Despite the Weather, the Boys and Girls of Summer Take the Field

Mendon and Upton's Nipmuc Youth Baseball and Nipmuc Youth Softball programs held their annual Opening Day celebration on Saturday, April 27 in the Opening Day ceremonies, events and games. Town Crier reporter Melissa Orff captured the events with her camera.

May 4, Loyalty Day in Upton

A celebration of Loyalty Day will be held on Saturday, May 4, at 9 a.m. on Upton’s Town Common. The ceremony will include the laying of a wreath at the Vietnam War monument and presentation of the Massachusetts Medal of Liberty to the widow of Lt. Richard Rand. Upton VFW Post 5594 has organized the event. Veterans and families are encouraged to attend. Coffee and refreshments will be offered at the VFW Post following the ceremony.

New Selectman and Marijuana Question to be Determined on Election Day in Upton

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Upton voters will determine their new Selectman and whether or not to prohibit the sale of retail marijuana during the Annual Town Election scheduled for May 14. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Nipmuc Regional High School.

Mendon Budget, Ambulance, and Rezoning to be Voted Tonight

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter/Columnist

On Friday, May 3, Mendon’s Annual Town Meeting is scheduled to take place at Miscoe Hill School and begin at 7 p.m. Among the 33 articles on the warrant are the new fiscal year budget, a new ambulance, and expanding the Highway Business zoning in two areas.

The Planning Board Chair Bill Ambrosino, the Board has been appealing for businesses in town, in particular, areas zoned for Highway Business allow for marijuana establishments. According to Planning Board Chair Bill Ambrosino, the Board has been looking at this change for some time and if passed could make the area more appealing for businesses in town, in particular,
Homefield Credit Union, Kelly Benoit, CUCE Certified

Karl Moisan, Homefield Credit Union CEO, announced SVP Kelly Benoit has received her certification as a Credit Union Compliance Expert (CUCE). Over the course of ten weeks, Benoit successfully passed five exams which were proctored by a member of the Cooperative Credit Union Association. These exams focused on several core areas of credit union compliance including Consumer Lending Regulations, Mortgage Lending Regulations, Deposit Account Regulations, and General Operations Regulations. The CUCE designation was created by the Credit Union National Association (CUNA) to help credit union compliance professionals understand and be up-to-date with the latest compliance regulations and their implications. Benoit is one of more than 2,000 CUCE designees nationwide.

St. Gabriel’s and United Parish Community Youth Event, May 5

REFUGE Youth Event, sponsored by United Parish and St. Gabriel’s Church will be held on Sunday, May 5 from 1 to 8 p.m. at United Parish. All teens in grades 7 through 12 are invited for an afternoon of fun, food and self-discovery at this ecumenical event designed to help young people deal with depression and anxiety. Individual support will be available.

Speakers are Jen Dowening, who will walk the youth through an individual identity profile; Tim Messenger, a youth leader from the Worcester Catholic Diocese who will talk to the teens about priorities and self-care; and a team from the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention who are going to offer a short film and group discussion about how to identify and talk to friends who are struggling with anxiety and depression. There will be a Cinco de Mayo-themed Taco Bar for dinner, followed by a Vigil. The evening closes with an Open Mic Night, where the youth are encouraged to display their talents, from singing and instrumental to poetry reading and comedy. Door prizes will be offered. A suggested $10 donation may be paid online or at the door. Registration is required at UnitedParishUpton.org/siteforms/view.php?id=14. For more information or to volunteer contact Deb Lazarz, dlazarz9903@gmail.com, or Jessica Murphy, journeywithjesy@gmail.com.

Whether you’re building or buying a new home, want to make improvements to your current home or looking to refinance, we have the loan you need.

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Some Spring Cleaning in Mendon and Upton

Despite the wet weather on April 20, volunteers turned out to help with the Mendon Town Cleanup. Shown, l-r: Colleen Oncay, Bonnie Coombs, Betty Brewer, Diane Harper, Dick Ferrucci, and Kathy and Mark Bucchino.

Harry Platcow photo

Carrying the trash, they collected are, l-r: Scott Heim and Dave Pickard, shown in front of United Parish Church during the Upton Town Cleanup on April 27. Harry Platcow photo

Armed with yellow trash bags, members of the Stewart family; Bert, Grace and Kate were ready to help with the Mendon Town Cleanup on April 20. Harry Platcow photo

A very cheery, Linda LaBonte was hard at working helping cleanup Upton on April 27. Harry Platcow photo

Harry Platcow photo

WHERE WILL YOU FLY NEXT?

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DETROIT
NEW YORK
FORT LAUDERDALE
ORLANDO

When you fly from Worcester Regional Airport, you can fly for less, skip the crowds, and directly reach five different cities that connect you with the world. Worcester Regional Airport is a flexible, convenient way to travel. Learn more at flyworcester.com.

Upton-Mendon Town Crier
Social Services for All at the Upton Center

Upton Center Social Services Coordinator, Jessica Mauro, is available to assist all town residents of any age with Fuel Assistance, in-patient and out-patient services, public services, and participation across the lifespan.

Blessing of the Animals, Birdfeeders, and Seedlings

On Sunday, May 19, from 2 to 4 p.m., the United Parish of Upton invites all to bring live or stuffed toy animals for a Blessing of the Animals.

On Sunday, May 19, from 2 to 4 p.m., the United Parish of Upton invites all to bring live or stuffed toy animals for a Blessing of the Animals. Participants will also have the opportunity to craft a hummingbird feeder, birdseed feeder and nesting ball from recycled items; a $15 donation for the craft will assist in covering material costs. Pre-register by May 12 at UnitedParishUpton.org/seedlings or with forms found in the United Parish church office. Donations will go to the United Parish Building and Grounds Committee. For more info on the bird feeders, contact Leanne Luetkemeyer, lmluetkemeyer@earthlink.net.

Stop by the Seedling Sale for vegetable and flower seedlings. For more info on the seedling sale or to donate seedlings, contact Tally Reeverts, tally.reeverts@gmail.com.

A Guided Tour of Roger Williams Zoo

West Hill Dam Ranger Viola will accompany Upton senior citizens on a trip to Roger Williams Zoo in Providence on Tuesday, May 14. She is particularly knowledgeable about the animals and will be a great guide while exploring the zoo and the new indoor/outdoor Rainforest Exhibit. Tickets are $12.95. Please call the Upton Center, 508-529-4558 by May 10 to register.

Upton Democratic Town Committee Monthly Meeting

The Upton Democratic Town Committee will meet Tuesday, May 21, at the United Parish Church of Upton at 7 p.m. This month a guest speaker who recently ran for local office discusses his experience of running a campaign and how to become politically active. The meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. New members are invited to join. To learn more, connect on Facebook or at UptonDemgs@gmail.com.

Senator Moore Office Hours

A representative of State Senator Michael Moore, D. Millbury, will hold an office hour at the Upton Center, Farm St. on Monday, May 3, from 9 to 10 a.m. Voters are invited to stop by and discuss concerns.

Elect Michelle J. Antinarelli

Upton Board of Selectmen Library Board of Trustees

Michelle Antinarelli

148 South St., Upton, MA

I am the only candidate for Board of Selectmen who can speak from experience about living for more than 20 years in Upton as:

• Small business contractor
• Public school employee
• Nonprofit manager
• At home mom
• Empty nester nearing retirement
• Already investing the time.

Committed to schools, public services, and participation across the lifespan.

EDUCATION

• BS in Biomedical Science, Framingham State College
• UMass Boston, School for Global Inclusion and Social Development
• UMass Boston, Certification Program for Vision, Orientation and Mobility

UPTON AND LOCAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

• 20+ year resident of Upton with two adult daughters
• Upton Electronic Voting Committee, Chair
• Upton Economic Development Committee (alternate)
• Earth Day Family Participants
• Active and informed participant in UPTON Open Meetings (43+ meetings, 42 weeks, 80+ hours, 11 committees)
• Team Manager, Soccer Mom, Dance Mom, at home mom
• Small animal family: mini horses, goats, rabbits, cats

PROFESSIONAL LIFE

• Related Services Instructor in public schools
• Director of Education and Community Programs at the Carroll Center for the Blind
• Self-employed Contractor
• Association of MA. Educators of Students with Visual Impairments, President and Conference Chair
• The Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired, Regional Representative
• Northeast Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired, Secretary

Contact me at Michelle4upton@charter.net or through my website www.WhatsUPton.news

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Michelle Antinarelli

A PLAN FOR UPTON

• Target grant funding
• Lean budget development to decrease waste, increase efficiency
• Expand zoning for small business opportunities/rentals for residents
• Regionalize public services/resources
• Coordinate work of commissions and committees
• Residential development that doesn’t burden infrastructure
• Creative recycling to reduce waste disposal costs

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Carolyn Usher Celebrates Her 100th

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Carolyn Usher’s birthday was celebrated at the Upton Senior Center on May 2, 2019. She was given one of the Grange’s Citizen of 2019 Award during Neighbors Night Celebration of National Grange Month on April 4.

Her father, Rev. Richard Usher, was one of the first settlers of Upton. He was a minister at United Parish and she was an organist for the church. “Her father actually looks more like 70,” adding that her mother-in-law still dresses to the nines each day. “It’s like she’s going to church every day. That kind of amazes me.”

