Lauded as Unique Individuals, Nipmuc Graduates the Class of 2019

By Melissa Orff
Staff Reporter

Over 150 members of the Nipmuc Regional High School Class of 2019 received some important advice from the Class of 2032 as they headed out to start the next chapter of their lives.

“Be kind, include everyone, always try your hardest... and make sure you call your mom and dad every day,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Maruszczak during the 59th Annual Commencement on May 31. In preparing for his speech, Maruszczak said he asked the Kindergartners at Memorial Elementary School what advice they would give to the seniors who were about to leave home for the first time.

“Kiss your parents, not a stranger, goodbye, one child told me,” chuckled Maruszczak.

Although somewhat humorous, the graduates would be well served by taking some of the sage advice from the youngest learners to heart, said Maruszczak.

“Embrace your inner Kindergartener; approach new situations with a pure heart; with a sense of joy and curiosity,” he told them.

The graduates also heard from several of their classmates, who reflected on the past four years of high school, and how their time at Nipmuc has prepared them for what lies ahead.

“Fellow classmates, you became your own superheros,” said Kayla Salguero, asking the graduates to remain true to themselves. “But you did it with your own superpower — being yourself.”

Christina Vanlente reminded her fellow graduates of the “Remember When” and “I’ll Never Forget” memories they shared during their time in high school. “Our memories inspire us to make more,” she said.

Kaylee Williams told her classmates that her visions for them are to only go upwards in their future.

“Today we graduate together, taking the next step of our adventure as we climb the staircase of our lives,” she said.

For Class of 2019 President Katie Nadolski, the past four years have been about fitting the pieces of a puzzle together in order to complete the picture.

“None of us took the same path in our high school career, just like no two puzzles are the same,” she said.

“Throughout our lives we will have many more puzzles to complete. These puzzles are what make us who we are.”

Between the speeches, the Nipmuc Regional High School Band and Chorus

Staff Reporter

Valley Tech Celebrates the 301 Members of the Class of 2019

Submitted by Elise Bogdan
Valley Tech

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School graduated 301 members of the Class of 2019 at ceremonies held May 30 at Hanover Theatre for the Performing Arts, Worcester. Graduates, who completed a dual education, received vocational certificates and diplomas.

In his introduction, Anthony E. Steele, Assist. Superintendent-Director/Principal, said this was the largest class to graduate BVT, humoroously commenting, he was glad that they all fit on the stage.

Following a salute to the flag, Uxbridge graduate Lindsay Gayton sang a beautiful rendition of the “National Anthem.” As graduates, Jessica Nordquist of Uxbridge, and Christiana Veliz of Uxbridge performed the Miley Cyrus song “The Climb,” fellow classmates and audience members waved their cell phone flashlights in support of the performance. Dr. Michael F. Fitzgerald, Superintendent-Director encouraged students to keep learning, saying, “It is a lifelong pursuit. Continue to strive to be the type of people in this world who make things happen by consistently learning, and then, more importantly, putting what you learn into action.”

Upton graduate, Senior Class President, Katie Marie Houskeeper of the Electronics & Engineering Technology programs speaks at the commencement ceremony at the Hanover Theatre in Worcester. BVT photo

He added, “You have already taken numerous steps at BVT to become the future pioneers, entrepreneurs, and guardians of our society. You have proven your motivation to build a bright future. You are on the cusp of greatness, a life full of opportunities. There is no rubric for life! What comes next is exciting, new, and completely up to you.”

Kate Ruzanski, Assistant Principal advised, “Get comfortable being uncomfortable. Sometimes, we have to force ourselves to move out of our comfort zones, and chase a dream that seems unreachable, even if the process may seem terrifying.”

“Success is not achieved solely by hard work or natural talent, but attained by grit and perseverance and the willingness to fail,” said Zoe Mahoney, Valedictorian, a Sutton Engineering & Robotics graduate. She noted embracing “failure is what sets those of greatness, a life full of opportunities. There is no rubric to only go upwards in their future. "Our class’s legacy is adorned with national SkillsUSA members spoke at the commencement at the Hanover Theatre in Worcester. BVT photo.

For Class of 2019 President Katie Nadolski, the past four years have been about fitting the pieces of a puzzle together in order to complete the picture.

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Lions Club Scholarship Recipients

The Mendon Lions Club is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2019 Mendon Lions Club Scholarships. The four $750 scholarships were awarded to Nipmuc Regional High School student Matthew Richards, who will be attending Bentley University, and Blackstone Valley Tech students Jake Morin, who is attending Champlain College, MacKenzie Burke who is attending Curry College, Sebastian Vasquez who is attending WPI. Congratulations to all and thank you to all those who assisted the Lions in administering this program.
Never Forget What They Did

Mendon and Upton paused on the morning of Monday, May 27, Memorial Day to remember and honor the many townspeople who have given their lives while serving in the United States Armed Forces. Both towns held their traditional parades, ceremonies and the marking of veterans’ graves.

Town Crier reporter Melissa Orff took photos of the events.

Mendon Boy Scouts took part in the town's Memorial Day Parade. Here Connor Belleville carries an American flag.

Susan Tetreault, commander of the Mendon American Legion Post, conducts a wreath laying ceremony at Memorial Square in center of town.

Upton Girl Scout Troop 64528 carry their banner and smile at the crowd during the Upton Memorial Day parade.

Members of the Upton VFW Honor Guard marching behind Senior Vice Commander Margaret Laneri led Upton’s Memorial Day parade.

Dean's List

The following local students were named to the Dean's List at their respective schools for the Spring 2019 semester.

**Assumption College, Worcester:**
- Upton-Erin Smith
- Becker College, Worcester:
  - Mendon-Brittany Wolfe, majoring in in Interactive Media Design, Game Design Concentration.

**Benedictine College, Atchison, Kan.:**
- Upton-Melody Wiklund

**Bob Jones University, Greenville, S.C.:**
- Mendon-Matthew Forget, a freshmen Premed/Predent major was named to the President's List for earning a 3.75 GPA or higher.

**Cedarville University, Cedarville, Ohio:**
- Upton-Edward Gaudet, Dean's Honor List for a GPA of 3.75 or higher.

**Coastal Carolina University, Conway, S.C.:**
- Mendon-Jason C. Colwell, majoring in Management.
- Culver-Stockton College, Canton, Mo.: Upton-Mark Jango majoring in Biology.

**Curry College, Milton: **
- Mendon-Erin Kossuth
- Upton: Jacob Alcott

**Emerson College, Boston:**
- Upton-Kyle Gazorarian majoring in Theatre and Performance and Samantha Jokela majoring in Business Creative Enterprises
- Roger Williams University, Bristol, R.I.:
  - Mendon-Carly Egan, Elizabeth Glichrist and Eric Tolliver
  - Upton-Kristen Brien and Madison Neri.

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JUNE 7, 2019

Upton-Mendon Town Crier
The Wright Scoop

Wright’s Dairy Farm and Bakery announces the opening of an on-site ice cream shop, The Wright Scoop, just in time to celebrate June Dairy Month. The Wright Scoop will be open all summer, Wednesdays through Fridays, 3 to 9 p.m.; Saturdays, 12 noon to 10 p.m. and Sundays, 12 noon to 7 p.m. Cathryn Kennedy, a fifth generation family member, of Wright’s Dairy Farm and Bakery, has always dreamt of having an ice cream shop. An ice cream shop that utilizes all the fresh ingredients that the dairy farm and bakery produces. “Our ice cream is from cow to cone in just four short days. We process our own milk, in our creamery, and then use that milk as the main ingredient in our ice cream. Our ice cream is single sourced and made in small batches. Because it is made with our farm fresh milk and using only the freshest ingredients, you can really taste the difference!” The Wright Scoop is a vintage trailer that has been rehabbed specifically to be a scoop shop and will be parked on the grounds of Wright’s Dairy Farm and Bakery's main location. It will feature all the classic flavors, toppings and will feature special seasonal sundaes. For more information contact Kelly at 401-767-3014 or email KLemoine@wrightsdairyfarm.com.

Mendon and Upton Summer Library Reading Programs

Registration for the Annual Summer Reading Program, A Universe of Stories, begins on Tuesday, June 11 at the Taft Public Library in Mendon and the Upton Town Library. Youngsters and older readers will receive prizes and incentives for the time they spend reading. The Upton Town Library kickoff event is Thursday, June 20 at the Nipmuc Regional High School Courtyard, Pleasant St. at 6:30 p.m. for The Little Red Wagon theatre troupe. Taft kicks off its summer program on Tuesday, June 25 at 4:30 p.m. with Scott Jameson Magic, which is co-sponsored by the Mendon Cultural Council. For more information about the Taft program visit TaftPublicLibrary.org or call 508-473-3259 and for Upton visit UptonLibrary.org or call 508-529-6272.

Summer is just around the corner! Advertise your business here!
Upton-Mendon Town Crier

Submitted by Deborah Burke Henderson.

