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AUGUST, 2020
VOLUME 17, ISSUE 8
Edition #202

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Where is Andy Puglisi?

Decades after the disappearance of ten-year-old Andy Puglisi in South Lawrence, people are still looking for answers. Guest contributor Brett Ruhmann explores the case.

Page: 5



PHOTO COURTESY

INDEX



Weather with Al!
Page 5



Linda Dean Campbell
State Rep.
PAGE 2

Vets.....	1
Editorial.....	2
Dracut.....	2,
Methuen.....	2-4, 14, 21
State.....	2,4,11
Lawrence.....	5,11,14,17,21
Notebook.....	6-7
PETS.....	7,18
Health.....	8
National.....	9
North Andover.....	14
POLICE.....	14
Newburyport.....	16
Religion.....	20



IN YOUR CORNER
Senator
DIZOGLIO
PAGE 4



TV TALK
w. Bill
Cushing
PAGE 19



Brian Genest
Dracut
PAGE 2

POLICE CHIEFS TALK ABOUT EXCESSIVE FORCE PAGE 14

VALLEY PATRIOT OF THE MONTH

US Navy Seabee Kevin Donahue

John Cuddy
VALLEY PATRIOT HERO REPORTER

LAWRENCE - Greater Lawrence Technical School graduate and Lawrence native, Kevin Donahue, and I recently had dinner at Methuen's Muddy Waters Restaurant. We had a fantastic meal, and the Donahue family really enjoyed the beer, pizza, burgers, served by their terrific staff. During dinner, Kevin told me about his family, his education, and his working career, first as a Senior Chief Utilitiesman

in the Navy, and later as a GS-15 Life Cycle Logistics and Facilities manager with our Federal Government. Here is Kevin in his own words; "I joined the United States Navy in 1984, best decision I ever made. I was raised and educated in the City of Lawrence Public Schools, finishing my studies in electrical construction at the Greater Lawrence Technical High School, where I graduated with Class of 1981.

After spending three years adrift in Lawrence, trying to figure out what I wanted to do with my life. I went down to

the Navy Recruiter on Essex Street to see what the Navy had to offer. They offered me a position in the Seabees, the construction force and combat engineers of the US Navy. I was provided challenging training in the field of utilities, including; plumbing, HVAC, boilers, pumps, and other mechanical systems at the Naval Training Center, Gulfport, Mississippi. This training as a plumber, fit well with my training as an electrician in high school, set me on a course for an outstanding career in national defense.

Later in my Naval career, I was trained by the US State Department to be a locksmith. This cross training in the building trades, as an electrician, a plumber, locksmith, my hobby of woodworking, and most important the leadership training I received as a US Navy Chief Petty Officer, were invaluable in helping me reach my personal and professional goals.

The phrase, "join the Navy and see the world" is a very true statement. I was either deployed or stationed in the Pacific, Atlantic, Caribbean or Mediterranean area serving during both Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom, and Enduring Freedom, as a Seabee. I worked my way up as a Constructionman in 1984 to a Senior Chief Utilitiesman and Command Senior Enlisted Advisor in 2004. While serving, I was able to take advantage of the Navy's tuition assistance program, and was always encouraged by my Navy leaders to, "hit the books". I earned two degrees, while still on active duty, an Associate in Arts from Hagerstown Community Col-



lege in Maryland in 1994 and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Leadership and Management from Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia in 2002.

During my career in the Navy, I was selected for Presidential Support Duty within the White House military support organization. and a special assignment in the United States Department of State at multiple American Embassies overseas. This gave me the opportunity to meet two American Presidents and one Apollo Astronaut. I retired from active duty US Navy Service in 2004. The experience and education gained while serving in the Navy led me to my current senior

HERO: PAGE 18


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Joe's Playland the Latest Victim of Govt. Incompetence

Five months after the Coronavirus hit the United States we know a lot more about it than we did back in March. We were initially told many things by our government leaders and experts that turned out not to be true.

Because of this, there are still people running our government who did not get the updated Memos from the Center for Disease Control and are enacting senseless, meaningless regulations on businesses struggling to survive.

In Salisbury we find the latest victim of government incompetence at Joe's Play-

land. While casinos are open for business, Joe's Playland has been shut down.

It's time for this foolishness to end.

We now know that less than 1% of the population dies from getting the coronavirus. We also now know that the virus is not as easily transferred from standard objects as we were initially told.

Now that we know this, the petty tyrants of government should take a step back and scrap their 10,000 pages of new regulations for every business re-opening.

We have no tolerance at all for the government incompetence that has laid to waste so many jobs and businesses due

to the arbitrary decisions of mid-level bureaucrats.

Everywhere you look, there are hundreds of examples of hypocrisy in the way some businesses are treated over others.

Just imagine, you can go to Home Depot, you can go protest for "social justice", you can go to the casino in Everett, but if you just want to throw down a few dollars on Space Invaders or shoot some ski ball in an arcade, the government is here to protect you from yourself.

We firmly believe that those in charge of approving the re-opening of small businesses are drunk with power and

are answering to nobody. That is a recipe for disaster and we see that playing out before our very eyes as we drive through our communities. We suggest Governor Charlie Baker stops what he is doing and immediately take control of those making and enforcing these regulations.

It's time to go back to work. It's time to go back to school. Pretending we are still where we were back in March is a fantasy that is destroying people's lives. Everyone except those who draw a paycheck from the government that is. ◇

Time to Wake up Dracut's Woke Politicians

Brian Genest
DRACUT COLUMNIST

Do you support the police? Do you support law and order? Do you support the politicians "representing" Dracut who are working against both?

This is no time for town citizens to be silent about supporting the men and women of law enforcement. Instead, it's time to speak up, speak out and back the blue. Some of the first people you should educate are some of Dracut's elected officials.

At the top of the list is State Senator Barry Finegold (D-Andover), who we're also stuck with in Dracut, Lawrence and Tewksbury. Finegold joined his colleagues in the renowned Massachusetts Senate and did what they are renowned for doing: damage. In this particular case, it was the passage of a bill full of controversial police "reforms" (translation: "reprimands").

Worst of all, the legislation takes away qualified immunity from police, legal protection from civil lawsuits when a clearly-established violation of law is lacking. The bill will tie the hands of police, empower criminals, force good officers out of the profession, prevent good people from joining the ranks and make every man, woman and child in every community in our state less safe.

In the true spirit of the way the Democrat-controlled legislature runs on Beacon Hill, the bill was done with the usual amount of transparency, accountability and integrity: ushered through without a public hearing in the middle of the night. Ain't good government grand?

The Senate passed the bill at 4:11 a.m. on a Tuesday morning. That pretty much tells you everything you need to know. Of course, they hope you'll never know or you'll hopefully forget.

Later that day, when the people of Massachusetts were actually awake, Finegold issued a statement, "The bill is a step in the right direction towards greater accountability and equity in our law enforcement system."

The Massachusetts Police Association

sees the bill a little differently than our state senator.

"We cannot support a measure which takes handcuffs off drug dealers and gang bangers and puts them on police, allows criminal records to disappear while tearing open police personnel files and allows criminals to appeal for monetary damages while denying police due process to appeal for their job," MPA Executive Director

James Machado said in his own statement.

Someone should send the statement to our Congresswoman Lori Trahan, too. She's another progressive, anti-police politician and co-sponsor of a so-called "justice in policing act." The bill on Capitol Hill is just like the one on Beacon Hill:

it provides justice for protesters, rioters, looters and everyone but the police. In other words, she's for chaos instead of the cops.

In her news release, Trahan called the anti-police bill transformative legislation that will overhaul policing in America and begin to rebuild the trust between officers and the communities they serve. Uh-huh. What about the trust between our elected officials and the communities they are supposed to serve? And what about supporting the vast majority of good, honest and dedicated officers who risk their lives every day to protect us all, including the elite, thankless and clueless?

Speaking of clueless, neither Finegold nor Trahan were anywhere to be found at the recent Rolling Rally to support the Dracut and Methuen police departments. But hundreds of their constituents proudly attended to support the brave men and women of law enforcement. That's the huge, sad difference between the citizens of Dracut and politicians like Finegold and Trahan right now: We want to defend the police and they want to defund them.

Brian Genest is chairman of the Dracut Republican Town Committee and a member of the Massachusetts Republican State Committee representing the Second Essex and Middlesex district of Andover, Dracut, Lawrence and Tewksbury. ◇



House Unanimously Passes Bill to Alert Public of Sewage Overflows

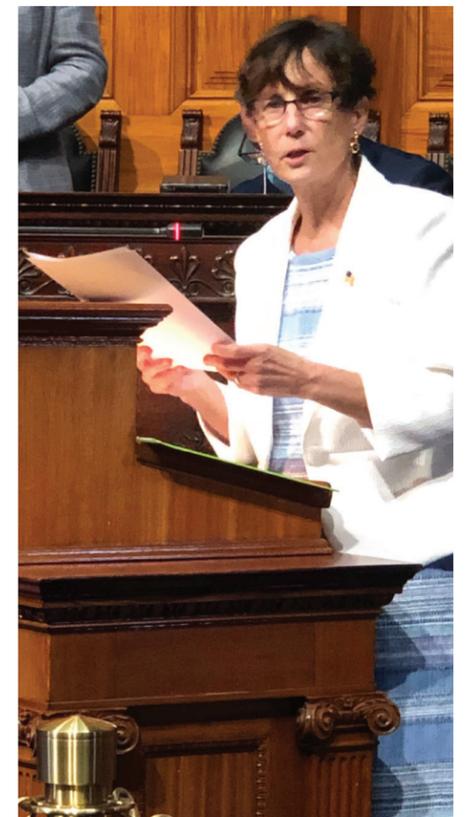
Linda Dean Campbell
MA STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Very exciting news for our Merrimack River and all who use it – the Massachusetts House of Representatives has unanimously passed a bill I filed to make sure the public is alerted in a timely fashion when sewage overflows into our state's rivers. This is an absolutely critical step to protect residents from contact with contaminated waters.

In 2018, over 800 million gallons of untreated sewage were discharged into the Merrimack River, carrying with them the risk of exposure to a number of harmful pathogens, such as E. coli. Recent research even suggests that COVID-19 may be transmissible through sewage. It is more important than ever for residents to be informed when the river may pose a risk to their health.

This bill has been over 6 years in the making and earned widespread support from residents across the Commonwealth, environmental advocates, and state and local officials. The bill requires sewage system operators to notify the public within 2 hours of a sewage discharge, then every 8 hours until the discharge has ended, and within 2 hours after the discharge is over. All advisories will be available online, sent via email or text to subscribed individuals, submitted to news organizations, and distributed to state and local officials. This will provide residents with the information they need to protect their own health and the health of their families. To help communities implement the requirements of the bill, the state set aside \$800,000 in the 2018 environmental bond bill.

This bill is a first step, and a very important one, in the process of eliminating combined sewer overflows, or CSOs, which typically occur when rainwater overwhelms our drainage systems and causes sewage to overflow through outfall pipes directly into nearby waterways. Public notification will bring needed attention to this issue and allow the Commonwealth and cities and towns to apply for federal



grant money to upgrade their wastewater infrastructure.

On July 30, after passing the House, the bill was sent to the Massachusetts Senate. The Senate advanced the bill last session, and I am optimistic they will do so again this year. The Baker Administration and the state Department of Environmental Protection support the legislation, so it has a high chance of being signed into law once sent to the Governor.

It is high time for residents who use our mighty Merrimack River to know when the water is unsafe. I am grateful to my colleagues in the Legislature for their support of this critical bill.

