

"I just try to brighten up people's days by being very friendly to everybody," O'Beirne said, emphasizing that he tries to set a good example for the newer employees.

"He's a hard worker, always gives 110 percent, and is always willing to learn,"

Capistran said. "He's a great kid."

Carol Smith, the StarWorks Career Coach who partnered O'Beirne with Stop and Shop, said that she carefully assesses each guest and employer's abilities and needs to provide a strong and successful match.

"Matthew is conscientious about his job and is looking to grow from his experience. His employer has a great partnership with him and values him both as an employee and as a part of the Stop and Shop community. Matthew made a commitment to his job and embraces what he can and cannot do," said Smith and StarWorks Program Director, Denise Michaud.

Smith said Stop and Shop has been wonderful in their partnership with American Training. "They care. They're very endearing," she said. Of Capistran, she added, "He sees potential and wants to utilize

AUTISM: PAGE: 26



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Stop Blaming God!

Peter Larocque
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

I am getting tired of people saying that God is judging and punishing America because of all the wrong that is going on today in the United States; this of course includes Lawrence, Massachusetts. My answer to this is simple. If that were true, then God would owe Jesus Christ an apology because over 2000 years ago, Jesus Christ was crucified on the cross for all of man's wrong doings. It was then and there that God judged and punished sin, and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. So if God was punishing America now, then God would be guilty of not being a just God. Since God is just and righteous and all love, He cannot be punishing America today. God cannot condemn the same sin twice, which would be Double Jeopardy!

So what is hurting Lawrence and the rest of America today? Clearly it's the withdrawal from our founding constitutional principles. More and more of our freedoms are being replaced with liberal and progressive legislation which are contrary to the Constitution of the United States of America! For example, the most contrary piece of legislation that the liberal and progressive movement has today (which is their centerpiece), is the principle of redistribution. Taking from those who have and giving it to those who have not.

This one principle has chipped away at the heart and will to put in a good days work. Why work hard or take pride in one's work when you know that more than 50% of Americans are receiving some kind of government assistance? This belief has filtered down from adults to our high school kids, producing an attitude of entitlement. Many of our young adults are showing up to work with the assumption that the company who has hired them owes them a paycheck just because! When is brake time? When is lunch time? How many personal and sick days do I get? This work ethic and entitlement mentality comes from years of liberal and progressive indoctrination, most of which comes right from our colleges of higher learning.

For instance, take the great city of Lawrence where every Labor Day weekend we celebrate the Bread and Roses Strike of 1912. A strike that was prompted by a two-hour pay cut which corresponded to a new law shortening the workweek. More than twenty thousand workers were involved, including almost every mill in Lawrence. The strike lasted more than two months and when it was all over, mill owners decided to settle, giving workers raises of up to 20 percent.

What would these same twenty thousand workers, after going through what they did, say today, if they heard what took place in this same city 102 years later in these same mills? A forum was held by a panel of five, assembled by Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, along with an audience of about

200 to discuss for 90 minutes the topic of immigration. One of the suggestions and comments that was made at this forum was that the city needs to restore trust in its police and the state should issue drivers licenses to undocumented immigrants, and reform workplace laws to ensure better wages for immigrants now working in the so-called shadow economy.

On the surface this may sound okay, but notice how the terms immigrants and undocumented immigrants were being used. This is another perfect example of in-your-face liberal and progressive terminology. They now have changed the term of illegal immigrant to undocumented immigrant. It doesn't matter how you say it, illegal is still illegal in my book. Knowing that the statement comes from someone who attends Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government doesn't make it okay! On top of this, they want the state to issue driver's licenses to illegal immigrants! This is their solution! This is their answer to immigration in Lawrence! They really believe they are entitled to drivers licenses. They think the state should reward them with these driver's licenses even though they're undocumented (illegal) immigrants! This is just liberal socialism! On a side note, have you noticed that they changed the term "Global Warming" to "Climate Change"? They, the liberal progressive movement, really think that we are stupid enough to not notice; all the while our state government continues to get more and more overextended and overburdened.

Likewise, our federal government keeps overextending itself by taking on healthcare, Obama Care as we know it and should I dare mention, the federal government sponsored Common Core Curriculum that is soon coming to a school near you. Our government was never designed for these kinds of programs which have resulted in our separation from our fundamental freedoms. Whatever happened to self sufficiency? None of these social programs are found in The Constitution of the United States of America.

Now you see what I mean by Stop Blaming God!

In conclusion, God has left it up to us, the people of this great Country, to elect men and women who will fight for and implement policies and legislation that helps its people to be free and self sufficient, and not dependent on the Government for their sufficiency! The time is now, this November! Don't vote the party line, vote for the individual who will stand for and protect the Constitution of the United States of America!

God Bless each and every one of you!
Peter Larocque



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

Rep. Moran Welcomes Local Student to State House

Lawrence State Representative Frank A. Moran (D) says he was pleased to meet with Jose Rivera today from the Greater Lawrence Technical High School for the 67th annual Student Government Day. Student Government Day is held once a year at the State House and is composed of bright high school students that volunteer from across the Commonwealth to participate in an interactive day in government. "I am pleased to announce that Jose Rivera from the Greater Lawrence Technical School was able to participate in Student Government Day on April 4, 2014 at the Massachusetts State House. Jose assumed the role of representing my office the 17th Essex district seat in the House Chamber," said State Representative Frank Moran. The district consists of Lawrence, Andover, and Methuen. Jose Rivera was selected to participate as a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives to debate, vote, and speak on behalf of the district he lives. Student Government Day (originally called Good Government Day) allows students to voice their positions on important current issues and enables students to participate in the legislative process.

This program also provides the opportunity for students to exchange views with their peers throughout the state on



statewide issues.

The students were addressed by Secretary of State William F. Galvin, Speaker Robert A. DeLeo, Supreme Court Justice Ralph Gants, and Commissioner Chester from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. They then participated in a simulated hearing for two pieces of current legislation: S246, An Act relative to healthy kids, and H3124, An Act relative to safe driving.

This was followed by a simulated Joint Session in the House Chamber.

Who's New in the Neighborhood?

Jenn Pollina knows the value of a comfortable pair of shoes. That's because she has been introducing herself to the residents in North Andover.

Pollina is a financial advisor for the financial services firm Edward Jones, and her neighborhood visits demonstrate the Edward Jones way of doing business -- face to face.

"That's one of the things that drew me to this firm," Pollina said. "Edward Jones values the individual investor and understands that people still want to do business with someone they know and trust."

Pollina also had to complete one of the most rigorous training programs in the financial services industry.

And although she is well-versed in the technical aspects of investments, the training isn't over. Edward Jones places a lot of emphasis on continuing education, and its financial advisors train literally throughout their careers.

Pollina has 16 years of experience in the financial services industry.

Edward Jones provides financial services for individual investors in the United States and, through its affiliate, in Canada. Every aspect of the firm's business, from the types of investment options offered to the location of branch offices, is designed to cater to individual investors in the communities in which they live and work. The firm's 12,000-plus financial advisors work directly with nearly 7 million clients to understand their personal goals -- from



college savings to retirement -- and create long-term investment solutions that emphasize a well-balanced portfolio and a buy-and-hold strategy. Edward Jones embraces the importance of building long-term, face-to-face relationships with clients, helping them to understand and make sense of the investment options available today.

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Firefighters' Union Calls Out Mayor for Shutting Down Fire Stations

LAWRENCE - In response to Mayor Rivera's recent statement in the Eagle Tribune on Sunday April 26, 2014, the Lawrence Firefighters' Union Local 146 would like to add the following information.

A budgetary miscalculation done last year is the reason why our budget is coming up short. To say that it is the fault of the union members "unforeseen retirements and contract language" is a complete misrepresentation of the problem.

Our budget is NOT completely strapped. There IS money in there we feel will get us closer to the end of the fiscal year. The mayor feels otherwise.

HIS decision to "Brown out" pieces of apparatus whenever our minimum number of employees is below 24, while it saves money in hiring overtime, it also shuts down a front line piece of what is already a department running shorthanded.

It's unimaginable that a city with a conservative population of 76,000 people is only protected with 3 engines or 1 ladder at times.

While we do know that the city has a financial responsibility to its citizens, it also had a greater responsibility to provide continued safety to each & every citizen and it's firefighters.

When the mayor mentions the statement that if everybody "shows up to work we should have no issues at all" it is also misleading.

If the fire department wasn't running short-staffed to begin with, this might be the case.

Our members have the same typical hardships that arise with any average family. Kids get sick, family members get sick and employees get sick or injured.

It is an irresponsible statement to place the blame for one member not "showing



up for work" being the reason for a piece of apparatus having to be shut down for the shift.

We, as a union will continue to "show up to work" and do our very best to provide a level of safety the citizens of Lawrence have become accustomed to.

Anybody who has seen the news from this past winter knows that we are a busy department. It is not easy to do our jobs with less people.

We urge the mayor and his staff to find alternative ways out of a situation not created by members of this union.

FROM PAGE 3: SUZANNE BUMP

more recent issues like the Merrimack Valley Education Collaborative scandal, or our discovery of a \$100M discrepancy of the MBTA's automated fare collection system.

What do they have in common?

In each instance, the overseers of this public activity actively gave away their oversight. They knowingly decided to let other entities become responsible and drive essential decision making.

I have been a legislator; I have been a cabinet member. I know there is little glory to be gained by prioritizing spending on bureaucratic infrastructure. But, I think we are all familiar with the expression 'penny wise and pound foolish'. Putting all available spending into programs without sufficiently funding administration and oversight is a classic example of the wisdom of that proverb.

On a personal, political note, some people have been surprised by some of my work.

And they see me doing what I do with the audits, and the type of audits that the office is now conducting and they see that being done in spite of the fact that I am a Democrat.

The reality is, that I am doing this work, especially in the areas of human services and public assistance program spending, (which frankly is where most of our money in state government is going) because I am a Democrat.

I want people to believe in government. I want them to see that government is capable of self-examination, and self-correction. And I believe that one of the original members of the Tea Party, the Revolutionary era patriot Thomas Paine was right when he said: 'A body of men

holding themselves accountable to nobody, ought not to be trusted by anybody.'

I think that motivates the work that Tom Duggan does here with The Valley Patriot. Just a few moments ago, I was honored to have him recognize some of the work that we've done around public assistance, fraud and abuse. I had been unable to join him at the tenth anniversary dinner of his publication and he was kind enough to come up today in order to present me with my [1st Amendment] award.

Thomas Paine had it right and I think if we all embrace this notion of accountability as a necessary investment in our Commonwealth then it will be a major step forward in building the public trust."

Last year Auditor Suzanne Bump's office released an audit of the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance (the state's welfare agency).

Among other things, Bump's audit found 1,164 dead people receiving welfare benefits, and 30,000 blank EBT cards (welfare cash cards) completely unaccounted for.

Instead of embracing Bump's objective financial report, Governor Patrick has chosen to quibble over some of the more meaningless numbers released in the audit. He, as well as several Democrat elected officials, attacked Bump with the help of the Governor Patrick's cheerleaders at the Boston Globe.

Bump refused to back off or sugar coat the results of her audits showing fraud, waste and abuse under the Democrat party's leadership of state agencies and continues to expose the failures of those state agencies.



Massachusetts State Auditor Suzanne Bump received The Valley Patriot's 1st Amendment Award for her work in demanding government accountability and exposing millions of dollars of fraud in the state's welfare department and EBT cash card program. Bump also exposed the deficiencies of more than \$100 million in the state's MBTA automated fare collections system. She was attacked by members of her own party, in particular Governor Deval Patrick, but kept true to her constitutional duty by continuing to report directly to the public and standing up for her right to expose failures, fraud, waste, and abuse in state government. Auditor Bump was to receive her award last month at The Valley Patriot's 10th Anniversary BASH but was unable to attend due to a sickness in her family.



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FROM PAGE 7: NOTEBOOK

Merrimack Valley. There will be drawings where lucky winners can have the opportunity to take home unique pieces of art. Funds earned from this event benefit our yearly scholarship. For more information visit our website at www.ArtsInstituteGroup.org, like us on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/AIGMV, or email us at ArtsInstituteGroup.org.

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Methuen Democrat Jessica Finocchiaro Certified for Ballot for State Senate Run

METHUEN—Last week, Methuen Democrat Jessica Finocchiaro was certified by local city and town clerks to appear on the September ballot running for the First Essex State Senate seat. Finocchiaro, an elected member of the Greater Lawrence Technical School District Committee and life-long resident of Methuen, will be challenging freshman State Senator Kathleen O'Connor Ives of Newburyport in the Democratic Primary.

"It's wonderful to be certified by our local clerks, because now we can focus on the road ahead. I will bring strong transparent leadership on the local and state level, and stand up for working families. I look forward to connecting with the people of the First Essex State Senate district about the issues they care about most," Finocchiaro said.

Finocchiaro was elected to represent Methuen on the Greater Lawrence Technical School Committee as a write-in candidate and now serves as Vice-Chair. The school's district includes Andover, Lawrence, Methuen, and North Andover. "I am honored to have been elected to take on an important leadership role in our community as a member of the Greater Lawrence Technical School Committee, and my constituents know that in the Senate I will continue to be an advocate for working families and help our students get the education they need to start a career when they graduate. At the same time we



need to focus on the Merrimack Valley's infrastructure, so we can attract development that continues to bring quality jobs to the district."

The First Essex district includes: Amesbury, Haverhill, Merrimac, Methuen, Newburyport, North Andover (Precincts 1-4), and Salisbury. The Democratic Primary will be held on Tuesday, September 9th, 2014. The incumbent, Kathleen O'Connor Ives, first won the Democratic Primary in 2012, with just 38 percent of the vote in a close three-way contest.

FROM 7: HISPANIC WEEK

stop discriminating against the stereotype of what some people think Hip-Hop and Reggaeton music represents. I tried to work with them, I was insulted, they ignored my phone calls and they acted like the event was to promote their own personal likes and dislikes. I don't want to hurt the reputation of Semana Hispana, but this has to stop."

Gonzales released a statement shortly after our conversation. Here is a portion of what it said:

"My fellow people of Lawrence & Hip-Hop/Reggaeton Artists of the Lawrence area, there is a great injustice happening in our city.

After many years of Support and Love from the Semana Hispana, they no longer will host or play Hip-Hop or Reggaeton Artists on THEIR Stage. Not only is this Latino on Latino discrimination, it's a slap in the face of all artists and youth in the city, as well as a slap in the face of Lawrence as a whole. To let this discrimination go unchallenged and unnoticed would be a travesty. I would not be able to sleep at night knowing these so called Latino leaders of the city not only shun us and our music, but would be able to get away with it so easily. We live breath and sleep Lawrence, but we cannot shine or perform at OUR own festival?

They would bring in other artists from other cities to entertain OUR people with Merengue and Salsa ONLY? The 3rd and 4th generation Latino's who aspire to be artist should be able to bring their families and friends to watch them perform at this prestigious event. The youth of Lawrence should be given a stage to perform on; the veteran artists of Lawrence should be able to put on a great show for Lawrence.

I was always afforded that opportunity and it was one of the main reasons I became Andes "DraMatik" Gonzalez.

For 20 years I've performed at that festival and was proud of it and it was always something to look forward to. I think this is one of the reasons why Semana Hispana has lost some of its luster and prominence. Upon speaking to one of the organizers,

Juanita Saldana, I was told that "neither Hip-Hop nor Reggaeton have a place on that stage", I was told that "That music does not belong on MY stage" then she referred me to the President Jose Arnaldo Davila. He took my initial call and said he'd look into it, and has ignore my several messages and phone calls since then.

Let's make them give the Spanish Festival back to the people and youth OF Lawrence; not hold it as their own personal show! So, now I've enlisted the The Valley Patriot to help us in this fight, as well as a few local videographers to do some video documenting of what is going on."

It pains me greatly to see this kind of rift with Semana Hispana and local musicians, especially musicians like Bylli Crayone and Andres "DraMatik" being members of The Valley Patriot family. But it would pain me even more if the event continues to decline because artists who are wildly popular with young people are kept off "their stage".

I have offered Semana Hispana my personal help in any way I can to change the image and increase attendance at their weekend festival, and my offer remains on the table.

Clearly, Hispanic Week is one of the greatest events in the City of Lawrence all year. And while it has become a shell of its' former self, I believe Hispanic Week can once again grow and be as successful as it was in the 80's and 90's.