When asked what her secret is to living such a long life and looking so much younger than her 100 years, she replied, “No secret pill. Just live every day to the fullest and enjoy it.”

Young Sydney Rathmell and her mom worked on a chain reaction creation at the Playful Engineers program sponsored by the Upton Town Library during School April Vacation week. The program was funded by a grant from the Upton Cultural Council. Upton Town Library photo

MAY 3, 2019

Carolyn Usher celebrates her 100th birthday at the Upton Center.

THE UPTON CENTER

The Upton Center is open Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Staff is available by phone from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Activities are subject to change. Please call 508-529-4558 for any questions.

FRIDAY, MAY 3
Nutrition Discussion with Wendy, 10:45 a.m.
Shopping Trip to Salvation Army, Shaw’s, Job Lots, Walmart Loop, Northbridge, 12:30 p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 6
COA Board Meeting, 10:30 a.m.
Shopping Trip to Market Basket, Oxford, 12:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 7
Complimentary Manicures at BVT Salon, 9 to 11 a.m.
Cookout in Honor of Older Americans Month, 12:45 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8
Shopping Trip to Walmart, Northbridge, 9:15 a.m.
Police Spaghetti Supper at the Center, 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 9
Breakfast with the Town Manager, 9 a.m.
BVT Charity Dinner, 5 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 10
Nutrition Discussion with Wendy, 10:45 a.m.
Mother’s Day Strawberry Shortcake Social, 12:45 p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 13
Senator Moore’s Office Hours, 9 to 10 a.m.
Shopping Trip to Solomon Pond Mall, Marlborough, 10 a.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 14
Rides to Annual Town Election at Nipmuc, 9 a.m.
Trip to Roger Williams Zoo with Ranger Viola, 10:15 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15
Lunch Trip to Three Seasons Restaurant at BVT, 11:45 a.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 16
Shopping Trip to Salvation Army, Shaw’s, Job Lots, Walmart Loop, Northbridge, 9:15 a.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 17
Nutrition Discussion with Wendy, 10:45 a.m.
Afternoon Movie to Stan & Ollie, 12:30 p.m.
Men’s Club Supper, 5:30 p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 20
Shopping Trip to Christmas Tree Shop, Shrewsbury, 12:30 p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 27
Tai CHI, 1 p.m.
2E Neroevity, 2:30 p.m.

TUESDAY
Card Players Group, 10 a.m.
Wii Games, 12:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
Computer Class, 9 a.m.
Strength and Stretch, 10 a.m.
Library Table, 11 a.m.
Canasta, 10 a.m.

THURSDAY
Knit and Crochet Group, 10 a.m.
Bingo, 1 p.m.

FRIDAY
Strength and Stretch, 10 a.m.
As the days begin to turn warmer and the thoughts of summer vacation begin to become a reality, our family’s thoughts always turn to our much-loved cottage on North Pond in Upton. It’s the place where my husband literally lived as a child in July and August and where his parents, children and their grandchildren spend countless summer days and nights.

It won’t be long before we’re opening the cottage doors for the first time, putting our boats in the water, and watching our kids take their first dip of season in the lake. And yet, throughout this summer, I’m sure our family and other neighbors will be reflecting back on an especially tragic day the North Pond community experienced during Labor Day weekend last year. On this particular day, a teenage boy drowned not far from our cottage.

The incident hit our family very hard as it happened in close proximity to our cottage and many of us witnessed first-hand the efforts that were made by so many around the lake to try and save this boy before emergency responders arrived.

When we received word hours later, medical personnel were still attempting to get a pulse on him, we held out hope that he might live and I’m certain many parents were said that evening by those partakes of that lake community.

Sadly, the following day, while we were on our pontoon boat for our last ride of the summer, we got word that he had died just hours earlier. The mood on our boat quickly turned somber and it seemed there was an eerie quietness on the lake that evening.

From day one at the cottage, my in-laws have been sticklers about water safety. As children, my husband, his sisters and their brothers had to pass a series of swimming tests to be allowed on the boat without a life jacket and were restricted to certain points where they were permitted to swim. Those tests and rules were also handed down to their grandchildren. Even today, head counts of those in the lake (no matter the age) are done methodically and lifejackets are part of every boat ride. With all their years on the lake, they’ve understood even the best of swimmers and the most experienced boaters can experience the unexpected.

Now, we prepare to once again open our cottage for the upcoming summer months, there’s no doubt we will look across the lake and remember one very bad day, one teenage boy, and we are reminded how unforgiving the water can be.

My German granny always washed good things by hand. Good dishes and pots never saw the inside of a dishwasher, good dresses and jackets never the inside of a washing machine. Even as time moved on and machines progressed, offering delicate options, Gran would never trust her valuable pieces to a non-human.

Her washing was neatly hung on a line all through the year, just like the neighbors. Even though I could use the dishwasher. Granted, there is no dryer sheet that could ever emulate the scent of washing dried in the open air.

My mother inherited this belief and still washes her good things by hand. Her dishwasher only runs about once a week because she washes most things by hand. In general, Germans don’t trust machines, unless all parts are made in Germany.

Before moving to the USA I washed my dishes by hand, too. Not because I deemed myself more gentle than a machine, but because I had no dishwasher. As soon as we moved into our Mendon house I loaded pretty much everything into my favorite new possession, the dishwasher, to see what it could do. I could report the miracle machine washes everything from dishes and pots, to Legos, sunglasses and these dyes. Yes, it really does. Nothing has ever been harmed by my dishwasher.

Worse, one thing, the computer keyboard was a step too far. It never recovered. Still my trust in the dishwasher is unbroken.

It has never occurred to me to put the good Wedgewood plates, inherited from my mother-in-law, into the dishwasher. She had never even taken them out of their box, nor used them to eat from, for fear they could break.

But we decided they were made to be used. Even my 2-year-old is eating from Wedgewood plates. The nerve! They certainly seem to be worth their insane price-tag, because they are quite sturdy. So far we have not lost one to the brute treatment by the kids.

So, as you can tell I have never gotten the sentiment of “good things”. No matter where they are produced, I wash everything in dishes.

There are only three things that I don’t trust to machines. These I always wash by hand.

My wonderful, German-made, world’s best food processor — my Thermomix. I would NEVER put it in a dishwasher. Mind you, it is perfectly dishwasher-safe. But I like to take it apart, wash it carefully and put it back together again. It makes me happy. It is the best thing I own.

The other two things that I wash by hand are my wild things — my children. You could call them my “good things”. They are certainly the best of me.
**Milford Regional Opens Renovated Fourth Floor**

Milford Regional Medical Center opened its newly renovated fourth floor to patients on Monday, April 22. The fourth floor is designed to accommodate the needs of cancer and palliative care patients. After months in the making, the 55-year-old patient floor has undergone a dramatic transformation converting two- and four-bedroom (44 beds in all) into 15 spacious, private rooms designed specifically with the care and treatment of cancer and palliative patients in mind. Milford Regional was intent upon developing a soothing atmosphere to support not only the physical, but social and emotional needs of patients. From murals that emulate the beauty of nature to comfortable sofa chairs that accommodate family and friends, each room has its own unique feeling of calm and serenity.

“Everyone at Milford Regional is excited to present our newly renovated fourth floor to the communities we serve,” says Edward J. Kelly, president & CEO of Milford Regional. “Through our collaboration with Dana-Farber/Brigham and Women’s Cancer Center at Milford Regional, we felt it was of paramount importance to design the renovated floor to address the unique treatment, needs and concerns of our cancer and palliative care patients. It is our hope that the new fourth floor provides an additional layer of comfort and support to them during their stay with us.” Information on Milford Regional Medical Center’s services, programs and medical staff can be found on their website at milfordregional.org.

**Rising towards Unity**

“How Rising towards Unity... when not all voices were equal” presents Women in the World of Frederick Douglass on Sunday, June 2 at 2 p.m. at the Grafton Community Barn in North Grafton. Leigh Fought, author of the award-winning Women in the World of Frederick Douglass and professor of history at Le Moyne College, will tell the story of the important women who created and supported Frederick Douglass, including his mother and grandmother, slave-mistresses, two wives, and the many activist women who kept the movement for human rights alive. This is part of a series of events that seeks to raise awareness of the influential role the history of slavery continues to play in the United States as the nation struggles to achieve a more equal, just, and peaceful society. Rising Toward Unity, sponsored by the Grafton Historical Society, Grafton Public Library and Unitarian Universalist Society of Grafton and Upton, will culminate on Friday, July 5, on the Grafton Common when Douglass’ famous speech, “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?” will be read. The reading will be followed by a discussion group(s) to explore the meaning and relevance of Douglass’ words today, particularly as they relate to race, gender and immigration. For more information visit uussga.org/rising-towards-unity

**Birch Alley Brass Ensemble Spring Pops Concert**

The Birch Alley Brass Ensemble will present a Spring Pops Concert at Valley Chapel in Uxbridge on Saturday, May 18 at 4 p.m. The brass ensemble, directed by William Moffett is made up of student and professional musicians from area towns including Hope Dale, Mendon, Milford and Upton. This concert is free and open to the public. The ensemble project is funded in part by the Mendon and Milford Cultural Councils. Musicians participating are: Hope Dale—Maryellen Hilber; Mendon—Paige Allen, Jackson DesRoches, Paxton Dichele, Max Grisanti, Kaylee Lukasek, Dorothy Moffett, Joseph Moffett, Peter Moffett, Amelia Gosud, Christopher Staniewski, Jack Thompson and Phil Rich; Milford—Joford Anderson, Russ Bogartz, Kevin Donegan, Anthony Lioce, Riley Lynch, Ian Michelson, Andrew Muhareb, Karen Ober, Patrick Ober, Jacob Selby and Caroline Wood Stofiel.