Contributing Writer

You can't miss the giant, pine tree woman (carved by a local artist) adorning the front lawn of Mac Med Spa at 127 E. Main St., in Milford, and after meeting owner Debbie MacDonald, you may think it bears a certain resemblance to her, cradling heart in hand. Debbie loves making you feel special, relaxed and comfortable as you take advantage of the many innovative services her business offers – everything from traditional manicures, pedicures, facials, hairstyling and massages to the progressive modalities of laser management, colonics, CoolSculpting, liposuction, mesotherapy, contouring, weight loss diets and vitamin drips. After attending Eleanor F. Roberts Electrology School in Boston, Debbie started her career as an electrologist in the late 70's, opening her first business at age 19 in Framingham, which stands today as one of Mac Med's three locations. In 1982, she started her career as an electrologist in Hopedale, Mass., performing the Miracle Spectra Laser on acne treatments, ear piercing, tattoo removal and permanent makeup.

When laser hair removal techniques started taking off on a larger scale, Debbie knew that there was a market and dove headfirst into learning all she could. In 1984, she and her husband bought land in Upton and together built Mac Med Spa and Salon in the late 90's, expanded it and moved the Town Framingham office to include that new offering, remodeling her home to afford the appropriate equipment to service her clients well. The bulk of services are offered at the Milford location, with three separate buildings for varying services. The Upton location is known as the quiet building, as it houses spa offerings, including facials, massages, spray or mist tanning, laser hair removal and skin tightening. The salon offers nail and hair services. The medical building houses two physicians who conduct the more discreet services, such as colonics, laser vasectomy and hair transplants. "I love to make a person feel as if he or she is our only client," Debbie stated brightly. "We customize our facials and mix and match services to meet your needs, catering to your skin type and sensitivities."

Debbie's daughter, Doreen Nasuti, after graduating from the Boston School of Electrology, joined the Mac Med team 35 years ago. Together, the sister duo try every treatment modality, themselves, in order to understand the process, experience and benefits, so they might accurately describe any given treatment to customers.

"We make every service as private, quiet and comfortable as possible," she added. "When you come to Mac Med, we like to say that you've entered a stress-free zone. Our passion is to pamper you."

Discover more at MacMedspa.com or call Debbie at 508-478-9888 for an appointment.

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC HEARING CONNECTION FEES & WATER & SEWER RATES

TOWN OF UPTON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Please be advised that the Board of Selectmen in accordance with General By-laws Chapter 12, Section 7 Water Department, Rates, Fees for connection and use of the public water supply system and under said General By-laws Chapter 13, Section 1, Sewer Cost Reimbursement, Rate, Fees for connection and use of the Town's public sewer system will hold a public hearing to receive fees for connection and the water and sewer rates proposed by the Director of Public Works for Fiscal Year 2020 on Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at 7:05pm at Town Hall, Room 203.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Stephen A. Mattellian, Chairman
Brett Simms
Maureen Dinnwell

JUNE 7, 2019

Upton-Mendon Town Crier

A variety of customized Mac Med Spa services are available in the main, Victorian, building at 127 E. Main Street, one of three buildings at the Milford location. (photo Deborah Burke Henderson)

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Discover more at MacMedspa.com or call Debbie at 508-478-9888 for an appointment.

Diane Scouras, a former Ballet Junior Troup choreographer, said she was a young ballet student in Diane’s School of Dance when she was 14 years old. She worked over the years at various dance schools and realized how much she enjoyed teaching.

In 1984, she and her husband bought land in Upton and together built Diane’s School of Dance in her home, which has now grown to three locations. Today, the school teaches children of all ages tap, ballet, jazz, and hip hop and Scouras has watched her influence come of all ages tap, ballet, jazz, and hip hop and thrive.

“The kids have a ball but fall in love with performing. She eventually found herself training and wanted to be home with her children but fell in love with performing. She eventually found herself training and

One thing the dance school doesn’t do? “We don’t do competitive dance,” Scouras exclaimed. How Scouras does organize a special trip to New York annually with her students and they take classes on Broadway.

Scouras began taking dance classes at the ripe old age of five and she still loves it. She started her career in Boston, Debbie at 508-478-9888 for an appointment.

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Don't Have the Zerbini Circus in Mendon

To the Editor

We are writing in dismay and disappointment after learning that the Mendon Lions Club is bringing the Zerbini Family Circus to Mendon again.

This circus has a history of violations. According to Traveling Animal Protection Society: “The Zerbini Circus has featured camels, alligators, ponies, and a bison. These are intelligent beings who perform because they are forced to by trainers wielding whips and other disciplinary weapons. This circus has been cited year after year by the USDA for failing to provide minimal care for their animals.”

And Compassion Works International’s (CWI) “Camels Don’t Belong in the Circus” reveals the chronic suffering that camels endure. CWI has observed countless camels, each finding themselves in a sad, all-too-familiar predicament: standing alone, bound to a post by a short rope attached to a face harness, waiting for a freedom that never comes. Often forced to give rides or perform “tricks”, camels endure a life of travel from city to city, never knowing the companionship and ability to roam that they instinctively crave.

Circus animals endure long and exhausting periods of transport and intensive confinement. Forced to perform unnatural and sometimes painful “tricks”, all take an immense physical and psychological toll. Circuses pose a threat to public safety by bringing people dangerously close to unpredictable, stressed animals.

Animal-free circuses are very well-received and include the Kelly Miller Circus (new owner). Why not hire them again?

Five-country prohibitions restrict wild and exotic animal acts, with 125 partial or full bans in the U.S. Bills are pending in Massachusetts to ban wild animal acts, with 85+ legislators as co-sponsors.

The Lions Club does great work in the community. They deserve our support. But the Zerbini Family Circus or any circus using animals does not.

We urge area residents to oppose animal acts and not support this event. It’s long past time to end this outdated “tradition”.

Carole Carnovale, Peter Lyman, Sharron Luttrell, Martin Luttrell, Josh Luttrell and Lisa Hilton

Mendon

Correction

In the May 17 Upton-Mendon Town Crier one of the prom photos shown in the photographs for the article entitled, “Tuxes and Gowns, Flowers and Smiles, 2019” was misidentified. The correction caption and the photo is shown below.

MONTHLY COMMUNITY MEALS

Free, nourishing meals offered monthly to all in the local community.

Second Tuesday 6:30 p.m. Dinner, St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Small Hall, 27 Pearl St., Milford. Served by Food with Friends. 508-473-2030

Last Wednesday 4:30-6 p.m. Dinner, Trinity Episcopal Church, 17 Congress St., Milford. 508-473-8464 or office@trinitychurchmilford.org

Third Thursday 5:30 p.m. Supper, United Parish, 1 Church St., Upton. Upton donations accepted. Reservation three days ahead by calling 508-529-3192.

First Thursday 4:30-6 p.m. Dinner, Trinity Episcopal Church, 17 Congress St., Milford. Served by St. Vincent DePaul Society. 508-473-2000

Fourth Thursday 5:30 p.m. Supper, United Parish, 1 Church St., Upton. Donations accepted. Reservation three days ahead by calling 508-529-3192.

First Saturday 4:30-6 p.m. Dinner, Trinity Episcopal Church, 17 Congress St., Milford. Served by Holyoke Community Church. 508-473-8464 or office@trinitychurchmilford.org

Opinion

JUST A THOUGHT
By Michelle Sanford

Over the years, I’ve had the pleasure of speaking to many, many small business owners and writing about the services and goods they very proudly offer to local customers. It’s pretty safe to say I’ve run the gamut when it comes to the variety of businesses I’ve visited. From small restaurant and gift shops, local bookstores, and farm stands to real estate offices, restaurants, cafés, nail salons…the list goes on and on.

There’s no denying it, there’s something very special about a small business. There’s a feeling of authenticity and charm when you shop local in a small town, and whether you’re shopping for fresh produce, a cup of coffee, or a birthday present for someone—the local mom and pop places just feel different than the big box stores.

Small business owners recognize the fact that shoppers need only log onto their computers and are then literally a click away from being able to purchase pretty much anything from anywhere. So, they invest in their customers, they appreciate their customers, they get to know their customers. Each purchase, no matter how big or small, is valued. Each purchase counts toward a successful day.

All across the country, small businesses; there’s a camaraderie among the owners. They likely use local banks and possibly insurance firms for their financial needs and purchase services and wares from homegrown suppliers, which means a boost to the local economy by keeping money in the community.

Sadly, nearly 50 percent of all small businesses will fail within five years of opening their doors for various reasons. Still, as communities try to support local businesses, they get to know their customers, they appreciate much anything from anywhere. So, they invest in their customers, they appreciate shop local, eat local, buy local, support local. And rightly so, residents, the Hartford Ave. East change from “General Business” (GB) to “Highway Business” (HB) designation along Rt. 140 (Cape Rd.) and Hartford Ave. East from the Hopedale to Bellingham town lines. But thanks to a few concerned, and rightly so residents, the Hartford Ave. East change was canceled. It seems a few individuals are promoting their own self-interest over and above the well-wishes of Mendon community at large. This proposed and subsequent change and especially for the “Sale of Marijuana” in Mendon should have been a town-wide vote and not take up at the annual town meeting.