State Representative Linda Dean Campbell represents the cities of Methuen and Haverhill in the State Legislature and serves as House Chair of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs. She can be reached at Linda.Campbell@mahouse.gov or (617) 722-2380. ◇

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Methuen Mayor's Report

Exclusively for The Valley Patriot

Neil Perry
METHUEN MAYOR

It hardly seems possible, but we're on to August! Time is flying by and there's a great deal to talk about, so let's get at it.

We start with the **FY'21 Budget. The Good:** I'm pleased that we were able to pass a budget that is fiscally conservative, and that many of the departments were able to stand fast with the budgets I had recommended. A great deal of thanks goes to the city unions and employees who made concessions, and the department heads that allowed this budget to be crafted.

The Not So Good: Politics reared its ugly head with council cuts only aimed at specific people (in my office) and an attempted power play (refusal to fund assistant solicitor unless I ceded the position to the council.) The first was focused on developing business in the city and attending to major projects, and the second was working fine – neither new positions; but council felt the need to initiate a power play. In the long run, in my view – we all lose with these two cuts. Someday, we will learn to put our differences aside and truly do what is best for the City – no matter who it is.

Important Fact to Know: We ended FY'20 with the City \$2.8M in the black. That will be added to our free cash, giving us \$5.6M – not as much as we should

have, but doubling our total. My thanks to my entire team, the department heads and the CAFO especially, for helping me provide a laser focus on fiscal responsibility. And for the record, our goal is to further boost that number whenever possible, since we do not yet know what our funding from the state will be nor if the pandemic will make a significant return.

The School Re-Opening Plan.

The Good: The MPS administration and staff led by Superintendent Kwong have put a great deal of time and effort into developing a range of options (remote, hybrid, in-person) for starting the school year which gives a great deal of information to parents, school committee members and teachers and staff. The recommendation is for a hybrid approach with several phases identified by date and/or time, and in school education for our populations that most need it. Details of the plan can be viewed online: <https://schoolcounselingtech.com/reopening/#page-content>

The Not So Good: the School Committee is being asked to vote on the recommended plan or alternate without clearly understanding the exact number of teachers or students that will return or choose an alternate methodology due to the timing required by DESE for the plan. We also need more detailed information about how teachers will teach remotely with Google Classrooms, and how the



Methuen School Committeeman Louann Ouellette Santos and Mayor Neil Perry at the Methuen High graduation last week.

technology will work for all students. This, plus the requirement for a one-time binding choice by parents, is concerning, to say the least. It is hard enough to make this decision with all the facts; in this case much more discussion is required.

Finally, we discuss the state of COVID and the "Stop the Spread Program" –

The Good: The Governor announced that via the Stop the Spread Program, Methuen is one of the groups of the next eight cities to get free COVID testing from the state. This is welcome support from the state, allowing us to get in front of the spread of the virus by offering free testing to all Massachusetts residents through August 14. Here in Methuen, simply go to <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread#methuen-> for more info or call one of our two testing centers, AFC Urgent Care (978-975-0300) or GLFHC (978-686-0090) to schedule an appointment between now and August 14th.

The Not So Good: Immediately, some in the community were concerned about why Methuen was selected for participation. While our numbers remain low, the metrics considered by the state qualified

us for participation. I urge you to get tested. Please. Continue to wear the masks. We cannot afford the numbers to climb back to where they were in April; regardless of your age, wear a mask and maintain physical distance. The disease is still a great risk.

There are a lot of good things happening in Methuen: this month will see the completion of the newly re-done outside track at Nicholson Stadium, and last Friday night I had the pleasure of taking part in the 149th Methuen High School Graduation. It was a moving event and I applaud the efforts of Superintendent Kwong, Principal Barden, Ms. Thomas, and their team in giving this class the event they deserved despite the challenges and obstacles to do so. I also commend the adaptability of the graduates and their families in following the guidelines and ensuring a successful event. Congratulations to the graduates of the Class of 2020 on this important milestone, and great job by all!

Methuen Mayor Neil Perry is in the first year of a two-year term as Mayor of Methuen. You can email him at NpIrish1213@gmail.com. ♦

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IN YOUR CORNER with SENATOR DIZOGGIO



Helping Our Local Restaurants Through the COVID-19 Emergency

Hello Valley Patriot Readers,

In Massachusetts, we have seen many of our local restaurants adversely impacted by COVID-19, with mom and pop establishments fearful that lost revenue from reduced capacity requirements and lingering hesitation by the public to dine out will prevent them from operating much longer. Restaurants were among the first to feel the negative economic effects of COVID-19 and we've already seen many beloved neighborhood eateries close their doors forever.

As our restaurants begin a very long road to recovery, finding ways to maximize revenue in the face of social distancing requirements is imperative. That is why I am so grateful the Senate recently passed a bill I co-sponsored, An Act to address challenges faced by restaurants and other establishments due to COVID-19, to address this urgency by codifying a streamlined regulatory process around patio and sidewalk service for restaurants.

In anticipation of reduced indoor capacity due to social distancing requirements, many restaurants reached out to their local licensing authorities to explore outdoor beverage and food service on patios and sidewalks.

Expanding the restaurant service premises to include contiguous outdoor space supports their efforts to serve more customers and increase revenue while

promoting social distancing for diners.

Typically, the process to change licensing terms can take months – and with a surge in applications, it is likely that approval times would have been pushed well past the season when outdoor service is feasible in Massachusetts. The legislation we passed temporarily authorizes our cities and towns to issue amended beverage pouring licenses without having to wait for that lengthy state approval.

Every day counts for our small businesses and every bit of revenue is crucial to their survival. The passage of this legislation is one important step of many needed to help our job creators in the restaurant community as they work to retain employees, pay their bills and contribute to the health of our economy. It is complemented by our efforts to defer the meals tax for our small businesses, with all penalties and interest that would otherwise apply being waived, as well as capping the amount that third-party delivery services are able to charge local restaurants.

If you have questions about this legislation or any other issue – or need assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic - please contact me and my team anytime via email at diana.dizoglio@masenate.gov or phone 978-984-7747.

Yours in service,
Diana ◊

Senate Passes DiZoglio Ban on Secret Settlements for Sex Harassment

(BOSTON) – The Massachusetts Senate has passed legislation, sponsored by State Senator Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen), to eliminate the use of taxpayer-funded nondisclosure agreements (NDAs) across state government.

NDAs are legal documents that require confidentiality to protect intellectual property or trade secrets. The recent #MeToo movement and incidents involving the likes of Harvey Weinstein, Steve Wynn, Larry Nassar and Roger Ailes, however, have shined a light on how these agreements have also been abused to hide the misdeeds of harassers and abusers by requiring the legal silencing of victims.

The executive branch has publicly refused to release information regarding the amount of tax dollars spent on NDAs through the Governor's Office. Public records requests have been made to several state agencies and revealed numerous NDAs have been given to employees over the course of the last several years. However, there is no record of how much in taxpayer dollars was spent to fund them or why the agreements were executed.

While the Massachusetts Senate earlier this session passed a change, also sponsored by DiZoglio, to its Senate Rules banning the use of NDAs in its chamber, the Massachusetts House of Representatives, known to have given out at least 33 NDAs in recent years, has not adopted such reform and continues to support the use of these taxpayer-funded hush agreements.

Six states to date, including California, Tennessee and Washington, have outright banned NDAs as a condition of employment for all employees, public or private. Recently, Gretchen Carlson,

the woman at the center of the #metoo movement known for taking down Fox News titan Roger Ailes, joined Senator DiZoglio and others for a rally at the State House to urge the Governor, the Speaker of the House, and members of the legislature to support NDA reforms by passing DiZoglio's legislation out of committee.

The bill was subsequently sent to study but DiZoglio informed members of the legislature that she still planned to bring the issue up for debate on the Senate floor as an amendment to the Senate's comprehensive economic development legislation.

"We are with you, @DianaDiZoglio," said Carlson in a recent Tweet. "Thank you for leading the way in Mass to unmuzzle women forced to sign NDAs and using taxpayer's dollars to continue the unjust practice!"

"The practice of using taxpayer funded hush agreements to silence employees and victims of abuse across our state government is a shameful one, and one that must be ended - not only to help those who have already been silenced but also to protect potential future victims from abusers who could be hiding in plain sight," said DiZoglio. "NDAs don't just silence victims – they perpetuate harassment and outright assault and place others at risk by keeping these offenses secret. In passing this legislation with a 38-1 margin, the Senate took a clear position on the need to ban this practice in the public sector. I am calling on the Speaker and the Governor to open their hearts to the plight of victims and employees who are asking for nothing more than to be able to speak their truth about potential abuse. We can't end the silence by perpetuating the silence." ◊



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The Valley Patriot is published monthly before the tenth of each month by The Valley Patriot, Inc., 75 Main St., North Andover, MA 01845. All contents Copyright (c) 2012, Valley Patriot, Inc. All rights reserved. Subscriptions are \$60 per year and sent via U.S. Mail.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Valley Patriot, Inc., PO Box 453, North Andover, MA 01845.

Letters to the editor, columns and op/eds can be submitted to valleypatriot@aol.com. The Valley Patriot is not responsible for the opinions expressed in submitted letters or columns. It is the policy of The Valley Patriot not to edit or exclude submitted material based on content.

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The Valley Patriot is printed by Graphic Development in West Hanover, Mass.

Local daily news updates online at valleypatriot.com or facebook.com/valleypatriot

PHONE: (978) 771-4091

www.valleypatriot.com

News tips: Phone in [anonymous news-tips](mailto:anonymous-news-tips@valleypatriot.com) to (978) 557-5413, or you may email tips to us at valleypatriot@aol.com. We respect the anonymity of our sources if requested.

President/Publisher: Tom Duggan, Jr.
SALES: (978) 771-4091

Corrections: Please contact the editors at valleypatriot@aol.com

The Valley Patriot can be found in more than 800 locations in 48 communities in Massachusetts and NH.

WEATHER 101 WITH AL KAPRIELIAN

A Wet Start to Summer

Welcome to August and the last full month of the official summer season. July went by fast!! How time flies!!

We can still get hot & humid weather in August. However, as we go through August the days continue to get shorter with decreasing daylight. The sun will set before 8PM after the first few days of the month.

Also the sun's angle continues to get lower in the sky. Due to these reasons the extent and duration of the heat can be less than in June & July. Also during August especially towards the latter part of the month we can get cold fronts moving through bringing cool & crisp air from Canada. Some chilly nights are possible as we go through the month of August. Recapping July it was a very hot month and it lived up to its reputation of being the hottest month of the year. We saw two heat waves during July. The first heat wave occurred from July 18-21.

Remember a heat wave occurs when the high temperatures reach 90 degrees or higher for 3 consecutive days or more. The Bermuda high pressure system off the east coast of the US was strong and dominated our weather for much of July allowing the jet stream to track north of New England.

Also, upper level high pressure caused very hot conditions over the middle part of the US as well as the southwestern US. Many areas in the US saw temperatures in the 90s along with triple digit high temperatures of 110 degrees and higher over the southwestern US. Manchester New Hampshire reached 98 degrees on Sunday July 19th.

This was a new record high temp.

The old record high for Manchester New Hampshire on July 19th was 93 degrees set back in 2008. Boston and Providence both had their first heat wave of the summer between July 18-21. Another heat wave occurred during the last week in July. Providence reached 100 degrees. Hyannis on Cape Cod reached the mid 90s during this second heat wave. That is quite hot for Cape Cod which is usually a lot cooler than areas north & west of Boston.

