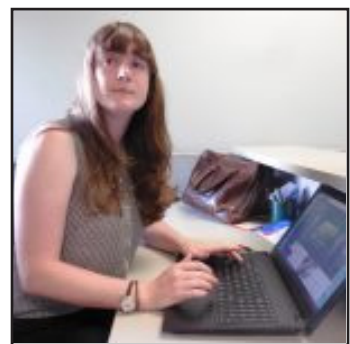




## Year in Review: Hilltown Happenings

By AMY PORTER  
Correspondent

HILLTOWNS – Gains have been made in the Gateway Hilltowns over the past year. Beginning with the Community Compact agreements between the six towns of Chester, Middlefield, Huntington, Russell, Blandford, Montgomery and the Baker-Polito administration in May of 2016, the towns pledged to work together on economic development and shared services in the region. The administration subsequently came through with several grants to help the towns achieve those goals. While the challenges of a shrinking population, high taxes and slow economic growth are still a reality, a lot of hard work has been done by dedicated volunteers, and the towns are cooperating like never before.



In March, Andrew Myers, chair of the Hilltown Collaborative, the group that formed after the Community Compacts were signed, received some welcome news of a hoped-for grant of just over \$100,511 to hire a shared economic development coordinator for the six towns.

**Hilltown Economic Development Director Jeanne LeClair at her office in Huntington Town Hall.**

The job was posted and a search conducted with the assistance of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC). In late June, Myers of

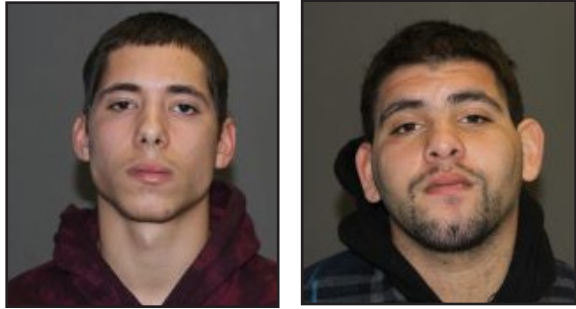
Chester announced that the new grant-funded position of economic development director had been filled by Jeanne LeClair of Haverhill. LeClair, a small-town Missouri native, received her bachelor's degree from Boston University and master's in community development from Brandeis. She called the position "her dream job."

In September, three months into the job, LeClair said her role was to be a funnel for all of the activities, events and opportunities in the Gateway hilltowns, all of which end up on her website at gatewayhilltowns.org. "My actual goal is to shore up what's already happening. There are a lot of cool things happening," LeClair said.

She also had a goal of helping area businesses with their online presence. She taught several free classes for businesses through the Southern Hilltowns Adult Education Center. LeClair's next class will be "Economic Development: What it Means for You" on January 10, 6 to 8 p.m. at the new Village Enterprise Center in Chester. LeClair is also identifying properties and business opportunities in the six towns, and will be adding a GIS map of all available locations on the website in the months ahead, she said.

LeClair also started the Gateway Enterprise Club, a small business education hub for students at Gateway Regional, which has more than 20 members in its first year. LeClair said the administration is fully behind the concept, and she hopes it will plant a seed for more business education opportunities at the school, which currently offers only Business Math. "It's filling a need they have. It's free, no

See Hilltowns, Page 8



CARLOS NOEL

JOHN A. SEIN, III

Pictures provided by Westfield Police

## Arrests made in relation to assaults

By DAN DESROCHERS  
Correspondent

WESTFIELD — According to police, arrests have been made related to two assaults that occurred last week, both of which resulted in victims receiving treatment at area hospitals.

According to Westfield Police Detective Lt. Dave Ragazzini, police have arrested Carlos Noel, 18, and John A. Sein, III, both of Westfield, as part of an ongoing investigation. Both were arrested on Dec. 22 in relation to an investigation into an alleged assault that occurred on Dec. 16. In addition, Noel is reportedly facing an additional charge related to an assault that allegedly occurred Dec. 21. Both incidents are parts of ongoing investigations.

Noel and Sein, III, were both arraigned on Dec. 26 at Westfield District Court on charges of unarmed robbery, assault and battery serious bodily injury and assault and battery with dangerous weapon in relation to the Dec. 16

See Arrests, Page 8

## Despite ice and snow, few accidents reported

By DAN DESROCHERS  
Correspondent

WESTFIELD—In spite of the icy and snowy conditions over the holiday weekend, Westfield Police did not report many accidents that occurred in their city and town.

In Westfield, just four accidents were reported between Saturday, Dec. 23, and Sunday, Dec. 24, none of which reported injuries. However, on Christmas Day, a pedestrian was reportedly struck and was later transported to Baystate Noble Hospital.

Of the accidents in Westfield over the weekend, one was Dec. 23 on North Road shortly before 5 p.m., after a vehicle had reportedly struck a deer. There were no injuries and only minor damage reported on the vehicle. No tow truck was requested.