Jon Tobin
Mendon

Mendon’s “Sin Tax”

To the Editor,

Yes, the Town of Mendon endorsed by their town officials, Mike Morrelli and his son Tom Morrelli, proponents for the sale of marijuana, have changed the “Little” Town of Mendon by endorsing a new “Sin Tax”. That’s what it’s called, the tax from the sale of alcohol, cigarettes and now marijuana. On Friday May 3, Tom Morrelli gave a slide presentation to residents in the Missisquoi Hill School auditorium, his version of “why taxes from the sale of marijuana would reduce residential taxes in Mendon”.

When my family moved to Mendon almost 10 years ago it was a small bedroom community and that is what it attracted us. Not according to Tom and Mike Morrelli, their vision for Mendon is to change Mendon to a tax revenue industry by changing the zoning rules from “General Business” (GB) to “Highway Business” (HB) in order to allow a marijuana retail establishment. What neither of these two individuals seem to comprehend is that this new source of revenue will bring increased traffic of unsavory-like characters into our community.

Mendon residents should read “Marijuana, Mental Illness and Violence” by Alex Berenson, https://imprims.hillsdale.edu/marijuana-mental-illness-violence/ as a Mendon resident, I am very disappointed in our officials for endorsing this change from “General Business (GB) and Rural Residents (RB)” to Highway Business (HB) designation along Rt. 140 (Cape Rd.) and Hartford Ave. East from the Hopedale to Bellingham town lines. But thanks to a few concerned, and rightly so residents, the Hartford Ave. East change was canceled. It seems a few individuals are promoting their own self-interest over and above the well-wishes of Mendon community at large. This proposed and subsequent change and especially for the “Sale of Marijuana” in Mendon should have been a town-wide vote and not take up at the annual town meeting.

Nimac senior Suvahar Gaskill, junior Mia Belan, and senior Leon Jofaka (l-r) pose for the audience during the Grand March Parade, before 2019 Prom held on May 10 at The Biltmore Hotel in Providence.

LETTERS
Letters may be edited for length and clarity and will be published on a space available basis. Maximum 300 words.
Must include your name, address & phone number.
Opinions expressed are solely those of the writer. Town Crier Publications will not be responsible for inaccuracies. No Political Endorsements, please!

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Town Crier Publications Inc. reserves the right to reject unsolicited items, calls for publication in a timely manner. All submitted material becomes the property of the Town Crier and no return of proofs or unsolicited items will be made. The Town Crier’s appearing on a publication is by the writer’s volition and not by any change that portion of the law in which the error appears.

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Upton-Mendon Town Crier JUNE 7, 2019
**Upton Trash Recycling Schedule**

Effective July 1, Upton residents who use the town’s curbside trash and recycling service may have a new pick-up day. In order to help save the taxpayers money, the curbside pickup program is going from a three-day to a five-day schedule. Please read the insert in this issue of The Town Crier for the new pick-up dates. For more information, call the Upton Board of Health, 508-529-6813.

**Upton Trash Recycling Schedule**

**Missing Cockatiel**

Alouis Niane and his wife Kaori have lost their cockatiel, which flew away from their home on School St. Upton, on May 25. The bird, named Pi-chu, is friendly and make take refuge on peoples’ shoulders. Anyone who finds the cockatiel is asked to call 973-896-1941 or 973-953-7801.

**Upton Horsefly Ban**

Larry Harlow, owner of Harlow’s Stable, has been ordered by the Board of Selectmen to remove all horseflies from the premises. The order was given after a complaint was received from a neighbor who was bitten by horseflies while walking his dog. The horseflies were found to be carrying the disease known as West Nile Virus, which can be fatal to humans and other animals.

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**The Advertiser’s Club Directory**

Those are the businesses that contract to advertise in The Upton and Mendon Town Crier at least 12 times in a year (1/16 page and larger) in the Upton-Mendon Town Crier. For more information contact: Lori Tate: 508-529-0301 loritatemendontc@gmail.com

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Milford Federal Bank will hold a free first time home buyer seminar on Saturday, June 15, at the Milford Federal branch, 1271 Providence Rd., Whitinsville, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Milford Federal Mortgage Loan Specialist, Beth Caico (NMLS #414859), will answer all questions and help participants determine which program is best fits their needs. Learn about private mortgage insurance, the differences between fixed and adjustable rate mortgages, and low down payment programs available. Keith Seymour, Realtor at Keller Williams – Pinnacle Blackstone Valley, will also discuss his role in the home buying process and answer any questions. All attendees will receive free pre-approvals and a $250 Closing Cost Credit Coupon. RSVP today by calling 508-234-2450 or by emailing Beth.Caico@MilfordFederal.com.

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**PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.**

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**Upton-Mendon Town Crier**

8 JUNE 7, 2019
Regional Drive-Through Recycling & Reuse Event

A regional drive-through recycling and reuse event is returning to North Grafton, on Saturday, June 22 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, 201 Westboro Rd. Items being collected include electronics, Styrofoam (white #6 only), textiles, books and more. All towns are welcome to participate. Fees, cash only, are as follows: small electronics, visit wecan-ma.org for list of items, $10 each, monitors and televisions $20 each. Styrofoam is being collected at no charge, only #6 white – no food containers or packaging peanuts and free of stickers and tape. Clean, dry and odor free used clothing and textiles, shoes, purses, wallets, belts, sheets, curtains, pillows, table cloths (holes and rips okay) are being collected for non-profit organizations. Also collected for the Cummings Veterinary Center at Tufts University and local animal shelters are clean, old, worn sheets, towels and blankets; please mark the bag Animal. New or like-new craft and office supplies are being donated to The Great Exchange. Other items being collected at the June 22 event include used mascara wands (wash with Dawn dish detergent and dry, being donated to animal wildlife refuge centers), dried out colored markers, Sharpies, highlighters and dry erase markers.

The event is hosted by WE CAN and Grafton, Northborough, Shrewsbury and Westborough, and is open to all surrounding communities. No early birds, please. Volunteers welcome.

For more information and map, visit WeCan-MA.org or contact Irene Congdon at 413-348-9353 or Irene_congdon3@yahoo.com.
Upton-Mendon Town Crier

JUNE 7, 2019

HOME IMPROVEMENT

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• Kitchen & Bathroom Remodeling
• Siding • Roofs • Masonry
• Power Washing
• Gutter Repairs & Cleaning

CARPENTRY • INTERIOR & EXTERIOR PAINTING
• Wood Flooring • Decks
• Kitchen & Bathroom Remodeling
• Siding • Roofs • Masonry
• Power Washing
• Gutter Repairs & Cleaning
• Basement Finishing

HOME IMPROVEMENT
• Wood Flooring • Decks
• Kitchen & Bathroom Remodeling
• Siding • Roofs • Masonry
• Power Washing
• Gutter Repairs & Cleaning

INTERIOR & EXTERIOR PAINTING
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• Kitchen
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118 North Main St., Uxbridge

UNION-BRIDGE HOME IMPROVEMENT

Upton-Mendon Town Crier

JUNE 7, 2019

HOME IMPROVEMENT

UniBank Home Buying Seminar in Blackstone

UniBank is sponsoring free monthly home buying seminars throughout 2019. These educational opportunities provide homeowners with valuable information about finding and buying the home of their dreams. Important discussion topics include: Negotiating a Winning Offer, Finding the Right Mortgage and Pre-Qualifying, Down Payment Options, The Importance of Home Inspections, and more. Refreshments will be served and a door prize will be awarded at each event.

The next one will be Tuesday, June 18, from 6 to 8 p.m. at UniBank’s Blackstone branch, 10 Cheney St. Seminar speakers include: Karen Beane, UniBank Mortgage Consultant (NMLS #485228); Peter Viele, Home Inspector; JCM Associates; Linn Butler, Realtor, Afonso Real Estate; Christopher Ryan, Attorney, Ryan Law Office and Alan Ratcliff, Appraiser, WJN Appraisals. Contact UniBank’s Kim Briggs (NMLS #930666) at 508-883-4120 or kim.briggs@unibank.com to register. Attendees will be entered for a chance to win a $100 gift card. All seminar attendees will receive a $250 mortgage closing cost coupon from UniBank. For up-to-date details, visit UniBank.com

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Upton-Mendon Town Crier

JUNE 7, 2019
Tops of the Class: BVT 2019 Valedictorian and Salutatorian

Zoe Mahoney, the daughter of Tammy and Timothy Mahoney of Sutton, is the Valley Tech Class of 2019 Valedictorian. A member of the Valley Tech Chapter of the National Honor Society and National Technical Honor Society, she graduated from Engineering & Robotics department and received the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Award of Academic Excellence (the M.A.S.S. Certificate of Academic Excellence). She competed annually in SkillsUSA and was a member of the 2018-2019 VEX Robotics team 790X, which earned the Excellence Award, Design Award, Tournament Champions Award, Innovate Award, and the Amaze Award at various tournaments. She was also a member of the Engineering Advisory Committee. Mahoney will be attending Worcester Polytechnic Institute to study Aerospace Engineering with a concentration in Aeronautical Engineering.