This showed us just how hot this air mass was. Also relatively high humidity occurred making it feel very uncomfortable especially those without air conditioning. Also during July we had some cold fronts that moved through.

As these cold fronts move into the hot & humid air mass they caused torrential downpours and flooding. Some towns that got flooding in the Merrimack Valley were Lawrence, Andover, Methuen, and



Georgetown.

Flooding also occurred in Essex county, Gloucester, and Newburyport, in addition to the towns mentioned above, had some significant flooding. The Beverly MA area also had significant flooding. In addition to the downpours and flooding, severe thunderstorms occurred which resulted in strong damaging wind gusts. As a result many trees and power lines fell causing numerous power outages. These thunderstorms helped areas of drought with the heavy rain, however, these rains did not make the drought go away. We still need more rain to make up the deficit. With more hot weather that occurs in August, make sure you drink plenty of water!! Check in on the elderly, relatives and neighbors. Now, with August here, we are getting in the peak of hurricane season. As July ended, we saw Hurricane Isaias move through Puerto Rico with heavy rain and strong winds causing power outages. With a Bermuda High off the east coast and the clockwise circulation around High Pressure Isaias is forecast to move up the east coast towards our area. Depending on the exact track & intensity will determine how much rain and wind we get.

To the east side of the storm you have the strongest winds, less rain. To the west of the storm you get the heaviest rain and not as strong winds. Power outages can occur due to the strong winds. Will Isaias move over land and weaken before coming to our area? Remember, hurricanes & tropical storms weaken when they go over land because they lose the heat from the ocean waters which are 80 degrees or higher.

Also, when these storms move over land, the friction from the land causes the wind speeds to decrease, however, the storm can still cause very heavy rain to occur. Stay tuned to next month's article as we will talk about Isaias impact on New England. In the meantime, stay safe and try to enjoy the rest of the summer season!! ◇

“What Really Happened to Andy Puglisi?”

Brett Ruhmann
GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

On the day of August 21, 1976, Andy Puglisi, a ten-year-old boy who lived in the nearby Stadium Lanes Projects, went missing from a nearby public swimming pool and never to be heard from again. This was the perfect crime. 46 years later there's still many unanswered questions.

After watching the “Have You Seen Andy” documentary it was obvious that there were clues overlooked in this case.

The first clue was why were Andy and his 4-year-old friend running? The 2 kids were already lured into the woods to find a lost puppy named Coco for money. The suspect(s) could have just said you know what boys you better get home as it is getting late and offer them money for helping. One person alone could grab a small 4 and 10-year-old. The feeling I had was that this was some sort of prearranged fantasy so the suspects could experience the thrill of the hunt and reap the rewards of their catch.

The 2nd clue was the 4-year-old boy who wasn't questioned for years. In the documentary he states he and Andy were running. He said they were running up the hill and he kept falling and he said Andy was pushing me. My first thought was why was he pushing him vs picking him up? So, I did something I assume no one had yet done. I went to the crime scene and ran up the same hill that the boys ran up. When I did this, I slipped 3 times on leaves and pine needles. I then realized the 4-year-old was right. Because the hill was so steep and very easy to slip this meant Andy would have been behind the 4-year-old but also below him so pushing him possibly by the buttocks was the only way he could help him. This immediately gave the 4-year-old extreme credibility. The 4-year-old who is now grown up stated with confidence there were 3 suspects.

The 3rd clue was why did the suspect(s) still stay after the 4-year-old got away? I found it shocking that the 3 suspects were not worried at all that the 4-year-old wasn't going to get an adult or have the police called. In theory you would think they'd take off ASAP. The crime scene was about 100 yards from where both the boys lived.

Why were they so confident they were safe? The 4-year-old went back to the hill and saw 3 men holding Andy to a rock and Andy was screaming. I wrote to



Melanie Perkins, who won the Emmy for the “Have you Seen Andy” documentary. I asked her if any police officers called in sick the next day and her response was shocking. The officer patrolling Andy's neighborhood the night he went missing was released from the Lawrence PD some years later when he was caught in an unmarked Lawrence police cruiser with young teenagers in the car and he was dressed as a female. He was also the school safety officer. This officer was never questioned about the disappearance of Andy Puglisi. I asked a detective who was on this case why they never looked at this officer, and he stated over the phone that they started to look at this cop but just blew it off. Quote unquote. This police officer/Person of Interest appears to have had the means, motive, and opportunity. He was trusted and never would have been considered a suspect when this first happened. He also had the most to lose as he and his partner were a month away from having a child. This is also the only person we know with 100 percent certainty that he was in that neighborhood at that time. This crime was also committed at the perfect time of the day as everyone had left the pool. Over the past 2 years I've been told the evidence was lost in a hurricane, a tornado, and a fire. Then a fire at the state police barracks. In the documentary the detective stated the evidence was thrown due to lack of storage space.

Internal theft should also be a consideration.

Many of you are wondering where Wayne Chapman fits into this and my answer is, I'm not sure. Chapman was only put at the scene via eye witness testimony. He was never charged with the disappearance of Andy. He was charged

ANDY: PAGE 9

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BASH SCHOLARSHIPS

Since we had to cancel this year's 16th Anniversary BASH the Valley Patriot BASH Committee has scheduled a scholarship BASH at the Studio 21 Podcast Cafe on August 10th at noon. If you would like to make a donation to any of the scholarships below you can send money electronically using Venmo: @Tom-Duggan-10, PayPal: valleypatriot@aol.com, CashAP: \$valleypatriot. Here are our Scholarship winners; Dan Coady Memorial Scholarship winner Ana Bono of North Andover High School (\$2,580 so far), Whitter Tech Scholarship winner Lauren Fitzgerald (\$1,800), Michelle DeLuca Benedetti Memorial Scholarship winner Jake Nicolosi (\$2,000), Greater Lawrence Tech. Scholarship winner Ahlyia LeClerc (\$2,200), Lawrence High School JrROTC Scholarship winner Camilla Herrera (\$1,900), Patricia Perry Memorial Scholarship winners (2) Zoe Toohey (\$1,000) and Kerri Horan (\$1,000). These numbers are subject to change if more donations come in for any of these deserving kids. All donors are welcome to join us at the podcast studio (above Two Guys Smoke Shop in Salem, NH) on August 10th at noon. Anyone wishing to mail a check can send it to Valley Patriot BASH, 75 Main Street, North Andover, MA 01845.

CITY COUNCIL GRANDSTANDS PRETENDING TO BE FISCALLY CONSERVATIVE

Last month the Methuen City Council finally approved Mayor Perry's first budget as the CEO of the city. Councilors discussed and debated the budget Perry submitted, spending hours on items like a \$1.00 line item, cutting pennies from some city departments and then patting themselves on the back for "holding Perry accountable". But, a quick look at the actual numbers in the budget shows that Mayor Perry cut the city budget by a full 8%. The city council for all their blustering and self-aggrandizements, only cut the city budget by .03%.

COUNCIL CUTS POLICE TRAINING

During the city council circus over the budget, Police Chief Joe Solomon wared the council that his officers were supposed to receive state mandated training two years in a row but was unable to send his officers for training because the council keeps cutting the budget for officer training. "We are in violation right now," Solomon told them. If you cut money from the budget for training this will be the third year we are in violation with the state." As we all know, when an officer is accused of excessive force the first thing investigators look at is the accused officer's training. If an officer is not up to date on all use of force training the city

TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK

Methuen School Committeeman Jana Zanni Pesce and Methuen Mayor Neil Perry appeared on The Paying Attention! Podcast last month to talk about the new regulations for kids returning to school in the fall.

is automatically on the hook for a major lawsuit. So, what did the Methuen City Council do in the wake of this training crisis? That's right, they cut the training budget for the police department... again. Given how some councilors get on their soap boxes to lecture us all about how financially responsible they are, their actions certainly speak volumes about how financially reckless they are.

LUSSIER LAID OFF

During the Methuen City Council budget debacle, Councilors Saba and McCarty made a major push to get rid of Mayor Perry's Aide Tom Lussier by cutting \$75,000 from the mayor's office budget. They made the move because they have an irrational hatred for former Methuen Mayor Sharon Pollard and Lussier is Pollard's husband. Now, I'm not the "I told you so" kind of guy but I did try to warn Mayor Perry when he hired Lussier that because he is married to Pollard, city councilors would engage in political retaliation. If Mayor Perry had hired well, anyone else for that position, the council would not have targeted his office for a \$75,000 cut and Perry would have the three aides in his office working right now. I have always liked Tom Lussier, and I think he could have made a great contribution to the city. But, I also knew that the petty, irrational behavior among some councilors was never going to result in Lussier being successful.

BEAUREGARD PAY CUT

If you watch the Methuen City Council you will often hear councilors say "we need to lead by example". So, with city

workers taking a pay cut, and Mayor Perry cutting his own pay by 15%, I asked several councilors why they are not "leading by example by taking a cut themselves. Councilor DJ Beauregard said he would take a 15% cut like the mayor. "I will set an example by taking a 15% cut to my annual salary of \$5,400," Beauregard told The Valley Patriot. "It will save the city a whopping \$810 but I will do it." Beauregard said he hopes someone who makes more than that a week will follow his lead (taking a cheap shot at the police chief who did not take a furlough.

Also taking a pay cut is Councilor Nick DiZoglio

"If I'm going to take cut in pay and that's what the city needs to survive, I will take the cut. But, for me to take a \$800 cut that won't save the city a whole lot. I will do it, though because we do need to lead by example. I hope other councilors will do so as well."

FAUCI SAYS TRUMP SAVED LIVES

If you listen to the main stream media these days you get the impression that President Trump is personally responsible for all the Coronavirus deaths in the U.S. But media anointed hero Dr. Anthony Fauci told congress last month that President Trump saved millions of lives with his administration's reaction to the virus. There was nothing ambiguous about his statement. You won't see that on CNN or MSNBC any time soon.

MORE MEDIA LIES ABOUT TRUMP

The former cable news channel CNN tells so many lies about President Donald

Trump it's hard to keep track of them all. When trump asked a doctor out loud at a press conference about using bleach to treat the coronavirus, the 'medical experts' at the press conference said they were actually testing that. But, CNN reported that Trump told the public to "drink bleach". They repeated that lie over and over on every show since then, as they are more interested in smearing the president than reporting actual news.

NECC HOSTS VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE on AUG. 20th

Northern Essex Community College will host a Virtual Open House for prospective students on Thursday, August 20 from 5-6:15pm.

At the Open House, you will be welcomed by NECC President Lane Glenn; learn about academic programs offered at Northern Essex and their potential career outcomes, and hear about the many extra-curricular activities from student government to athletics that are available.

You can also engage in small group discussions with NECC faculty from your area of interest and listen to a student speaker discuss their experiences at Northern Essex.

Northern Essex Community College is offering close to 300 credit courses this fall semester, which begins September 9, 2020, and 90 percent of those courses will be delivered online.

Students can take their gen ed classes which easily transfer to other colleges and universities; get started on a certificate or associate degree in a choice of over 60 degree and certificate programs; or begin preparing for a new career in fields like health care, computers, and education.

Register online with the Virtual Open House Registration Form.

For additional information, contact admissions@necc.mass.edu or 978 556-3700.

MUSEUM OF PRINTING LETTERPRESS GARAGE SALE AUG. 29th

Every museum has artifacts that are in storage, and the Museum of Printing is no exception. We converted our garage into a store for larger letterpress items like presses, cabinets, and cases of type, making it easy for you to pull your vehicle right up to the door and load up using our hoist system.