But that is only going to happen with the cooperation of everyone who loves and works to make this event a success every year.

If need be, and as busy as I am, I am willing to personally re-join the Semana Hispana Board of Directors and help mediate so that both sides can work together for the 2015 Hispanic Week festivities.

Surely there is room for everyone at Semana Hispana. If there is bad blood or personal beefs between the board and local Hispanic artists, I am willing to be the buffer so that everyone can work toward the only goal that should matter... promoting and attracting more people to participate.



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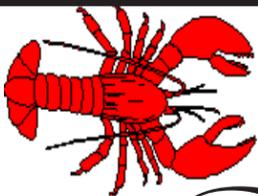
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Ye Gay Ol' Valley

Clarity on the Issue of Sexuality

D. B. Langevin

LESBIAN COLUMNIST

VALLEY PATRIOT PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Last month, Paul Murano's column on clarifying the issue of homosexuality was run right next to mine, appropriately so. I'd like to add more clarity to what Mr. Murano had to say.

He talked about issues, "purposely obscured by those pushing an agenda to justify a lifestyle." First of all everyone has an agenda and everyone purposely obscures issues to push whatever it is they are trying to justify: lifestyle, political platform, etc. Even the religious right does this, Murano included. To mention this is purposely obscuring and pushing an agenda.

He discussed judging acts and condemning bad behavior. It is my opinion that excluding heterosexual acts from his discussion falls under obscuring facts, pushing an agenda and exhibiting bad behavior.

In his column, Murano stated that, "Sodomy is intrinsically evil and can never be condoned regardless of the propensity's origin or the difficulty it may post in some to control." He is under the misconception that all gay men engage in sodomy, which they do not, and that there are no heterosexual couples that do, which there are. Has Murano done any research in this matter? By leaving out these so called 'sinless' heterosexual couples, he proves that he most certainly is pushing his agenda by calling homosexual men intrinsically evil and excluding heterosexuals who engage in the same behavior.

Later in his column he discusses the purpose of sexual reproductive organs and that, "no one is offended if we ask the same questions about the respiratory or digestive system." Well that's because none of us need someone else to breathe or digest food. They are both singular, autonomous acts AND they are involuntary. You don't have to date air to breathe it or ask food out for dinner in order to digest it and hope that someone will find you attractive enough to allow you to consummate the relationship with each. It just happens.

If the purpose of the respiratory system is to breathe then we should consider smokers as intrinsically evil. Smoking is unnatural and hazardous to one's health and the health of those around smokers, therefore we are all sinful when we see someone smoking and don't grab the cigarette from their mouth and break it. We can all agree that the sexual reproductive organ's purpose is to reproduce. But the function of sexual organs when used correctly is a voluntary act where two people are needed to make them work as the organs were intended to do. This poses the question, what do we do about those people who 'naturally' cannot reproduce?

Should a sterile man or women hang up their libido and call it a day? Are they not allowed to engage in a healthy sex life with their spouse or partner? Their sexual act can be likened to sodomy because it will never produce a child. What about those women who have become past their prime? Their sexual organs will also never produce or house another child. Should their sex life be over? Murano is under the delusion that every heterosexual who engages in intercourse is intending to produce a child and if they are not then they are intrinsically unnatural and evil. He said himself, "Acts that attempt to separate pleasure from purpose and love from life, whether between people of the same or opposite sex, violate human nature and dignity and are by definition objectively abusing." So, all you healthy heterosexuals out there, unless you planning on having a child, STOP HAVING SEX! It's a sin.

Another question that Murano asks is, "Are homosexual acts in accord with the order of human nature as contributing to the flourishing of the individual, family and society?" The answer is unequivocally yes! Almost every gay or lesbian I have spoken to have said that they became happier, physically and emotionally healthier and a more productive, contributing citizen when they finally accepted and acted upon their homosexuality. It is virtually impossible to hide one part of yourself without shoving other parts away with it. When a person finally 'comes out of the closet' it opens the flood gates. I became much more creative, outgoing and happy when I came out at twenty-nine. I got my master's in education, I began writing, more physically active and a met the love of my life. This has been highly influential on the health and happiness of my children and they will be the first to tell you. I have become a more productive citizen, becoming politically active and conscious along with giving more to my community and society. I find this is so with the majority of people who have embraced their homosexuality and participated in the acts that are associated with it. I also know that every homosexual couple who have had a child together whether it is through adoption or invitro wanted the child without reservation. There is no homosexual couple who has had a child by accident.

In conclusion, just as Mr. Murano mentioned at the beginning of his column, I believe mine is just as important as his, but saying so is boastful and prideful. Isn't that a sin?



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

Beneath The Surface

The Moral Crime Ignored in the Donald Sterling Story

Paul Murano

VALLEY PATRIOT EDITOR'S CHOICE AWARD

There has been a lot of media coverage on David Sterling's racially insensitive remarks recorded in private conversations. Disparaging remarks against the human dignity of any people make no sense and should be condemned. I will let others debate the legality of making private remarks public without one's consent, the precedent this may set for the future of privacy of speech in America, and the fact that there are countless people saying things just as reprehensible each night on the internet. As the moral outrage in the media continues 24/7, the ethical issue in this story I would like to bring to our attention is one that no one is talking about. The fact it has been completely ignored speaks volumes about the moral imbalance of our age.

Ignored in this story is the issue of adultery. Rochelle Sterling has been married to her husband for over fifty years. His mistress, who he parades around at public events including Clippers games, and who happens to be a third of his wife's age, is at the center of this saga. Mrs. Sterling had to sue this girlfriend in order to get some of the millions back for her family that her husband has lavished on her. Apparently all this means nothing to the public. Why? Because it is a "private matter". Really? Was not the conversation between Sterling and his mistress a private matter? And don't we understand that marriage is performed in public because it a public matter? Then why do disparaging remarks made in private produce more public outrage than a broken vow made before God and the community? How does such an injustice and public humiliation go unnoticed?

So this is the question we need to ponder: Why is dragging a marriage through the mud and embarrassing a wife of over 50 years "nobody's business" while a private conversation is everyone's? Let me offer two reasons it is seen as such. First, sex has become a major sacrament to the god of self who is worshiped in the current leftist religion of secular humanism. No statement will ever be allowed in public that threatens one's "right" to premarital and extramarital sex, regardless of the pain and injustice it causes. The second reason is that radical individualism has permeated our culture, making the god of self into an autonomous being. The irony of this new doctrine of man is that when you try to replace interdependence with independence you end

up with dependence. In this respect the libertarian ideal is its own worst enemy.

Today we strive to uphold the equal dignity of the races (which is a good thing), and we denigrate the equal differences of the sexes (which is a bad thing). Everyone, it is believed, must be an independent agent in need of no one to complement or enrich one's life. The autonomous individual of today must be an even blend of masculine and feminine traits to minimize difference and create androgynous wholes. This absurdity serves as the foundation to justify the breakup culture of couples and families so common today for the sake of the individual. This new form of selfishness is now branded as "liberty".

Such liberty has its costs. For example, one extreme to this so-called liberty leads to mass killing in the name of independent 'private' freedom. Dr. Alveda King, the niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., visits college campuses around the country heralding what she calls the "black genocide" (<http://www.thecollegefix.com/post/17277/>). The media ignores her. The fact that African-American babies are being targeted and killed at a significantly higher rate disproportionate to white babies, 16 million aborted since Roe vs. Wade, is apparently irrelevant. However, some individual saying foolish things to his mistress behind closed doors is earth-shattering news. Human life and family are being destroyed, the African-American community is hit the hardest, and the media ignores it. That is racism at its core.

Adultery and abortion, both related and both ignored by our morally blinded culture, creates an imbalance in our thinking. Condemning racist rants by ignorant individuals is a positive thing, but one wonders if the hysteria that accompanies it is our way of over-compensating for the anti-life, anti-family culture we have created with our chosen "private" behaviors. Guilt has a funny way of transferring itself in the attempt to feel better about ourselves.



Paul Murano teaches philosophy and theology at Middlesex Community College, North Shore Community College, and Magdalen College. He is host of *Beneath the Surface* radio on WCAP (www.facebook.com/fellowtruthseekers), hosts a local TV show, and is co-host of *Paying Attention!* radio show.

Paul is also founder and chairman of Heartbeat Pregnancy Help in Burlington and is a singer/songwriter/musician.

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Candidate Camargo Questions Rep. DiZoglio's Integrity

TRANSCRIBED BY
KATHLEEN LAPLANTE

14th Essex District State Representative Diana Dizoglio (D) Methuen, has a fight on her hands this year in her bid for re-election with two challengers in the September primary. They are ultra-liberal Democrat activist Phil Decologero, and newcomer Oscar Camargo. Both Democrat challengers are from North Andover. If DiZoglio is successful in fending off the two North Andover challengers, she will face the winner of the Republican primary between North Andover Republican Stan Novak and Selectman Rosemary Smedile.

Democrat challenger, Oscar Camargo, was recently a guest on Tom Duggan's Paying Attention Radio Program on 980WCAP. This is part of that interview with Tom Duggan and his co-host Paul Murano. The program is produced by Chris Poulblon.

TD: Tell the people right at the onset, who you are, a little bit about yourself, and some bio information so they can have a picture in their head of who you are.

OC: Oh sure, no problem. I am a 14-year Army Veteran. I've been deployed to Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan with the Mass. National Guard. And really, in many ways, I owe my education to the Army. I've been able to earn my Bachelor's and Master's Degrees. And in fact I actually re-enlisted for an additional three years. Running for office is something I've always wanted to do. I feel as though it's like a natural transition. Public service is something that runs deep into who I am



and at this point right now, I'm dealing with the whole situation, pretty much merits throwing my hat into the ring right now.

TD: Did you decide to run because there was something State Representative DiZoglio did that you didn't like, or was it just a campaign of opportunity where you wanted to run and it didn't matter who was there?

OC: The thing is, in particular for Diana, I met her several times and I can say I found her really charming but unfortunately, there was one particular thing that really, really irked me, that really made me want to throw my hat into the ring, and now that's a whole budget and transportation bill, and just taxation in general. She was on your show, not that long ago, back in '13. She said she opposed raising taxes. The public record shows otherwise.

TD: You're running as a Democrat?

OC: That is true.

CAMARGO: PAGE 26

Katz and D'Amore Get It Wrong

Kristi Divine
READER SUBMISSION

I rarely differ with two outstanding contributors to The Valley Patriot who I very much respect and admire. They're getting it wrong, however, is indicative of something people can't know or understand until they have seen it up close and personal. That the issue is of such grave importance to each and every one of us, however, and even more so to parents, compels me to set the record straight. Jeff Katz, and Joe D'Amore (who I would call a friend and mentor) both contributed articles relative to DCF and children in last month's edition. Since then, after months of public outcry for the Governor to fire her, the Commissioner of DCF was forced to resign. On April 29, 2014, the same day, a rally was held on the State House steps to FREE JUSTINA from DCF custody.

In his last article on DCF, Katz made many accurate assertions, but I was shocked when he said, "...DCF Commissioner Olga Roche's most insightful and hopeful comment ..." was that she "... proudly proclaimed that her agency had not 'lost' any more children..." Though Katz was mocking such an achievement, since she lost the last child (5 year old Jeremiah Oliver, found dead, months later, on April 16, 2014), Katz failed to mention that shortly after Roche's inaccurate statement, it was determined that DCF has lost track of over 130 children! That warrants repeating, and registering an alarm, especially if one of those children was yours.

My bigger issue, however, is Katz's statement: "Let's be brutally honest for a second. Kids don't wind up in the DCF

system for any nice reasons. These are kids who have parents who have abandoned them or abused them." ABSOLUTELY FALSE. There are very many children that are ripped from homes of loving parents, many who have done absolutely nothing wrong. The Pelletiers immediately come to mind, and nothing could be more outrageous for DCF, our courts, or our state to do to our citizens/parents/children than what has been done to them. While the Pelletier case is now front and center in local, national and international media at the moment, they are hardly the only family that has had their child kidnapped by the state. What the Pelletier case is indicative of is that, despite its notoriety and the outcry of tens of thousands from all over the country admonishing the kidnapping of this young teen, and the ensuing torment of her family, and in spite of being exposed and criticized by Dr. Phil, Dr. Ablow, Allen Dershawitz, Huckabee, Meagan Kelly, Glen Beck and just about every major and minor media outlet from the Boston Globe to the Wall Street Journal, 15 months later, this child still remains in the custody of DCF. Our Governor and the Attorney General, those most able to stop this, and charged with protecting our rights, are silent and complicit in the physical and mental abuse, and deteriorating health of this young girl, who by all accounts, is being held in captivity and treated with less consideration than some of our terrorists and mass murderers.

There are two points here. First, don't say all kids in DCF are abandoned or

JUSTINA: PAGE 23

Massachusetts Military: The REAL Disenfranchised

Christine Morabito
CONSERVATIVE COLUMNIST

Despite a federal law intended to fix the injustice, U.S. servicemen and women remain the most disenfranchised group in this country. The Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE) was passed by Congress in 2009 and signed into law by President Obama. The most important provision requires states to mail absentee ballots at least 45 days before an election.

Full compliance in Massachusetts would require changing the date of our primary election from September to June or early August, to accommodate recounts and allow enough time to print and mail ballots by the deadline. Changing a primary is no easy task, but we have done it before. In 2012 we changed our state primary from Sept. 18 to Sept. 6 so as to not conflict with Rosh Hashanah. That was nice, but it did nothing to ensure that overseas citizens had time to vote. Surely this little inconvenience is the least we can do for those who make the ultimate sacrifice for us.

The MOVE Act not only affects military personnel living overseas, but students, Peace Corps volunteers, health workers, citizens working abroad and civilians working for the U.S. government. According to the State Department, in 2012 there were an estimated 5.25 million U.S. citizens living overseas.

In 2010, MA, along with 4 other states, was granted a waiver from the Department of Justice for "undue hardship," based on our primary date being so late and so close to the general election. In his August 2010 column, "Outrage: Pentagon Grants Five States Waivers from MOVE Act," J. Christian Adams wrote:



"Since MOVE passed last October, Massachusetts did nothing to adjust their late September 14 primary to comply. (This was the same state that introduced and passed legislation in mere days so that Senator Paul Kirk could be sworn in to vote for Obamacare. The legislature previously stripped Republican Mitt Romney of the power to appoint replacements and required a special election.) It's a shame soldiers aren't as important as Senator Kirk's vote was. ..."

Thomas Perez, the Justice Department's Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights reported that one third of overseas troops who wanted to vote in 2010 could not.

Nine states and the District of Columbia have all adjusted their primaries to accommodate the MOVE Act's 45-day advance mailing requirement. Having had three and a half years to comply, Massachusetts should have done better. There have been attempts. In 2011, Rep. James Dwyer, along with Rep. Jay

Kaufman and Rep. Bradley Jones, filed legislation to change the primary date to June. The measure, H 1972, drafted by Woburn City Clerk, William Campbell, would give overseas voters adequate time to vote. On Beacon Hill, this bill is about as popular as a skunk at lawn party. Incumbents see an earlier primary as a disadvantage, since they are prohibited by law from accepting contributions during a legislative session. Our legislature voted to table the issue until 2015. Retaining their seats seems to be more important. Our U.S. soldiers make protecting our freedoms a priority. We should thus make it a priority to protect their civil rights.

I spoke with a soldier from Natick who was based in Kandahar Province in 2012. He attempted to vote in the November 6 presidential election, but did not receive his ballot until late November. That same year, a female soldier from Falmouth was at sea in Japan. When she and her fellow troops realized they would not get

their ballots on time they attempted to vote online through the Federal Voting Assistance Program. These attempts failed and their votes did not count. If these voters were disenfranchised in 2012, then 2014 promises to be far worse. Our primary election is Sept. 9, giving the state about 10 days to certify elections, handle recounts, design and print ballots and distribute them to 351 city and town clerks, who must THEN mail them overseas. 10 days! It doesn't seem humanly possible. It is unclear whether the state will be applying for a waiver this year.

If returning overseas ballots are post-marked by Election Day they will still be accepted up to 10 days after the election. But that's after the election. Don't the men and women fighting and dying for our country deserve to be more than an afterthought?

On the federal level, commitment from our leaders has been mixed. The Department of Justice has filed lawsuits with Alabama, Michigan, Vermont, Wisconsin, New York, New Mexico and Guam for noncompliance with MOVE. Yet they seem to be giving Massachusetts a pass.