**Beginning Bridges, CFCE May Facebook**

Beginning Bridges CFCE, a non-profit offering free services, supports parents as their children’s first, best and most important teachers in Mendon, Upton, Northbridge and Uxbridge. Offering a variety of programs for children and parents, 45 goals is to support parents as they guide their children to reach their optimum potential and works with similarly-minded community partners. Funding for the Coordinated Family & Community Engagement Grant (CFCE) is provided by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care and sponsored by South Middlesex Opportunity Council

**Upcoming Events**

**Thursday, May 2:** WIC Day at Roots in Nature, Bonds to Nurture at the Upton Community Gardens, 108 Mechanic St. from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Make sure to dress up in your favorite outdoorsy clothing. WIC will be providing information about its nutritional program for women, infants and children. Register with Emily, EMurray@smoc.org or 508-278-5110.

**Friday, May 10:** Music and Movement with Deb Hodgins at the Upton Town Library, Main St., 10:30 a.m. A drop-in, theme-based music and movement program for babies.

**Thursday, May 16:** Muffins with Mom: Taft Public Library, 29 North Ave, Mendon, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Sponsored with the Muffins House Cafe and the Taft Public Library this is a free drop-in event for up to 15 families. Light refreshments are served, family friendly resources are available and socializing encouraged.

**Thursday, May 23 and 30:** Kidding Around Yoga at Taft Public Library, 29 North Ave, Mendon, from 9:15 to 10 a.m. Yoga teaches kids kindness, sharing, compassion, mindfulness and more. Breathing practices are a great way to reduce stress, regulate emotions, and help with focus and concentration. Space is limited so register at https://forms.gle/ybqfCgZm47Lq6j7.
Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce

All Blackstone Valley chamber of commerce events will be held following the offering events. For more information or to register visit BlackstoneValleyCC.org, email administrator@blackstoneValleyCC.org, call 508-234-9000 or stop by the chamber office, 113 Chestnut St., Blackstone. Blackstone Valley Ridgeline Golf Course 4th Annual Golf Tournament on May 13 at Pleasant Valley Country Club, 95 Armory Rd., Sutton at 10 a.m. Includes a round of golf, dinner and raffle. Reserve by Monday, April 15.

Sponsorship Opportunities for Upton Grange Events:

- More info.
- Visit UptonGrange or follow on social media.

Hook’ n’ Event

WOODSTOCK- The Quiet Corner chapter of ATHA (Association of Traditional Hooking Artists), a group of fiber artists specializing in hooked rugs, meets monthly in Woodstock. The group is hosting a Hook It! Event with vendors on Saturday, June 15 at the Woodstock Conn. Fairgrounds from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Pre-registration by June 1 is required and a form can be obtained from Gretchen Gray at gretchg@verizon.net.

Celebrate Milford Day

MILFORD- Celebrate Milford will be Saturday, May 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Presented by Milford Lions Club, the event features a fun-filled day of entertainment, food, drinks and vendors will be available.

Upotte Grange Plant Sale

UPOTON--The Upton Grange will hold a Plant Sale on Sunday, May 5 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sponsored by the Friends of the Milford Town Library, this event is free and open to the public.

Twice Blessed Thrift Shop

HOPKINTON- The Sacred Heart Church of Hopkinton Twice Blessed Thrift Shop will offer 50 percent off women’s clothing, jewelry, shoes and pocketbooks in May. Open every Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sundays from 9 a.m. to noon. Closed, May 26.

Architectural Plants for the Summer Landscape

MILFORD- The Greater Milford Community Chorus (GMCC) will perform well-known show tunes at its May Matinee Concert at 1 p.m. Sunday, May 5 in Milford Town Hall’s Grand Ballroom. The show is open to the public and admission is $10 at the door or $8 at Music & Arts in Milford or from a chorus member.

Home of the World’s Weather

MILFORD-Mount Washington, N.H. is known as the “Home of the World’s Worst Weather” because it has been operating a continuously staffed scientific outpost on this remote peak since 1932, providing the Observatory many remarkable stories and an intimate knowledge of the most treacherous conditions. The mountain is an infamous place of extremes that has been carefully dug and potted up from local buildings at the corner of Chestnut and Thayer Streets.

Annual Sharon Timlin 5K and Family Fun Day for ALS

HOPKINTON- The annual Sharon Timlin Memorial Event on Saturday, June 15, is a fun filled day for the whole family at Hopkinton High School. It is a USATF certified 5K Road Race/Walk, Kids Color Run and a Family Fun Day! The 5K Road Race/Walk will begin at 10 a.m. there will be a Family Fun Day from 10:30 to 11 a.m. on the Family Fun Day Field. All events will be held rain or shine. Please register now for the 5K Road Race/Walk as this event is limited to 1800 participants. The 5K Road Race/Walk registration fee will increase on May 19. For information, SharonTimlinRace.org

Coffee House

MILFORD- The First Congregational Church of Milford, 4 Congres St., is hosting a Coffee House, Saturday, May 18. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 18. Performers will include local instructors from Music and Arts of Milford. Donation at the door are $5. Serving Fair Trade coffee, tea and desserts.

Alzheimer’s/Dementia Friendly Worship Service

MILFORD- The First Congregational Church in Milford invites those with Alzheimer’s/dementia and their caregivers to worship at a special Sunday worship service on May 19. The service will be 1 p.m. in the church’s sanctuary. Everyone is invited to enjoy fellowship, coffee, tea and refreshments following the service. The church located on Congress St., Milford, next to the Post Office, is handicap accessible. Parking is available in the church lot, the Post Office parking lot and on street areas. Please call 508-473-3259 with any questions and to R.S.V.P.

Blackstone Valley Gardener Annual Plant Sale

TEPT- The Blackstone Valley Gardeners Annual Plant Sale will take place at the VFW Hall, Rt. 140, Upton on Saturday, May 18 from 9 a.m. to noon. The sale will be held on the VFW’s back parking lot. Vendors will be on hand to sell a large variety of perennial plants which have been carefully dug and potted up from local gardens.

Barbecue Matinee by GMCC

MILFORD- The Greater Milford Community Chorus (GMCC) will perform well-known show tunes at its May Matinee Concert at 1 p.m. Sunday, May 5 in Milford Town Hall’s Grand Ballroom. The show is open to the public and admission is $10 at the door or $8 at Music & Arts in Milford or from a chorus member.

Referrals will be served during intermission, and there will be raffle baskets to support GMCC. The Greater Milford Community Chorus is a not-for-profit organization run under the umbrella of the Milford Community School Use Program and is supported by the Milford, Bellingham, Hopkinton and Mendon Cultural Councils. For more information about the GMCC, visit website: GreaterMilfordCommunityChorus.org

Plant and Bake Sale

BELLINGHAM-The Friends of the Milford Town Library, 4 Congress St., is hosting a Coffee and Bake Sale on Saturday, May 18 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The plant sale includes perennials, specializing in cottage garden favorites. Bake sale will include Swedish baked goods. Call 508-435-3723 or visit CommCupHoop.org for more info.

Project Preserve Breakfast

MILFORD- The Greater Milford Community Chorus (GMCC) will perform well-known show tunes at its May Matinee Concert at 1 p.m. Sunday, May 5 in Milford Town Hall’s Grand Ballroom. The show is open to the public and admission is $10 at the door or $8 at Music & Arts in Milford or from a chorus member.

The Milford Lions Club is a service organization that donates to various local charities and organizations like Milford Lions Club Fund and the food bank, as well as providing scholarships.

Jeffery Clayton – Pan-Neubean Steel

MILFORD-To get in a summertime mood, come and groove to a soulful, blues, and “brand music” by musician/artist Jeffery Clayton of Pan-Neubean Steel at the Milford Town Library, Spreck St., on Saturday, May 4 at 1 p.m. Raised on Cape Cod, Clayton founded Pan-Neubean Steel to share his passion for music. His love for his Jamaican heritage and the quality of Pan-Neubean Steel is evident through his enthusiastic, initiative and dedication in forming a professional Caribbean band.

While many places on Earth experience severe weather, few are inhabited by music, fumes, and fires that could cause violent storms. Clayton will discuss his life in Jamaica and his band’s musical journey as he defies the standards of a world that attacks black male identity as well as the music industry as a whole.

Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce

The 2019 Daniels Farmstead Farmers Markets

MENDON-The Daniels Farmstead, 286 Mendon St., Blackstone, will open the season with Birds & Blooms on Sunday, May 19 at 11 a.m. The Daniels Farmstead Lecturer, horticulturalist and garden writer will speak about Architectural Plants for the Summer Landscape. The lecturer, horticulturalist and garden writer, who will speak at the Grand Ballroom.