Take advantage of tax-free weekend and remember, Members receive an extra 10% off. CDC and State guidance advisories have been implemented as part of Massachusetts' Phase 3 openings.

Mark your calendars and wear your masks! We look forward to seeing you Saturday, August 29th from 10am to 3pm.◊

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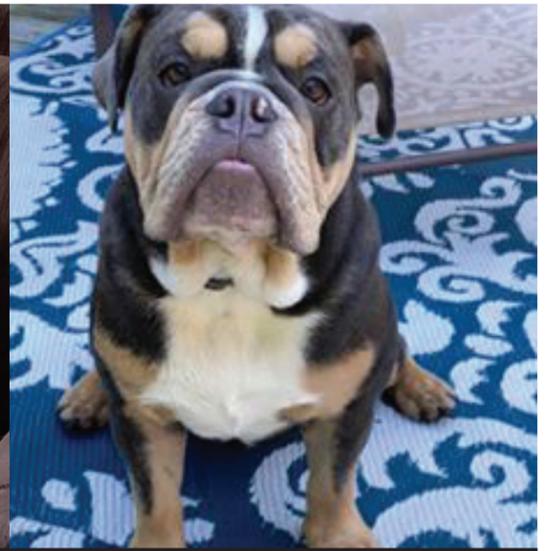
Who will Replace Freddie?



Last month our Valley Patriot's Freddie of "Ask Freddie" passed away. We put out a call on Facebook for a replacement and decided that our readers should decide. Of the 67 entries we had, our Valley Patriot editorial staff nominated the ten dogs you see on this page. Voting will take place on The Valley Patriot's Facebook Page starting Tuesday, August 4th. The top five vote getters will go on to the next round of voting until we have found our replacement for Freddie. Runners-up will all get to appear in the Valley Patriot periodically to comment on doggie news. "Freddie Says" is sponsored by the Daily Dose Cafe in Lawrence.



Bruno (owner Eric Langlais)



Frankie (owner Patricia Lent)



Zeus (owner Sally Sweets)



Winston (owner Courtney Hutchinson)



Lexi (owner Keith Wlodyka)



Otis (owner Heather Faretra)



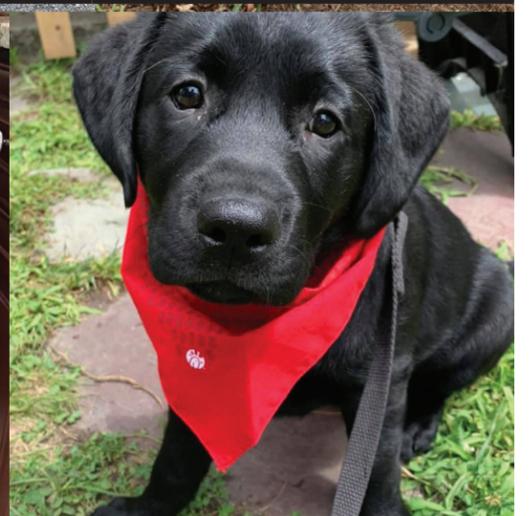
Maggie (owner Duncan Burns)



Pal (owner Debbie Brady)



Kane (owner Denise Peaslee)



Bailey (owner Michelle McCormack)

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Rick Bellanti

HEALTH & WELLNESS COLUMNIST

Water is one of the most important ingredients for your health and wellness and also the easiest to do for your health to keep track of. It is important to know even mild dehydration can make you feel tired and severe hydration may prevent your body from functioning properly. Keeping your body hydrated may seem as simple as drinking more water but you also need to know how much water to drink every day.

Water makes up about 60 percent of our body weight and is essential for keeping your body running at an optimal level. Water allows oxygen and essential nutrients to travel throughout your body and will help flush toxins out of vital organs while carrying nutrients to your cells. It keeps you hydrated as well as helping you sustain energy and concentration. There are plenty of studies that suggest that being dehydrated causes fatigue and loss of energy which will ultimately affect your mood and may even cause headaches.

Symptoms of dehydration to look for are, increased thirst, dry mouth, fatigue, decreased urination, your urine being more yellow than normal, headaches, dry skin, dizziness and possible trouble focusing.

Many times I'm asked: Can drinking water help me lose weight? Drinking water may help you lose weight (In my opinion) as drinking water throughout the day may prevent you from eating when you are not actually hungry, as sometimes when we are getting hunger pains it's just the body telling us we need more hydration instead. I also suggest drinking a full 8-10 oz glass of water thirty minutes before your meals to help fill you up and eat less.

Another question that I'm asked is: How much water should I drink daily? Most health sources still recommend that to maintain a healthy lifestyle, eight - 8 oz glasses of water daily is sufficient. They do include other fluids you drink in that amount as well such as if you drink coffee, tea, soda, juice as all part of your water intake. Keep in mind though if you are trying to lose weight all of these have added calories as well.

If you work out especially in warmer weather outside or at a high intensity you

may also want to drink more water to rehydrate you, without drinking all those high sugar sports drinks adding unwanted calories (which may also, actually dehydrate you), causing other issues such as leg cramps and headaches. These sugary drinks, with lots of sugar and hidden sugars, are very tricky to catch if you don't know what to look for on labels. If you are concerned about your intake of sugars, make sure that added sugars are not listed as one of the first few ingredients. Other names for added sugars include: corn syrup, high-fructose corn syrup, fruit juice concentrate, maltose, dextrose, sucrose, honey, and maple syrup.

Here are some good rules of hydration to live by: **1.** Make sure you drink a glass of water as soon as you get up in the morning. **2.** Always bring water with you, whenever you are headed out during the day to run errands etc. **3.** Drink water BEFORE you get thirsty, if you are thirsty then you are already heading towards the beginnings of dehydration. **5.** Limit caffeinated, alcohol or sugary drinks. **6.** Always drink more water when you are working out. **7.** Be wary of your salt intake, especially table salt.

I know some readers just don't like plain water; I never did either, but just like anything else it takes time to get used to, try dressing it up a little with a lemon or a lime wedge. Soon it becomes a habit and now when I find myself at restaurants I have no problem ordering water with fruit infused like a slice of orange, lemon or a lime wedge in it.

Water is so essential to good health, for every organ, cell and even the tissue in your body needs water to work properly. Staying hydrated is very important and almost all liquids help you stay hydrated but water is by far the most healthiest of choice, being free from chemicals (as in soda) or sugars and other harmful artificial sweeteners and water is also free from calories. Try to drink half your body weight in water ounces each day and stay hydrated!

Rick Bellanti is a wellness coach and is on a journey himself to lose 240lbs. and has lost 160lbs since the start of 2015. If you have any questions or comments please post them to his Getting Healthy with Rick Bellanti Facebook page and once a month, he will address a few of the topics here. ◊



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The State of the States of the Union: How Happy with America?

James Lewis and Alex Talcott
VALLEY PATRIOT CONTRIBUTORS

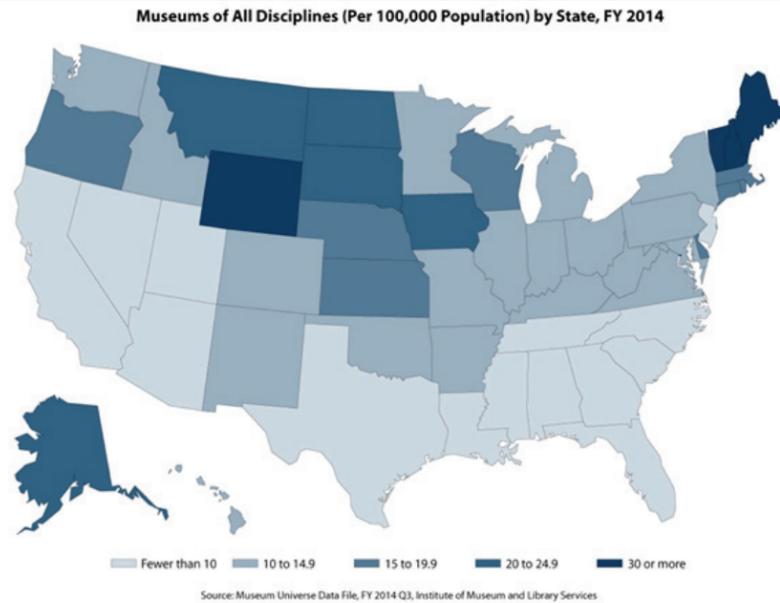
Enjoy Americana, albeit at social distances, at your Fourth of July barbecues? “Fireworks Illegal” digital signs on U.S. Route 1 in Massachusetts make you want to muster up? A recent study by [WalletHub](#) sought to quantify patriotism and rank it by state.

Their methodology was divided into two main categories: military and civic engagement. Military engagement covered items such as proportional enlistment and veterans, while civic engagement covered voter turnout and volunteer work among others. They found highest-population states (New York, Florida, California, Texas) among the bottom six. Population and patriotism causation-correlation, or unhappy happenstance?

Let’s unpack patriotism. Since patriotism is an idea, it may mean something different to everybody, but and so some sort of definition or limitation to the concept is warranted for any worthwhile further discussion. First thoughts may be performative, such as blasting country music or the national anthem from a pick-up truck with a flag on the tailgate (note: Mississippi, with a state flag that, for now, corner-features the national flag of the Confederate States of America, is ranked #34).

WalletHub’s original criteria of civic and military engagement include valid, reasonable measures of the actions that Americans to or which prove up patriotic zeal. A quality left out of the study that could also showcase pride in America is knowledge of historical and modern America. In order for one to have true or clear-eyed love for their country, it could be crucial to understand it and show an

New Hampshire Number-One in Study



interest through learning.

One way to quantify: a [Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation](#) citizenship-test study. The higher the state pass rate, the more positively patriotic. Museums might be another indicator—whether about scientific or artistic achievements or baseball and other pastimes, the suggestion is that celebration begets or reflects patriotic pride. There is some modicum of money that has been invested and perhaps sustained participation by way of visitation (consistent with adoration, reflection, appreciation). [The Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) developed this graph to convey the proportional number of museums in each state:

The results of these studies correspond with the original WalletHub methodol-

ogy, the museums one in particular. The lack of museums per capita in three of the four most populous states, with all but New York being within the bottom range concurs with their low rankings. Those states may not be at the very end for the citizenship test pass rates, but they all fall between 31-40, with at least three-fifths of those tested failing. The data discussed herein all support a generalized conclusion of big-population states lacking comparatively in obvious, available, active displays of patriotism. Indeed, in terms of the top-ranking states, their populations are on the low end. New Hampshire and Wyoming, the first and second states, respectively, according to WalletHub, are in the top tier for museums and had the fourteenth and second best pass rates on the citizenship test; the Granite and Cowboy

States are 41st and 50th of 50 by population. The former has fewer people than the Puerto Rico territory and the latter one of only two states (the other, Vermont) with fewer than the “Taxation Without Representation” District of Columbia.

Texas’s ranking surprised us. Texas is “Amurica” to a T in TV and film. The biggest reliably red politically, and the GOP is tending – if not branding – nationalist. Texas is its own thing, though Alaska has the most (still minimal) separatist movement; Lonestar Beer’s tagline is “The National Beer of Texas” (emphasis added). California and New York are blue states, and overall red states did ‘perform better’ or profess prouder in the WalletHub study. It is possible that those who live in populous areas may feel less significant; they are objectively underrepresented by their representatives both houses of Congress. Their presidential ticket votes count less in a similar sense. As to historical and knowledge aspects of patriotism, urban areas can lag in test-confirmed competencies and there is a pernicious racial history and legacy to literacy tests at polls.