I contacted MA Secretary of State, William Galvin's office for evidence of our state's compliance, but they did not return my call. Ditto: the Department of Defense. It is disheartening that those who work for the people are so unavailable when the people have questions.



Christine Morabito is a resident of Haverhill and former President of the Greater Boston Tea Party. You can email her at christine.morabito@hotmail.com

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Law Enforcement United Team New England, bicycled through The Valley on their way to the National Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial in Washington, D.C. Law Enforcement Officers from across the country take the 3-4 week bike ride to D.C. every year to raise money for COPS-KIDS Camp, a camp for children of police officers killed in the line of duty. Riders also raise money for the Officer Down Memorial Page (odmp.org). Above left, Amesbury Police Officer Jason Kookan at the North Andover Police Department, reads the names of police officers who died in the line of duty in the Merrimack Valley, with the North Andover P.D. Honor Guard behind him. Above right, North Andover Sgt. Davis with his son and father. Photo left, the family of deceased North Andover Police Officer Joseph W. Lawlor, Jr. who died on Friday, March 27, 1981. Patrolman Lawlor died of carbon monoxide poisoning while sitting in his patrol car. The vehicle's rear-most section of the tailpipe was missing, allowing fumes to seep into the vehicle.

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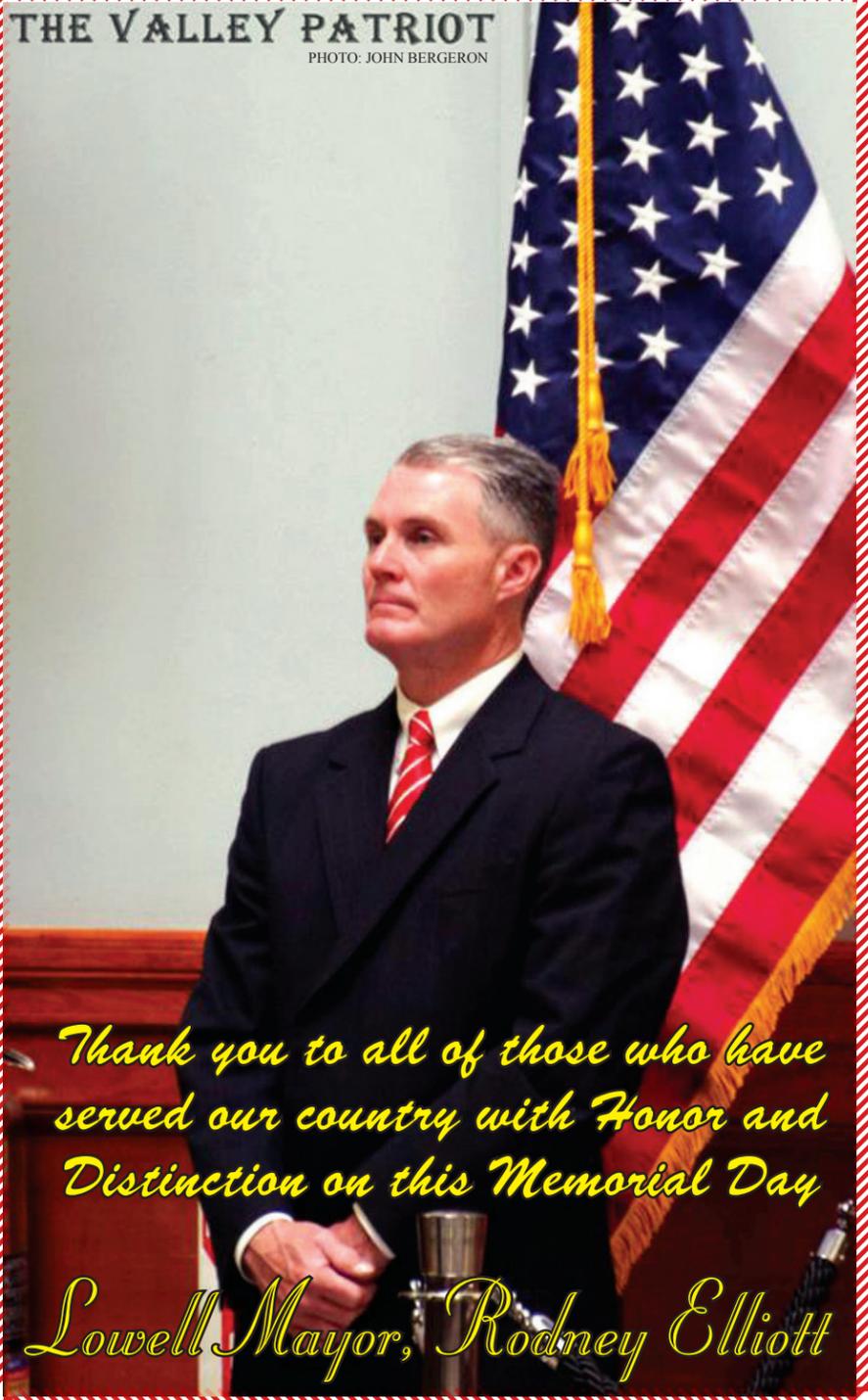
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THE VALLEY PATRIOT

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PUPPY LOVE! With Kate Whitney

Steps to Take with Puppies and Babies

This month I want to explore the changes that come with welcoming a newborn (human) baby in to your life, and what that means for you and your dog. Those of us in rescue have heard it all. We've heard every "reason" (I like to call them excuses) in the book about why someone is giving up their pet.

One of the most commonly told reasons is because this person is having a baby. I've never quite understood how this decision can be so easy for the pet owner to make. People don't give up their other possibly rowdy kids when a new baby comes into the home, so why do they so easily surrender their pets?

In my opinion, our dogs should be treated like family members. If they have an issue, you hire a trainer and work with them, or practice other behavior modification techniques, opposed to taking the easy way out.

If you are expecting a newborn or just welcomed one in to the world, there are steps you can take to try and help your dog understand and cope with the new changes. From a dog's perspective, babies are very different than the adults they are familiar with; they smell, act, and sound different. It is important that you do everything you can to help your dog familiarize itself with the new family member from the beginning.

Whether you are having a baby, adopting a child, becoming a grandparent, aunt, uncle, or cousin, I hope that everyone can learn something from these tips. Or maybe you know someone who can benefit from these suggestions. Please pass this article along; the more people who prepare their home and family ahead of a big change, the better everyone will be.

Not only will there be a new body in the house, but the routine in the home will also change, including your dog's. Your dog will (understandably) be getting a little less attention from you, and this is potentially what will make the largest impact so try and make the changes as gradual as possible. Dogs will often experience anxiety if their routine changes too drastically. If you take your dog on 4 walks per day, start going on one or two less before the baby is born, or maybe shorten the duration.

Once the baby is born, you do not want to shock the dog by now only taking one or two quick ones. Also, make sure his basic obedience skills are honed. You will want your dog to obey the sit, off, down, stay, come, leave it/drop it, and settle down commands. I highly recommend meeting with a certified trainer to brush up on commands and get a few tips, and to do this in preparation of baby. Also, check out the local doggie daycare facilities. These are good options to have to give your dog the love, attention and playtime he may be missing.

It would also relieve you of the guilt you might feel when your dog looks up at you with bored eyes saying "can we go for our walk?" but you are just too tired to go. Another option is to find a local dog walker who might be able to come to your home once or twice a day and take your pooch on a nice long walk, even if you are home at the time! Whatever it takes to give your dog the exercise he needs and deserves.

It's important to start exposing your dog to all things baby before your new bundle comes home. Set up the swing and other gadgets. Turn them on so the dogs can hear the sounds and see the motions they will make. Let your dog sniff and get used to them. Set up the stroller. Leave the stroller in different rooms, push it around, and even take your dogs for a walk with



To help PuppyGirl and One Tail at a Time Dog Rescue, you can donate to "One Tail at a Time Inc." PO BOX 8361, Haverhill, MA 01835. One Tail at a Time is a 501(c).

the empty stroller or one occupied by a doll.

Your dogs might bark or be skittish of the stroller at first, but continued exposure should desensitize them. You want to get your dogs used to walking next to a stroller before you have a baby in it. Allow the dogs in the nursery. Let them sniff the new items like the crib, glider, etc. Keeping them shutout will only increase their curiosity, which may lead to over excitement once they are finally allowed in. Try to make the new things exciting for them, they will appreciate it and feel included, instead of feeling like they are being replaced by something (or someone) new. When your new baby has finally arrived, try to have someone bring a baby blanket or piece of clothing with the new smell home from the hospital so the dogs can sniff it. Let them get used to the scent. When you finally bring home the baby they will recognize the scent so she's not entirely foreign.

If after all of this your dog is still not behaving, it may be time to hire a trainer to give you the extra hands on help that is needed. Many trainers are experienced in helping to make this adjustment a smooth and enjoyable one for all parties involved.

For you non-pet owners, if you are expecting or think you may try in the near future, I would not recommend a dog until you have the baby and the newborn stage has passed. Bringing home a new dog, whether it's a puppy or adult, requires lots of time, patience, and attention. On top of all that, there is of course the added expense that you need to account for (food, vet bills, monthly heartworm pills, etc.). Focus on your baby first and when you feel that things are under control and you have lots of time, patience, and attention to give to another, then start your search – of course start at your local shelter or rescue or petfinder.com.

Although it is a challenge, you will be able to introduce baby to doggie and create a life that works for everyone, but you do need to give it some thought before the transition happens. Growing up with a well-mannered, well-balanced dog is a great thing for a child. They can learn compassion towards animals, responsibility, loyalty, and best of all, they grow up with a best friend, reading buddy, cuddle buddy, and play buddy. I urge all you soon to be moms and dads to take the time and steps needed to include your dog in this new life, I assure you baby and doggie will love you together forever.

The PAWS ACT Presented By State Senator Bruce Tarr

Tracey Zysk

VALLEY PATRIOT DOGGIE COLUMNIST

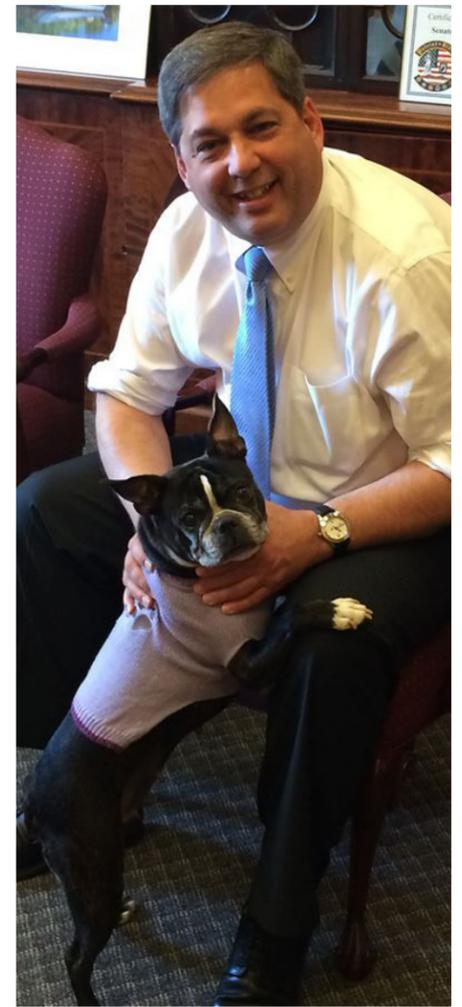
The Valley Patriot is once again praising Senator Bruce Tarr for his endless efforts to keep our pets safe in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

On April 24, 2014 Senator Tarr presented his Animal Protection Bill to the Joint Committee on the Judiciary. The room was filled with several legislators, animal activists, and advocacy groups testifying in support of the comprehensive animal abuse protection bill, which has 75 additional co-sponsors.

As posted on State Senator Bruce Tarr Facebook page:

The legislation raises fines and penalties, and creates an animal abuse registry. Highlights of the bill include:

- Establishing an anonymous animal abuse tip hotline.
- Expanding the use of the Homeless Animal Prevention and Care Fund to include the rehabilitation and care of abused animals, and increasing the size of the board that administers the fund to include a special state police officer from an animal humane organization, and a member of local law enforcement.
- Imposing a fine of up to \$1,000 on any veterinarian who knowingly and willfully fails to report a suspected act of cruelty to an animal.
- Increasing the penalties associated with cruelty to animals, or maliciously killing, maiming, disfiguring, or exposing them to poison from a monetary fine of \$2,500 or imprisonment in the state prison for not more than 5 years or imprisonment in the house of correction for not more than 2½ years to between \$2,500 and \$10,000 and/or imprisonment.
- Providing judicial discretion to expand the penalties for up to 5 additional years imprisonment and an additional \$10,000 fine based on a finding of the existence of aggravating factors, including but not limited to the number of animals involved, the degree of premeditation or planning, whether the abuse occurred in the presence of a child; whether the abuse occurred as a result of acts undertaken for financial benefit (i.e., dogfighting), and whether the abuse was systematic or isolated.
- Increasing the penalties for a second or subsequent offense from 5-10 years state imprisonment and a fine between \$5,000 to \$20,000.
- Increasing the penalty for a hit and run conviction on a cat or dog from a \$50 fine to up to \$2,000 fine and/or up to 60 days in a house of corrections.
- Creating a statewide registry of convicted individuals of animal abuse crimes, and requires all animal shelters, pet stores



or animal breeders to check the registry prior to offering, selling, delivering, or giving an animal to any individual.

• Creating a 9-member commission to review the state's animal cruelty laws, many of which date back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

This hearing was an important step in the legislative process. With formal sessions ending on July 31st, Senator Bruce Tarr states "It is imperative that people call, email, or write to the members of the Judiciary Committee to release the bill favorably."

If you would like to be a part in helping this bill pass please follow this attached link and write your letters today! Our pups appreciate all your help.

<https://malegislature.gov/Committees/Joint/J19>

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

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Heritage Farm's Monday Night Free Outdoor Free Concert Series May 26th

Memorial Day - Labor Day / music begins at 7pm

Heritage Farm Ice Cream & Restaurant located on 163 Pawtucket Blvd in Lowell is once again offering their Monday night free concert series at the beautiful outdoor Sampas Pavilion. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets, pack the family into the car, and enjoy a fun night out just like the old days. They have a great take out menu to enjoy as you watch the concert while the sun sets on the Merrimack River. Come and see the old cars from days gone by in their parking lot, too. The Classic Car Show begins at 6:00 PM. It's a great night out!

5/26: The Cactus Gang – New England's premier country band - www.cactusgang.com

6/30: Sturdy Moss – Blues infused rock, jam, and soul - www.reverbnation.com/SturdyMoss

7/7: Classic Trax – Classic rock from the 70s, 80s & 90s through today - www.classictraxband.com

7/21: Split Risk & the Sin City Horns – Four piece rock & roll band - www.reverbnation.com/splitrisk

8/4: Sticky Business – Hits from the 60s & 70s - www.reverbnation.com/sticky-business

8/11: Alex Raven Band – Rock and blues - www.facebook.com/AlexRaven-Music

8/18: Retro Polatin – Vintage rock and roll. www.retopolatin.com

9/1: The Tony O Band -- Funky, bluesy, and soulful. www.thetonyoband.com

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Cultural Organization of Lowell (COOL) Receives National Endowment for the Arts Grant

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Acting Chairman Joan Shigekawa announced today that the Cultural Organization of Lowell (COOL) is one of 886 nonprofit organizations nationwide to receive an NEA Art Works grant. COOL is recommended for a \$40,000 grant to support the installation of "Hydro", an iconic art sculpture to be located in Point Park.

As part of the Hamilton Canal District (HCD) project and in response to residents' requests for green space and public art, the City is developing a new, one-acre Point Park at the tip of vacant land at the meeting point of 4 canals. Point Park will be a site for community-driven art and cultural programming that reflects the history and contemporary vision of the City of Lowell. The park's signature public art work, "Hydro," will be a 22-foot high and 42-foot long perforated metal sculpture that evokes both the history and contemporary vision of the City of Lowell, perfectly complementing the development of the HCD.

NEA Acting Chairman Shigekawa said, "The NEA is pleased to announce that the Cultural Organization of Lowell is recommended for an NEA Art Works grant. These NEA-supported projects will not only have a positive impact on local economies, but will also provide opportunities for people of all ages to participate in the arts, help our communities to become more vibrant, and support our nation's artists as they contribute to

our cultural landscape."