Sacred Heart Church of Hopedale Twice Blessed Thrift Shop Event

HOPEDALE-The Sacred Heart Church of Hopedale Twice Blessed Thrift Shop Event will be no cost for this event, but seating is limited, and guests are asked to RSVP by May 17. The cost is $15 per person. Sign up by 4/6.

Weather. “ At 6,288 feet, the mountain is an infamous place of extremes that has been carefully dug and potted up from local gardens.

Northern Branch Meeting

MILFORD-Blackstone River Gardeners Annual Plant Sale will take place at the VFW Hall, Rt. 1, Upton on Saturday, May 18 from 9 a.m. to noon. The sale will be held on the VFW’s back parking. Vendors will be on hand to sell a large variety of perennial plants which have been carefully dug and potted up from local gardens.

Home of the World’s Weather

MILFORD-Mount Washington, N.H. is known as the “Home of the World’s Worst Weather” because it has been operating a continuously staffed scientific outpost on this remote peak since 1932, providing the Observatory many remarkable stories and an intimate knowledge of the mountain. Learn all about these tales from Will Broussard, the Observatory’s Education Coordinator, where he coordinates and leads programs on Mt. Washington’s natural, cultural, and historical heritage.

Referrals will be served during intermission, and there will be raffle baskets to support GMCC. The Greater Milford Community Chorus is a not-for-profit organization run under the umbrella of the Milford Community School Use Program and is supported by the Milford, Bellingham, Hopkinton and Mendon Cultural Councils. For more information about the GMCC, visit website: GreaterMilfordCommunityChorus.org

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The First Congregational Church of Milford, 4 Congress St., is sponsoring an Electronics Recycling Day on Saturday, May 4, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. The church will ensure that 99 percent of dropped-off items will be reused and recycled.

All computer monitors, computers, parts and accessories as well as any office equipment, faxes, copiers, printers, scanners and any audio/video devices or electronics including televisions can be recycled; fees range from $5 to $35 per item. Cash payments only.

The recycling vendor will erase and shred all hard drives at no additional cost. Cell phones can be recycled at no charge and will be donated to charities that recycle and reuse them.

A drive-through process will allow those donating to quickly drop off their items where help will be available. The First Congregational Church Electronics Recycling event is held twice a year during May and September.

For more information, contact Martha at 508-904-4471.

MAY 3, 2019

Upton-Mendon Town Crier
Locally Grown-Greenleaf Garden Club Annual Plant Sale

Greenleaf Garden Club of Milford Members are busy digging 100% of plants from their gardens and preparing for Celebrate Milford on Saturday, May 18 and their Annual Plant Sale on Saturday, June 1. Their table at Celebrate Milford on May 18 will feature a drawing for a beautiful container garden and a container filled with garden goodies. Smaller container gardens will be sold and seed bombs given to all who stop by the table. Members will be available to answer gardening questions and give information about the club from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The 50th GGC Annual Plant Sale will be held at Louisa Lake, Dilla St. from 8 a.m. to noon, rain or shine on June 1. Chairperson Patsy Timmons says, “Don’t miss this opportunity to get perennials, annuals, veggies and shrubs from members’ local gardens”. In addition to the hundreds of plants, container gardens filled with succulents, flowering plants and herbs will be offered at reasonable prices. Complementing the plants, a Garden Gallery will offer a unique variety of garden related items and refreshments for browsers. Members will be available to help select plants for local gardens. Proceeds from the plant sale will be used to fund the club’s civic plantings, GGC programs such as Garden Therapy and Junior Gardeners and the monthly programs. The club also gives a scholarship annually to a deserving Milford resident. The Greenleaf Garden Club of Milford is a member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. and the Garden Club Federation of MA, Inc. For information, email greenleafgardenclub@gmail.org.

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Locally Grown-Greenleaf Garden Club Annual Plant Sale

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Indigenous Ceremonial Stone Structures Presentations by the Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office

Upton’s Native American Stone Features

The Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Trust invites area residents to a walkabout to the Upton Chamber at Heritage Park and the ceremonial stone features at the top of Pratt Hill, near the town water tower, on Saturday, May 11 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Monthly walks are planned throughout the summer and fall. The second walkabout is scheduled for Saturday, June 8 from 1 to 4 p.m. To participate, please email nithpt.cs@gmail.com. Future trips planned through the summer and fall. The town water tower, on Saturday, May 11 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Monthly walks are

Let the Landscape Speak

Metacomet Land Trust will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 19, at Nipmuc Regional High School, 90 Pleasant Street. Upton in the 2nd Floor Professional Development Center. The business meeting and silent auction starts at 1 p.m. followed at 2 p.m. by a program, Let the Landscape Speak by Doug Harris, Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office. The program will delve into the characteristics and possible meanings behind the Indigenous Ceremonial Stone Landscape in New England. Often hidden in plain sight in forests and fields, these enigmatic stone structures can be remnants of a network built by Indigenous Americans for ceremonial and other purposes. Harris, who has been Tribally certified in the identification of ceremonial stone features for 16 years, will present an illustrated talk showing the various types of Indigenous ceremonial stone features found in the region. Ample time will be allowed for questions.

Doug Harris with Turtle Effigy in Killingly. NITHPO photo

Free Family Fun Fishing Day

The 5th Annual Family Fun Fishing Day is Saturday, May 4 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain date May 5, at River Bend Farm, 287 Oak St. Uxbridge. The Fishing Day is free but registration is required at TheBRW A.org/familyfun2019. An adult must accompany children under 12. The Family Fun Fishing Day is sponsored by the Blackstone River Watershed Association and Open Sky Community Services in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Massachusetts Environmental Trust and the Blackstone River Coalition. Fishing rods and reels will be provided, but participants are welcome to bring their own equipment. Food and beverages will be offered for sale by GottaQ Smokehouse BBQ. This catch-and-release event welcomes young and old, experienced anglers and first time fishers alike. There will be a variety of educational activities to learn about unique streams called Cold Water Fisheries, games, demonstrations on casting and tying techniques. Prizes will be awarded in all age categories. The day will be full of fun, learning and friendly competition. For more information, contact Lori Girard at 508-234-6232 or lori.girard@openskyccs.org.
marijuana establishments. "We're not trying to hide that fact from anyone," he said. "It's important to get that information out there and then let the voters decide."

The previous article, Article 29, would rezone areas of Rt. 16 from the intersection of North Ave. to the Hopedale town line and Harrington St. from General Business and Rural Residential to Highway Business for the same intent. However, Ambrosino will ask voters whether or not they want to pass over the article until more information is gathered and the amendment "makes good sense for everyone."

Articles 32 and 33 are citizen's petitions backed by resident and Chair of the Economic Development Committee Tom Merolli. Both articles have the same intent as the Planning Board's rezoning articles on the Cape Rd. and Rt. 16 areas, with the hopes of ultimately bringing in revenue to the town. He explained several months ago he was not certain the Planning Board was moving forward with their rezoning articles and therefore, drew up the petitions. Articles 22 through 27 pertain to Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding, including Article 22 which is requesting an additional $1,500 to finish the plexiglass windows and protectors project to the historical Olney Cook Shop located on Hartford Ave. East. Articles 23 and 24 seek to close funding shortages from fiscal year 2019 including the shortfall for the Fino property debt exclusion payment totaling $8,792 and the shortfall for the Police Station debt exclusion payment totaling $1,335.

Article 25 is seeking $98,100 to fund the Fino property debt for Fiscal Year 2020 and Article 26 is to fund the Fiscal Year 2020 Police Station debt payment totaling $100,505. Article 27 is seeking CPA monies to pay the Affordable Housing Coordinator's part-time salary totaling $20,000. The complete warrant, which includes maps displaying the proposed rezoning for Articles 29, 30, 33 and 33, can be located on the Town Clerk's Web page, MendonMA.gov.
Friends Progressive Yard Sale June 8

The Friends of Mendon Elders will once again hold their Progressive Yard Sale. This has been an annual event for 15 years and every year promises to be bigger and better. It all starts at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 8, rain date June 9, at the Senior Center, 62 Providence St., Mendon where shoppers first stop and shop. There they purchase the Master List of Sales Directory with a map of Mendon included for only $2. Once they have the Map and Directory, which lists the addresses and directions to the homes participating and the main items for sale, shoppers will progress from the Senior Center Yard Sale to the many yard sales throughout Mendon. Last year more than 40 homes participated with folks coming from miles around. With such a large number of residents having sales on the same day makes Mendon a desirable destination for shopper's looking for so many bargains. All proceeds from this fundraiser go to the Friends of Mendon Elders, Inc for enhancements and program development at the Senior Center. For more information about this event contact friends@friendsofmendonelders@verizon.net.

Mendon Cultural Council Seeks Volunteers

The Mendon Cultural Council is looking for members to help direct state-awarded funds to local arts/cultural projects and events within the town and surrounding communities.

Members attend monthly meetings and annually review submitted grant applications requesting sponsorship and funding.

The council places priority on events taking place in Mendon schools, the Taft Public Library, and the town’s senior center. Special events such as beach concerts, bus transportation for school field trips, Claffin Hill Symphony presentations and the Micose Hill Newspaper Club are also prioritized.