Statistical analyses of patriotism are inherently imperfect. To several of the aforementioned measures, you can be antiwar and pro-America; there are numerous ways to serve in the land of the free and the home of the brave. You may sacrifice leisure enjoyment of recreational events and facilities for a second job to allow that next generation to enjoy the American Dream. May the fifty stars of federalism shine brightly.

James Lewis of Connecticut is an undergraduate Business Analytics student at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana. Alex Talcott, J.D., teaches business law and finance at the University of New Hampshire and leads two multi-state investment businesses. ◇

ANDY: FROM PAGE 5

and convicted for raping 2 boys at a pool the summer before. If Wayne Chapman had a body location or information on the other 2 suspects then why didn’t he try to cut a deal for less jail time? A detective who was on this case stated that “Chapman was never even a consideration as a suspect until the Captain had a press conference and needed a name to feed to the media. He chose Chapman. It doesn’t matter if Chapman was involved or not. The question really is who are the other 2 suspects or 3 if Chapman was not

involved?

I did reach out to the Mayor’s office for a quote and I was told no comment and I was referred to the police department. It is also important to mention that NO REWARD has ever been offered in this case. Anyone with information relating to this case can contract me or us (depends if you want your name on this) directly or contact the Massachusetts Cold Case Unit at the Essex County DA’s office in Salem. MA ◇

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Audit Recommends Improvements to Dept. of Ed's Adult Ed Providers

Boston – In an audit released today of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), State Auditor Suzanne M. Bump identified weaknesses in its new systems to administer access to and operation of adult education (AE) programs. Areas singled out for improvement included maintenance of waiting lists, accuracy of attendance records and monitoring visits at AE providers.

The audit examined the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. "The Commonwealth's adult education program provides these learners ways to improve their lives and those of their families, and has wider community and economic benefits. We all benefit from a robust adult education system. Our finding recommends specific ways to get the most from DESE's new system," Bump said.

"I commend the agency for responding thoughtfully and resolutely." Bump's office reviewed attendance records for 60 AE courses and found inaccuracies in 59 of them, including instances of students who were recorded as absent but were present and students who were recorded as present but were actually absent. In its response, DESE points to a transition between data systems as the source of this issue and indicates it is taking steps to resolve it.

The audit notes AE program funding is awarded based on student attendance, and without accurate attendance data, DESE cannot ensure equitable distribution of funding to AE providers. Additionally, the audit showed DESE did not ensure waitlist information tracked by third-party AE providers was complete, accurate, and up to date. The audit notes this could prevent interested students from accessing AE programs and could result in ineffective planning and assessment of demand. DESE indicated the same transition

between data systems was the source of this issue and committed to addressing it.

A 2014 audit of DESE found similar issues related to waitlists for charter schools. Finally, the audit found the agency did not always perform regularly scheduled site visits for AE providers and did not consistently follow its risk-based approach for scheduling these provider monitoring visits. The AE program offers free educational assistance to Massachusetts residents who are 16 years and older and who are not enrolled in high school.

Students can access education services ranging from basic literacy and math courses, as well as English for speakers of other languages, to high school equivalency and college and career readiness skills.

The AE program is delivered by independent providers. Providers include community-based organizations, religious institutions, local governments (through their school systems), and correctional facilities.

The program is funded by both state and federal grants administered by DESE. During our audit period, DESE granted \$39,927,932 to AE providers; \$30,019,765 of this consisted of state appropriations and \$9,908,167 consisted of federal appropriations. As of June 30, 2019, DESE had 414 employees and had state appropriations of approximately \$5.6 billion and federal appropriations of approximately \$1 billion.

The OSA has identified approximately \$1.3 billion in unallowable, questionable, or potentially fraudulent spending and saving opportunities for the Commonwealth since 2011. Last year, auditees reported implementation of 92 percent of the OSA's audit recommendations. ♦

The Big Events are Back - NBA, MLB, WNBA, NHL, & More!

Santiago Reyes Cruz, Jr.
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Sports are up & running in the country for us all to enjoy. This will hopefully bring back some unity desperately needed in our Nation. Entertainment has proven to calm social tensions in the past - so we hope it can do the same this time around also. The tragic events that occurred these past few months have been hard on all Americans, so we sincerely deserve a breather. We deserve a moment of reconciliation with each other because all summer thus far; Americans have been coming at each other's throats. We ALL deserve a breather; Keyword ALL.

I noticed that Black Lives Matter is becoming a marketing strategy for the major sports world corporations. It seems that promoting BLM is now a way to attract viewers considering BLM is the center of attention for social movements around the world. If you're not shouting BLM you're an enemy. If you say ALL lives Matter you're a racist. Isn't that a form of oppression? Yes it is. A person shouldn't be bullied for saying ALL Lives Matter.

A few other trends that are growing are kneeling, during the National Anthem/ Pledge of Allegiance & shouting F*** the USA. Ignorant people who don't respect the bloodshed by brave men and women who served this country. Let's take a moment and remember those who served for us...

My question for all the "I hate the USA so much" why don't you just leave? Choose a country that better suits your needs. OH WAIT.... YOU CAN'T. There isn't another country on earth that offers



the same freedom and opportunities as the USA. That's why all the F*** the USA folks quiet down when asked this question. Our solution as real Americans is to remember our wonderful democracy. If there's an issue or something we don't agree with - let's bring change via the democratic route; not shouting F*** THE USA. Saying F*** the USA is a slap to the face to every living soul in this country. We live in the greatest country on earth. Zero debates.

We've seen some Hispanic soldiers recently murdered down in Texas- where is the Hispanic Lives Matter Movement? Why doesn't Hispanic Lives Matter get the same attention?

This is why; Because Black Lives Matter has become a marketing strategy; BLM has been breached by radicals looking to push other agendas. We, as Americans, need to stand for ALL social injustices currently happening in the country. All Lives Matter is the solution. ♦

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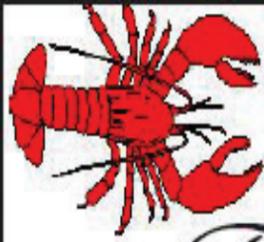
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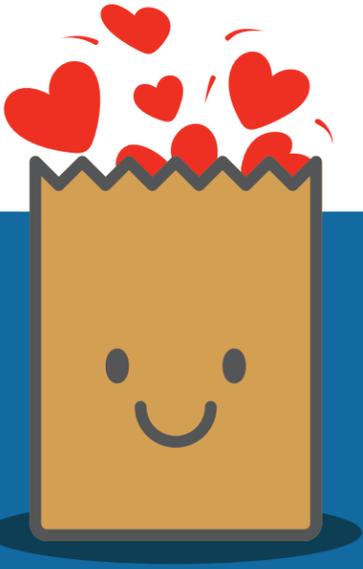
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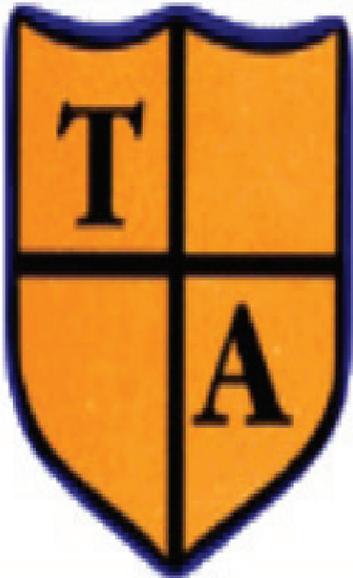
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Local Chiefs Address Police Shootings, Training, Use of Force

In the wake of recent violence, rioting, looting, and attacks on police officers all over the country, Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan invited three local police chiefs in to his podcast to discuss recent events.

Duggan asked the chiefs about officers shooting people in the back, shooting unarmed suspects, police training, and the anti-police movement spreading across the country.

Joining Duggan were; Police Chiefs Roy Vasque (Lawrence), Charles Gray (North Andover) and Joe Solomon (Methuen).

In Massachusetts, most police chiefs do not have the power to hire, fire, or even discipline a police officer under their command. In cities, police chiefs answer to the mayor. In towns, police chiefs answer to the town manager and board of selectmen. Tom Duggan asked each chief if it was frustrating being blamed by the media for not firing bad cops or other personnel decisions when they are not responsible for those decisions.

Lawrence Police Chief Roy Vasque said that he can only suspend an officer for five days, anything beyond that is a decision of the mayor. "But, the process goes beyond the mayor, it goes to civil service, the unions are very powerful, and before you know it that suspension or termination is reduced to something else, and now we are back to square one with this individual. Then we have to baby sit them again."

Each chief condemned the actions of the police officers in Minneapolis who are accused of murdering George Floyd.

"It puts us in a bad light, Chief Vasque said. "I can tell you we would all love to remove bad police officers because we don't want to be painted with that same brush. But we are in a situation where we are dealing with the laws and legislation as they have been written. We have to follow a process."

All three chiefs said they have never fired an officer for racism.

POLICE TRAINING

One of the issues raised by anti-police activists is officer training. Duggan asked the chiefs about the charges that cops don't get enough training and that this leads to excessive use of force.

North Andover Police Chief Charles Gray said that the training his officers and other officers in the Merrimack Valley

receive is "top notch".

"Three or four years ago we all started training together with active shooter drills," he said pointing to the other chiefs. "We have in-service training at the Methuen Academy where Lawrence, Methuen and North Andover - along with officers from other departments - get into a classroom and train together. We've done procedural justice. We've done two blocks of that. We've done training for the mentally ill and de-escalation training. All of this training is given out in the classroom setting, not just going online, but having a dialogue with each other. By having that in-classroom training, our officers are getting such unbelievable training - above and beyond what is required. I was talking to some legislators over the last few days and showed them all of the training that we did in the last five years. So, with this new legislation they are pushing, when they are talking about de-escalation training - that was last year. When they talk about us training for the mental illness, we did that two years ago. Procedural justice and other kinds of training we've already done that. We already have these policies in place it's already been done."

USE OF FORCE - WHEN A GOOD SHOOT LOOKS BAD

Methuen Police Chief Joe Solomon said that sometimes a good shooting just looks bad to the public who does not understand police management or procedures. "We always say about use of force, that sometimes it's lawful but it's awful. I know that sounds corny, but it's true. Whenever you see a video of use of force - whether it's an arm bar, or a taser take down - it looks sometimes like the officer is using excessive force. But when you break the segments down you find out that it isn't. And that's why we carry body cameras, because now we can go back and look. It's not the word of the officer or the suspect it's all right there. Sometimes, you can interview eight people who witnessed an event and you will get eight different stories. So, we look at the video and analyze the video for exactly what happened. Was it actually a remote control in the guy's hand? Or was it a weapon? What did the officer believe he saw? All those things are important."

TRAINING SAVES LIVES

Chief Joe Solomon said that more training means fewer complaints for use



In the wake of the anti-police violence across the country, Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan discussed the issue with Methuen Police Chief Joe Solomon, North Andover Chief Charles Gray, and Lawrence Chief Roy Vasque.

of force. Solomon also told that to the Methuen City Council last week during budget discussions. He revealed to them that Methuen's police officers have not received the state mandated training for the last two years and cutting the training budget would cause problems with the state. Despite his pleas to the council, they cut money from the police budget for officer training.

"We truly believe in the sanctity of every life. We train that way. I think if you look at what's come out of our city you do not see excessive force complaints for the most part. And if we do get one, we investigate immediately." Solomon said that he believes better training saves lives in various different ways.