Susan Halter, director of COOL, says, "We were thrilled to learn of NEA's support. The development of "Hydro" has been a long community process and I know the neighborhood is anxious to see the piece complete. This is the first important step towards making that happen."

Art Works grants support the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts, and enhancement of the livability of communities through the arts. The NEA received 1,515 eligible applications under the Art Works category, requesting more than \$76 million in funding. Of those applications, 886 are recommended for grants for a total of \$25.8 million.

For a complete listing of projects recommended for Art Works grant support, please visit the NEA website at arts.gov.

The Cultural Organization of Lowell (COOL) was founded in 2001 by the City of Lowell to foster engagement in arts and culture and increase the visibility and vitality of Lowell's creative community. We are the 501(3)(c) tax-exempt corporation affiliated with the Office of Cultural Affairs & Special Events (CASE). The COOL Board is comprised of trustees who represent a broad cross-section of the city and who are responsible for the fiduciary activity and adherence to the by-laws of COOL.

Hotels, Lowell's Path to Prosperity?

John Macdonald
VALLEY PATRIOT LOWELL COLUMNIST

Over the last month in Lowell, the seeds of a transition into the world of common-sense seem to be finally taking root. Several issues have cropped up that liken the City of Lowell to the stock market. It's as if Lowell is going through a bit of a market correction. A new found focus by the Lowell City Council, the new Mayor and City Manager on making Lowell a true destination city are thankfully beginning again, after a hiatus over the last few years. Many people, such as Deb Belanger, President of the Greater Merrimack Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau have been beating the hotel drum for years. Her consistent message is for a new hotel to accommodate visitors, which would turn Lowell into a true destination city.

Currently the City of Lowell has a vast network of attractions in its downtown that any city across America would be envious of. However what the City of Lowell lacks is a large hotel reinforced by a network of boutique hotels that could support a bevy of destination style events. It's not a mystery to some as to why Lowell's downtown has been experiencing a regular stream of vacant store fronts, lack of retailers and restaurant closings. Some point to Lowell High School's current location as to the reason the downtown suffers, while others see Lowell lacking basic hotel room accommodations to support its network of entertainment venues as the reason why the downtown area suffers.

Currently when Lowell hosts an event, other than sparse few options, visitors are forced to find accommodations fifteen to twenty minutes away in Tewksbury or Andover. How many hotel rooms would be filled if visitors attending the many concerts, sporting events and festivals Lowell provides, knew hotel rooms existed and were close to the event they just attended? Imagine the bevy of retailers that would be attracted to opening a new storefront in downtown Lowell, if they knew a network of hotels would send streams of people into the downtown on a daily and nightly basis? Common sense tells us many businesses would be tempted, because retailers understand the basic formula of people equal sales. Retailers understand that a captive audience of people with disposable incomes, walking the streets of Lowell, will put money in their pockets.

Imagine the sales, room and food taxes that would be generated from people staying in downtown Lowell as a result of a vibrant travel economy supported by a hotel network. Lowell's downtown scene during

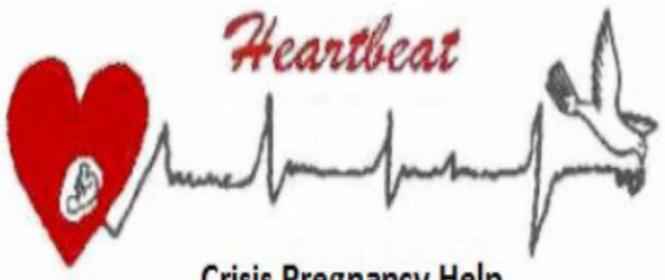
the summer is generally quiet; however what the benefits of a hotel network could provide to retailers and restaurants is priceless. One thing that would transition Lowell into a true destination city is it being marketed as a convention city. Conventions and the people who plan them, look for warm destinations that will not only accommodate a large number of people, but that will also provide their attendees with a variety of interesting things to do and see. Those who've sought a walkable city should see the benefit of a hotel network providing people places to walk to and from.

The City of Lowell has a long list of attractions and history that is the envy of many cities across America. Home to the Industrial Revolution, Lowell's history is clearly displayed by the Lowell National Historical Park. The Lowell Spinner's, Class A affiliate of the Boston Red Sox, concerts at the Tsongas Arena and the Lowell Memorial Auditorium are real attractions. How about the dining experience at La Boniche, Ricardo's or classic restaurants like the Athenian Corner? Breakfast at the famous Owl Diner? Wouldn't visitors like to stay in the atmosphere and action created during the Lowell Folk Festival? Turning a one day event visit into a three day event stay or vacation? How about the winter? Doesn't Division 1 UMass Lowell Riverhawk hockey attract a few people to the downtown? Winterfest in Lowell could really blossom into something if Lowell had rooms to attract a large amount of people who like to have fun and then stay in a safe hotel room after indulging in the night's festivities.

The elected and hired leadership in Lowell have given the theories of a visiting urban planner a try. Some ideas have worked, while many ideas have not. The patience of current Lowell businesses and residents who live in the City, with a desire to see it prosper have heard and waited for ideas long enough. Back in November the people of Lowell voted in a municipal election looking for action. Action is what Lowell wants. It appears as though Lowell's leadership is listening and has waited long enough as well.



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



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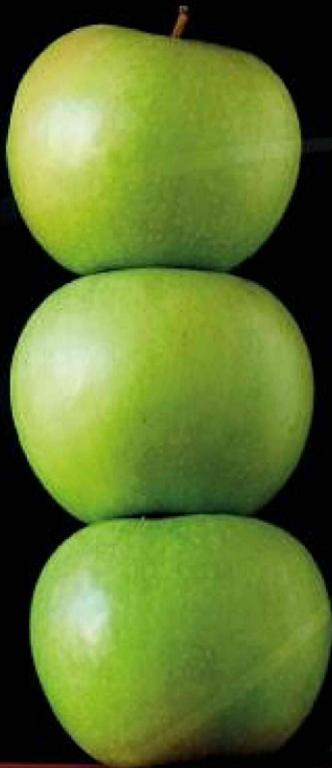
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JUSTINA: FROM PAGE 17

abused by their parents, when there are hundreds, if not more, right here in Massachusetts that can be proved otherwise. Secondly, how do all the other families who have had children that they love and adore removed from them by DCF stand a chance for reunification when you consider that all the attention and exposure the Pelletier's have garnered, STILL CAN'T GET THEIR DAUGHTER BACK!

And now on to Joe D'Amore. I know no one cares more of right from wrong and showing compassion for those he doesn't even know than D'Amore. So again, he is not to blame for thinking: "The most critical aspect of reform is caseload. ...the only way to work towards this goal is to apply adequate funding to hire up to 2,500 new case workers." NO JOE! This is just what they want you to think and how they keep the dysfunctional system going at great expense to the taxpayers, and more devastatingly, the children. The Pelletier case alone shows that it is transparency, accountability and integrity that is more direly needed than

anything money can buy, and if you doubt that, get your arms around what has been spent on kidnapping and torturing Justina Pelletier, and keeping this going with armed guards and five DCF workers at a time at the parents' one hour per week, supervised visits.

DCF is broken. It needs to be gutted and an entirely different system put in place to help troubled families, and not destroy loving ones. Moreover, serious attention needs to be given to the dysfunction of a court system that rubberstamps anything and everything that the police, DCF, or the DA's office puts before them without looking around the corner, or under rocks for the truth. In the Pelletier matter, the facts are not even hidden. They are glaringly obvious.

Jeff and Joe, keep up your otherwise very good work, but know, fix the court system, and everyone might be pleasantly surprised what falls correctly into place automatically. Please don't go thinking DCF gets it right, or needs more money in the meantime.

TOWN MEETING: FROM 5

meeting next time because "that's where the action is, that's where the power is, that's where the votes take place."

"I like the reasoning for it," North Andover Selectman Tracy Watson said. "People live busy lives: kids, sports, work, etc. And this would allow them an opportunity to somewhat still participate. But the execution will be critical. There must still be a respect for the voting body that is present. Ultimately, they are the legislators."

Watson said her only concern would be centered on there being any limitations on debate from the floor of Town Meeting due to email questions taking up a portion of the night. "I believe the voters in the room and their opinions should take precedence," she said. "Again the execution will, in the end, be my gauge on whether I support it going forward or not."

DiSalvo says he hopes that by getting voters to participate in Town Meeting online, it will allow more participation in democracy when some would otherwise be unable to participate because they may be caring for elderly or infirmed parents, are away on a business trip, taking care of small children or work late hours.

"Think of your radio show, Tom (The Paying Attention Radio Program on 980WCAP). I listen to you on the net and I know people can call in and ask questions. You have a radio show because you can't invite hundreds of thousands of people into the studio to hear what you and your guests have to say on important issues. As important as your radio show is, [Town Meeting] is a real conversation about decisions being made right then, on the spot, concerning police and fire

protection in their neighborhood, schools, zoning and spending issues. I think that deserves at least as wide an audience of participation as a radio program."

DiSalvo said that the idea of internet participation at Town Meeting has been received warmly by North Andover officials, but not so warmly by his fellow town moderators in other communities. He says that he is "trying the idea" and that if it doesn't work out, he will scrap it. He added that trying new ideas of getting people interested and able to participate in the 400-plus-year institution that is North Andover Town Meeting, is what he was elected to do.

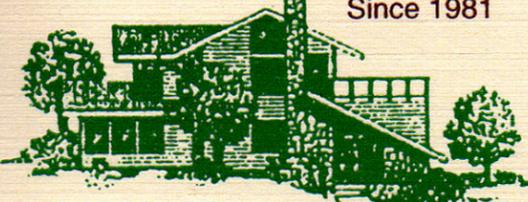
"The devil, as always, is in the details," Seabrook Town Manager Bill Manzi said of the move to allow internet participation in North Andover. I am supportive, as there is no voting allowed and the Moderator has the ability to pass over redundant questions. I do not think that we should create disincentives to attending, but I think that this type of participation is a good thing, and a very clever use of available technology. Kudos to North Andover.

Annual Town Meeting will be held at North Andover High School on May 20th at 7PM

You can watch the meeting live at townofnorthandover.com.

Moderator DiSalvo said that voters will get a chance to decide whether or not the town will take the Berry Street project by eminent domain for low to moderate income housing as well as budget and zoning issues, CPA and various other town articles.

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Wedding Season in Newburyport

Rebecca Pearson

VALLEY PATRIOT NEWBURYPORT COLUMNIST

Getting married in our area? Well we have our picks for you!

My fiancée and I are getting married in October. We have decided to have a total Newburyport Wedding utilizing local merchants and helping businesses in our favorite city while planning our big day. We found such great treasures and in the next couple of months will be sharing our choices with you to help you and your loved one have the perfect wedding right here in Newburyport!

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Newburyport Guide.com



the perfect addition to your home, a gift for a friend, or even something sweet for the little ones.

With equal parts modern and coastal, they inspire a warm home and chic lifestyle with their unique products in their market and through our personalized design services. Take a look around! Beverly and Jordan are the founders the mother-daughter duo of Sage Market & Design welcome you with their experience and décor specialty to help you find the very best in what you need.

The company was founded after realiz-

ing that there was a need for an online store that offered customers good design and quality that encompassed all areas of the home: furniture, decor, linens and textiles, garden and outdoor, baby and child. The drive behind the design of the online store is to make customers feel like they are shopping in their favorite boutique while in the comfort of their own home and that the experience is inviting, easy and inspiring. Both women have always had a love for good design and interior and exterior decor and their style can be described as both "casual chic" and "modern coastal." After many years talking about starting their own company, they finally made the decision to make their dream a reality. They opened their first storefront in the picturesque town of Newburyport, MA last year.

They offer fresh floral design at their shop in Newburyport and provide exterior styling and design services for our clients

in New England. After a consultation with Beverly, they will design and create modern floral arrangements, plantings and tablescapes for your event or home to fit your needs using fresh-cut flowers and plants from local growers. Sage Market & Design has a number of containers in the studio that you can choose from or they will be more than happy to order them directly from the manufacturer of your choice. The dynamic duo also designs orchid houses, wall gardens and terrariums that will beautifully compliment your home, business or event. From concept to delivery, they will work to ensure the result is exactly what you dreamt of. For an on-site design consultation, contact Beverly at 508.208.2899 or beverly@sagemarketdesign.com - Sage Market & Design, Brown's Warf ~ 40R Merrimac St Newburyport MA 01950

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NEWBURYPORT: PAGE: 26

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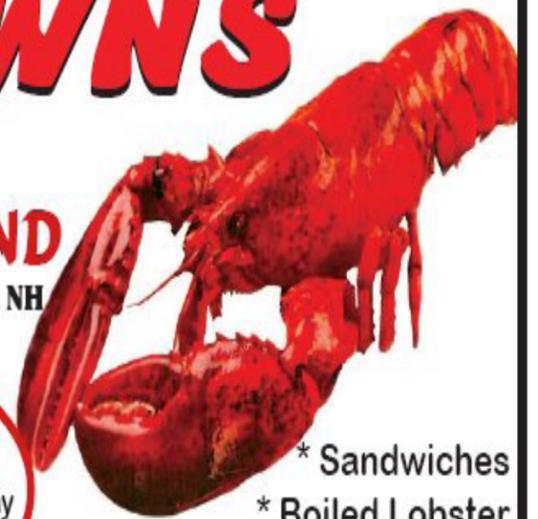
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NEWBURYPORT: FROM PAGE 25

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FROM 10: AUTISM

it. He's just wonderful." While O'Beirne is finding success in his part-time job at Stop and Shop, the avid animal lover keeps busy with his dog sitting and walking business, on Rover.com, and through volunteering at the Salem Animal Rescue League.

"Matthew looks beyond a job, and is an entrepreneur. He is extremely committed to animals and has set up his own web site, travels by train to metro Boston to fulfill obligations to pet sit....always moving forward," said Smith and Michaud.

Last year he rescued Gina, a now 1.5 year old Alaskan Klee Kai. Two cats, Amber, 5, and Pumpkin, 3, also share his home. Autism Awareness Month has come to a close, but O'Beirne's story serves as a

reminder that autism lasts throughout the year, and so should awareness. To learn more about autism go to autismspeaks.com. His story is just one of the many success stories throughout the community and through American Training's programs.

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To find out more about American Training and StarWorks, please go to www.AmericanTrainingInc.com.



Salisbury Selectmen Donald Beaulieu, Fred Knowles, Freeman Condon, Edwin L. Hunt, Sr, and Chairperson Henry Richenbourg issue a proclamation for April Donate Life Month to bring an awareness of the need for organ, eye, and tissue donations. In front is David C. "Chuck" Colburn, Salisbury Lions Club President who accepted the proclamation. The Salisbury Lions Club is one of many Lions clubs helping cities and towns in Massachusetts who sponsor the awareness with Governor Deval Patrick, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Registry of Motor Vehicles and the New England Organ Donor Bank.

FROM 17: CAMARGO

TD: And you're talking about not raising taxes?

OC: The thing is I like to consider myself a fiscally conservative Democrat, and I think that's pretty much just common sense, and when you're talking about the Valley and where we are and what the community has to face. There's a big giant issue right there, taxation ... Right now, I'm not opposed to the idea, it's that right now it's the worst timing possible when you have an economic recovery ... which is a recovery, but not growing ... and right now, it just makes no sense whatsoever why she did what she did. I know she went on your show and said several times and it made a lot of sense doing x, y, and z, but you know what that means to everyone else? That's just a bunch of excuses.

TD: You know what I like about Oscar right out of the gate is he listens to our show. That showed if you're paying attention to a show like this, that means you are plugged in to what's going on about other stuff.

OC: I figure you've got to know what the people think and honestly, that's why I enjoy not just listening to your show, but going door to door talking to people.

TD: What do you think? Do you think you can beat an incumbent? She is a one term incumbent ... and if an incumbent's going to lose, it's usually in the first term. Usually after that, they have the job for life if they want it, unless they're a Dave Torrisi and they completely screw up. Do you really think you have a shot at beating Diana this year?