No artistic talent is required, only the desire to bring events to the community. Parents of school age children, as well as people within the school system are welcomed and would be an asset when making fundraising decisions for youth and young families. All are invited to join. Interested? Please contact Joyce Firth at JFirth@MendonMA.gov.

School Committee Seat and Police Station Funding on Mendon Ballot

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter/Columnist

One race as well as a $1.4 million Prop. 2 ½ debt exclusion for the new Police Station are on Mendon’s May 14 Annual Town Election ballot. The polls will be open that day from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Micose Hill School, North Ave.

Running for the three-year Regional School Committee seat is Kerry Ann Laurence and Greta Von der Luft. Incumbent Diane Duncan decided not to seek re-election. For Selectman, incumbent Mark Reil is again running for his three-year seat unchallenged. In addition, Lawney Tinio is running for the Selectman’s one-year seat unchallenged, that office became vacant after Rich Schofled resigned late last year. Assuming Tinio wins, he will fulfill the remainder of Schofled’s term.

Additional unchallenged candidates include Jay Byer for Moderator for one year, Ken O’Brien for Assessor for three years, Allan Byrne for Park Commissioner for three years, Kevin Rudden for Water Commissioner for three years, Amy Fahey for Taft Public Library Trustee for three years, Shana Jo Miller for the other Taft Public Library Trustee for three years, Alan Trettad for Tree Warden for three years, Peter Denton for Housing Authority for five years, and John Vandersluis for Planning Board for five years. Voters will also decide the outcome of the Police Station debt exclusion. The ballot question is asking for an additional $1.4 million needed to complete the new headquarters and will state: “Shall the Town of Mendon be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one half, so called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds to be issued in order to pay additional costs of the police station project in excess of the $5,000,000 approved for this project under Article 27 of the warrant at the Town Meeting held on May 5, 2017?” The latest numbers show the tax impact to a $400,000 home is expected to be approximately $41 per year over 20 years. However, that number is expected to fluctuate each year due to the total valuation of the town changing annually.

2019 Senior of the Year Nominations

The Mendon Council on Aging is now accepting nominations for the 2019 Senior Citizen of the Year. Since 1978, a Mendon resident or residents, age 60 or older, who exemplifies a spirit of public service and made a positive difference in the community has received this honor. Written nominations will be accepted until June 1. The award will be presented in September. Forms are available at the Mendon Senior Center or online at MendonMA.gov.

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Selectmen Discuss Marijuana Host Agreement

By Michelle Sanford  
Staff Reporter/Columnist

By the time the Mendon Selectmen met on April 18, a marijuana establishment must execute a host agreement with the community if it intends to be located in. “In a nutshell, the agreement is to make sure cities and towns have their concerns addressed,” said Amara. She explained part of the agreement may include an optional impact fee for the community which must be reasonable and related to the costs imposed on the municipality for operating the marijuana establishment. “The impact fee cannot exceed three percent of gross sales,” she said.

During an April meeting, the Mendon Selectmen and Town Counsel Cindy Amara began an initial discussion concerning a marijuana establishment. While little detail was given on the applicant during the discussion, Selectman Mark Reil stated there’s an interested party looking to come to Mendon. He said, “We won’t vote on the application tonight, but want to discuss the purpose of a host agreement and options moving forward.” Reil added as of April 11, this was the only application on file so far.

In order to be licensed, any type of marijuana establishment must execute a host agreement with the community it intends to be located in. “In a nutshell, the agreement is to make sure cities and towns have their concerns addressed,” said Amara. She explained part of the agreement may include an optional impact fee for the community which must be reasonable and related to the costs imposed on the municipality for operating the marijuana establishment. “The impact fee cannot exceed three percent of gross sales,” she said.

According to the Cannabis Control Commission, some anticipated costs considered reasonable could include traffic intersection design resulting from heavy traffic where the marijuana facility is located, environmental impact or storm water or wastewater studies, public safety overtime costs when crowds are anticipated to be large, and additional substance abuse prevention programs. The community impact fee is limited to a term of five years. At that point, the community and applicant can then negotiate another impact fee agreement if they choose.

Amara also noted the Selectmen may include certain conditions in their host agreement which could include security, community support, restrictions on the number of people in the store at one time, among others. She suggested the Selectmen gather information about issues which concern them that could possibly be included in the agreement.

Applicants are must first be approved by the Selectmen before moving on to the next step of a host agreement. “The state does a lot of flushing out of the applicants to make sure they are qualified,” said Amara.

Selectman Chris Burke stated most residents are prepared for the inevitable. “Residents know this is coming. Regardless of people’s position, we’re moving forward with this,” he said. “So, when we do a host agreement, we want to make sure it’s done right.”

The Selectmen agreed to invite the Fire Chief and Police Chief to a future meeting in order to discuss their concerns and perhaps meet with the applicant prior to any host agreement approval.

CPC Supports More Funding for Mendon Police Station

By Michelle Sanford  
Staff Reporter/Columnist

During the May 3 Annual Town Meeting, Mendon voters will determine the first of two votes concerning additional funding for the new police station. The second vote will take place during the town’s May 14 Annual Election as a ballot question. Approximately two years ago, voters approved a $5 million debt exclusion to renovate and expand the former Main St. fire station into a 9,200 square foot building for the new police headquarters. Because school debt was coming off and $1.5 million in Community Preservation Act funding was approved by voters to help defray costs, there was no tax impact to residents at that time.

However, due to skyrocketing increases in plumbing, HVAC, electrical, and fire protection costs, in addition to unsuitable soils, it was realized an additional $1.4 million was needed to fully complete the headquarters.

At last year’s November Special Town Meeting, voters authorized borrowing $880,000 to award the contract to the general contractor. At that time, three alternates were not included as part of the $880,000.

Article 9 on the Town Meeting warrant is requesting the $520,000 which is the anticipated costs of the three alternates for the new station: the eventual demolition of the current police station, final paving of the parking lot, and finishing the second level of the new addition. If passed, the entire $1.4 million amount (the already approved $880,000 plus the $520,000) will be brought to voters during the May 14 Town Election as a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion.

On April 18, the Community Preservation Committee voted to support utilizing up to an additional $30,000 per year of CPA funding to help with the payments of the $1.4 million; however, this action must be approved by residents at a future Town Meeting. Still, should residents approve the $30,000, it will cover approximately 20 to 25 percent of the new debt and therefore help reduce the tax impact.

The Selectmen agreed to invite the Fire Chief and Police Chief to a future meeting in order to discuss their concerns and perhaps meet with the applicant prior to any host agreement approval.

The Journey to Parenthood

Wednesday, May 15 at 7PM

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Thursday, May 23 at 7PM

Brian Whang, MD, FACS & Matthew Rochefort, MD
Brigham and Women’s Hospital

Chris LeSiege, PA-C
Milford Regional Medical Center

Lung cancer can affect anyone and the symptoms often go unnoticed until the disease has progressed. While smokers have an increased risk of the disease, those who don’t smoke can be diagnosed with lung cancer as well. Thoracic surgeons Brian Whang, MD, and Matthew Rochefort, MD, will discuss risk factors and symptoms of lung cancer. The discussion will also include smoking cessation, early detection with lung cancer CT screen and the latest treatments (including robotic surgery at Milford Regional). FREE

These FREE lectures are presented at Milford Regional’s Physicians Conference Center on the ground floor of the main building, adjacent to the main lobby.

Registration is required, as seating is limited. Please call 508-422-2206 or visit milfordregional.org.
Remembering Two Mendon Residents on Arbor Day

By Melissa Orff
Staff Reporter

In honor of this year’s Arbor Day, a tree will be planted in Mendon as a living memory of two individuals who were very special to the community.

The dedication of a tree has been an annual tradition in Mendon since 1989, when the late Orise Tetreault requested that the schools have a program similar to the one held at Albeeville School on Millville St., Mendon many years ago. As a result of the Arbor Day program, there have been well over 100 trees planted at the schools and throughout the town to beautify Mendon and to honor the memory of someone who has passed or recognize someone who makes a difference in other’s lives.

This year’s Arbor Day Celebration on April 26 honored Deb Fowler Clare and Christopher Tusoni, both of whom passed away in 2018. Clare, wife of David and mother of Tyler (13) and Abby (10), was remembered for her friendly, positive nature and being full of energy and life. Clare started the first Zumba community program for the Town of Mendon, wanting to share her passion for fitness and health. Even while fighting through illness, Clare always remained positive, full of energy, and continued to do everything a loving wife, mother, and friend would do, according to her family. “Deb was one of a kind, and she touched the lives of everyone she met,” read Miscoe Hill Students Council Member Astrid Lee during the ceremony. “To know Deb was to love Deb.” The memory of Christopher Tusoni was also honored during the ceremony, a young man known by his family and friends for his loving personality. Tusoni attended Clough Elementary and Miscoe Hill Schools, and had most recently been as student at Norfolk County Agricultural High School. He was a member of the Mendon Youth Football League for 5 years and was a member of the Mendon Police Explorers. Tusoni was also honored during the ceremony, a young man known by his family and friends for his loving personality. Tusoni attended Clough Elementary and Miscoe Hill Schools, and had most recently been as student at Norfolk County Agricultural High School. He was a member of the Mendon Youth Football League for 5 years and was a member of the Mendon Police Explorers.