"Five or six years ago, we had an issue with a significant number of calls for an individual who was on the spectrum disorder. So, (after that) myself and Officer Aello received some training. We then formulated a training session for the whole police department on how to deal with individuals on the spectrum disorder. We were even invited to the national school safety conference where we were presented for that. Those are the things that we do extra here in the northeast. Where we see a problem, we try and understand the problem and then we address it."

SHOOTING UNARMED SUSPECTS
Duggan asked the chiefs about police officers shooting unarmed suspects and shooting suspects in the back.

All three chiefs said that there are situations where police officers can shoot unarmed suspects as well as shooting someone in the back.

Chief Gray of North Andover said that

there is a procedure for use of force but it's not necessarily a progressive course of action

"The standard we use is the reasonable person standard. It's Grant versus Connor. It comes down to - what would a reasonable officer do in the same situation. The procedure we use is called the force continuum. Basically, you go from having a conversation and being interactive, to passive resistance, active resistance, volatile, and then deadly force. It's a dynamic thing and that's what people don't understand. A situation can be very volatile and then all of a sudden, the person gives up. People need to realize that we do extensive training on use of force, whether it is firearms training, bi-annually, or pursuit policies. Finally, it's a situation where your policies and procedures are in place. We have to abide by the standards set forth by the Mass Accreditation Council, if you train on these policies and procedures those high-risk, low-frequency events won't end in a tragedy. By training you are giving officers more tools to be able to handle these situations.

Chief Vasque agreed saying that a shooting cannot be determined a bad shoot just because someone was shot in the back or was unarmed.

"Every situation is different. It also doesn't help us at all when everybody sees a case solved on TV in 20 minutes, or a cop in a TV show shoots and wings somebody in the leg. First of all, good luck trying to shoot somebody in the leg. Most cops cannot hit somebody in center mass (the chest). People ask about warning shots, but think about that for a minute. When you shoot up, where do

POLICE: PAGE 16

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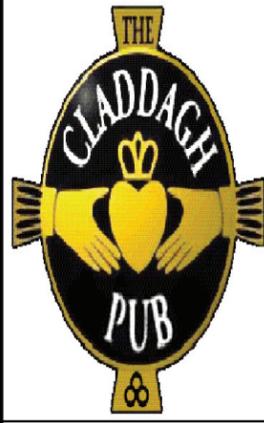
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POLICE: FROM PAGE 14

you think that bullet is going to land? That bullet is coming down at some point. Every case is different. So, Chief Gray's point, you can't just ask; 'can you shoot someone in the back yes or no?' We can't answer that because every single case is different. Remember we need all the facts and the evidence, so that we can make a decision on a shoot like that. And remember, the officer is making that decision in a split second in the moment."

CERTIFYING POLICE AND QUALIFIED IMMUNITY

Methuen Chief Solomon said that one of the problems police departments have is that bad cops who are fired from one department can get hired by another department. "That's why I like POST Certification. I think we should license police officers. For 34 years I've been asking why aren't we licensing police officers? You could be a cop in New Hampshire, commit a violation and if they revoke your license you are done. You can't be a cop anywhere else. You are de-certified. I know they are calling for that in the current bill at The State House."

"There are some good things in the bill they just need to listen to us more on Beacon Hill. As far as qualified immunity, if you take the qualified immunity away the cities will pay more in lawsuits. If we commit a criminal act right now under qualified immunity, guess what? Qualified immunity doesn't count. You could still get sued and you pay your own lawyer for acting outside the scope of your job."

"Qualified immunity says there's a reasonable person standard. If a reasonable police officer in that position would do the exact same thing you acted within the scope of your job and qualified immunity attaches. What's very interesting is, if you take away qualified immunity, and I do something totally legitimate and I get sued anyway, guess who pays? The city pays without qualified immunity, because once you reduce part of that qualified immunity it's the city that's on the hook. Qualified immunity is not being removed

from us as police officers it's being removed from the cities and towns."

WOULD YOU DEFY AN ORDER TO STAND DOWN?

Duggan pointed out that police officers across the country were given a stand-down order during the riots, meaning that officers were told not to intervene while innocent people were dragged from cars. Duggan asked the chiefs would they defy orders to stand down while people are getting hurt, all three chiefs said they would not obey such an order.

"We have a duty to protect and to serve. I think we are going to have to carry that out," Chief Vasque said. "So, I don't see that being a problem here. I'm not sure about circumstances in other areas of the country. But I don't see that being a problem here."

"I agree 100% with Chief Vasque," North Andover's Chief Gray said. "We are sworn to uphold the law. If someone is getting beat up, not only am I going to have my officers intervene, I will intervene myself if I have to because that's what we have to do."

"No, I would not comply with an order like that," Chief Solomon agreed. "But, of course we would have to deal with the ramifications. We have a law in Massachusetts that says we as police chiefs and the fire chiefs have total autonomy over our personnel, equipment, and manpower. So, a mayor can give me the order, but I'm not required to follow that order. Now, I might lose my job because the police chiefs work for the mayor. I say we should do what we have to do and then deal with the ramifications later on. I would not comply with an order that said we had to stand down while innocent individuals are being hurt."

To listen to the entire interview, you can download The Paying Attention! Podcast on iHeartRadio, iTunes, Spreaker, and Podbean. To watch the streaming video, you can visit the Paying Attention Podcast page on YouTube or visit the photo/video gallery of Tom Duggan's Facebook page.◇

Newburyport Chamber Music Festival Returns for 19th Season Aug 5th - 17th

newburyportchambermusic.org, [978-701-4914]

The Newburyport Chamber Music Festival returns on Wednesday, Aug. 5, with two weeks of glorious music. Like everything else this year, it will look entirely different, but the music will still be beautiful. "Despite general weirdness everywhere, we're determined to make NCMF 2020 joyful with many festival-related events — some live, some virtual," said NCMF Artistic Director David Yang. "People are starved for live music, and we have all been staring at our screens way too much. From the start, this festival has been about live music rooted deep in the community. This is not only taking matters to the next level, but is also a way to give something back to this most special of special towns."

Founded in 2002 by Yang, Director of Chamber Music at the University of Pennsylvania, and Newburyport resident Jane Niebling, this August series of classical chamber music events fosters an interactive partnership between residents and visiting artists with international reputations. Using the city's unique architectural spaces as backdrops, the annual festival has become a highlight for many. This year NCMF will come to you with neighborhood "Quartet Caroling" around Newburyport from Friday, Aug. 14, to Sunday, Aug. 16, as well as a live-stream concert, Saturday, Aug. 15, and a large selection of pre-recorded conversations and performances beginning on Wednesday, Aug. 5, available on NCMF's website, newburyportchambermusic.org.

"If you happen to open your window or are watering your garden or sitting on your porch sipping a martini, you might find four musicians sorely in need of a haircut playing for you," said Yang. "It might be solo Bach or a Haydn quartet, Dvorak, Mozart. If you are lucky you could catch Barber's 'Adagio for Strings.' Then we'll move on." The original plan

to also visit some of the surrounding towns that have supported NCMF through the Massachusetts Cultural Council, was not possible because of COVID-19 restrictions. Due to social distancing there won't be an opportunity to get to know NCMF artists personally, as in previous seasons. Instead, Yang will release pre-recorded "Conversations" and also shorter "Artist Picks," where past musicians provide a surprise YouTube link with a short introduction.

Festival artists featured in the videos include past favorites such as clarinetist Todd Palmer, pianist Clare Hammond, baroque violinist Cynthia Roberts, guitarist Daniel Lippel, violinist Nurit Pacht, sitarist Indrajit Roy-Chowdhury, cellist Eliana Razzino Yang, marimba player Makoto Nakura, and Yang (viola).

Each evening, beginning Wednesday, Aug. 5, NCMF will send out an email at 5 p.m. with a link to a new "Conversation" or "Artist Picks." They'll also be available to watch on the NCMF YouTube channel. The musicians will pause caroling for a live-streamed concert in an empty St. Paul's Church on Saturday night, Aug. 15, at 7:30 p.m., to benefit the Anna Jaques Hospital Emergency Room and Gerrish Family Fast Track Service. The program will include music of Handel/Halvorsen, Bach, Barber's famous "Adagio for Strings," and a Mozart quintet.

"The concert is a fundraiser for the good doctors, nurses, and staff at Anna Jaques Hospital who give so much and, these days, put themselves on the line every time they suit up for work."

For a detailed event schedule, to sign up for email notices, or support the Anna Jaques Benefit Concert, visit <https://www.newburyportchambermusic.org> or call 978-701-4914.

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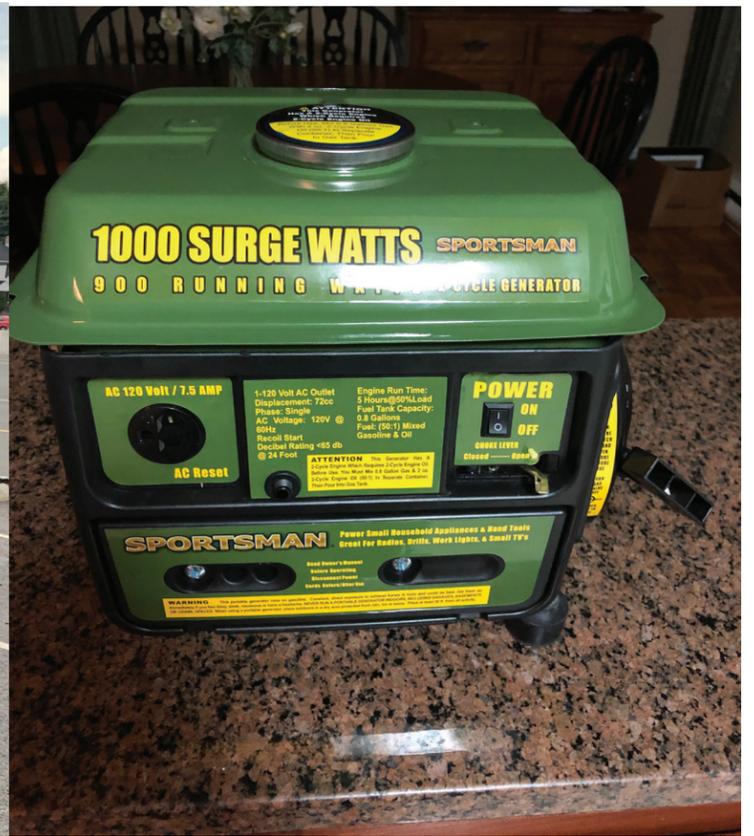


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Valley Patriot Reader Lisa Lothridge Steps Up to Help the Homeless

Last month, Valley Patriot reader Lisa Lothridge donated a generator to Michael Gorman of TMF (The Movement Family) for use at TMF's family dinner for the homeless each Wednesday night. Lothridge saw a Facebook posting by Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan looking for a generator and contacted Michael Gorman to find out where she could drop off the donation. Gorman told The Valley Patriot that TMF has been offering free haircuts for the homeless during the weekly meal and having a generator gives them the opportunity to offer other services as well.

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HERO: FROM PAGE 1

civil-service position in Washington, DC, where I support global life cycle logistics and facilities engineering projects worldwide. While in my current position, I attended the evening program at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia, earning an MBA in 2013. I was promoted to GS-15 in 2018. Currently I am a division chief, leading over one hundred Federal employees, supporting Department of Defense logistics and facilities engineering global logistics and facilities engineering worldwide.

I met my beautiful, loving and supportive wife Lori, while assigned to Presidential Support Duty in Maryland in 1990. Lori is a native Marylander. We were married in 1992, nine years into my Navy career. Our son Timothy was born in 1993 and he had the chance to accompany his mother and father to Berlin, Germany while I was assigned there to the US Embassy from 1995-1998. Our son, Kristopher was born in 1998 after we returned from Germany. Timothy is now employed at the Marine Corps Base Quantico. Kristopher was a member of his high school varsity baseball team, a team that reached the Virginia State Championship Game in 2016. He is currently a student at Germanna College in Virginia.