Academic Excellence (the M.A.S.S. Certificate of Academic Excellence). He also received the Rensselaer Medal, which is awarded for outstanding achievement in Math and Science. Goldberg competed annually in SkillsUSA and was secretary of the BVT Gaming Club. Outside of Valley Tech, he was a volunteer at the Milford Youth Center as a homework helper and tutoring students. Goldberg will attend UMass Amherst, where he plans to study Computer Science.
CONGRATULATIONS NIPMUC CLASS OF 2019

Haley Gene Alcott
Hannah Marie Anderson
Osama Sifin Aziz
Erin Elizabeth Bailey NHS
Michelle Amelia Barboza NHS
Abigail Hope Basile
Jason James Bates
Jacob Timothy Beder
Julia Ann Bernero NHS
Nicole Paige Bohan NHS
Lily Aloysius Bolton
Noah Joseph Breen
Jay Michael Brodeur
Tyler John Brown
Jackson Trevor Bukunt NHS
Christopher Drew Burroughs
Trevor Allan Byrne
Blake Joseph Cannistraro
Hunter Cass Carey
Timothy Paul Carey
Devin Michael Carr
David Donald Chapman, II
Madison Elizabeth Chase NHS
Thomas Chase Chesters
Monica Marie Cilley
Bridget Keely Clark
Ashley Joan Marie Coddington
Daniel Patrick Cook
Carolyn Michelle Cote
Thomas Matthew Crocker
Hayden James Curley
John Robert Dacey
Audra Elisa Dankwardt NHS
Julia Marie Derrocher
Jackson Tobin DesRoches
Olivia Ann DiCecco
Alicia Schiano DiColella
Adriana Raymond Ditany
Samantha Kelly Donnell
Preston John Dougherty
Thomas Andrew Doyle NHS
Hannah Elizabeth Drainville
Emily Hope Drumme
Erin Kathleen Dugas
Willow Mae Dunster NHS
Madison Elizabeth Duplessis NHS
Robin Nicole Duple NHS
Raggi Ziah Ermale
Michael Scott Evans
Maria Teresa Facey
Kerri Christopher Farragher NHS
Richard Roland Faubert
Andrew Jonathan Fino
Savarah Jeanne Gaskill
Robert Francis Gately
Isabella Elise Genova NHS
David Michael Giglietti
Natalie Sheila Ginsberg
Michelle Ann Goddard NHS
Jake Robert Grant
Adam Niro Grenon
Megan de Oliveira Hartle
Emily Nichole Hartwig NHS
Lucy Katherine Hawkins NHS
Zackery Joseph Hebb
Isabella Violet Hebert
Colby Martin Hegarty
Jonathan Michael Hilton
Samuel Lee Hilton
Chloe Elizabeth Hoff NHS
Taylor Rae Horton
Lauren Artena Hun
Michael Joseph Iada
Andrew Neur Jayrou
Charr Jobe
Jennifer Frances Jok
Kyle Erin Jordan
Julia Gretchen Kevi
Samantha Shae Kie
Lillian Cesidia Kime
Zachary Kane Kirby
Shay Elizabeth Lafl
Cale Henry LaBonne
Jasmie Alexia Lands
Anina Beth Lawrence
Nicole Sheridan Lawson
Bridget Irene Lazau
Taylor Jordan Leach
Audrey Ann Lemieux
Samantha Kilcoyne, the daughter of Cheryl and Kevin Kilcoyne of Upton, is the Nipmuc Regional High School Class of 2019 Valedictorian. A member of the National Honor Society and the French Honor Society, she received the MA Association of School Superintendent’s Award and the Nipmuc Calculus Award. A state champion swimmer, Samantha received the Nipmuc Scholar-Athlete Award and was named Nipmuc Athlete of the Year. She finished the dual meet competition undefeated this year and has lost only once during the regular seasons of her high school career. She won the state title for butterfly during her sophomore year and finished second in the same competition as a junior. This year in the state championship, Samantha won the 100-yard butterfly and earned All-American consideration in the process with her time of 55.41 seconds and also won the 100 backstroke. Signing an athletic Letter of Intent with Williams College, she will swim for that school and will study math.

Nicole Bohan, the daughter of Carol and Gary Bohan of Upton, is the Nipmuc Class of 2019 Salutatorian. A member of the National Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society, she was presented with the Nipmuc Statistics Award and the Waters Corporation Excellence in Science Award. She will attend Tufts University in the fall.

Top of the Class: Nipmuc 2019 Valedictorian and Salutatorian

Nicole Bohan
Samantha Kilcoyne

Tops of the Class: Nipmuc 2019 Valedictorian and Salutatorian

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CONGRATULATIONS NIPMUC CLASS OF 2019

The 154 members of the Nipmuc Regional High School Class of 2019 were all smiles as they stood on the stage in the school gym for their Commencement on May 31.

"Fellow classmates, you became your own superheroes," said Nipmuc graduating senior Kayla Salgueiro.

"Wherever they go, the Class of 2019 will make their community stronger," said Moran.

The diplomas were presented to the students by School Committee Chairperson Leigh Martin before they recessed out of the gymnasium as graduates.

To view more photos of the 2019 Nipmuc Graduation taken by Town Crier reporter Melissa Orff, visit Facebook Town Crier Publications.

Nipmuc graduation speaker, Christina Vanslette said that the memories made by the Class of 2019 will inspire them to make more.

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Fourteen Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) seniors participated in Mass STEM Hub's STEM Signing Day, committing to studying STEM disciplines after graduation. STEM Signing Day was an opportunity to celebrate students who are committed to pursuing STEM disciplines after graduating from high school. Mass STEM Hub's High School Student Showcase featured projects by over 300 high school students in PLTW’s courses across Massachusetts. In these courses, students engage in applied learning, helping students develop 21st-century skills including critical thinking, complex problem-solving, communication, and collaboration—all needed to succeed in today’s rapidly changing, tech-infused world.

All of the students received authentic feedback from STEM industry volunteer judges on their projects and presentations, connecting the work they did in the classroom to the work these experts do daily. Over 100 professionals volunteered as judges, from over 40 organizations including Comcast, MassDOT’s Highway Division, Boston Scientific, Cisco, Saint-Gobain, and Wayfair. Judges selected winning projects in four categories, including mastery of concept, best capstone project, presentation skills, and innovation. The Excellence in Presentation award was awarded to a team from Blackstone Valley Technical High School, who presented a library renovation civil engineering project. The Excellence in Innovation award was awarded to a team from Blackstone Valley Technical High School, who presented a Civil Engineering project.

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American International College
American International College awarded more than 600 undergraduate and graduate degrees to students representing 22 states and nine countries at the 134th Commencement on May 11 in Springfield. Local graduates were Caroline Martell of Mendon who received a graduate degree in Pre-Medical Studies and Kayla Prairie of Upton who received a graduate degree in Early Childhood Education.

Assumption College
Among the 635 graduates who received a degree during Assumption College's 102nd Commencement exercises on Sunday, May 12, held at the DCU Center in downtown Worcester, were Kyle Finger of Mendon and Patrick Waters of Upton.

Katerina DiChiara
Katerina DiChiara of Mendon was among the graduate and undergraduate students at Lasell College who were awarded degrees on Saturday, May 11 in Newton. DiChiara graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication.

Brandon A. Gaulin
Brandon A. Gaulin of Mendon received a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology at the Fitchburg State University Commencement Exercises held on May 16 in Fitchburg.

Katherine Z. Chalak
Katherine Z. Chalak of Upton was among those who graduated with honors from the University of Massachusetts, Boston with dual Bachelor of Science degrees in Biology-Premedical studies from the College of Math and Science and Psychology from the College of Liberal Arts. She was an active member of Phi Delta Epsilon Pre-Medical Fraternity and Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society. She was on the Dean's List all four years. Chalak has accepted a research position in Cardiology at Upton Children's Hospital.

Lauren Campbell
Lauren Campbell, daughter of Michael and Kathy Campbell of Upton graduated from the Honors Program at Merrimack College on May 19. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Human Development & Human Services and Education. Lauren achieved President’s List and was inducted into Kappa Delta Phi Honor Society in Education, Father John J. McKinn, OS A Honor Society for Service, Greek Honor Society Order of Omega and National Society of Leadership and Success.

Lauren C. Clish, M. Ed.
Lauren C. Clish of Upton received her Master in Fine Arts degree from Heartwood College of Art in Maine. She is currently an art teacher at Nipmuc Regional High School. She and her husband Ted Clish, have three children and live in Uxbridge.

William Craemer
William Craemer, of Upton, is a 2019 graduate of Saint John's High School in Shrewsbury. A member of National Honor Society, Will was an honor roll student, including Headmaster’s List. He was chosen to participate in an AP Environmental Biology research trip to Yellowstone with Ecology Project International. He will study business at the University of Colorado Boulder in the fall. Will is the son of Frank and Michele Craemer.

Brandon A. Gaulin
Brandon A. Gaulin of Mendon received a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology at the Fitchburg State University Commencement Exercises held on May 16 in Fitchburg.

Kyla Gazoorian
Kyla Gazoorian of Upton recently graduated from Emerson College. She received her Bachelor of Fine Art degree in Theatre and Performance on Sunday, May 12 during Commencement ceremonies on the college campus in Boston.

Hannah Goddard
On May 25, Hannah Goddard, the daughter of Michael and Barbara Goddard of Mendon, took part in the 79th annual commencement ceremony at Endicott College in Beverly. Goddard graduated cum Laude with a Bachelor Science in Hospitality Management.