Clough Elementary student Alex Moore was one of the flag bearers for the annual Arbor Day celebration on April 26.

Many of the staff members at Clough who had known Tusoni paid homage to him during the celebration as well, by wearing a special t-shirt made by Chris’ mother Wendy, to promote the message of kindness to others. “Chris is and will always be dear to everyone who knew him,” said Miscoe Student Council member Ryan Fournier. “The many lives he touched in his short time will live on in our hearts forever.” In between the tree dedications, the Student Council read poems and spoke about the history of Arbor Day in Mendon. The celebration also included musical selections played by the Miscoe Hill Band and a procession of Clough Students holding American flags.

Mendon Historical Society

Spring Tea

Just in time to celebrate Spring and Mother’s Day, the Mendon Historical Society will be hosting a Tea on Saturday, May 11, at the Society’s new museum, 15 Hastings St, Mendon. Dads and children over 10 are also invited. Seating at 12:30 p.m. and at 3 p.m. are available. The cost is $18 per person, payable by cash or check. Reservations are required and can be made by contacting Sue Ober, mendonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com. Please include the number attending, which seating is preferred, a phone number and an email address. A reservation confirmation will be emailed to the given address. The reservation deadline is Friday, May 3.

Mendon Candidates’ Night

The Brothers of the Brush will hold its annual Candidates’ Night at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 7, at the Mendon Senior Center on Providence Road. All candidates in the May 14 Annual Town Election have been invited to attend. The purpose of Candidates’ Night is to give all candidates an opportunity to introduce themselves to their constituents and to address issues that are important to them and to the community. Each candidate will be allowed to make a five-minute presentation. After all candidates have spoken, there will be a question-and-answer period for Mendon voters to ask any candidate questions and receive their answers. Richard Ferrucci will serve as moderator for this event.

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Supporting the Massachusetts National Guard and their Families

Thanks To Yanks is a local non-profit dedicated to supporting those who serve and have served in the military and the families that love and support them. Shown is Mike Shain, founder of the organization holding a check that Thanks To Yanks made in aid of the Massachusetts National Guard Military and Family Support Center. For information about Thanks To Yanks, visit their website or like them on Facebook. Thanks To Yanks photo
Increased State Aid plus Expense Reductions
Closing School District Budget Gap for FY20

By Melissa Orff
Staff Reporter

The Mendon-Upton Regional School District (MURSD) is still trying to close a gap for next year's budget after a “grossly disappointing” increase in per pupil aid was put forward and failed in the finalized Massachusetts House of Representatives budget.

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Joseph Maruszczak, presented an update on the MURSD fiscal year 2020 budget during the April 29 School Committee Meeting. The House Budget, which came out on April 26, included a $30 per pupil increase in aid. This was up from the $20 originally presented. But for Mendon Upton is only represents a total increase of $22,000 in state aid.

Regional Transportation reimbursement also increased by $21,000, bringing the total increase in state aid for the district to $43,000, a number that Maruszczak called a “disappointment.”

“We are still hopeful that things will get better when the [Massachusetts] Senate budget comes out on May 10,” he said.

On the expense side, health care insurance negotiations have yielded a reduction of $79,000 (from an estimated 5 percent increase to a 2.9 percent increase), and with two fewer students going to Norfolk Aggie next year, the district will see a savings on this budget line item of $40,000.

The level-services budget has gone through a few iterations since it was certified on March 11. The current budget, which will be presented at the annual town meetings on Thursday, May 2 in Upton, and Friday, May 3 in Mendon, is $36,262,281. Even with the increases in state aid and increase in Minimum Local Contribution from Mendon of $562,571 and Upton of $592,771, there is still a $217,000 gap between revenue and expenses, said Maruszczak.

“The bad news is that there is still a deficit. The good news is that it’s heading in the right direction,” he said referring to the gap that was originally projected to be $450,000.

School officials said some of the other major drivers for the rise in expenses this year and most years, are increases in salaries of $650,000 and special education transportation of $151,000. Leading up to the Annual Town Meetings, Maruszczak has been working with the Town of Upton to develop a short YouTube video series to give information on the MURSD budget and to hopefully interest residents in coming out to vote for the budget at their respective Town Meetings. For information on the videos, visit the MURSD website.

“It is super important for our parents and the community to engage in the budget process,” he said.

Quinsigamond Offers New Programs

Quinsigamond Community College has added four new programs to its fall line-up of degree and certificate offerings. Students can now register for any of the new programs that begin in the 2019 fall semester.

Other new fall programs include:
• General Studies – Pre-Nursing Option
• The Criminal Justice - Transfer Option associate degree program
• The QCC Liberal Arts - Media Communications Option
• A new Accounting Certificate

The General Studies - Pre-Nursing Option that gives students the opportunity to prepare for QCC’s nursing programs and then transfer to four-year institutions, recognizes the growth and need in this industry. This program also educates students to work in various aspects of healthcare, including hospitals and other healthcare facilities. Healthcare continues to remain one of the most in-demand job markets. To learn more about these new programs, visit QCC.edu

School Highlights

Mendon-Upton Regional
Compiled by Melissa Orff

DISTRIC T: There will be a district-wide Early Release on Friday, May 10.

CLOUGH: Clough’s Kind Kids in the 4th Grade Kindness Club made some wonderful inspirational quote posters hung them up around Clough to brighten students and staff’s day and provide motivation and inspiration. Clough congratulates Maureen O’Neill’s Second Grade class for “powering up” with Sharing behavior and completing their school wide cats. The Math MCAS results for 3rd grade on May 1 and 4 and 4th Grade will be on May 8 and 9.

Clough invites Clough Parents and families to Spanish International Night being held at Nipmuc on Thursday, May 9.

Mendon Family Dentistry visited Clough’s Kindergarten students.

MISCOE: Misscoe announces the start of the Raptor Visitor Management System. Part of keeping track of visitors entering Misscoe is knowing who is in the building at all times. The Raptor system will allow Misscoe to better screen visitors, contractors, and volunteers and provide them with printed identification. When entering Misscoe, visitors will need to present an ID such as a Driver’s License, which can either be scanned or manually entered into the system.

Vape pens and e-cigarettes are quickly becoming the latest trend among teenagers. Join Misscoe for a presentation on May 7 at 6:30p.m. in the auditorium to learn more about what these products are, why they are harmful, and how to protect our kids from this latest trend.

Miscoe Pops Concert will be on Wednesday, May 15 at 7 p.m. at Nipmuc. The concert will feature 7th & 8th Grade Band and Chorus Ensembles, Misscoe Jazz Bands, and Brave Jones A Cappella group.

On May 20, the 7th graders will have the opportunity to watch Galapagos in 3D at Jordan’s Furniture Store IMAX Theater, as part of their science curriculum work.

Valley Tech Second Trimester Compilation List

Superintendent-Director
Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick has released the Compilation List for the second trimester of 2018-2019 for Blackstone Valley Regional Technical High School.

Students named to the Compilation List have maintained a grade point average of 88 percent or above in each technical, related and academic course for the trimester. Students, grouped by grade and hometown, are listed alphabetically by last name.

JUNIORS Hopedale
Benjamin Watson, Electrical.
Selah Harper, Electronics & Engineering Technology.
Grace Bernero, Cosmetology; Melissa Vieira, Health Services.
Rohit Kaushik, Business Technology & Communications; Kyla Nolling, Culinary Arts.
Mendon
Crazy Pham, Advanced Manufacturing & Design; Aiden Hebert, Business Technology & Entrepreneurship; Ashleigh Nolling, Culinary Arts.
Madison Ambrosino, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Julia Sestak, Culinary Arts; Madison Wikowski, Electrical Technology.

SOPHOMORES Hopedale
Rohan Gupte, Information Technology.
Mendon
Cobie Harvey, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Samih Gloury, Health Services.
Susan Houskeeper, Advanced Manufacturing & Design Technology; Jacob Choudhury, Information Technology; Cassie Angraf, Culinary Arts.
Selah Harper, Business Technology & Entrepreneurship; Tyler Doyle, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Rachel Nobrega, Cosmetology.

MAY 3, 2019

Upton
Adolfo Bousa, Construction Technology; Ryan Consalvo, Business Technology & Entrepreneurship; Penelope Weber, Painting & Design Technology; Michael Mancini, Multimedia Communications; Patrick Oberno, Advanced Manufacturing & Design Technology; Madison Ambrosino, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Julia Sestak, Culinary Arts; Madison Wikowski, Electrical Technology.

Upton
Coby Asselin, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Nikhil Ballad, Construction Technology; Thomas Buckley, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Selah Harper, Health Services; Jillian Napolitano, Health Services; Malkey Rogers, Health Services.

FRESHMEN Hopedale
Cassandra Alves, Drafting & Design Technology; Eli Moore, Culinary Arts.

Mendon
Alexander Carchino, Auto Technology; Joseph Mendes, Health Services.

MILFORD
Mendon
Alexander Carchino, Auto Technology; Joseph Mendes, Health Services.

Upton
Mallory Rogers, Health Services; Jillian Napolitano, Health Services; Malkey Rogers, Health Services.

Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication Technology; Alaina Gobbi, Dental Assisting; Christopher Mason, Engineering & Robotics; Ryan Shaw, Electronics & Engineering Technology.