A second accident on Dec. 23 was reported at 11:17 p.m., at Shaker Road and Little River Road. According to the report, the two-vehicle accident had reportedly involved black ice in the roadway. No injuries were reported and no tow trucks requested.

Then, on Sunday two more accidents were reported, once again with no injuries reported.

On Dec. 25 however, there was a report of a person reportedly struck by a vehicle at Franklin Street and Summer Street,

See Few Accidents, Page 8



The Select Board interviewed four internal candidates for the next Chief of Police on December 12. (WNG File Photo)

## Year in Review: Southwick Chief of Police decision

By GREG FITZPATRICK  
Correspondent

SOUTHWICK – On Nov.9, the Southwick Select Board posted an internal application for the next Chief of Police. This application notice is due to the pending June 2018 retirement of current Chief David Ricardi.

The application was open to officers in the Southwick Police Department to apply from Oct. 27 to Nov. 17. The applicants needed to have at least 12 years of law enforcement experience and at least five years of supervisor experience.

Then, on Nov.28, the four internal candidates for Chief of Police were revealed and they were, Lt. Kevin Bishop, Sgt. Kirk Sanders, Detective Sgt. Robert Landis, and Sgt. Rhett Bannish.

On December 12, the Select Board interviewed the four internal candidates and asked them 12 questions. Sanders was the last of the four candidates to interview and at that time informed the Select Board that he was withdrawing his name from the process.

Select Board Clerk Russ Fox felt that he needed more time to make a decision on the next Chief of Police so the board decided to postpone the decision to their next meeting on December 18.

Select Board Clerk Fox wasn't able to make the December 18 meeting, therefore Moglin made the decision to once again postpone the decision until the next Select Board meeting on January 3 at 5:15 p.m.

## Year in Review: The Cowles Bridge saga

By DAN DESROCHERS  
Correspondent

WESTFIELD—Though the Westfield Fire Department is once again able to cross the Cowles Bridge along Routes 10 and 202, the issue drew concern and months of waiting before a resolution was reached.

The issue began Aug. 3, when the Westfield Fire Department was informed by a letter from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) that their vehicles that are over the posted weight limit of the Cowles Bridge could not utilize the bridge. The department immediately sought a waiver to use the bridge but the waiver took months to be received which resulted in city and state officials becoming involved in the process.

The bridge, which crosses over the Little River on the way to Southwick at the intersection of South Maple St, Mill St. and Southwick Rd., is overseen by MassDOT. The weight restrictions for the bridge are 12 tons for 2-axle vehicles, 16 tons for 3-axle vehicles and 29 tons for 5-axle vehicles.

A majority of the City's fire department vehicles exceeded the limits, thus many of their vehicles, including fire engines, could not cross the bridge.

See Cowles Bridge, Page 8



A portion of Cowles Bridge, which is along Southwick Road.

THE WESTFIELD NEWS RADIO SHOW  
THURSDAY LINE-UP  
6AM-8AM



RADIO FOR THE WESTFIELD MASSES

THIS THURSDAY...

6AM-8AM:

THE BEST OF WSKB RADIO SHOW



Download WSKB from your Tune In Radio App or watch on Comcast Cable CH. 15

-Taco Tuesday  
-Trivia Night  
Wednesday with great prizes  
-50 cent wings during every New England sports game



99 Springfield Road Westfield MA 01085  
413-642-6370

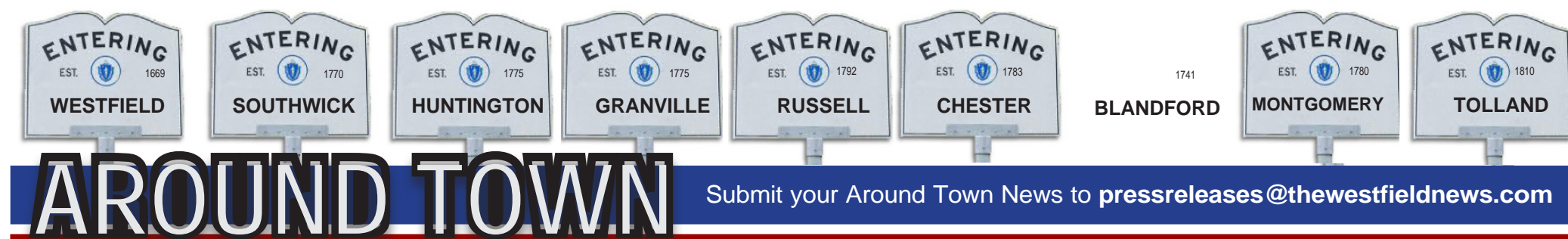


-Breakfast on weekends  
-Catering  
-Banquet Facility  
-Specialty Desserts  
-28 Beers on Tap  
-22 Sport's TV's

\$5 OFF

Minimum \$20 purchase

Limited one per table. Not to be combined with any other offer. Alcohol not included.  
Dine in only  
Good thru 12/31/17  
Monday-Thursday