Green resident Nadiya Chalak graduated Magna Cum Laude from Salve Regina University in Newport, during their commencement on May 19. Aiello earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology, with minors in both Chemistry and Neuroscience. A 2015 graduate of Notre Dame Academy in Worcester, she plans to pursue a career as a Physician’s Assistant.

Nadiya Sarah Chalak
Nadiya Sarah Chalak of Upton graduated from Whitinsville Christian High School as a high honors scholar. She received the Presidential Education Award all four years and was an active member of the National Honor Society. She played singles varsity tennis for four years, becoming co-captain. Along with horseback riding and karate, she enjoyed being a tutor, preschool assistant and member of various clubs. New Student Orientation, 4-H Upton Hoofbeats and Yearbook. Nadiya is the recipient of WP1's Presidential Scholarship and will study Environmental Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute this fall.

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Jarrod Robert Lareau
Jarrod Robert Lareau, son of Regina and Richard Lareau of Mendon graduated from Norfolk County Agricultural High School in Uxbridge in the Agricultural Mechanics program. He plans to enlist in the U.S. Army.

Katerina DiChiara
Katerina DiChiara of Mendon was among the graduate and undergraduate students at Lasell College who were awarded degrees on Saturday, May 11 in Newton. DiChiara graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication.

Jason Colwell
Jason Colwell from Mendon, who earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in management, graduated from Coastal Carolina University. Commencement exercises were held May 10 and 11 at the Conway, S.C. campus.

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Kyla Gazoorian of Upton recently graduated from Emerson College. She received her Bachelor of Fine Art degree in Theatre and Performance on Sunday, May 12 during Commencement ceremonies on the college campus in Boston.

Hannah Goddard
On May 25, Hannah Goddard, the daughter of Michael and Barbara Goddard of Mendon, took part in the 79th annual commencement ceremony at Endicott College in Beverly. Goddard graduated cum Laude with a Bachelor Science in Hospitality Management.

Nicole Pierce
Nicole Pierce of Upton was among the 3,275 students who were awarded degrees during the University of Vermont’s 218th commencement ceremonies on May 19 in Burlington. Pierce graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychological Science.

Samuel Pirozzi
Curry College, located in Milton, is pleased to announce that Samuel Pirozzi of Upton received a Bachelor of Arts degree at Commencement Exercises that took place at the Xfinity Center in Mansfield, on May 19.
Joseph Roberto

Joseph Roberto, a 2012 Nipmuc graduate from Mendon was recently awarded a Master of Science degree in Applied Biomedical Engineering from Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore. Roberto received his undergraduate degrees in Biomedical and Mechanical Engineering at Penn State University. He is currently employed in the Neurological Division of Integrative Medicine at Johns Hopkins University.

Emily Santos

Emily Santos of Mendon graduated from Bridgewater State University Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders. As a 2015 Nipmuc Regional High School graduate, she is a member of the Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society. Emily is the daughter of Cliff and Caren Santos and plans to continue her studies by pursuing a graduate degree in Speech-Language Pathology at Worcester State University.

Tara Sharp

Tara Sharp of Upton, graduated from Worcester Polytechnic Institute with a Master Degree in Fire Protection Engineering. She also received her undergraduate Degree at WPI in Mechanical Engineering in 2017. She is the daughter of Robyn and Tim Sharp.

Melody Wiklund

Melody Wiklund of Upton was among the 305 graduates including 22 graduate students who received degrees from Benedictine College in Atchison, Kan. in May. She graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in English and Spanish.

Hannah Wolf

Hannah Wolf, the daughter of Christine Wolf of Upton, graduated from Westfield State University cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Art, concentration in Graphic Design and a minor in Business Management. She also is a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Art Honor Society and attained the Dean’s List all four years. She graduated from Nipmuc Regional High School.

Other Graduates 2019

Joseph Roberto

Joseph Roberto, a 2012 Nipmuc graduate from Mendon was recently awarded a Master of Science degree in Applied Biomedical Engineering from Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore. Roberto received his undergraduate degrees in Biomedical and Mechanical Engineering at Penn State University. He is currently employed in the Neurological Division of Integrative Medicine at Johns Hopkins University.

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School News

Mendon-Upton Regional
Compiled by Melissa Orff
Staff Reporter

CLOUGH: All Clough students participated in the National Outdoor Classroom Day on May 23 by doing projects such as chalk mapping, 3D drawing and making bird feeders.

Fourth grade students met emergency preparedness experts from the Mendon EMA, Fire and Police Departments to kick-off a Project Based Learning unit focusing on the disasters faced by U.S. Regions. Miscoe Hill Principal Jennifer Mannion, and some sixth graders visited fourth graders to discuss the transition to middle school. Marie Brigham’s fourth grade students held their Pen Pal Luncheon with Mendon senior citizens on May 23.

The PTO and parent volunteers honored Clough teachers and staff with a Teacher Appreciation Luncheon on May 22 with food from Gullifords of Mendon, Blue Moon Bakery of Medfield and homemade items. Clough staff members appreciate all that was done.

Clough students, directed by Music Teacher, Deyvinn Boudreau, held a Rehearsal Day Concert on May 22, honoring service members who lost their lives defending the country and demonstrating the unique talents of their students.

Memorial Day. Memorial Day Program honoring veterans and their families with performances by the Chorus and Band. Also on May 24, the School-Wide Diabetes walk took place and donations were collected for diabetes research. Students and staff will celebrate the end of school with field days in June for all classes.

Eight graders will hold the Semi-Formal Dance on June 8, spend a fun day at Six Flags New England on June 11, be honored on June 13, at the 8th Grade Awards Ceremony; and take part in the 8th Grade Commencement Ceremony on June 14, the last day of school.

On June 7, the Seventh and Eighth Grade Band and Chorus will participate in the Music in the Parks Festival at Lake Compounce, Bristol, Conn. and then enjoy a day at the park.

One of Kylie’s drawings of the mechanics of a horse.

PORTFOLIO AWARD WINNERS: Kyla’s portfolio of work was selected as one of the best in the state. She has been working on her portfolio throughout the school year.

Kyla’s portfolio includes a variety of mediums such as pencil, colored pencil, and watercolor. She also enjoys experimenting with different techniques, such as chalk and pastel. Her portfolio demonstrates her strong technical skills and her ability to express herself through art.

Kyla has been working on her portfolio since the beginning of the school year and has put a lot of time and effort into it. She is proud of her work and is excited to share it with others.

The portfolio includes a variety of pieces, such as still lifes, landscapes, and portraits. Kyla’s favorite piece is a self-portrait that she created using a variety of techniques. She enjoys experimenting with different mediums and techniques and is looking forward to continuing her artistic journey.

Kyla’s portfolio highlights her dedication to her craft and her passion for art. She has a strong work ethic and is always striving to improve her skills.

Kyla is grateful for the support of her teachers and family throughout her artistic journey. She is excited to see where her talent will take her in the future.

Kyla is looking forward to the future and hopes to continue her artistic journey. She is excited to see what the future holds for her and is grateful for the support of her teachers and family throughout her artistic journey.

Kyla’s portfolio is a testament to her dedication and hard work. It is a beautiful collection of her art and demonstrates her talent and passion for art.
Selectmen Discuss Closing Warren St.

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Once again, a discussion on closing Warren St. came up during the Upton Board of Selectmen’s meeting. The item was on the Look Ahead topics of the May 21 agenda, meaning it will be discussed more in depth at a future meeting. Still, the Board held a brief discussion on investigating the possibility. Warren St. runs adjacent to the Town Hall and is part of a five-road intersection in the center of town. A number of parking spots for the Town Hall can be utilized by crossing Warren St., causing safety concerns among town officials. Some parking spots, including several handicap spots, also run vertical to the building on Warren St. “Obviously, it’s a safety issue. We’ve had some near misses of people walking on and off the Town Hall,” he said. “It’s a little bit dangerous over there,” said new Selectman Chair Stephen Matellian. He added, however, one of the downsides of closing Warren St. could be the traffic that would instead utilize Church St., which has a preschool run at United Parish.

According to Town Manager Derek Brindisi, the primary goal concerning the Town Hall parking is to reconfigure its handicap parking before the winter months set in. “Winter time is extremely challenging for those folks,” he said. As a result, Brindisi explained a design engineer was brought in who recommended a head in parking option facing the building which would also add seven more parking spots. Brindisi recommended temporarily closing Warren St. for the next six to 12 months to complete the project, which would also give town officials the necessary time to study the effects of closing Warren St. “A temporary closure would give you a better idea of the traffic situation,” agreed Selectman Maureen McCormick, who was in attendance, said.

Selectman Brett Simas questioned with the parking reconfiguration, could Warren St. reopen if need be, to which Brindisi said yes. Simas added the Fire Chief, Police Chief, and DPW Director have favored closing down Warren St. for some time. “So, there’s no reason we wouldn’t do a temporary closure to see what the impact is,” he said. Economic Development Committee member Bill McCormick, who was in attendance, said the Committee has been working with Police Chief Michael Bradley who is “100 percent in support of closing the street.”