OC: Yes, I do, and the reason why I think I do is because every two years, pub-

lic officials at the State House, they have a review by the voters, who pretty much have to understand the fact that, is this person doing what I think they're supposed to be doing? The fact of the matter is she's not. For me personally, I go back into the whole Army values, we have values a whole loyalty, duty, respect, honor, integrity, and personal courage, but there's one particular thing, one value that really gets to me and that's integrity. Integrity's doing the right thing, whether someone's looking or not, and Diana proved she lacked in that capacity when she finally voted in favor of raising those taxes. These taxes put families and small businesses in a tighter bind than they were before.

TD: Wow. So you don't think Diana has any integrity?

OC: You know what? The public record right there shows, and like I said before on your show as well, saying she wasn't going to do it, but she did it anyway. She was hoping that people wouldn't pay attention, but guess what, people are.

TD: Give us the phone number or web site for if anyone wants to get in touch with you, they want to help your campaign, they want to make a donation, and on the podcast, we'll make sure it's put on the show.

OC: The web site is votecamargo.com and my phone number is 978-494-4408, and once again that's 978-494-4408 and that's votecamargo.com

TD: Would you commit to doing a debate with Diana on my show?

OC: Oh, I wouldn't mind at all. In fact, I would love that.

GILBERT MEDEIROS

SALISBURY SELECTMAN

A VOICE FOR YOU



The Town of Salisbury residents should follow what Billerica did – their First Amendment rights were being violated by a few of their selectmen. The residents have spoken out on how they feel and voted these selectmen out of office!

I believe it will take two election cycles to accomplish this in Salisbury. Vote for change in Selectmen to start to get our town back to its residents. I decided it would be best if I run for Selectman May 13th, so I can help the residents by being open to their issues and allow them freedom of speech.

~Gil Medeiros, Salisbury, MA

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A One on One Interview with Former Senator Bob Smith

Candidate for US Senate Bob Smith Talks About Israel and Muslim Terrorism

The Valley Patriot's Tom Duggan and Justess Jacobson sat down with former US Senator Bob Smith who is once again running for the Senate. He will face former Massachusetts Senator Scott Brown in the Republican Primary. THIS IS PART I.

TD: Let's just start with some of the easy stuff. You're a New Hampshire, born and raised, and you're running for Senator. Right? And the guy you're running against...

BS: I wasn't born [in New Hampshire]. I was born in New Jersey, but I've been here since 1970, with a little interruption...

TD: And you're running in a Republican primary, against a guy who's got a lot of national attention, a lot of money. How do you go about trying to level that playing field, where Scott Brown is coming into the state with a lot of money, a lot of consultants, he's got all the national media attention following him. I noticed CNN, MSNBC, all tweeting stuff out when he declared the other day. You don't see that for every Senator across the country, every challenging candidate across the country.

BS: You don't see it for every Senator.

TD: Right. So how do you first break through that and get your message directly to the people?

BS: Clearly, money is important, but it's not the only thing. Dollar bills don't vote. I've campaigned in this state now, eight or nine elections, both primaries and general elections since 1979. So I think I know the state well. I know the interest groups. I know the pattern of the voters here in the state. I know it's a trite term, but grassroots politics is what I do best, and there are a lot of people, in New Hampshire, and in other states, but we're just talking about

New Hampshire now, who are committed to the cause they believe in, whether it be Tea Party, or Pro-Gun, or Pro-Life, or anti-tax, or whatever their interest is, and it's important to just work with those groups and Scott Brown is not right on those issues for those kinds of people. So I don't think it really matters how much money he spends.

I'll tell you a funny story. A guy came up to me the other day, I was at a gun show, and we were talking about Scott Brown. He was talking about the money. I mentioned to him, I'd appreciate a donation because Scott Brown is probably about 5 million dollars. There was a TV screen on one of the booths next to me, and he pointed to the TV screen and said, if Scott Brown sat me down in front of that TV screen for six months, and gave me all the food and drink that I wanted, everything that I asked for, and had me watch that for six months, I still wouldn't vote for him, because he's not Pro-Gun and I'm Pro-Gun, and that's what I do. I don't vote for candidates that don't support me, and what I believe in.

So I think what most of the time, people with the big money, in politics we use the term carpet bomb. There are two ways to reach voters. One is carpet bombing. You throw a big bomb out there and everything. You just flood the air waves. You catch everybody, the ones that don't vote and the ones that do vote. You know, the other is the more right, target. You focus on those groups specifically, that supports you, or supports the ideas that you believe in, and do it that way. So that's how you have to do it when you don't have a lot of money.

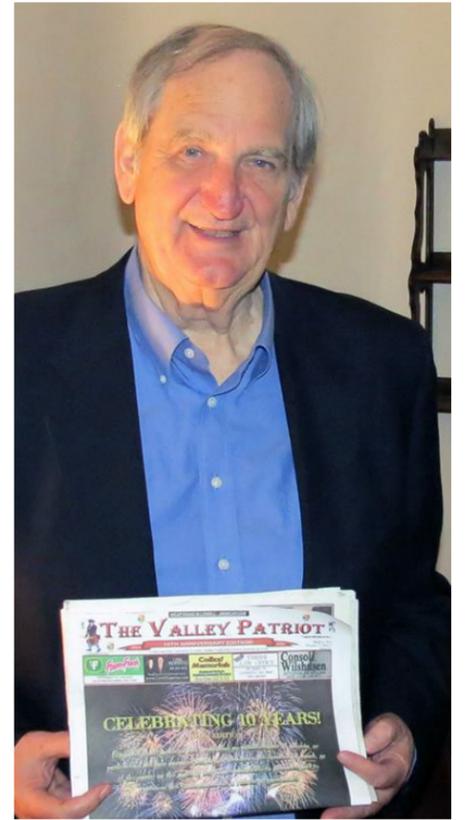
TD: How do you get the word to people, and what do you tell people when they ask you how are you going to beat Governor Shaheen, when your position is so much

further away from hers? What makes you different? If you were to win the primary why should people vote for you over Jeanne Shaheen? Why would someone vote for you over her? We know what the ideological difference is. What about constituent services, and some of these other things that the Democrats seem to think are their strengths?

BS: I had eighteen years in Congress, twelve in the U.S. Senate, representing the same seat that Jeanne has, and also six years in the House. I did a lot of constituent services well, and I had a very good track record on it. I was highly praised for the constituent services I had, especially with Veterans and seniors. I took a lot of pride in it, getting the traditional services Veterans benefits, or a medal that somebody deserved that they didn't get. I've heard she does a fairly good job at it too. That's our job. That's what we do, so if you get elected, you should do that job, but what I think, what I believe, given what I've said in my remarks here at the coffee, there has to be a bright line distinction, between two candidates so that voters have a real choice as to which direction they want the country to go. As I said, central planners, someone to plan your life, or Brigham. I don't think that the people of New Hampshire want somebody who is going to give them the right to have their own doctor. I think people want to vote for somebody who says, "You have the right to pick your own doctor. You have the right to pick your own insurance company. You have the right to do these things. You have the right not to be spied on. This is our Constitutional right. These are our Constitutional rights. You have the right to own a gun. So these are very critical issues. They're not given to us by some central planner or bureaucrat in the federal government. And that's the difference between Jeanne Shaheen and Bob Smith. It would be a... She's a nice lady. I like her. We're both friends. I don't think we have any personal animosity. I like the fact that people can go to the polls with a bright line distinction, a clear demarcation: Who is the person that best represents my values? Whereas if you take a Scott Brown, he and Shaheen are close. He's closer to Shaheen than he is to me, on the issues. That's not political talk. That's a fact, if you look at the records. So I don't see the bright line distinction. He's not going to give them a reason for them to vote against her. Whereas, I will. I'm going to make people think when they go into the booth. I want them to think, "Do you want your grandchildren to have less freedom or more?" That's the bottom line, because it's not that she's out there conniving, to take people's rights away, but she's promoting policies that do just that. She's promoting policies that take away our Constitutional rights, basic rights, and therefore, I think once people get it, especially young people, technically, the fact that we've run the debt up larger and larger. When you allow that debt to grow, and spend more and more money, you make people more and more dependent, on the government. That's not what America is all about. The Constitution was written to protect our freedoms from an abusive government. It wasn't meant to allow the government to abuse our freedoms, or take them away.

TD: I want to touch on an issue, on foreign policy, because that's what the Senate does. What is your position on Israel and the settlements? Do you have a position on the Palestinian occupied territories in Israel?

BS: Clearly Israel is threatened like it's never been threatened before. It's basically the only democracy in the Middle East.



It's surrounded by terrorist countries who attack them on a day to day basis, in one way or another, through individual bombers, suicide bombers, or rockets, fired from the Golan Heights or the west or from wherever they decide to fire them, into Israel... the settlements have always been a controversial issue because of the fact that those settlers, when Israel was created in 1948. There were Palestinian settlers who were pushed out of there, but when the '67, I think it was the '67 war, then Israel took some of that back and they settled in there. So that's a controversy, but those are to me, those issues were always, right now as we speak, we've got the United States trying to broker a deal to deal with those prisoners, and to deal with those exchanges, that power that, that Israeli spy, who is spying against the United States. He's in the mix, and all these terrorists that [Benjamin] Netanyahu has brought in, has captured, they're on the prisoner exchange, and if we have the United States in the mix and trying it with Kerry and trying to negotiate a settlement, but to me, that's all smoke. It's not what the real issue is. The real issue is that these countries have said, and they believe, in their core, that Israel does not have a right to exist as a nation, and that killing Israelis, or any Jew, is their responsibility. It's that the Jihad is a sacred thing for them. It's a sacred obligation to kill Jews, to drive Jews out. They have no right to exist. So, to me, settlements, it doesn't matter. Israelis would pull all their people out and then the Hamas, or somebody, would move up a little bit closer and fire a few more rockets. It's not going to stop.

TD: I always say that if every Jew left Israel tomorrow and moved to the North Pole, the Muslims would celebrate for three days, sleep for the fourth day, and immediately plan their attack on the North Pole.

BS: Exactly. And it's so true, and we'll just go up one more notch on this, since you brought it up. Is the issue of the nuclear weapons, the possible nuclear bombs in Iran. When you have a nation, where the leader of that nation says point blank: 'the Holocaust didn't happen, and Israel must be destroyed'. They're sitting on a nuclear bomb, or at least working on the capability to build one, that's pretty intimidating. I met Netanyahu. He came to New Hampshire.

TD: He's my hero. Next time he comes, please call me.

BS: I met him, years ago, actually, it

On World Stage, New Hampshire Delegation Should Look to Richard Nixon

D.J. Bettencourt

VALLEY PATRIOT NEW HAMPSHIRE COLUMNIST

Whatever may be said of Richard Nixon, he was a visionary and strategic genius on foreign policy. Indeed, Nixon's most enduring and important legacy is the positive mark he left on the world stage. The 20th anniversary of Nixon's death this month comes at a time when the American public wants to pull back from the world stage—Wall Street Journal/NBC poll recently finding that nearly half of those surveyed wanted the nation to be less active in the world.

For New Hampshire's political leaders in Washington, foreign policy concerns are often a distant concern. While Sen. Kelly Ayotte has admirably taken strong stands on national security issues, our delegation lacks Nixon's strategic thinking to guard America's foreign interests. This comes despite the consequential developments taking place across the globe, including America's strained relationship with Israel; a Russia that is seeking to rebuild its Cold War empire; a continuing war in Syria; and a dangerous Middle East.

So what should the New Hampshire delegation do to highlight the importance of an attentive foreign policy to a reluctant public? They should consider how Nixon might handle America's foreign challenges. While the Constitution gives the president great latitude in conducting foreign affairs, loud congressional voices can influence his choices.

The most pressing current challenge is Russia. Former Nixon speechwriter Ben Stein speculates on some concrete steps

Nixon might have taken that New Hampshire's delegation can adopt. First, they should encourage Obama to take a more serious tone. Putin knows our economic threats are hollow since he controls most of western Europe's energy sector. They must pressure Obama to cease any defense cuts. Sen. Ayotte is in a particularly credible position to carry that flag. Putin is an old school Soviet who only responds to strength. Nixon would realize that disarming ourselves in a dangerous world is irresponsible.

Second, after Putin broke his promise of noninterference in Ukraine, Nixon would understand that he cannot be trusted to maintain joint missile defense treaties. As Stein suggests Nixon would do, New Hampshire's leaders should call to end treaties that handcuff deployment of American technology to protect ourselves and our allies from missile attack.

Nixon also would know that Putin's Crimea move is a mixed blessing economically and they must now grapple with a captive population that hates them. While the world now knows Putin cannot be trusted, major problems arise if he invades other former Soviet countries. America must be ready to take decisive action, diplomatic or otherwise.

However, New Hampshire's leaders should make it clear that unless Obama is willing to commit seriously to fighting for those former Soviet countries there can be no eastward expansion of NATO. The Obama Administration has shown no willingness to fight, even when its

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Homocysteine - The Silent Killer that Framed Cholesterol and That Very Few Doctors Look At

PART 2

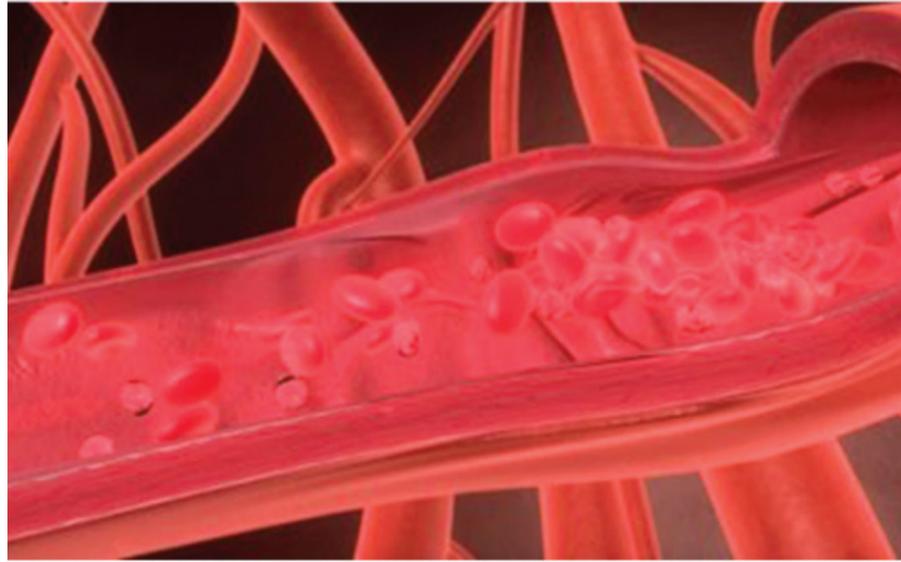
Dr. Jin Sung
CHIROPRACTIC PHYSICIAN

Where does homocysteine come from?

Homocysteine comes from a faulty breakdown of methionine which is an essential amino acid, which we find in most of our protein rich foods, such as animal meats. This breakdown occurs from a methylation pathway in the liver. All this means is that a methyl group is passed from molecule to molecule until eventually methionine is recycled. Think of the methylation pathway is if it were like a 4x400m relay between sprinters. In a 4x400 relay race each runner must pass the baton to the next runner and eventually the baton will end up back where it started and make a complete circle around the track. Well the baton in this analogy is like the methyl group that needs to be passed to the next runner in order to finish the race. If there is an inefficiency in this pathway and the baton (methyl group) is not passed to the next person (or molecule) then homocysteine is created. Now sometimes our body needs an extra methyl group for another process so the homocysteine pathway loses a methyl group. When this happens we can call on some methyl donors to keep the "4x400 race going to the finish" and avoid stopping halfway, which creates homocysteine.

What are some of the methyl donors that we can call on to prevent homocysteine from being made?

B-vitamins are some of our primary methyl donors - well most B-vitamins. Vitamins B-2, B-6, Folate and B-12 have all been shown help aid in donating a methyl to prevent homocysteine from being made. It is important to know that vitamin B-3 (niacin) has actually been shown to raise homocysteine levels, which is why a proper supplement with the right ratios of B-Vitamins would work better at lowering homocysteine levels when compared to a standard



B-complex (with all the B-vitamins). Here in the clinic we use a product called "Homocysteine Supreme" by designs for health because it not only has the right B-vitamins in the correct ratio, but it also has products in it like: Trimethylglycine, Choline, Serine, and N-Acetyl-Cysteine which all help the methylation pathway and ultimately bring down homocysteine levels.