Every year my family enjoys three weeks on the New England coast, playing

45s and Striper fishing!

Caught some very large ones in 2020." A terrific journey from the Beacon Street neighborhood of Lawrence, Massachusetts to earning the US Military's Presidential Support Duty Badge, Lawrence's Kevin Donahue US Navy Seabees-Retired, still serving our Nation in Washington DC.

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John Cuddy served in the US Navy's Construction Battalions (also known as the Seabees) after retiring from the Navy; he earned a bachelor's in history and a

master's in economics from the University of Massachusetts on the Lowell Campus. He has been employed in Logistics at FedEx for the last 23 years. If you know a World War II veteran who would like their story told, please email him at John.Cuddy@Yahoo.com. ♦



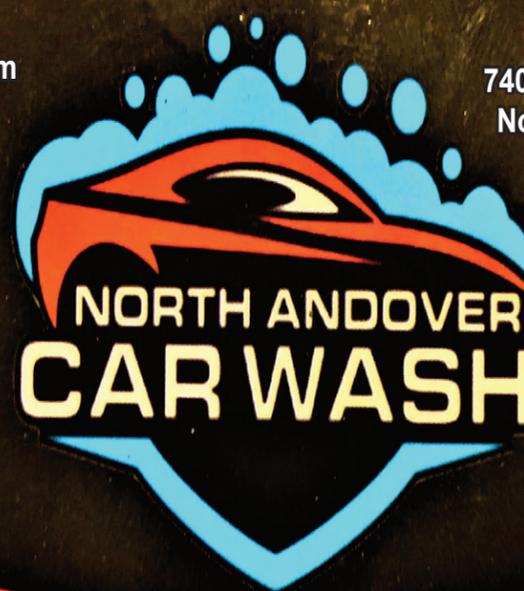
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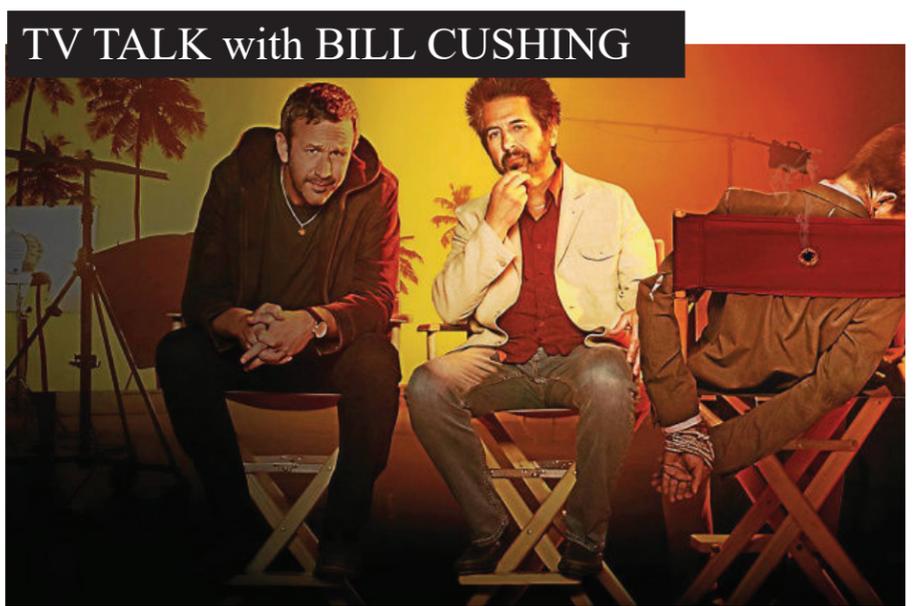
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The Best Show You're Not Watching is 'Get Shorty'

Bill Cushing
VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST

Sometimes when writing this column, I come across a series that's so entertaining and yet so barely watched that I feel I need to write about it. 'Get Shorty' is one of those series.

'Get Shorty' is loosely based on the novel of the same name by Elmore Leonard and the film adaptation from 1995 starring John Travolta. Created by Davey Holmes, the executive producer of Showtime's 'Shameless,' the series stars Chris O'Dowd as Miles Daley, an enforcer working for a small town Nevada casino owner and drug dealer named Amara De Escalones played by Lidia Porto. Miles is looking for a change in his life. He's estranged from his wife, and he's trying to win her back. He knows his job was one of the reasons he and his wife split. Miles thinks that if he gets a less dangerous and more respectable job that would go a long way to convince her that he's changed. Unfortunately, you can't just leave the mob by handing in a resignation.

Amara sends Miles and his dim-witted yet devoted partner Louis to Los Angeles to collect a debt from a screenwriter who was gambling to finance a script that he thinks is the best thing he has ever written.

When the screenwriter can't pay his debt, Louis gets trigger happy and kills him. Miles steals the script and hatches a plan to launder Amara's illegal drug money through the movie business by turning the script into a big Hollywood production. After some persuasion, Amara agrees. Miles and Louis go to Hollywood where Miles meets Rick Moreweather, a down on his luck B-movie producer, played wonderfully by Ray Romano, and convinces him that the script should be his next project.

'Get Shorty' is an outstanding sendup of

modern day Hollywood, boasting a terrific ensemble cast, and sharp, witty, writing. O'Dowd is quite impressive and convincing as Miles, and Romano turns in yet another wonderful post-Raymond dramatic performance. The supporting players shouldn't be overlooked either. Porto as Amara, Bridgers (Deadwood) as Louis and Goya Robles as Amara's nephew Yago are outstanding. Sarah Stiles (Billions) is a pure delight as Gladys Parrish, Rick's assistant.

'Get Shorty' is not a new show, however, it is highly underappreciated. Most likely the reason for that is that it is broadcast on EPIX, a premium cable channel that not many people have, and if they do, they don't realize it. I only recently discovered the series myself on a recommendation from friends. If you're a fan of ' Fargo' then you will love 'Get Shorty.' The show has 27 episodes, over 3 seasons. While the show has not yet been renewed for a 4th season, it is EPIX highest rated show, so a renewal is almost certainly coming.

These days, many of us are looking for something to binge-watch. Do yourself a favor and check out 'Get Shorty' and discover one of TV's best kept secrets.

You can find Season 1 on Netflix. All seasons can also be found on EPIX On Demand.

If you have any questions about TV you can 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 Mailbag column.

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Justice, A Biblical Perspective

Peter Larocque

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

The word Justice has been used a lot lately in various kinds of media and in many well needed conversations. So, I was wondering if God's Word, The Bible had something to say about Justice and of course it does. Let's begin reading in Psalms 89:14, "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face." [NKJV] God Almighty holds a very high opinion of Justice and places it right at The Foundation of His Throne, along with Righteousness. He makes Justice an underlying principle to the place that He dispenses Judgement from! The Hebrew word here for justice is *Tsedeq*, which means the right, (natural, moral, or legal) equity. Also, according to Webster's Dictionary, Justice is the quality of being just; and just is behavior based on being morally right and fair. The Bible goes on to say in Deuteronomy 32:4, "He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He." [NKJV] Our God is the personification of Justice and Fairness and holds a high standard for the dispensing of justice which we can read in Proverbs 21:3, "To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice." [NKJV]

Now, let's talk about Justice as it pertains to mankind and the world, more specific, our country, The United States of America. The preamble to our Declaration of Independents states, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." I remember when I was in elementary school back in the day, every Monday morning we would stand to our feet and recite Our countries Pledge of Allegiance, "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

So, when it comes to the dispensing of Justice and Fairness, who do you think has done the better job, God, or mankind? A no-brainer right! God Almighty set the standard for justice when He reconciled sinful man back to himself. Sin separated us, [remember Adam & Eve?] and still does for those who refuse to believe. Romans 5:19, tells us, "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous." [NKJV] But for those of us who do believe, here is how God reconciled sinful man back to himself. Romans 5:10, "For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life."

[NKJV] Romans 8:2-4, "For the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you through Christ Jesus from the power of sin that leads to death. 3 The law of Moses could not save us, because of our sinful nature. But God put into effect a different plan to save us. He sent his own Son in a human body like ours, except that ours are sinful. God destroyed sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. 4 He did this so that the requirement of the law would be fully accomplished for us who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit." [NLT]

We are no longer separated from God by sin because Jesus shed His life-giving blood on the cross for the remission of sins, and God did all this in the most Lawful, Judicial way! Our redemption is just and fair and can stand any test in any Court of Law!

Our Founding Father's good intentions formed our country, and even left us with beautiful documents stating that "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." And years later in our Pledge of Allegiance, "one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." The words, "Justice for All" most definitely not the case for everyone, why? Because we have an adversary, the devil who hates people and most definitely, God's people! This Spiritual Battle continues Today!

The Bible declares in Proverbs 29:4, "The king establishes the land by justice, But he who receives bribes overthrows it." [NKJV] The King's good intentions of establishing the land with justice couldn't hold up to mankind's sinful nature. Mankind without God and a saving relationship with His Son Jesus Christ is left to follow his own wisdom and ways.

God in His great Wisdom gave man free-will. Free to choose to believe or not. Still, to this day the greatest words of wisdom for justice are found in these familiar verses, John 3:16-17, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." [NKJV]

The world would be a better place if the whoever's in the above verse would simply imitate God when it comes to Justice, Fairness, Judgment. The Bible says in Galatians 5:14, "For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." [NKJV] One can never go wrong when living on the side of love!

Hopefully this will help in our much need conversations.

I love you, God Bless

Peter Larocque

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BENEATH THE SURFACE

The Red-Pilling of America

Paul Murano

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Like most people, I have a tendency to trust the establishment – of any profession. It is natural to trust. We humans begin life as babies totally trusting our parents. That trust is then extended to other family members, doctors, teachers, law enforcement and the like. It's usually not until adolescence that most people begin to discern who to trust and who not to. Those with a clearer sense of right and wrong may begin that discernment earlier. Yet, even then, the natural tendency to believe, ingrained since babyhood, remains.

This is why what is going on today is challenging for so many. Never in history has an ideology taken control over such a large percentage of a people in such a short period of time. Many claims today about human nature would have sent someone to a mental hospital just a few years ago. Leading the charge of this take over are the culture-molding establishments of journalism, entertainment, and education. These are the social "authorities" of our day.

The good news is many have been "red-pilled" – a phrase made popular by the movie *The Matrix* – and some even have had the courage to declare it publicly. I would like to quote Tucker Carlson of Fox News from the other night. The next hundred words are his.

Americans are miserable: They're stuck at home, they're fearful. Millions of them don't have jobs. The percentage of Americans who believe our country is headed in the right direction has dropped off a cliff since this spring. Not coincidentally, that's when a strange new virus from China began to spread among our population. The rise of COVID 19 in the United States tracks almost precisely the decline of Donald Trump's approval numbers. And the political lesson from this is clear – The more damage the Wuhan coronavirus does to America the harder it is for the President to get re-elected... Every Democratic office holder understands that... The Democratic Party has every incentive to keep Americans afraid and off-balance.

There is ample evidence that the pandemic shut-ins have done more harm than good. With the decline of psychological and physical health, unemployment and increased suicides, you would think politicians would take notice. And with all major social media outlets censoring every medical doctor contradicting the accepted narrative, you would think more of the public would wake up.