Brindisi also recommended beginning a future Selectman’s meeting in the parking lot in order to explain what the new parking lay out would resemble. Selectman Brett Simas commented on the parking configuration, could Warren St. reopen if need be, to which Brindisi said yes. Simas added the Fire Chief, Police Chief, and DPW Director have favored closing down Warren St. for some time. “So, there’s no reason we wouldn’t do a temporary closure to see what the impact is,” he said. Economic Development Committee member Bill McCormick, who was in attendance, said the Committee has been working with Police Chief Michael Bradley who is “100 percent in support of closing the street.”

Selectmen Updates Selectmen on House Budget

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter/Columnist

State Rep. David Muradian R. Grafton attended Upton’s May 21 Board of Selectmen’s meeting to provide a brief overview of the House of Representatives’ budget. Muradian first began his discussion by offering up his congratulations to Maureen Dwinell for winning the Selectman’s seat and also thanked former Selectman Gary Daugherty for his service. In early April, Muradian explained, the House budget came out and over the course of the next several days representatives are given the opportunity to file amendments. “Then, in the last full week of April, we have our budget debate,” he said.

Discussing the House’s budget for the schools, Muradian stated Chapter 70 funding for Upton totaled $39,799, for the Mendon Upton Regional School District the number was $12,488,756 and unrestricted General Government Aid was $34,863. “If we’re looking at just those three, we have a difference of $50,000 over last year,” he said. The House budget, he explained, is looked upon as a roadmap, “Something to build upon.” He added the Governor’s budget reflects a minimum aid level of $20 per pupil for all districts, which is a $7.9 million increase. “Given the budget, I don’t think that’s adequate. I was certainly going to sign on to $50 per pupil. I would have signed onto $100 per pupil. Unfortunately, we couldn’t find the revenues to get there but I’m proud to say we did give $30 per pupil in the house.” Muradian also noted working with the Town Manager, $25,000 was secured for public safety improvements in Upton. Also, an additional $250,000 was secured for the Pathways Early College Grants Program. The Senate’s budget was expected to be finalized in May. Town Manager Derek Brindisi wanted to make certain residents understood the financial impact the state rep. has contributed to the town. “That’s a net increase of $33,000 he’s brought locally to this year’s budget,” Brindisi said, reflecting back to last year’s numbers. “We all know how tight our budget is this year so it’s going to be extremely helpful.” In other news that evening, Bill McCormick from the Men’s Club said his organization was continuing to look into installing banners on telephone polls that run from Elm St. to Mechanic St., perhaps every other pole. No design has been finalized but the banners would measure 18 inches wide by 36 inches high. McCormick was looking for the Selectmen’s blessing on the measure and now needs Verzion and National Grid’s approval before moving forward.

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Upton-Mendon Town Crier
JUNE 7, 2019
Free Outdoor Kick-Off Summer Concert

MILFORD—The Milford Regional Medical Center (MRMC) Auxiliary is selling raffle tickets for Scratch tickets and a $25 gift card to Prego’s from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Families are welcome to bring their own picnic and a blanket or chairs for their comfort. Concert is free and open to the public. The 2019 Summer Kick-Off Concert will be sponsored by Eversource and the Corbett Family. For more information, visit HopArtCenter.org/summerconcert.

Father’s Day Raffle

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BVA Events

AREA-Local teams are invited to show their creativity at the Blackstone Valley Art Association (BVA) art show, which starts with an artist reception on Friday, June 21, and continues on Saturday, June 22. This year, the BVA art show will be held at the gallery is a function of Valley Cast. An application for the show and all the show criteria can be found at BVA.org. For additional information, email info@bva.org or stop by the Gallery on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Les Sampaou – America/Blues/Country Singer

MILFORD—Les Sampaou is a powerful, emotional vocalist in the tradition of Lucinda Williams, Bonnie Raitt and Bory Block and has been chosen as the critical support act for Family Reunion lega, with special guests Richard Thompson, Nancy and Ann Wilson of Heart, Pat Benatar, Johnny Lang, and Sugarland, will present a concert at the Milford Town Library on Wednesday, June 26 at 7 p.m.

Friends of Taft Public Library Book Sale

MENDON: The Friends of the Taft Public Library will hold their spring Book Sale on Saturday, June 8 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Weather permitting it will be outside on the Municipal Lawn in Mendon. In case of rain, the sale will be held indoors in the library. The Friends are accepting donations of gently used books, audiobooks, DVDs, CDs, and videocassettes. They will not take textbooks, text books, or any copies of books. Donations should be brought to the Friends book drop entrance. Proceeds from the sale will be used to purchase new books for the library.

Annual Sharon Timlin SK and Family Fun Day for ALS

MILFORD—TOM: The Sharon Timlin SK Family Fun Day for ALS will be held on Saturday, June 15, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Sharon Timlin SK Foundation, 4 Dedham Road, Sharon, Ma. Waiting will be held outside on the Municipal Lawn in Mendon. In case of rain, the sale will be held indoors in the library. Donations of gently used books, audiobooks, DVDs, CDs, and videocassettes. They will not take textbooks, text books, or any copies of books. Donations should be brought to the Friends book drop entrance. Proceeds from the sale will be used to purchase new books for the library.

The Circus in Mendon

MENDON—On Monday, July 15, the Zerbini Family Circus will present two shows under the Big Top at 5 and 7:30 p.m. for the enjoyment of all in Mendon and those from surrounding towns. All the shows will take place at the school parking lot next to the school. For more information, call 508-891-1205.

Anna Jo Schaffhausen – Crime and Mystery Author

MILFORD—Anna Jo Schaffhausen returns to the Milford Town Library on Wednesday, June 12, at 7 p.m. to read from her new book: No Mercy: This stunning follow-up to The Vanishing Season finds police officer Ellery Hathaway and FBI profiler Reed Markham taking on two difficult new cases.

Vendors Sought for Upton Bloomer Girls Fall Fair

UPTON—The Bloomer Girls Fall Fair (previously The Upton Bloomer Fall Fair) is being held on Saturday, November 2 at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School, 65 Pleasant St., Upton, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is the biggest and best fair in Upton, and a wonderful opportunity to tap into the pre-holiday shopping. Vendors are invited to sell crafts, products and services. Both spaces are limited and accepted on a first come basis.

For more information or to register, contact: Donna MacNaughton, Vendor Chairman Fall Fair at donnamac23@verizon.net. (508) 473-7153.

Twice Blessed Thrift Shop

HOPEDALE—The Upton ladies of the Hopedale Twice Blessed Thrift Shop will offer 50 percent off men’s clothing and accessories in June. Open the first and fourth Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. plus Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sundays from 9 a.m. to noon.

Milford Area Chamber of Commerce Events

AREA—The Milford Area Chamber of Commerce (MACC) will be holding the following events. For more information, visit MilfordChamber.org, email business@milfordchamber.org, call 508-478-6700 or stop by the office, 258 Main Street, Suite 306, Milford.

Thursday, June 6, 5 p.m., MAAC Match at 11:45 a.m. at Brace Beach and Diner, 261 Main Street, Franklin.

Friday, June 7, 6 p.m., Benchmark Senior Living’s 2019 Vintage Night, Franklin.

Tuesday, June 11, 5 to 7 p.m., at Joe’s American Bar & Grille, 466 King St., Franklin.

June 25, PULSE Young Professionals: Beach Bash, Presented by Benchmark Senior Living, 4 Forge Hill Rd., Franklin, for lunch and networking.

HKA Karaoke Night

HOPEDALE—The Upton Ladies Auxiliary will be holding an event to raise funds for the Maharishi Foundation. All proceeds will be used to purchase a new harp for the band. The event will be held at the Upton Senior Center, 50 East St., Upton. For more information, call 508-522-7678.

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Schaffhausen won the 2016 winnet of the Mystery Writers of America/St. Martin’s Minotaur First Crime Novel Award for The Vanishing Season.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Milford Town Library, this event is free and open to the public.
Friends of Mendon Elders’ Town-Wide Progressive Yard Sale. The 41st Strawberry Festival on Saturday, June 8. Mendon and Uxbridge will be celebrating its 41st Annual Strawberry Festival on Saturday, 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, 32 Providence St., Mendon where shoppers can 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 shopping area for bargain hunters to search the 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 friendsofmendonelders@verizon.net.

Mendon Voters Support Police Station Debt Exclusion

The one race that voters determined during the election concerned the three-year seat on the Mendon Upton Regional School Committee. Kerry Ann Laurence beat challenger Greta Von Der Luft by a vote of 263 to 67. Mendon also has a new Selectman to fill a seat that was vacant after Rich Schofield resigned last fall. Lawney Tinio ran for the one-year seat unchallenged but still received 297 votes from residents. Incumbent Mark Reil was also running again for his three-year seat and was also unchallenged but received 323 votes.

The remaining offices were also unchallenged. Jay Byer received 343 votes for the Moderator’s one-year term, Andrew Fiske received 322 votes for the Board of Health’s three-year seat, Kenneth Tomlinson received 316 votes for the Assessor’s three-year seat, Allan Byrne received 335 votes for the Park Commissioner’s three-year seat, and Kevin Rudden received 322 votes for the Water Commissioner’s three-year seat.