When everything is flowing smoothly in any direction, and our body has plenty of methyl donors our liver can facilitate the efficient breakdown homocysteine. This is important not only to avoid homocysteine, but to be able to break it down properly to make important end products. Some of these end products are the sulfur-containing amino acids taurine and cysteine as well as necessary neurotransmitters like: epinephrine, dopamine and serotonin which are all necessary for proper brain and nervous system function. By the way the methylation pathway is the same pathway used to eliminate our estrogens from the body.

What causes homocysteine to be elevated?

One of the most common conditions affecting our homocysteine levels is hypochlorhydria, or low stomach acid. With hypochlorhydria you get a de-

crease absorption in almost all nutrients, including the B-vitamin methyl donors we talked about earlier. One of the other factors effecting absorption of nutrients is inflammatory foods including food sensitivities. Inflammatory foods interfere with absorption in the small intestine, where 90% of our absorption takes place. Having a chronic infection, eating inflammatory foods all the time, or having heavy metals in our body is very taxing on our immune system which will create a greater need and ultimately deplete our glutathione (our bodies own natural anti-oxidant) stores. This in turn will cause us to deplete our vitamin B6 which is an important methyl donor in homocysteine metabolism. One of the other more common conditions we see at our clinic is hypothyroidism. Hypothyroidism decreases out liver enzymes involved in the remethylation pathway of homocysteine. Some other things that effect either the methylation pathway or the absorption of important B-vitamins are:

- Metformin
- Oral Contraceptives
- Antacids and Proton pump inhibitors
- Anti-depressants
- Genetic defect in the MTHFR gene
- Being sympathetically dominant

How can I find out about lowering my homocysteine levels?

The best way to go about addressing homocysteine levels is to address "The Cause." To find out what is causing your homocysteine to be elevated requires proper testing. Without proper testing and addressing the underlying mechanism as to why homocysteine is elevated in the first place, it will keep coming back. Here in our clinic we run very comprehensive tests to get at the underlying cause whether it be a problem in the absorption of our nutrients, inflammation, or underlying pathologies like hypothyroidism. We also stress the importance of functional lab ranges. This is especially true when it comes to homocysteine! Normal lab ranges are from 0-15 micromol/L. This is too wide. We like to see levels below 7 micromol/L especially when research suggests that anything above 7 is harmful for long-term health. In fact newer research is saying that when levels approach 15 or greater, that these levels are high enough in homocysteine to actually cause micro hemorrhages through the entire blood vessel! We cannot stress the importance of functional lab ranges, especially when 15 is still considered normal on regular lab ranges!

Homocysteine is a real problem and can hinder any improvements in our health if it is elevated. If you suffer from any of the above diseases and symptoms, please do not hesitate to ask about your homocysteine levels.

I would like to thank my friend and mentor Dr. Ed Beyer for the content of this article.



Dr. Jin Sung is a chiropractor and the owner of Functional Chiropractic, Inc. He manages chronic patients both neurologically and metabolically to achieve the best outcome. He can be reached at 978 688-6999. Or visit his website at www.DrJinSung.com



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Zalman Borenstein

Rabbi/Program Director at Chabad of North Andover

Stomach Acid Reducing Medicine the new Vitamin Supplement

Francis P MacMillan, Jr,
VALLEY PATRIOT MEDICAL COLUMNIST

It seems as though everyone I know is on or has been on medication for acid reflux symptoms. Over-the-counter antacids, histamine H2 blockers, and acid-pump (proton-pump) inhibitors are among the most widely used medicines in the history of modern medicine. Why is everybody seemingly on this stuff?

First, acid reflux is very common. Stomach contents are normally acidic, and the contents will rise backwards into the chest in almost all of us on occasion. Normal acid exposure of the esophagus (swallowing tube that goes mouth to stomach) should be less than 4% of the time. This means that the esophagus does see stomach acid, and this is entirely normal and expected. When exposure exceeds 4%, then that individual has "acid reflux disease".

Heartburn is a sensation that many people experience (a sense of burning/acid rising in the chest), though this symptom is unreliable at predicting who has serious disease. Some with severe burning in the chest may not have serious acid exposure on testing. Others may barely complain of heartburn, but may have severe acid created chemical burns and erosions of the lining of the esophagus when tested by endoscopy (a visual exam using a thin flexible camera). Testing is recommended precisely because symptoms do not reliably predict test finding when symptoms of acid reflux are self reported.

Over 50% of American adults may meet the 4% time criteria for acid reflux disease which helps to explain why so many seek treatment. Available medicines, particularly acid pump inhibitors (Prilosec, omeprazole and others), are extremely effective, have few obvious side effects, and have become relatively inexpensive over time. While we don't entirely understand why acid reflux develops, certainly there are factors that increase risk, like obesity, tobacco and alcohol abuse, and overeating. But, we all know people with acid reflux disease who have none of these risk factors, so for many of us the explanation is not obvious.

Antacids have been around since your grandmother used vinegar or baking soda to neutralize stomach acid for heartburn. Effective medications, the H2 histamine blockers, became available in the mid 1970s and were prescription only. They were effective for some, but resistance oc-

curred with chronic use, making them less than ideal. By the time of the late 1980s, the "purple pill" Prilosec revolutionized the treatment of acid related disorders by inhibiting the acid pump on the membrane of the cell that makes stomach acid. For the first time, healing of acid-induced esophageal injury became possible with an oral medication. This was an enormous advance in treatment, but like all good things, acid pump inhibitor medicines are over-prescribed, inappropriately prescribed, and used without a prescription for purposes for which they were not intended to be used.

Acid reflux disease occurs on a spectrum from minor heartburn to severe esophageal injury with compromised swallowing and Barrett esophagus (a precancerous condition that develops in a small minority of people with chronic acid reflux disease). Risk factors such as heartburn more than twice a week, over age 40, male gender, or difficult or painful swallowing get attention, may trigger an endoscopy to see if damage or Barrett esophagus is present. For others with heartburn, I recommend a two week trial of an acid pump inhibitor such as omeprazole (Prilosec) which you can buy over the counter for \$10-15. The medicine should always be stopped after two weeks, and results discussed with your doctor. For many, heartburn will go away, but if persistent, then endoscopy may be needed to be sure. Medication side effects are uncommon, but potentially serious vitamin B12, calcium, magnesium and iron deficiency can result, as can intestinal infections with C. difficile occur with greater frequency. For those on long-term acid suppressive medication, careful monitoring by a physician familiar with acid reflux disease is a very good idea to be certain that symptoms remain controlled, risk of side effects minimized, and that alarm signs are being looked for. Remember, these are serious medicines and not a vitamin supplement to be taken without careful consideration.

Dr. Frank MacMillan, Jr, MD, FACP specializes in Gastroenterology and Liver diseases, is a Fellow of the American College of Gastroenterology and is its Massachusetts Governor. He is Vice President of the Massachusetts Gastroenterology Association. Dr. MacMillan is a native of North Andover and practices Gastroenterology in Haverhill at Merrimack Valley Hospital, where he currently serves as the Chief of Medicine. He has also been a member of the North Andover Board of Health since 2007.

Employment Retaliation

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

I often have clients come into my office seeking advice concerning issues of retaliation in the workplace. I usually begin, after listening to the client's story, with an analysis of what is considered unlawful retaliation, compared to conduct by a boss or co-worker that is actually motivated more by a simple personality conflict. In order to be classified as unlawful, the retaliation must be based on what the law describes as "protected activity." So, for example, if an employee goes to their personnel department and files a complaint against their boss for being "unfair," and the boss becomes upset at the employee and in some way punishes the employee, that is not unlawful retaliation. Obviously, the boss's conduct, in this example, meets "Webster's" definition since the boss's anger is pursuant to the employee's complaint and the response is punitive. Nonetheless, since the employee's complaint is based on the employee's perception of the boss's treatment, the law does not provide a remedy and does not categorize the retaliation as unlawful. If, however, the employee's complaint was based on sexual harassment, any form of retaliation would be considered unlawful retaliation.

The easiest way to understand the difference, since in both examples we are dealing with an employee's perception of the boss's conduct, is to realize that the law does not define "unfair conduct" as unlawful; whereas there is a statute that prohibits



harassment of a sexual nature within the workplace. Hence the term "protected activity" when describing the employee's complaint to the personnel office. Therefore, in order for the retaliation to be unlawful, the conduct that is the subject of the complaint must include allegations of unlawful conduct.

Often, at this point of the interview, the client will indicate to me that the company handbook states that they have an "open door" policy, and consequently retaliation for any complaint should be unlawful. I often agree with their statement, but nonetheless, as an attorney, I have the unpleasant task of informing them that an employee handbook does not create law since, under most conditions, the handbook will include a disclaimer stating that the contents of the handbook are for informational purposes only, do not create any enforceable rights, and can be changed at any time at the sole discretion of the employer. Therefore, when an employer does not comply with its own policies, that conduct by itself is not considered

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was 2002. He was not Prime Minister at the time. He had been, but he wasn't at this time. We had a nice talk. He came and did

an event for me, not a political event (wink wink). He did come. I think it was at Saint Anselm's, and he sat there, and just held people in the palms of his hand for three hours. I'm sitting in a chair with him, like I am sitting now. I didn't say a thing except here's Benjamin Netanyahu ... He talked for three hours. I was just a wall flower. Nobody knew I was there, but he was incredible, talking about ... I mean the knowledge of the guy, and the experience and the toughness of him. It makes you think, "Wow. If I could only have Netanyahu's in the White House today, with the kind of guts and courage and forcefulness that he has, but Israel's in deep trouble. I spoke at a synagogue two nights ago, and I spoke to a bunch of people who were both Christians and Jews. It was a group called "New Hampshire's for Israel", or something like that. We talked about this very thing, and the fact that it's so dangerous now for Israel, where you have these expressed desires of these countries to destroy Israel. And you know, the left always says, you know, these terrorists, they're a minority [of Muslims]. They're not a minority. The Arab League, they take votes. They had a ... This is Kuwait. This is Saudi Arabia.

These aren't supposedly territories. They're voting to say Israel doesn't have a right to exist. So, there's nothing there and the reason why Israel is in deep trouble is because the United States is basically the only friend they have. It's the truth, and if we go down economically, and thus militar-

ily, there is no one, and when I spoke to this Pro-Israel group the other night... when I stood up, I said, "Before I start my remarks,



I'm going to throw a question out for you, and I want you all to think about it. As I go through my talk, at the end, we'll come back to it and I want you to tell me what you think. So I started by saying, "Who is

the only true friend of Israel in the world?" That's what I said and then I started, and we talked. Fifteen, twenty minutes later, I came back and I asked the same question. And they said, "America". And I said, yes, but half of America isn't here. It will be here, but how about if America can't respond. [If] we're a third rate economic power. We don't have the military capacity because it's been taken away from us. What happens to Israel then? They were shocked when they started thinking about it. And yet, every single time something happens over there, it seems like they blame Israel, and they're not the ones that are doing the attacking. It's true the settlements are an issue. There's no doubt about it. When a country was carved out of basically a tribal area, that was clearly a problem.

TD: They probably should have thought about that before they invaded Israel in 1967.

BS: Exactly.

TD: They can't claim UN, UN, UN, and when the UN rules says ... if you take a land, through a defensive war, it's your land.

BS: Exactly. Well, every time Israel gives back... The previous Prime Ministers have given back land, what did they get for it?

NEXT MONTH PART II HOW CAN BOB SMITH BEAT SCOTT BROWN



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TEEN TALK WITH ANA DEBERNARDO

Hunger for Justice

This past weekend, I participated in an event at my school called Hunger for Justice. The Hunger for Justice, also called "Famine" is a two-day service experience held partly at St. Mary's High School in Lynn and partly in Boston, where over 250 teens give up food, cell phones, and beds for 30 hours. The entirety of Friday was spent at the school, but on Saturday morning we journeyed to Boston in two big buses. Friday night, the group was divided into boys and girls: boys sleeping in the cafeteria, girls sleeping in the gym, both in the cardboard "houses" we constructed earlier that afternoon. These two hundred and something slightly cranky and sleep-deprived kids woke up on Saturday morning, not only with the knowledge that they wouldn't be eating for over 12 hours, but also with the realization that they would be walking around Boston giving food to the homeless and doing hours of hard work.

Nevertheless, our enthusiasm steadily built as the day progressed. Walking to Boston Common to give peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and toothbrushes to the homeless is a tradition of every Famine, and usually marks the beginning of the day's activities. It's amazing how sharing stories and paying genuine attention to these men and women can bring them so much joy. As this was my second year participating in Famine, I had already experienced some of their shocking and sometimes heartbreaking stories last year. That's not to say I wasn't as stunned again this past weekend. Some of the life stories we heard are so terrible that it makes you not only realize how blessed YOU are, but also makes you aware of the cruelty of the world we live in.

My teacher told me something last year that made a deep impression on me and that will stay with me always: Every person that has a bed to sleep in, a roof over their heads, and enough food so as not to feel hunger, is more well-off than 70% of the world. Only 30% of the world lives in comparative luxury while watching the rest of their not-so-lucky neighbors suffer in poverty. There's no question that the resources to keep these people alive exist, so why isn't anything

being done to end their privation?

At the beginning of the retreat, this same teacher started snapping her fingers once every three seconds. The kids began to smile playfully and join in, not knowing the purpose of her snaps. And finally, she told us that every snap represented the death of a child from starvation somewhere in the world. To think that a child younger than 11 years dies every 3 seconds somewhere in the world while I'm in the comfort of my

home with my two dogs who are fed better than those children ever were, struck me in a way that nothing ever really had. If a little boy was on the verge of death and you had an overflow of food in your possession, there is no doubt whatsoever as to whether or not you would save him. Well, the truth is, that is the reality of the world we live in. We have this abundance of resources and instead of sharing it with our fellow human beings, we look the other way as some people live in literal dumps and play with trash (which I have seen personally), even as some of the rest of us split their year living in mountainside chalets in Aspen and (when skiing season is over) move to their summer "cottages" on the Vineyard.

Yes, it is true that some of these men and women are in the situation they are in through no one's fault but their own, but their mistakes should not be ascribed to the equal or perhaps larger number of those who are suffering on account of whatever predicament they were thrown into. The main takeaway I gleaned from my experience is that every person has their own back story, which may include tragic circumstances. Who, then, are we, the lucky ones, to think less of them simply because of their misfortunate plight?

I would like to urge anyone reading these words to please find it in your heart to volunteer an hour of your time at a local mission, soup kitchen or shelter. There are many good people who have thought about it but have never gotten around to it, but I promise that you will gain from the experience. If you don't know where to start, write to me, Ana, at pm.de@verizon.net or in care of the Valley Patriot.



BABIES AND BRIEFCASES

HOW TO CHANNEL YOUR INNER CLUTTER COP

Cheryl Hajar

VALLEY PATRIOT MOMMY COLUMNIST

Does the sheer glimpse of your kitchen counter with papers piled higher than the snowfall we had this year, or the sneakers taken off in the middle of your foyer, or that ugly dusty knick knock that you picked up at a yard sale for 50 cents send you into a tethering frenzy when you look at them? Do you feel that you have so much clutter in your home that you could honestly be featured in the next episode of hoarders? If you do, then read on.

So why do we keep clutter anyways? We like to be thrifty. Who doesn't like getting that antique vase from the 1920s at a yard sale for only a dollar? It makes us feel accomplished and financially savvy. We are in denial. We still think that there is a chance we will fit into that size 2 dress we wore when we were 19. Unless you eat only celery sticks everyday, think again. We are grieving. We have a hard time letting go of items in our home that have sentimental value to them even though the color schemes are all wrong and it still smells like poor old Uncle Ed's house.

So here are some tips to help channel that inner clutter cop and be rid of the mass confusion once and for all.

1. Item Not Use In Over A Year - If you haven't used an item in over a year, be real with yourself. A good example of this is a piece of clothing you have not worn. Chances are it's not your favorite and you won't be wearing it anytime soon. Parting is such sweet sorrow.

2. Decorative Item Not Feeling The Love - This is a classic example of clutter. Maybe a gift from a loved one that you never really liked anyways. One less thing to dust, time to let go.

3. The Paper Trail - Ever find an old receipt to a phone or alarm clock that you don't even own anymore? Yes, this means you. Gotta go. Or how about business cards

from a networking meeting or from an old colleague that you don't have a use for? A better way of storing useful business cards is electronically via business card software or even scanning them into your computer to keep their information. Recycle the paper, save some trees.