DISTRICT:
Mallahy, Criminal Justice - Transfer Option associate degree program

On Monday, May 20, the 7th graders will have the opportunity to watch Galapagos in 3D at Jordan’s Furniture Store IMAX Theater, as part of their science curriculum work.

Staff Reporter

calling all Graduates!

Graduating from High School or College this Spring? Our Mendon Upton Souvenir Graduation Issue is June 7.

Want to be included? Send a brief graduation announcement, (75 words as a Document AND a 250 DPI photo jpg attached by email attachment to Jane Bigda, TownCrierEditor@gmail.com. Include the graduate’s name, parents, hometown, high school or college, degree and any special academic honors.

Deadline is May 28

Submissions are not needed for graduates of Nipmuc Regional High School or Blackstone Valley Tech, since our reporters are covering those graduations.

Mendon
Taylor Burroughs, Construction Technology; Mary Kennedy, Engineering & Robotics; Zachary Riverside, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Madison Tinio, Construction Technology; Benjamin Watson, Electrical.

Mendon
Taylor Burroughs, Construction Technology; Mary Kennedy, Engineering & Robotics; Zachary Riverside, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Madison Tinio, Construction Technology; Benjamin Watson, Electrical.

MIA MILFORD
Erin Bethel, Health Services; Alex Goldberg, Engineering & Robotics; Anthony Miano, Drafting & Design Technology; Joshua Palomares, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Pamela Pereira, Multimedia Communications; Alex Pinette, Multimedia Communications; Tiano Leong, Information Technology.

MILFORD
Upton
Adle Brucha, Construction Technology; Ryan Consalvo, Business Technology & Entrepreneurship; Penelope Weber, Painting & Design Technology; Michael Mancini, Multimedia Communications; Patrick Oberno, Advanced Manufacturing & Design Technology; Madison Ambrosino, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Julia Sestak, Culinary Arts; Madison Wikowski, Electrical Technology.

Mendon
Crazy Pham, Advanced Manufacturing & Design Technology; Aiden Hebert, Business Technology & Entrepreneurship; Ashleigh Nolling, Culinary Arts.

Madison Ambrosino, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Julia Sestak, Culinary Arts; Madison Wikowski, Electrical Technology.

Mendon
Crazy Pham, Advanced Manufacturing & Design Technology; Aiden Hebert, Business Technology & Entrepreneurship; Ashleigh Nolling, Culinary Arts.
Valley Tech Student Council Earns National Recognition

Based on their record of leadership, service, and activities that assist the school and community, the Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) Student Council has been recognized as a 2019 National Gold Council of Excellence by the National Student Council (NatStuCo).

To meet the requirements for the National Council of Excellence Award, a student council must meet criteria such as crafting a written constitution, conducting regular meetings, and adopting a democratic election process. In addition, the council must demonstrate successful sponsorship and participation in leadership development and activities that service its school and community. Councils awarded the gold level of excellence award have successfully displayed the highest levels of leadership and beyond.

“Receiving a National Gold Council of Excellence Award reflects the highest dedication on the part of BVT High School in providing a strong, well-rounded student council program,” said Ann Postlewaite, National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) student programs director.

Jacob Stevens, a senior from Douglas in Culinary Arts, was a team director.

Logan Keefe, Student Council Representative, said the student council would continue their successful sponsorship and participation by adopting a democratic election process and conducting regular meetings, and by such as crafting a written constitution, demonstrating, animal waste, industrial pollutants, insects, and herbicides, litter, road salt, oil, and eroded dirt.

Students then created a rain storm and watched as these pollutants washed into the river and affected the turbidity, temperature, oxygen level, and plant life. They also learned about cold water fisheries, since Touchstone sits on a hill directly above the beginning of the West River, one of Grafton’s three cold water fisheries. Holahan and Neal emphasized the importance of preserving all natural water bodies.

The 2018-2019 Student Council Executive Board Members are:

- Nolan Beckwith, a senior from Douglas in Culinary Arts
- Carlie Brown, a junior from Mendon in Health Services
- Emily Donnelly, Student Council Leader, a senior from Milbury in Health Services
- Penny Hebert, a senior from Upton in Painting & Design Technology
- Samantha Houston, a senior from Milford in Culinary Arts
- Logan Keefe, Student Council Representative, a junior from Milford in Multimedia Communications
- Olivia Mahoney, Student Council President, a senior from Sutton in Health Services
- Paige Marquez, a junior from Bellingham in Culinary Arts
- Jessica McKenzie, a junior from Mendon in Culinary Arts
- Skylar Morrisey, a junior from Milbury in Health Services
- Jacob Stevens, Student Council Representative, a senior from Douglas in Culinary Arts.

Middle school students at Touchstone Community School in Grafton welcomed Education Team volunteers Joanne Holahan and Tina Neal from the Blackstone River Watershed Association (BRWA) in early April. The BRWA’s mission is to engage, educate, and advocate for improved water quality in the Blackstone River watershed. Holahan and Neal captured the students’ full attention with a large model watershed.

Students identified local land use (residential, roadways, farming, forest, industrial, etc.) and the potential water quality issues. They sprinkled the model they’d made with demonstration fertilizers, insecticides and herbicides, litter, road salt, oil, and eroded dirt. Students then created a rain storm and watched as these pollutants washed into the river and affected the turbidity, temperature, oxygen level, and plant life. They also learned about cold water fisheries, since Touchstone sits on a hill directly above the beginning of the West River, one of Grafton’s three cold water fisheries. Holahan and Neal emphasized the importance of preserving all natural water bodies.

Contributed photo

GRETA von der LUFT

MEd, PhD

Running for Mendon school committee

A Budget Conscious Strong Advocate For Our Kids

Please Vote For Greta Tuesday, May 14

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Bellingham

Boylston

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Bloodborne Pathogens
On-Site Training
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**Pitching Helps Nipmuc Baseball to Solid Start**

*By Chris Villani*

Sports Reporter/Columnist

The Nipmuc baseball team finished the first eight games of the season with a 4-4 overall record and a 2-1 mark in the Dual Valley Conference. Head coach Steve DeLavorre said the starting pitcher has helped lift the Warriors to the solid start.

"It's been a challenging opening schedule, but our pitching has been good," DeLavorre said, pointing specifically to the starting trio of Jack Tempesta, Brendan Mathesoon and Andrew Grissell. "Those three guys have been great, throwing strikes, keeping the walks to a minimum." He said. "When even if they have given up some hits, they have done well to limit what the other team is getting." Even in some of Nipmuc's early-season defeats, such as a 3-1 setback against Westboro or a 4-2 loss to Auburn, the pitching has been solid. "We have kept us in games," DeLavorre said.

The Warriors have put together a few lopsided wins, earning double-digit victories over Blackstone-Millville, Grafton and Douglas, but Nipmuc's most impressive victory may have been an extra inning win over Blackstone Valley Tech.

"It was a game we almost gave away," DeLavorre said. "We made a couple of mistakes, but it was a resilient win for us to be able to stick it out and hold on for a win." In addition to his prowess on the mound, Mathesoon has been a consistent contributor at the plate. Junior Justice Cardoza has also helped lengthen the Nipmuc lineup with contributions from the bottom part of the Nipmuc batting order.

After a 4-2 loss to Hopedale, an 8-0 defeat, Nipmuc turned its attention to Shepherd Hill on Tuesday and another league test against Sutton on Thursday. The Warriors are slated to kick off the month of May before a home tilt against Millbury on Friday.

**Nipmuc Softball Looking to Heat Up**

*By Chris Villani*

Sports Reporter/Columnist

As the chilly and rainy spring weather gives way to warmer temperatures, Nipmuc softball head coach Bernie Curtis said his team is looking forward to playing on home turf where they may best fit into the Warriors’ lineup. "They are going out and doing what I ask them to do every day and working together," Curtis said. "The cold weather hasn't done us any favors, it's hard to work on what we need to work on. As the season gets going, we will be more in sync as we get out there and play our best consistent basis." One constant for Nipmuc is junior Faith Caughey, who is back in the circle as the team’s top pitcher. "We are going to be leaning on her," Curtis said.

The junior class is deep and talented. Rachel Dunlavy and Justine Nicholson have added power to the Warriors’ lineup. Dunlavy hit a pair of home runs early in the season. Nicholson added a walk-off dinger in a homer contest. "They have done a great job of being a leader of the defense and controlling the pace of play in the middle of the field," Curtis said.

Aiden Hayes is another leader on defense as the Nipmuc goalie and Mark McMamas, a junior who is in his second season as a full-time varsity contributor. "He is playing well, playing the wings on ground balls and being a 'do it all' kind of guy," Hamwey said. "He is someone we can rely on in any situation." Freshman Luke Lange has also impressed. "He has stepped up big," Hamwey said. "He plays a lot older than he is and plays physical. He is not afraid of anybody." The coach with Nipmuc putting an added emphasis on every player who has put together strong offensive performances for the team.

The team should also heat up, the product of having more opportunities to get to the districts and get back to the district finals. "If we clean that up, we will start to see some improvement," the coach said. "We made a couple of mistakes, but it was a resilient win for us to be able to stick it out and hold on for a win." In addition to his prowess on the mound, Mathesoon has been a consistent contributor at the plate. Junior Justice Cardoza has also helped lengthen the Nipmuc lineup with contributions from the bottom part of the Nipmuc batting order.