There were two, three-year offices for the Taft Public Library that were unchallenged and included Amy Fahey who received 333 votes and Shana Jo Miller who received 323 votes. Others re-elected included John Vanderschaar for the Planning Board’s five-year seat received 317 votes, Peter Denton for the Housing Authority’s five-year seat received 337 votes, and Lawney Tinio for the Tree Warden’s three-year seat received 318 votes. A total of 422 votes were cast.

Celebrate Summer

Mendon News

The Friends of Mendon Elders was once again held 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, 32 Providence St., Mendon where shoppers can 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

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Celebrate Summer

with THE WILLOWS AT WESTBOROUGH

JUNE 19 Interboro Community Band

26 Fantasy Big Band

JULY 10 Dan Gabel and the Ablenetones

17 High Society Orchestra

24 Tom Nuttie Band

AUGUST 7 The Reminiscents

All Concerts Begin at 7:00 p.m. | Wednesday Evenings | Free Admission

Increased monies will fund the anticipated costs of three alternates for the new headquarters that include the eventual demolition of the current building, final paving of the parking lot, and completing the second level of the new addition. Monies will also help cover increasing construction and material costs and contend with the unsuitable soils found on the site. Although construction has begun on the new headquarters, Cronin said there’s no estimated date when the project will be completed but now that the alternates are part of the construction, the timeline will be extended. The tax impact to a $400,000 home is expected to be approximately $41. However, that number will fluctuate as the town’s valuation changes annually.

The remaining offices were also unchallenged. Jay Byer received 343 votes for the Moderator’s one-year term, Andrew Fiske received 322 votes for the Board of Health’s three-year seat, Kenneth Tomlinson received 316 votes for the Assessor’s three-year seat, Allan Byrne received 335 votes for the Park Commissioner’s three-year seat, and Kevin Rudden received 322 votes for the Water Commissioner’s three-year seat.

There were two, three-year offices for the Taft Public Library that were unchallenged and included Amy Fahey who received 333 votes and Shana Jo Miller who received 323 votes. Others re-elected included John Vanderschaar for the Planning Board’s five-year seat received 317 votes, Peter Denton for the Housing Authority’s five-year seat received 337 votes, and Lawney Tinio for the Tree Warden’s three-year seat received 318 votes. A total of 422 votes were cast.

Celebrate Summer

with THE WILLOWS AT WESTBOROUGH

JUNE 19 Interboro Community Band

26 Fantasy Big Band

JULY 10 Dan Gabel and the Ablenetones

17 High Society Orchestra

24 Tom Nuttie Band

AUGUST 7 The Reminiscents

Ample free parking at Hastings School just across East Main Street

Refreshments available for purchase

Area charities benefit from donations,

in our tradition of community pride

In case of rain, inside seating exclusively for Willow’s Residents & their guests

no pets, please S A M O N H E A L T H . c o m

The W I L L O W S

P R I M E R R E T I R E M E N T C O M M U N I T I E S F O R A C T I V E A D U L T S

The Historical Commission wanted to talk to you this evening about the Demolition Delay bylaw and the difficulties that we are experiencing in making sure that the conditions of the bylaw are carried out,” said Commission Chair Lynne Roberts in her opening statement. Roberts stated the bylaw makes it very clear that property owners, the Historical Commission, and the Building Inspector have responsibilities prior to a structure being demolished. “Over the past year alone, we’ve had four instances where procedures have not been followed,” said Roberts. One such instance concerned one of the last remaining farm houses in town located at 143 Hartford Ave. East, currently owned by Rt. 85 Realty. A demolition permit was issued without delay as the owner agreed to allow the Commission to come in and photograph the structure. “He had also advised the Commission that a new structure, almost identical to the one being demolished, would be built on the land. Neither of these things happened,” said Roberts. The property owner, Roberts said, did have the right to demo the property, however one of the terms of the permit was not met. Another instance occurred in March over the only remaining historic cottages located at 7 Nguyen Dr. and owned by Benny Pinto. The Historic Commission hoped to work with the owner to try to preserve the cottages but four months into the six-month delay, the Commission felt there was no way to preserve the property and a demo permit was issued subject to the Commission being allowed into the building to take photos and the Historical Society hoped for one of the front doors for the town’s Museum. Neither happened and the buildings were torn down. The Commission, Roberts explained, is currently involved in two other demolition requests; one is for a Hartford Ave. East property and the other is located at 30 Mose Rd. and is considered the oldest home in Mendon. Both properties met the criteria for determining the historical significance of a property.

The Commission fears the owners will wait out the six-month demolition delay time frame and then request an emergency demo permit because the properties are un inhabitable. “They could be left abandoned,” said Roberts. The Commission asked the Selectmen they are discussing changing the demo bylaw in order to “add more teeth to it,” said Roberts, adding the Commission was looking for the Board’s support on the measure. The current bylaw states “Any owner of a building or structure or part thereof demolished without first obtaining a demolition permit in accordance with the provisions of this bylaw shall be subject to a fine of $300 per day.”

Newly elected Selectman Lawney Tinio questioned whether the problem was more of an enforcement issue and suggested Building Inspector Tim Aicardi and the Historical Commission attend a future meeting for further discussion.

Cut out this schedule and save it!
Mendon Selectmen Start Investigating Electronic Voting for Town Meetings

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Mendon Selectmen supported investigating electronic voting that would be utilized during town meetings. The discussion took place during a May 28 meeting.

A number of municipalities are now utilizing electronic voting or mulling the possibility. At the urging of residents, Upton Selectmen agreed to form a committee several months ago to investigate the pros and cons of the e-voting. The committee has not yet reported its findings.

Electronic voting utilizes hand-held devices typically with a YES or NO button that is pushed when the moderator instructs residents to do so. Citizens given a certain amount of time to cast their vote and then anonymous results are tallied and displayed. Such devices can help when voice votes appear close and also shave time off town meetings when hand votes or secret ballots are necessary.

Town Moderator Jay Byer was present for the discussion and stated he held some research on the matter. Byer said he wasn’t necessarily opposed to using electronic voting but over the last 10 years of Mendon’s town meetings, he found only two percent of those votes would need the e-voting.

Mendon would need to purchase the devices or borrow them from another town for a cost, and find the system and software needed to utilize it. “Is this an expensive the town needs?” Byer questioned.

Wayland, has been using e-voting for the last ten years and spends $13,000 per town meeting doing so, according to Byer. However, the town’s voter turnout is higher than Mendon’s. More than 600 Wayland residents attended the May Annual Town Meeting which took place over two nights.

Resident and Economic Development Chair Tom Merollis said the voting devices might be an incentive for more residents to attend Mendon’s town meetings. Merollis explained some people do not attend meetings when a controversial article is voted on publicly, fearing what neighbors or friends might think. Voting with the handheld devices gives residents anonymity.

Town Clerk Ellen Agro said she was in favor of electronic voting. “Most towns that are doing it, love it,” she said to the Selectmen. Argo said she’s been in touch with Uxbridge’s Town Clerk who has offered teach Agro how to use the system should Mendon move forward with it. Uxbridge has been using electronic voting since 2017 and purchased 1,000 of the handheld devices, which Mendon could borrow for a charge.

Town Administrator Kim Newman said if Mendon does begin to utilize the electronic voting, it likely wouldn’t be until next year’s May Town Meeting. Byer stated he would continue to investigate the matter.

Mendon Trash Bills

The Friends of the Taft Public Library will hold their spring Book Sale on Saturday, June 8 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Weather permitting it will be outside in the lot just south of the library (in front of the old rectory), 29 North Ave, Mendon. Pricing during the sale is as follows: All hardcovers, audiobooks, DVDs, CDs, and videogames $1, all paperbacks 50 cents, all children’s books 25 cents. Purchase a Taft Library canvas tote and fill it for $15. If you already have a Taft tote, refill it for $10. For individual item pricing check our website. Proceeds from all sales go toward future library programming. Stop over and stock up!

Annual Household Hazardous Waste and Document Shredding Day

Mendon’s annual Household Hazardous Waste Day will be Saturday, August 24, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Highway Barn, 66 Providence St. This event is for Mendon residents only; proof of residency is required. It is a first come first served event.

E. L. Harvey will be providing document shredding event the same day as the Household Hazardous Waste Day. Mendon residents can bring unwanted files, papers, old documents and confidential documents and they will be shredded. Residents will have to option to watch their documents being shredded.

Items accepted for disposal are: oil-based paints, stains, varnishes, strippers, solvents, automotive fluids and cleaners, waste oil, degreasers, poisons, insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, household cleaners, acids, polishes, photo chemicals, swimming pool chemicals, antifreeze and adhesives.

Items that will not be accepted are: explosives, asbestos, empty containers, shock sensitive materials, radioactive, ethological, biological, medical waste, ammunition, fireworks, empty gas cylinders, button batteries, mercury thermostats, fluorescent lights bulbs and car batteries.

For more information, please contact the Board of Health office at 508-634-2656 or boh@mendonma.gov.
**Beavers Softball Nearly Perfect in Regular Season**

**By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist**

The Blackstone Valley Tech baseball team suffered several close losses down the stretch due to a lack of timely hitting, but the Beavers’ pitching has been strong, giving head coach John Burke confidence that his team can put together a strong district tournament.