4. Clothing That Doesn't Fit - Ladies we are all guilty of this. In our minds we are all still 105 lbs. but the fabric just doesn't stretch out that far anymore. Its ok girls, we still look hot but it is time to throw out the old spandex pants and tight jean mini skirts that we are holding

hostage in the closet. Yes time to let go of the 80s.

5. There Is No Room In Your Home For It - If you don't have room to store it in your home, consider getting rid of it. If you do not have a purpose for it, never rent out a storage unit and pay a monthly fee. You might as well open the window and just throw dollar bills out of it.

6. Keeping A Broken Item - How many times have you held onto a piece of jewelry with the intentions of fixing it every time you walk by it? It's taking up space in your jewelry box and in your life. Fix it or dump it. It's that simple.

7. Cassette Tapes, 45's and 8 Tracks - You know where I am going with this. Mp3 is the new black and has been for some time. The old mediums just don't cut it anymore and they must go buh-bye. You can put them in the same trash bag as the spandex pants and jean mini skirts.

On your journey to becoming a minimalist, go slow and proceed with caution. Always make sure you ask family members if it is ok to help them start to de-clutter as well, instead of going gangbusters on their possessions. That would be a big no-no. It is always a good thing to teach them early on the importance of not holding onto unnecessary items in their lives. We do not want to see them on hoarders any time soon either.

STARK: FROM 29

unlawful conduct. Therefore, the complaint would not be considered "protected activity."

Nonetheless, virtually any statute or law pertaining to the workplace does include a provision that makes any form of retaliation by an employer, pursuant to an employee's complaint, unlawful retaliation. Some examples of these laws include complaints based on gender, age, ethnic background, race, color, religious prefer-

ence, and sexual preference. Therefore any complaints alleging violations based upon these categories is "protected activity." Also, filing a Worker's Compensation or Wage claim is considered "protected activity," as is filing OSHA complaints.

If you are experiencing what you believe to be workplace retaliation, the prudent course of action is to check with an employment attorney to determine your rights.

SR. CENTER: FROM 5

MONTHLY SUPPER CLUB: Thursday May 15th at The Glenview Pub & Grille, North Chelmsford, MA. Sign up is the first Wed. of every month (May 7th). Reservation 5pm. Bus \$3. Separate Checks - order off menu.

FOOT CARE: RN Catherine Languedoc, Foot Care Specialist, will be available on the third Friday of every month from 9am-2:30pm. Next date is May 16th. Dr. Connolly is available on the second Wednesday of the month, next date is May 14th 1-4 pm. Please call ahead to schedule an appointment.

HEARING CLINIC: May 21st Miracle-

Ear will be at the North Andover Senior Center (3rd Wed. of every month), 10am-12pm. Sign up with reception for a free screening.

ROCKINGHAM MALL TRIP: 4th Monday of every month. Next date is May 19th due to the Memorial Day Holiday, 1 p.m. \$4 round trip.

Volunteers are the backbone of the North Andover Senior Center, we currently need Medical Transport Volunteers. You can set your own hours. Call the Senior Center for more information. Speak with our Program Coordinator at 688-9560 for application and assistance.



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TV TALK WITH BILL CUSHING



MIND OVER MATTER with JERRY VALLEY

What Makes a Good Subject for Hypnosis?

JERRY VALLEY

VALLEY PATRIOT HYPNOSIS COLUMNIST

What is Hypnosis?

There are many misconceptions about hypnosis and here are a few:

1. The Hypnotist is controlling my mind ... NOT true. The hypnotist is only a guide and you can never be hypnotized against your will. When I was featured on the TV show 20/20, John Stossel made a great statement "We surveyed over 400 hypnotists and they all agreed that the hypnotist simply gives you the suggestions but YOU must have the desire for the suggestion to work." Great information.

2. What if I don't wake up? Nobody has ever stayed in hypnosis. Hypnosis is NOT sleep ... it is a state of controlled daydreaming and the control must be given by the subject to the hypnotist for it to work. If you do not hear the hypnotist's voice for 5 consecutive minutes, you come out of it all by yourself.

3. Will I reveal secrets? No ... unless you want to. Most ethical hypnotists do not ask you for personal or secretive information. For example, if you come in to Stop Smoking that is the only process that will be addressed.

Hypnosis is really beneficial for people because 3-5 minutes in hypnosis is equal to several hours of a normal sleep. People who get hypnotized LOVE IT! They love it because they sleep better, feel better and they can then use more of their subconscious power while the average person uses less than 20% of its capacity.

Below, you will see how I describe to other hypnotists how to recognize the best subjects.

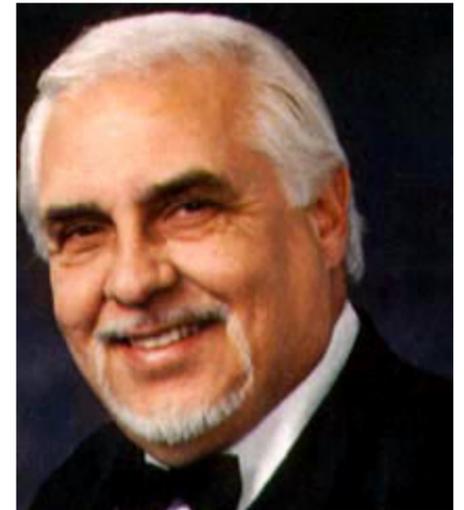
Although there may be other contributing factors, I have found, what I consider to be, the 3 main factors in reading the subject's receptivity.

Notice that I use the term "Receptivity" rather than suggestibility which is used by most hypnotists and there is nothing wrong with that. However, I have found that the term "Receptivity" might be a bit more acceptable by the client since "Suggestibility" could have a very slight connotation of gullibility.

Now, hold on and don't jump all over me for that comparison. It is just my personal opinion and nothing else. If you like suggestibility, by all means stick with it. Please do not misunderstand my point. Many hypnotists use that term and that's Ok. It is just a fine line where I feel "Receptivity" is a better fit.

Let's move on to the more important aspects of this article. In my 40 years in the field of hypnosis, judging the receptivity of a client has been extremely important and great clues as to how the client might react to my suggestions.

I teach my students that, to me, these three factors are the most important clues to



judge the client's receptivity:

Impressionability, Imagination, Trust. Let's examine these words. People who are easily impressed make great subjects. Here is an example of impressionability:

Sometimes, poll takers stop people coming out of a movie and ask the first person this question: "You just saw the movie 'Blindside.' What did you think about it?"

The person responds: "I enjoyed it. It was pretty good." Now the second person coming out responds to the same question like this: "Oh my GOD! This was the BEST movie I have ever seen! I am going to see it again tomorrow!"

Who is the better subject? The 2nd person because he/she was greatly IMPRESSED! That type of person would, most likely, be very impressed with hypnosis. Impressionability tends to open the door to the imagination and leads to a very receptive and willing subject. By the way, and ironically, WILLINGNESS is NOT a factor in judging the subject. Just because a person is willing, which is a given, there is no guarantee that he/she will be a good and responsive subject. I have had plenty of people on stage and in my private practice that were willing but did not become great subjects. Hence, in the stage shows, I did send some back to the audience. I repeat: Just because a person is WILLING, it does not guarantee a good subject.

1. Let's go on to IMAGINATION. People with vivid imaginations also tend to be good subjects. Paraphrasing Constantin Stanislavsky, the great Russian teacher of acting once said in his book An Actor Prepares, "The imagination gives the subconscious mind a license to perform." Stage hypnotists realize that his statement is really true as they motivate people to act out specific scenes that they are put into. It is truly amazing what people will actually do when allowed to perform in various scenarios.

Back to the one-on-one scene. Sometimes, a person will state that he/she has no imagination. I challenge that because everyone has an imagination but some try to

JERRY VALLEY: PAGE 34

The Return of Jack Bauer and 24

Bill Cushing

VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST



Monday May 5th marked the highly-anticipated return of an iconic TV show and character to the airwaves. 24: Live Another Day premiered on FOX and brought Kiefer Sutherland's

Jack Bauer back to TV.

24's real time concept, an entire season of 24 one hour episodes, spanning one day in the storyline was unique and innovative when it premiered. The pulse pounding storylines about a US Counter Terrorist Unit in post 9/11 America made audiences stand up and take notice and 24 became the talk of TV.

The show aired on FOX from 2001-2010 for 8 seasons and 192 episodes, plus a 2 hour movie in between seasons 6 and 7. Sutherland won an Emmy, a Screen Actors Guild Award, and a Golden Globe for his portrayal of Jack Bauer over the course of the series run.

In May of 2013, after several failed attempts to bring 24 to the big screen, Fox announced that the show would be returning in a "limited run event series" called 24: Live Another Day. Fox CEO Kevin Reilly said that the series would essentially represent the twelve "most important" hours of a typical 24 season. As with the rest of Fox's push into event programming, the production will have "a big scope and top talent and top marketing budgets."

In a press release, Producer Howard Gordon said: "Jack Bauer has always been an exciting, thrilling character, and I confess that I've missed him. I think the audience has too. The character has evolved through the years, and this

new and exciting event series format is perfect to tell the next chapter of his story and continue to reflect how the world is changing. Fans can rest assured that the Jack they know and love will be back."

The story will take place 4 years after the events of the show's final season. Once again, world peace hangs in the balance as the U.S. is about to sign an important treaty with Great Britain. U.S. President James Heller, played by William Devane, is in London to sign the pact, but the CIA uncovers a threat to assassinate the president. Jack Bauer, will be forced to come out of hiding in an attempt to thwart the plot. All the familiar elements are in place including the digital clock signaling the ends and beginnings of segments to remind us that it's all happening in real time. But while the 12-part series will still portray the events of a single day in real time, there will be jumps forward between certain episodes.

Whether 24 : Live Another Day will lead to more 24 is yet to be seen. Producers and actors have all said they would be open to more but the ratings will need to be there. "I think the show could go on indefinitely," Sutherland said, then added with a tone of doubt in his voice: "I'm not sure how long Jack Bauer could go on." Sutherland still hopes a 24 feature film will be made one day, but for now is just happy to be back playing Jack again. "He's this long-lost friend," he says. "It was great to see each other again!"

24: Live Another Day airs Monday nights at 9 on FOX.

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.

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PHOTO: BHARANI PADMANABHAN

‘Child Welfare Advocates’ and the ‘Kids for Harvard’ Travesty

Dr. Bharani Padmanabhan
VALLEY PATRIOT OPINION COLUMNIST

The definition of a “Child Welfare Advocate” in Massachusetts is someone who supports total secrecy within the Juvenile Court system and sealing every document so even the children allegedly being advocated for are under threat of prosecution for releasing their own records - for their own protection of course. Docket number? Sealed! Witnesses? Sealed! Evidence? Sealed! DCF staff names? Sealed!

In Pennsylvania they just sentenced another from their “Kids for Cash” travesty. The crime ran unchecked for years eventually damning 6000 children all of whom had had court-appointed “guardians”, “advocates” and other corrupt spineless wastes of space who all chose to let the judges have their way with the children. 6000 times.

All alleged “Child Welfare Advocates” in Pennsylvania who kept quiet all those years, bowing and scraping, ingratiating themselves with the system in the hope of being rewarded with appointments as Guardian ad Litem or such at Public Expense in future cases, are undeniably complicit in that massive crime against children and their parents.

The US First Circuit ruled that the statutes do NOT make sealing of juvenile court cases mandatory. There is a compelling Constitutional and public interest to let sunlight in. Massachusetts chooses to seal everything in order to enable corruption and hide alleged “Child Welfare Advocates” from the law.

“[A]s compelling as that interest [in protecting the minor victims] is, it does NOT justify a mandatory closure rule, for it is clear that the circumstances of the particular case may affect the significance of the interest.” <http://caselaw.findlaw.com/us-1st-circuit/1301484.html>

Sunlight MUST be the default option. The US Supreme Court ruled that secrecy MUST be decided on a case-by-case basis. Massachusetts does not care about Supreme Court rulings. AG Martha Coakley fought against federal child protection standards.

“Advocates” making nice with the system, like Wendy Murphy (“BLABBING on and on about freedom of speech gets the parents nowhere ...”), have expressed consternation at public opposition to the unwritten ‘gag order’ issued by the juvenile court in the Pelletier case.

Alleged “Child Welfare Advocates” decried the efforts of the Pelletiers to discuss the corrupt actions of the despicable Judge Johnston who even blocked them from hiring an attorney of their choice. Naturally alleged “Child Welfare Advocates” approved when Mass-DCF moved to have the parents imprisoned.

These alleged “Child Welfare Advocates” also had no ethical qualms about letting the public know they were privy to serious dirt on the Pelletier family but

could not reveal it.

One such, Gov. Deval Patrick, actually wrote to the Legislature - “Justina is in DCF custody” because “a judge ruled that her parents were unfit to care for her (.....) based on a detailed record of the history of neglect in the home.” <http://michael-graham.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/ltr-to-Rep.-Lombardo-.pdf>

Both he and David Linsky consciously LIED about the Executive Branch not having the power to release the child - <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/DCF/regs/110cmr9.pdf>

Gov. Patrick counted on alleged “Child Welfare Advocates” to dutifully defend him so they can continue parasitizing off the taxpayer. They did and labelled as “Patrick-haters” those asking Gov. Patrick to prove his statements.

Get it? If you want Gov. Patrick to be held accountable, you are a “Patrick-hater.”

It reminds me of the liberal progressive who asked Galina - “But does he love Lenin?” - when she applied to have Solzhenitsyn taken off the blacklist. <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scleroplex/8295372004/>

All alleged “Child Welfare Advocates” who support secrecy, Harvard’s “parent-ectomies” and abuse of process by the despicable Judge Johnston and others, bowing and scraping, ingratiating themselves with the system in the hope of being rewarded with appointments as Guardian ad Litem or such at public expense in future cases, are undeniably complicit in massive crimes against children, their parents and the Constitutional foundations of these United States.

This includes alleged “Child Welfare Advocates” in the Legislature, like Linsky and Sheila Harrington, who stood in the floor of the House and consciously LIED on behalf of Harvard’s hospital and a corrupt judge that there are “tons of red flags and evidence documenting severe neglect of children in the Pelletier home.” Linsky and Harrington are enraged that the parents pushed for transparency and sunlight.

Decent folk were also treated to the shamefully creepy spectacle of alleged “Child Welfare Advocates” declaring that all judges nobly adhere to the oath of office. Yeah, like the judges of Pennsylvania. The corruption of Brad Jones was unmistakable in his refusal to ask for a Roll Call vote while defeating the honest Lyons-Lombardo amendment.

All alleged “Child Welfare Advocates” in the Pelletier travesty (aka “Kids for Harvard”) should be prosecuted in Federal Court for honest services fraud and not reporting felonies. The despicable Judge Johnston and Gov. Patrick know that too, which is why they begged Connecticut to concoct a pre-dated file of neglect, just to save themselves from prison.

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

New Thriller Reveals for the 1st Time How Vietnam War Really Started

The Forest of Assassins, a new novel by David Forsmark and Timothy Imholt, PhD, now available from Amazon.com, shows for the first time a detailed and thrilling account of the Navy SEAL operations that led to the escalation of America’s involvement in the Vietnam War.

Thomas Fleming, former President of the American Society of Historians, and author of dozens of works of history and historical fiction, says, “The Forest of Assassins is a unique combination of startling fact and gripping fiction—which gives readers a new understanding of the war in Vietnam. It is must-read on every page.”

The bestselling thriller writer Robert Ferrigno praises the novel’s intensity and narrative drive, “The Forest of Assassins is a great read, a novel as good as the best journalism, with vivid and accurate details driving a tale of danger and deception and betrayal during the Vietnam War. This book doesn’t just feel researched, it feels lived.”

The Forest of Assassins tells the story of Navy SEAL Lieutenant Hank Dillon, a squad commander deep in the jungles of South Vietnam when America’s involvement in the war was still in the “advisor” stage. Dillon’s mission is to wreak havoc among the Viet Cong guerillas who are terrorizing the countryside.

Their mission—and even their presence in the region—is top secret. But Hank has a problem even bigger than a deadly and determined enemy; he has a traitor in the ranks.