Everyone living through this, who has not allowed the devil through the media to influence their conscience, has the same gut feeling. All of this is no coincidence. There is a good chance that after November 3rd there will be little to no news coverage on COVID 19. If Biden wins,

the virus will no longer be useful.

If Trump wins, it will be on to another "impeachable" offense.

This fits the strengthening pattern of the Luciferian media in the past few decades, the more the media squawks and ridicules something the more true it actually is. Like the story of the king who had no clothes on, the media is striving to assure social acceptance of a lie, even though a mere child could see through the deception. Remember how the media did it to the traditional family? To destroy the foundational unit of civil society, they came up with well-researched slogans like "barefoot and pregnant" and "my body my choice," as well as "every child a wanted child" – which really means "every unwanted child is a dead child." Almost no one challenged them. They were able to create the parameters what beliefs were acceptable, and used it as a shaming technique for those who refused to follow.

Today is no different. See how the media cries out about mail-in voting, wearing masks, and keeping children out of school. If Democratic politicians really cared about human lives would they have placed COVID patients in nursing homes? Ignored the slow deaths of people and livelihoods by being shut-in with stay-at-home orders? And would they automatically ridicule every medical doctor who offers an expert opinion that does not fit the accepted narrative?

Everyone knows the elites are pulling strings until the election, with Rahm Emanuel's "never let a serious crisis go to waste" strategy. Their world order and culture of death, which Trump threatens, is more valuable to them than people dying and lives destroyed due to governmental overreach hell bent on destroying the economy on Trump's watch. It has shuttered churches and disallowed dying patients to see their families, but have allowed protests, riots, and statue and property destruction, while also allowing liquor stores, strip clubs, and abortion mills to remain open.

No one is saying Republicans are the perfect solution. However, like the Nazis and the Communists before them, the secular progressive movement must be stopped from gaining more power. The question remaining is this: Will there be enough red-pilled, courageous people by November to stave off the anti-life, anti-God, totalitarian encroachment for another four years? Or will too many be silent,

forcing the nation to learn the hard way?

Paul is talk host of *Beneath the Surface* video & radio podcasts, teaches college philosophy and theology, is a staff writer for *St. Michael's Media*, and a singer-songwriter-musician. Check out Paul's website at Paulmurano.com. Email him at PJDM@aol.com



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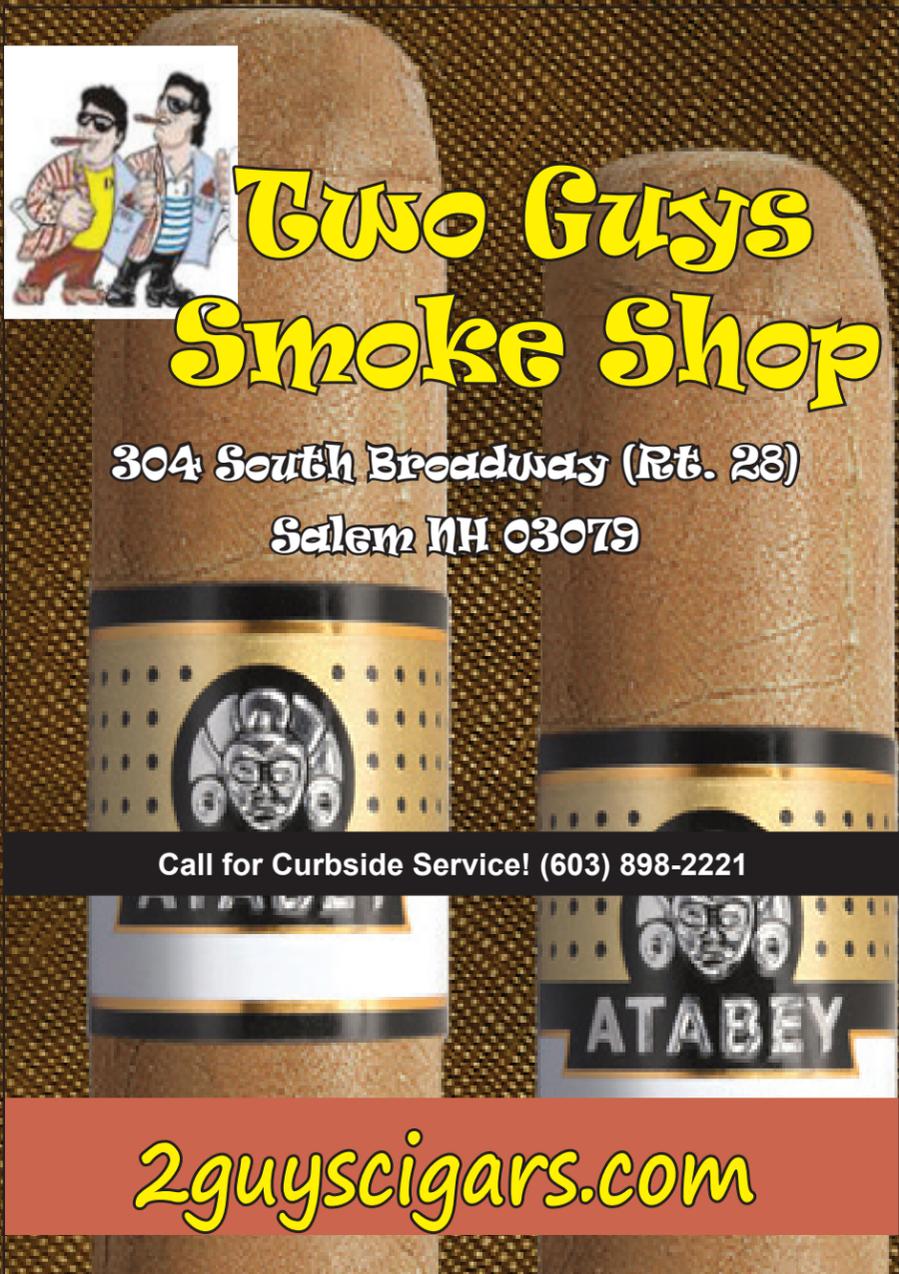
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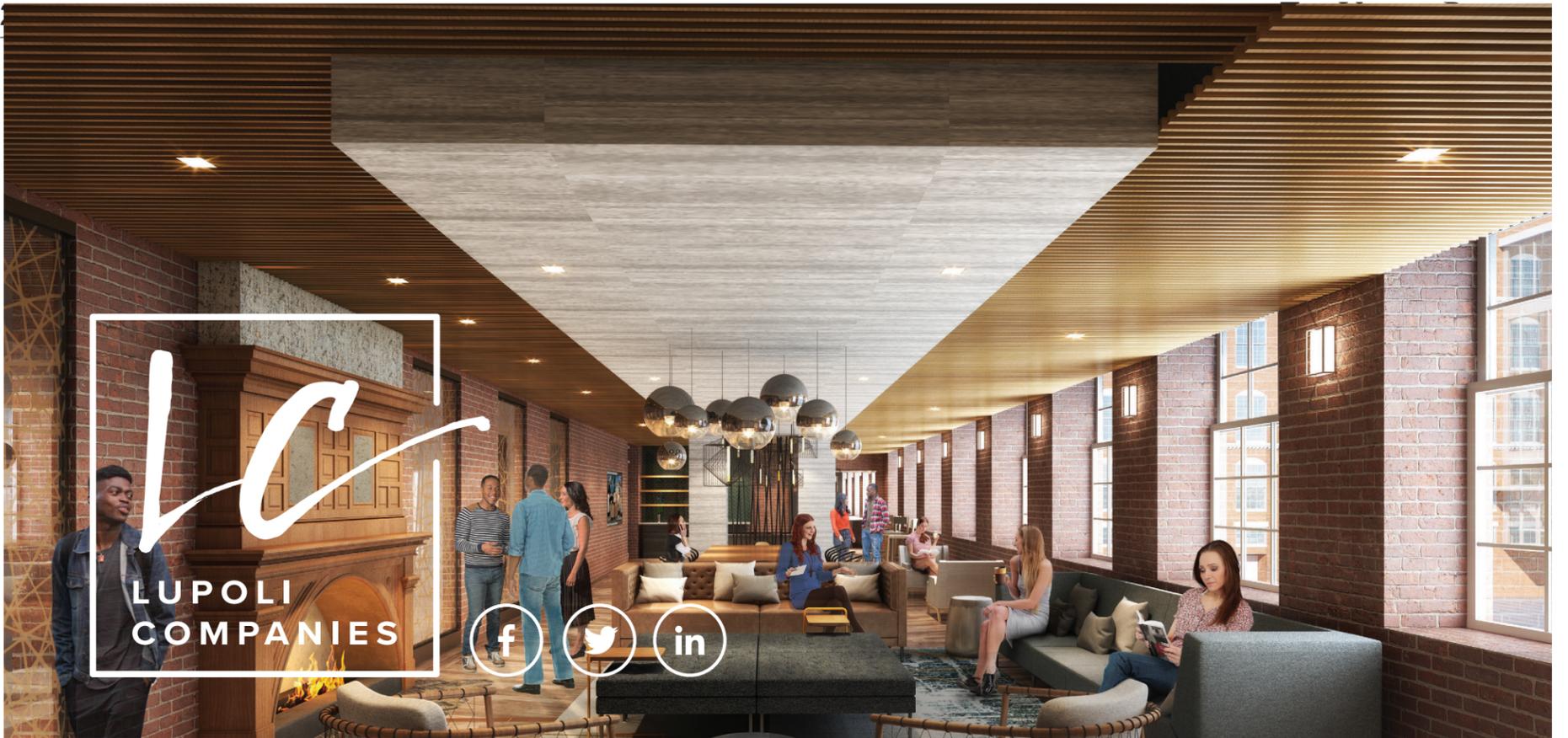
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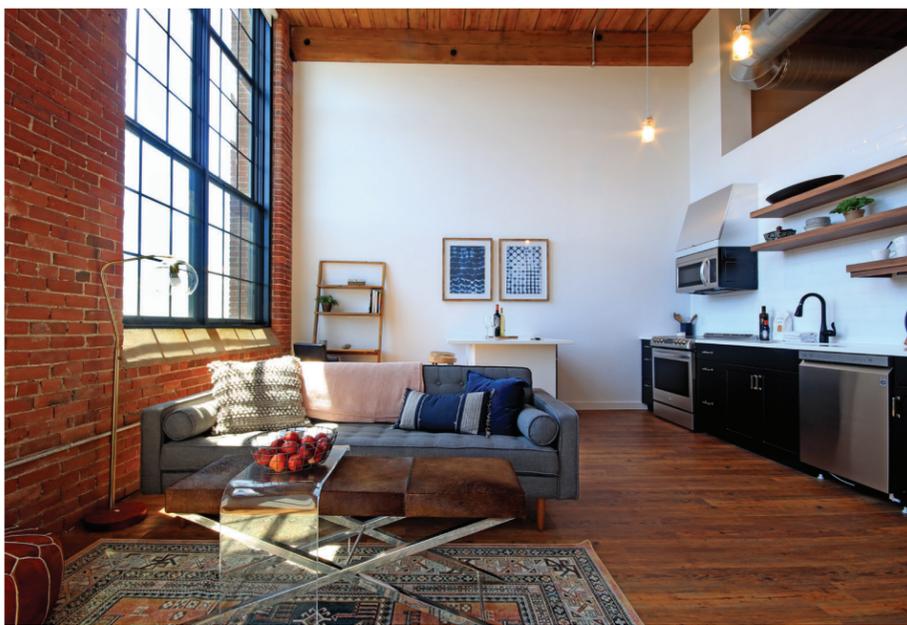
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