BVT finished the regular season 11-9 overall and posted an 8-4 record in the Colonial Athletic League, the third best mark in the CAL. Burke said, “I feel good because pitching usually pays off big time once you get to the playoffs,” Burke said. “And we have also been challenged, we are battle tested against some good teams.”

“19-1 is a pretty damn good season, we started out hot and hit the ball well, but that pace was not sustainable,” Burke said. “As the season wore on, the defending district finalist realized it would not be catching any teams by surprise. “We got everyone’s best games towards the end of the year,” Cardoza said. “We didn’t surprise anyone towards the end of the year. The games were closer, but I was happy we played well through that stretch and just kept grinding out wins.”

Pitcher Hayleigh O’Connor, a senior, has helped the Beavers win consistently all year as a steady presence in the circle. Despite not having an overpowering fastball, O’Connor has kept hitters off balance and allowed her defense to support her.

Second baseman Audrey Karyabdi, a sophomore, hit over .600 in the regular season out of the leadoff spot. Far from a slap hitter, she had six home runs, including one that broke the lead in the fifth inning. “She is the real deal,” Cardoza said. “Fast, smart and a good base runner.”

Abigail Clark has added power to the middle of the order, with eight home runs. And Junior Hallie Arpin has developed into a consistent force at the plate, hitting .450 and producing 10 runs, her coach said.

BVT began this week with the state vocational tournament, the final tune-up before the MIAA playoffs. After a strong run a season ago, Cardoza has kept his sights set on winning the district.

“We are better than last year when we made it to the finals,” he said. “But we’ll see who we face and when.”

**BVT Baseball Looks for Pitching to Lead in Tourney**

**By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist**

The Blackstone Valley Tech softball team rattled off 19 straight victories before falling in the regular season finale. Head coach Peter Cardoza said the last game was his team’s only bad loss in the season, but even in defeat, the Beavers managed to impress their head coach.

A few uncharacteristic errors landed Valley Tech in a 13-2 hole against Shepherd Hill before the Beavers fought back to lose 14-9.

“I was happy that we didn’t quit, not that I would expect us to,” Cardoza said. “We righted the ship, it was just a little too late for that game.”

Even with the late loss, the regular season was nothing short of spectacular for the Beavers, who began the year scoring double-digit runs in eight of their first 10 games. “19-1 is a pretty darn good season, we started out hot and hit the ball well, but that pace was not sustainable,” Cardoza said.

As the season wore on, the defending district finalist realized it would not be catching any teams by surprise. “We got everyone’s best games towards the end of the year,” Cardoza said. “We didn’t surprise anyone towards the end of the year. The games were closer, but I was happy we played well through that stretch and just kept grinding out wins.”

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Post 59 Squad Boasts Seven Upton/Mendon Players

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

After dropping four out of five in a bit of a midseason lull, the Nipmuc baseball team rolled to wins in eight of its final nine games to capture the Dual Valley Conference championship and enter the district tournament on a roll.

“We have been playing really well at the right time,” said head coach Steve Dellarovere. “We have had some good wins down the stretch and the first goal is always to win the league.”

The Warriors lost just one game in league play, scoring wins over Sutton, Douglas and Hopedale to help lock up the DVC crown. As has been the case all season, the team’s trio of pitchers have been instrumental to the squad’s success. Jack Tempesta, Brendan Mathieson and Andrew Griswold have taken the mound and kept their team in games.

“We have been rolling them out one after another, no matter the opponent, and those guys are up to the task,” Dellarovere said. “They are not walking a guy on base and not be able to move him along. Now everyone is helping out, one through nine. It’s not the same guys, but a few guys each day who are stepping up.”

The Warriors learned their first round district tournament opponent earlier this week. Dellarovere said he expected the Division 3 field to be fairly deep and competitive, but liked the fact that his team is built around strong pitching. The quality of pitching around the area, he said, has been very strong.

“The pitching has been there, but at the plate, during the tough stretches, we were a bit inconsistent,” Dellarovere said. “We would get a guy on base and not be able to move him along. Now everyone is helping out, one through nine. It’s not the same guys, but a few guys each day who are stepping up.”

Depending on whether he is expected to pitch deep and competitive, but liked the fact that his team is built around strong pitching. The quality of pitching around the area, he said, has been very strong.

“With the pitching we have, I feel pretty good, when you have the arms you feel like you have a shot against everybody,” Dellarovere said. “On the flip side, you can always run into a hot pitcher too and have a tough day. I would like to think we can make a run, but every game is going to be tough.”

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

Nipmuc Baseball Wins League, Surges to Tourney

Four players from Nipmuc made the squad, with newcomers Luke Basille and Dominic DeCarlo joining returning players Jack Tempesta and Jacob Beder. Blackstone Valley Tech sees Nick Kazarian and Justin Metcalf return to the squad and Danny Johnson, a Mendon resident who attended Mount St. Charles.

“I think we have a really good group of kids,” said Milford manager Steve DiVitto. “I also think we are very deep, especially on the mound. We also have a veteran laden team for the first time in a while.”

A total of 11 players return to Post 59 after a 20-8 record and a third-place finish in Zone 4 a season ago. As many as 14 players can potentially pitch and 11 members of the roster are either playing college baseball currently or planning to be playing at the collegiate level next season.

Beder will once again see time behind the plate for Milford after serving as the everyday catcher last summer. “He is a leade,” DiVitto said. “He did a great job last year and he has done a great job for his high school team.”

Tempesta will be in the rotation for the Warriors, one of several Upton and Mendon players who could be factors on the mound for Milford. BVT’s Metcalf will be a back-end rotation pitcher for Post 59, DiVitto said, calling Metcalf “a fierce, fierce competitor.” DiVitto said Metcalf will throw some of Milford’s most important bullpen innings as well.

Kazarian, who is heading to UMass as a relief pitcher next season, will fill that role for Post 59 this summer. DeCarlo, a left hander, will have to earn time as a younger player on an otherwise veteran squad. “We think the future is bright for him,” DiVitto said.

Johnson and Basille will aid the Milford lineup.

Johnson, who is going to WPI in the fall, can play both corner infield positions and may also be used as a DH. “We are probably going to see him all over the place,” DiVitto said. “He has a good, powerful bat.”

Basille “can fly,” the skipper said, saying the outfielder is “as fast as they come.”

DiVitto said the goal, as it is every season, is to win the zone and state titles. Milford will have an automatic bid to the state tournament as the host this year. “We don’t want to just coast in,” DiVitto said. “We want to win our way there.”
Win in Finale Sends Nipmuc Boys Lacrosse to Tourney

By Chris Villani

The Valley Tech boys lacrosse team won the programs first ever vocational championship with a victory over Bristol-Plymouth in late May. The district tournament started on June 4.

BVT Boys LAX Wins 1st State Voke Title

By Chris Villani

Sports Reporter/Columnist

Blackstone Valley Tech’s boys lacrosse team scored a 10-5 victory over Bristol-Plymouth last weekend, capturing the program’s first state vocational championship in the process. “It was awesome, it’s the first time we have gone it and it’s a good feeling for the program,” said BVT head coach Andrew Barksdale. “It gave us great confidence going into the district tournament and it was good to see how excited everyone was after we won.” The excitement was felt among the coaching staff as well. Three of the four BVT coaches are alumni of the Beavers lacrosse program.

“All the kids have bought into what I am trying to teach them both on and off the field and they have been rolling ever since our loss to Nipmuc and we just have to doing what we do. The goal is to take it one game at a time and go from there.”

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It came down to the wire, but the Nipmuc boys lacrosse team earned a spot in the district tournament by virtue of its 11-3 win over Auburn in the final game of the regular season.

Head coach Ron Hamwey, finished his first year at the helm of the program, said the victory was huge for the program, even if he would have preferred it had happened a little sooner. “I think it says a lot about the culture we are trying to build here,” Hamwey said. “I think the kids have bought into what I am trying to teach them both on and off the field and they have bought into everything we are trying to do as students, athletes and people. That’s what’s allowed us to make that playoff push and continue our season.” Going into the finale with an 8-9 record, Hamwey challenged his players. “We knew our final game on the schedule was May 30 and it was up to them if they wanted to play after that day,” he said. “They used it as motivation, they didn’t want their season to end.” A number of players have been instrumental in the Warriors’ run to the district tournament this spring.Christian Moss, a junior, has been solid on face-offs and has added scoring when needed. Colby Hagerty returned from injury and gave the team a significant boost, adding his experience as a senior and his IQ for the game. Junior goalie Aidan Hayes has also shown marked improvement throughout the year. “He has shown a lot of upside the second half of the season,” Hamwey said. “He is commanding the defense and being a vocal leader out there.” Defense is where the Warriors have shown the most improvement, averaging around seven goals allowed per game, an average that has dropped in recent weeks. Dan Cook returned to the lineup after missing four games due to a concussion and the impact was palpable. “The defense has become a lot more in sync with one another, Dan coming back allowed us to anchor the defense against Belchertown. It gave us an opportunity to play our last regular season game with that playoff mentality,” Hamwey said. “As much as I wish we could have punched out ticket earlier, it was a blessing in disguise.”