Meanwhile, a suspicious NCIS cop is

Memorial Day, A Remembrance

Tom Weaver

VALLEY PATRIOT CLASSICAL LIBERAL

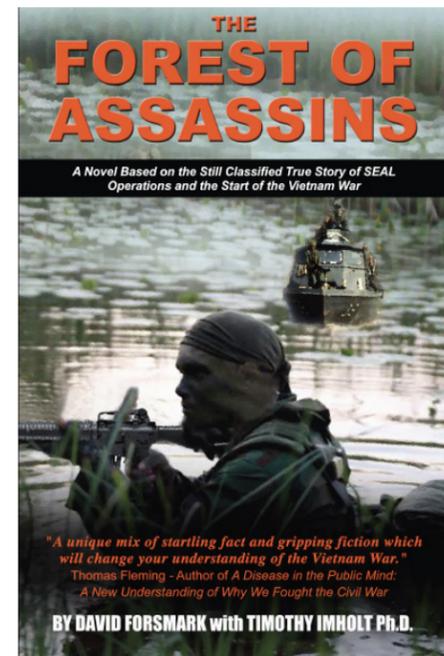
Growing up in the 50’s was exceptional. The emphasis was community activities, church socials and neighborhood parties. Kids were everywhere, people were smiling, and life was great.

Our assistant Scoutmaster, Mr. Moore, always walked with a limp. The neighborhood carpenter had a weird scar from his shoulder to his back. Uncle Ed had a wife who had the strongest accent we ever heard – but could she cook Hungarian stew! When we visited the Valentines, there were two photos on the mantel of young soldiers, brothers that we never met. Uncle Jack never talked about how he learned to fly. Curtis’s dad had a Japanese sword that he found somewhere.

Over time, each of these stories came together, as upon their deaths; the obituaries would mention Normandy, Taiwan, Burma and so many other faraway spots. It seems that we were raised in the midst of heroes and they never talked about it ...

Today, few are left. Edwin had five combat jumps in the Pacific, the last saw him hang from the Rock for three days, playing dead. He is now in the VA Hospital. Frank was thrown off his ship after it exploded in a night battle on the Slot. He is now in an Alzheimer’s Ward. Tom recalls mountains of snow at the Chosen Reservoir of Korea. Bob has pieces of iron still in his body from the jungles of Vietnam. There are so few heroes left. So many veterans today carry the physical and emotional scars of being in the War on Terror for too long.

My friend George was a hero, he passed this past year. He was a mule skinner, transporting cannons over the Alps. He sacked groceries at the local Market Basket until just before his wife passed earlier in the year. She served as a WAVE in the US Navy.



nosing around Hank’s mysterious operation, sure that it is a front for drug running and other illegal activities.

As Edgar Award-winning mystery writer Doug Allyn says, “Vietnam is often called the forgotten war, but ‘The Forest of Assassins’ brings it back to life with excitement, intensity, and nonstop action. From a desperate riverbank firefight to intricate Montagnard initiation rites, every well-researched line rings true. ‘Forest’ is the darkly violent saga of a young Navy SEAL facing a determined enemy, while deal-

ASSASSINS: PAGE 34

Yet, these heroes do not consider themselves as such. No, they believe the heroes never returned from far away battlefields. And as Memorial Day approaches, these living heroes grow quiet as they remember the friends of their youth – their buddies. They take a moment to look at a photo, to touch a name on a long wall, or to recall a night of liberty in a port across the sea.

Memorial Day is about those heroes who never returned, who never got married or kissed their love ones. It is about those heroes that never held their kids or sang to their grandchildren. It is about those heroes who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their friends, family and Nation.

We are blessed that there are those that understand duty, honor and service to this country. We are blessed that Billy, a young Marine from Groton, understood that freedom needed to be protected for his family and Nation. Memorial Day is about recognizing the sacrifice that over 1 million have given to protect the blessings of liberty from those that wish to destroy it.

And now, we owe them a debt of gratitude which can only be repaid by our action and involvement.

So on Memorial Day, before the hamburgers are served or after the parade -- take time to read the words of President Abraham Lincoln; “It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us – that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion – that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain – that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom – and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

In the name of all those we honor this Memorial Day, we have work to finish.

Tom Weaver, The Classical Liberal



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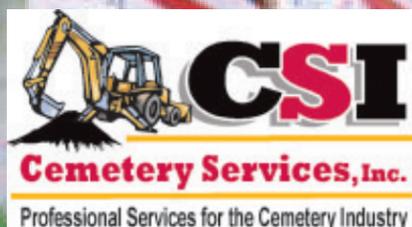
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MEMORIAL DAY: FROM 1

the maturation of our country and of the freedoms we now enjoy.

My generation has experienced three major wars; World War II, The Korean War and the Vietnam War. World War II was fought by the great generation of Americans who saved the world from fascist aggression and secured the blessings of liberty for hundreds of millions of people around the world. Four hundred thousand Americans sided in that war and of over 16 million who fought in it, less than 4 million are still alive today. And, 100,000 more American lives were lost in Korea and Vietnam in the cause of freedom.

Today, their descendants are fighting a global war against terrorism. They are serving and sacrificing in Afghanistan and Iraq and at other outposts on the front lines of freedom. The lives of every one of them are precious to their loved ones and to our nation. And each life given in the name of liberty is a life that has not been lost in vain.

This war in which we are now engaged, truly another world war, is a vicious guerilla war, one in which religious zealots

are determined to destroy us. It is a war between two cultures, one which values life and the dignity of man and the other which considers that any lives sacrificed for violation of Islamic Law, regardless of sex or age, are a tribute to Allah.

Although most fighting is in Iraq and Afghanistan, the enemy is striking in locations all throughout the world, intent on destroying the civilized world we live in. And it WILL be a long war.

We have taken the position that the terrorists must be confronted and destroyed where possible. We offer prayers every day for the safety of our troops and for their success in subjugating the evil that has been infiltrating through our and other societies for many years.

Our precious freedoms and our way of life envied throughout the world have been attained only through great sacrifice and the wisdom of those who came before us.

Today, also, we share the sorrow of the mothers and fathers and families and friends of those who never returned from the field of battle. They have suffered the greatest human tragedy – the loss of sons

and daughters, spouses, and brothers and sisters.

America has always been a beacon of hope for freedom for oppressed and threatened people of the world over. We have used our military might to enable other people, as well as our own, to enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. And it has been our veterans throughout history who have been the key players in making the world a safer and better place to live.

We must give special thanks to those veterans who bear the scars of combat, many of whom are disabled and in need of constant medical care. Our hospitals are full of veterans suffering from illnesses and injuries incurred during combat or from the rigors of military service, afflictions that prevent them from living pain free lives enjoyed by most Americans.

So, today we express our honor to those men and women who have followed in the footsteps of our forefathers starting with the colonists and the minutemen. They were, and are today, those who were willing to fight as necessary to perpetuate the way of life passed down to them by warriors of earlier generations. They know there is no glory in war; it can be utter hell. But, thanks to them, we are living here in

peace.

In closing, let us be reminded of President Abraham Lincoln's words in 1863 at the cemetery by the battlefield of Gettysburg, and I quote;

"The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which, they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us – that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they have the last full measure of devotion – that we here highly resolve that these dead shot have died in vain..."

With Americans fighting in the cause of freedom in a land almost half a world away, think of how applicable Lincoln's words are today. Although he spoke of the dead, his words apply equally to those men and women in uniform who are devoted to the cause of freedom and peace.

We are blessed to be Americans. Let us not, in the selfishness of forgetfulness betray those we honor this morning. Our legacy from them, obtained at the cost of the blood of millions, is priceless.

God Bless them, – And god bless us all."

JERRY VALLEY: FROM PAGE 31

repress it because, as they state, "I am know an adult and can't act like a kid." Then, I simply ask him/her to describe their car, their house or their last vacation, which they do promptly and with excellent imagery. So, imagination is a very good element in this search.

Now, TRUST is also a given. Nobody is going to allow hypnosis unless they trust the hypnotist. No trust ... no hypnosis.

There also could be other factors such as a person being in AWE of the hypnotist, and other pre-conceived ideas about the "power" of the hypnotist and the effects of being hypnotized.

One of the "luxuries" that the stage hypnotist has is that he/she gets to select the very best subjects for the show. The consulting hypnotist works one-on-one with clients so he/she must lead that client via testing etc., into a receptive arena.

Once you determine the receptivity of the client, you must then select a proper induc-

tion that you feel will cause the client to respond in a positive manner and accept and follow all of your suggestions.

As Harry Arons always stated: "Fit the induction to the client and not the client to the induction." In other word, don't always use the same induction. However, there is a bit of opposition to that idea and it is: If an induction worked well for a client, why not use it again? Good question.

I will use a particular induction several times, but I will vary the inductions over time so that the client does not become bored with it.

In conclusion, look for signs that might indicate a receptive, and hopefully not a refractory, client. Always remember, you are there to help that client succeed in pursuing his/her goal. Do it right and your success will not surprise me.

Jerry Valley, M.A.C.P., NGH Certified Consulting Hypnotist. You can reach him at: jerryvalley007@aol.com

ASSASSINS: FROM PAGE 32

ing with ambivalent allies and a combat officer's worst nightmare -- betrayal by one of his own. A tough, taut tale from start to finish, 'The Forest of Assassins' is a must read."

The story culminates with the infamous Gulf of Tonkin Incident, which LBJ uses as an excuse to escalate American involvement in the war. The Forest of Assassins tells, for the first time, the story behind the incident, debunking conspiracy theories at the same time it exposes duplicity in high places.

But The Forest of Assassins is not a primarily a history book. It is a thriller with a mission to entertain. And according to the prestigious suspense novelists who have reviewed it so far ... Mission Accomplished.

Bob Hamer, Marine and Former FBI Agent and author of the acclaimed memoir The Last Undercover, raves: "As real as fiction gets. A non-stop ride into combat told with perfection."

For more information contact either Dave Forsmark (dforsmark@comcast.net) or Timothy Imholt (tim@timothyimholt.com)

BETTENCOURT: FROM 27

self-imposed "red lines" are disregarded. In dealing with Putin, we should avoid setting ourselves up to abandon future commitments that will result in projecting weakness and empowering Putin further. Nixon would have guarded American prestige and credibility with our allies.

With regard to Israel and Iran, there is no doubt Nixon would be aghast at the strain in the current US-Israeli relationship. Matters came to a boil when Secretary of State John Kerry made an Israeli apartheid reference. Nixon was a staunch supporter of Israel and his leadership during the Yom Kippour War is credited with saving Israel from potentially devastating

attacks. Senators Shaheen and Ayotte must encourage Obama to ease the current strain with our only ally in the Middle East. They also should stress that there must be no relaxation of sanctions on Iran until they denuclearize and be willing to stiffen sanctions if necessary.

Finally, Nixon would likely find Obama's current strategy of arming moderate rebels in Syria to rebuild opposition strength against the brutal Assad regime to create a more advantageous negotiation position in Geneva, as promising. The anti-Assad rebels have refused to negotiate until a balance in forces is restored. This is not unlike Nixon's Vietnam strategy of bolstering South Vietnamese forces to strengthen peace talks with the Vietcong and North Vietnamese. According to Vietnam historian Phillip Jennings this strategy bore fruit for Nixon and could do so for Obama. In Syria the key is ensuring the arms do not fall into radical Islamist hands. Congresswomen Shea-Porter should use her skepticism of military intervention to carefully monitor progress of this policy and remind the president that again Putin is looming in the background.

While an ostrich can bury its head in the sand to hide from its problems it doesn't make them go away. We need leaders who can articulate and execute an effective foreign policy that protects America's interests and advances world peace. New Hampshire's delegation can and should lead the way.

D.J. Bettencourt served as a State Representative in the New Hampshire House of Representatives from 2005 to 2012 and was the House Majority Leader for the 2011-2012 legislative term. He currently works as the Director of Development and Community Relations at the Salem Animal Rescue League.

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The VA Hospital, Memorial Day and More

John Lenotte

VALLEY PATRIOT VETERAN COLUMNIST

There has been some shocking news recently about the treatment of veterans in some VA medical centers.

It appears that 40 veterans died because of lack of care at the Phoenix Arizona VA Medical Center. There was a secret list of appointments that administrators were maintaining which delayed medical appointments. This comes after reports from other VA facilities across the country over the last several months that delayed treatment and appointments have resulted in unnecessary deaths of veterans.

These are men and women who answered our nation's call to arms, did their job in the military and came home expecting to be taken care of by our government. This is beyond disgraceful.

If you agree with me, I hope you will contact our Congressional Delegation to voice your opinion.

An easy way to get their contact information is to go to www.contactingthecongress.org. If these allegations are true, there needs to be a shake-up in the VA and some of these folks need to be held accountable and some may need to lose their jobs.

I am not a lawyer but this seems to border on being outright criminal.

How would you feel if this happened to one of your family? As a veteran, they are

all part of my extended family and I will be sending emails to my US Senators Markey and Warren and to Congresswoman Tsongas.

Perhaps the warm weather will finally get here this month, at least by Memorial Day.

As the holiday approaches, I know we will all be getting ready for the traditional cookout. Part of my holiday tradition is to help put out flags on the graves of our veterans. Here in Haverhill, we do get a lot of assistance from the Boy Scouts in putting out over 6,000 flags each year. And there will be the parade on Memorial Day.

I hope you will come out in your local city or town to view the parade and ceremonies.

It only takes a little bit out of your time to do so. And while at the cemetery, think about those who made the sacrifice for our nation.

Some died in battle, others came home with physical and mental scars. Others served during peacetime. All of these men and women served to keep us free. The least we can do is give up some of our time to recognize them and their families.

Not a big price for us considering this great nation that we live in and all the freedoms we enjoy.

I will ask all veterans to also turn out, and if you cannot march or ride in the parade, at least be on the sidelines for your

comrades. And if you do not belong to the American Legion or any other veterans' organization that you are eligible for, this is a good time to join.

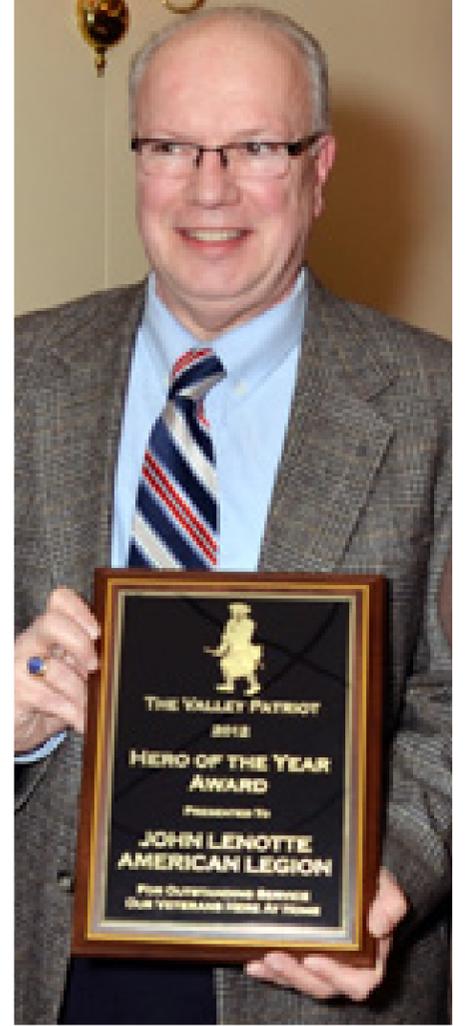
Our country and your comrades still need you.

The image continues to persist that the Legion and others are about the "bar". The Legion charts posts, not bars. Many posts do not have a members lounge/bar area. It is about the many programs that the Legion runs: Baseball, Boys State, Oratorical Contests and Scholarships; support for National Security; care of veterans in need.

One little known program is the Child Welfare Foundation, founded in 1953. This year they awarded over \$600,000 in grants. Two Massachusetts organizations received money: National Braille Press of Boston, was awarded \$18,500 for their project, "Just Enough to Know Better: A Braille Primer." This grant will produce a Braille primer for sighted parents to teach their blind children to read; and the National Autism Center of Randolph, MA, was awarded \$50,000 for their project, "Evidence-Based Educational Interventions in Public School Settings for Children with ASD." This grant will produce and disseminate information to support an intervention program targeted toward schools and special education administrators. These are the types of programs that demonstrate what the American Legion is all about and why I am proud to be a life member. Again, veterans, come join us!

May God Bless America, the troops who defend us, and their families.

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



John Lenotte is the recipient of the 2012 Valley Patriot Hero of the Year Award and is Commander of the Wilbur M. Comeau Post 4, Haverhill MA; Past Department Commander, of Massachusetts The American Legion; contact: JohnLDistrict8@verizon.net

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