"When those guys get going, we are going to win," Curtis said. "They are going out and doing what I ask them to do every day and working together," Curtis said. "The cold weather hasn't done us any favors, it's hard to work on what we need to work on. As the season gets going, we will be more in sync as we get out there and play our best consistent basis." One constant for Nipmuc is junior Faith Caughey, who is back in the circle as the team’s top pitcher. "We are going to be leaning on her," Curtis said.

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Seeking Pickleball Players

A new Pickleball group is starting for players and wanna-be players in Upton. The Upton Recreation commission is set to help support regular scheduled play, perhaps clinics and tournaments too on the courts at Kiwanis Beach. The new league hopes to start offering lessons and to begin play on a regular schedule, with morning and evening games. But the only way to do this is to develop a list of interested people, set hours and let the games begin this spring.

What is Pickleball? Many describe the game as a combination of tennis, ping pong, paddle tennis and badminton. The game is growing in popularity and Upton area Ambassador for the USA Pickleball Association (USAPA), Bill McCormick is looking to further develop the sport locally. He and his wife started playing in a new league last summer on the Cape and that league has grown considerably. Yarmouth, which has 270 people on their mailing list and 13 courts, is looking to build 8 – 12 more within the next year. It’s pretty easy to pack your paddle and travel. Local schools have begun programs and it is a great game for seniors too.

To learn more about the sport, visit the PickleBallChannel.com to read and watch matches played, see rules, ratings, etc. Another good resource is USA Pickleball.org. If you have interest, please send in your contact info to BillMcProperty@gmail.com or call 508-320-3500. Please note if you have played before or are new to the game, and if you can help organize the league.

Walk Massachusetts Challenge

Lace up a pair of sneakers, grab some friends, and join in the Walk Massachusetts Challenge to help the local Council on Aging win money for fitness programs, and a chance to win a $50 Visa Gift card for the walker.

The challenge, sponsored by the Massachusetts Councils on Aging, runs from April 1 to September 30. In that time, if walking team completes the challenge, each one is entered into a drawing for a $50 Visa Gift card, and for each team that completes the challenge, the local Council on Aging is entered for $250 to put toward fitness programming. Team choose their own challenge, walking enough miles locally to complete the ‘Round the Border, walking 15 miles, the equivalent of the Massachusetts border, or Mass-ters who walk the equivalent of the total Massachusetts tidal shoreline, 1,519 miles.

While that sounds like a lot of walking, the ‘Round the Border challenge is only about a mile a day, five days a week, per person, and the Mass-ters about three miles a day – less than 10,000 steps. Each person in the team has to complete their personal goal to be entered to win.

Solo walkers can participate too in a variety of walks that include making it the equivalent of a trip from Provincetown to Lee, 190 miles. While walking team completes the challenge, the local Council on Aging is entered for $250 to put toward fitness programming. Team choose their own challenge, walking enough miles locally to complete the ‘Round the Border, walking 15 miles, the equivalent of the Massachusetts border, or Mass-ters who walk the equivalent of the total Massachusetts tidal shoreline, 1,519 miles. While that sounds like a lot of walking, the ‘Round the Border challenge is only about a mile a day, five days a week, per person, and the Mass-ters about three miles a day – less than 10,000 steps. Each person in the team has to complete their personal goal to be entered to win.

BVT Boys Lacrosse Starts Strong Before Setback

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist
The Blackstone Valley Tech boys’ lacrosse team rattled off four straight wins to start off the 2019 campaign before a 14-3 loss against Advanced Math and Science Academy. Head coach Andrew Barksdale said he hopes the loss will serve as a wake-up call in what has otherwise been an excellent start for the Beavers.

“That was a tough one for us, that was probably the worst we have played all season,” Barksdale said. “It was a winnable game, but we didn’t play well.”

Valley Tech has been strong otherwise, earning victories over solid teams like Milford and Bellingham. The Beavers put double-digit goal totals on the board every game with the exception of AMSA. Griffin DiAntonio, Luke Carey, Andrew Vasile and Brady Murray have done well to find the back of the net and spark the offense. “They have been our ‘go-to’ goal scorers,” Barksdale said.

Sawyer Allen has controlled the face-offs for BVT, winning a substantial number of draws. Barksdale sees some positive signs from his team’s 4-1 start but also plenty of room for improvement. “Defensive communication has been killing us over the past couple of games,” the coach said. “We got lucky with Milford, being able to come out of there with a win despite not playing our best defensively.”

Goaldending is another area where Barksdale said he would like to see a little more consistency. But the offense has been clicking, especially the passing. “We have moved the ball better than any other team I have coached here,” Barksdale said. “I don’t know what’s changed or why our offensive ball movement has been so good, but it’s what got us past Milford.”

Valley Tech scored 16 goals on the road against the Scarlet Hawks, coming away with a 16-12 win. “It was a pretty close game but then we set ourselves apart just because we were able to move the ball quickly into the zone and finish,” Barksdale said.

“That has been our strength.”

BVT looked to bounce back after the AMSA loss with a home game against Assabet scheduled for Wednesday. The Beavers led the road on Friday for a game against Northbridge, a squad Valley Tech beat 14-7 at home in the first game of the season last month.

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“The there may be people that have more talent than you, but there’s no excuse for anyone to work harder than you do.”

Derek Jeter

Derek Sanderson Jeter is an American former professional baseball shortstop, businessman, and baseball executive. He has been the chief executive officer and part owner of the Miami Marlins of Major League Baseball since September 2017.
The wins may not be coming as often as head coach Justin Townsend would like, but the number of young standout athletes on his squad coupled with a program-wide desire to commit to the process of getting better has the Nipmuc girls track and field team posed to be one of the strongest in the area in years to come. “We are young, over time the wins will come,” Townsend said. “When these sophomores are seniors and our freshmen are juniors, we are going to be a contender.”

Sophomore Aaliyah McGovern has been one of the team’s biggest surprises.

Junior Chloe Hoff is the Warriors’ top javelin thrower and one of the top long jumpers. She has also posted the fastest 100-meter time and contributed on the 4x100 relay.

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“Tremendous blocker, “ Gerard said. “He shuts down a lot of outside hitters.”

Setting challenges, Gerard said. “He is a phenomenal volleyball player, “ the coach said.

Valley League. Senior outside hitter Taber Grose, a BVT student, has been one of the team’s standouts, but has not been able to reach his full potential because of some of the setting challenges, Gerard said. “He is a phenomenal volleyball player, “ the coach said.

“In the loss to Wachuset, it was just a phenomenal match, exciting on both sides of the court, “ Gerard said. “Those are the types of losses I can live with. The kids did a great job.”

Brian St. John, another BVT product, has been steady on the right side. “He is a tremendous blocker,” Gerard said. “He shuts down a lot of outside hitters.”

Gerard said the second half of the schedule sets up nicely for his team to continue its run to the district tournament. “We are going to be making playoff,” he said. “It’s a matter of seeding and who we see in the first round.”

“Not in my mind, not at all,” Gerard said. “Our biggest Achilles heel has been the serve receive which starts everything. When we lose the ball, it can be a cripple in terms of how many points we going are to give up before we get the ball back.”

Inconsistencies in setting and receiving serves have dogged the team, but not enough to keep it from putting together a winning record and competing in some thrilling matches. The Warriors played in five set matches against Wachusett and Millis, losing the former and winning in the latter.

Nipmuc/BVT beat Norton on Monday and has a 4-1 record in the newly formed Tri-Valley League. Senior outside hitter Taber Grose, a BVT student, has been one of the team’s standouts, but has not been able to reach his full potential because of some of the setting challenges, Gerard said. “He is a phenomenal volleyball player, “ the coach said.

“We are young, over time the wins will come, “ Townsend said. “When these sophomores are seniors and our freshmen are juniors, we are going to be a contender.”

“It’s been a good, wet season so far,” Townsend said, referencing the shoddy spring weather. Sophomore Aaliyah McGovern has been one of the team’s biggest surprises. Townsend said she has excelled in the shot put, throwing nearly 28 feet at last week’s District E Relay Meet. “She is a rising star for us,” Townsend said.

Franky Cassagnol has also stood out, throwing 75 feet in the discus. Fellow freshman Nora Gould has already scored points in multiple events, the 100-meter dash, the 4x100 relay and the long jump.

“Our young talent is kind of our bread and butter,” Townsend said.

In fact, Nipmuc’s top point scorer through their first two meets is freshman Holli Strapponi, who has scored in the high jump, the triple jump, the 200-meter dash and the 4x100 relay. “She is one of those freshmen who is showing a lot of potential!” Townsend said. “She is scoring all over the place. She’s a talented kid with a good spirit who loves track.”

Freshmen have accounted for 35 percent of the team’s points through the first two meets, with eighth grade athletes adding another 27 percent, Townes said. But the seniors have also contributed to the tune of half of Nipmuc’s points in throwing events.

Senior Chloe Hoff is the Warriors’ top javelin thrower and one of the top long jumpers. She has also posted the fastest 100-meter time and contributed on the 4x100 relay.

Townes said success is within reach for the emerging program. “Injuries have hurt us, but we are progressing,” he said. “We are getting a lot better.”

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