## SELF-DEFENSE at YMCA

Awareness, Safety and Protect, Self-Defense Series at the YMCA of Greater Westfield will consist of three Sunday afternoon's for woman only. Each Sunday you will get workouts that will maximum physical efficiency and self-confidence to help deal with a variety of situations. You will learn how to quickly disable an attacker and learn how to take advantage of time and space. You will learn various stances, striking motions, kicks, choke holds, and other defense techniques to help protect yourself. Learn to prepare for the unexpected! The instructor, Catlin McCue, is a certified R.A.D., rape aggression defense, instructor. This program is based on realistic self-defense tactics taught for woman only. **The Sunday dates are January 7, 14, and 21 from 12:15PM to 1:30PM.** Girls 14 and 15 of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Registration is required. Space is limited. For more info, contact Cindy Agan, Fitness Director, P. 413. 568.8631 or Email: cagan@westfieldymca.org

## Environmental Leadership Scholarships for Massachusetts High School Seniors

The Henry David Thoreau Foundation awards collegiate scholarships of up to \$20K to eight to ten students graduating from public or private high schools in Massachusetts. As Thoreau Scholars, these select high school seniors may enroll in any college and university in the world while they major or minor in an environmentally-related field.

Thoreau Scholars have studied a wide variety of environmentally-related areas, including biology, epidemiology, oceanography, international affairs and environmental law. Scholar alumni have formed companies and organizations including the animation company, Oxbow, with clients including WildAmerica and the Center for Food Safety, satellite imagery startup CrowdAI, and the nonprofit energy organization Equitable Origin.

To learn more about the Henry David Thoreau Foundation and the Thoreau Scholarship, please visit [www.thoreauscholar.org](http://www.thoreauscholar.org). Information about the scholarships and how to apply will be mailed to guidance counselors and science teachers at all Massachusetts high schools. **An online application will be available in October. Students have until February 1st to apply.**

## Westfield Bridge Club Results 12/7/17

North/South: 1st: Barbara & Tim Eddy; 2nd: Nancy Gay – Terry Augusti; 3rd: Lolly Templeton – Ann Kousch

East/West: 1st: Priscilla Gover – Barbara Conlin; 2nd: Vi Martinell – Cindy Fullerton; 3rd: Judy Matyseck – Ed Matyseck

Duplicate is played Thursday afternoons from 1:00 – 4:00 at The American Inn in Southwick. All players are welcome.

## LIVESTRONG AT THE YMCA

The YMCA of Greater Westfield is committed to serving individuals and their families living with, through and beyond cancer. LIVESTRONG at the YMCA is a free 12-week exercise program for adult cancer survivors who are currently in or have completed treatment and are physically deconditioned. Developed by Stanford University, this specially designed program has proven to help survivors regain strength, overcome fatigue, and enhance functional ability to do everyday tasks. Beginning January 22nd, the class will meet twice a week, for 12 weeks on Monday & Wednesday; 1:00PM-2:30PM to strength train and improve cardiovascular function. **Must register by January 12.** Space is limited. For more information, visit [www.westfieldymca.org](http://www.westfieldymca.org) or contact: Cindy Agan, Health & Wellness Director, at the YMCA of Greater Westfield 1.413.568.8631 or [cagan@westfieldymca.org](mailto:cagan@westfieldymca.org)




## 'Male Call!' Fitness Class at Westfield Senior Center

Dan Oleksak, owner and head trainer at Dynamic Fitness, will facilitate 'Male Call!', an all-male fitness class at the Westfield Senior Center on **Monday mornings from 9 to 10 a.m.** The cost is \$5 per class on a pay-as-you-go basis. This is a general fitness class designed specifically for older men with a variety of fitness abilities. Please remember that participants utilizing the Fitness Room for classes and dance sessions are required to change their footwear before walking on the hardwood floor and also sign a Release of Liability and Usage Agreement. For more information, contact the Westfield Senior Center at 562-6435.

## Application for Books on the Go Service

The Southwick Public Library offers a home delivery service for Southwick residents that are unable to visit the library because of a short-term disability lasting 3 weeks or more, or because of a permanent disability. Books, Books on CDs and music CDs owned by the Southwick Public Library are delivered and picked-up by our volunteer drivers. **Applications are available at the library's Reference Desk or you may call 569-1221 ext. 3 and an application will be mailed to you.**

## 22 STORM NEWS TEAM LOCAL FORECAST

TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
 Mostly Clear.	 Mainly Sunny. Cold.	 Cloudy Skies.
10-11	18-20	10-14
<b>WEATHER DISCUSSION</b>		
Today, sunny, along with a few afternoon clouds. High around 20F. Tonight, a mostly clear sky. Low around 0F. Thursday, Mainly sunny. High near 10F. Winds NW at 10 to 20 mph. Thursday Night, a few clouds. Low -1F. Winds NNW at 5 to 10 mph. Friday, Cloudy skies. High 14F. Friday Night, partly cloudy. Low 1F. Saturday, snow showers. High around 15F.		
<b>WWLP.com · Working For You</b>		

TODAY		
7:19 a.m. SUNRISE	4:26 p.m. SUNSET	9 hours 07 Minutes LENGTH OF DAY

## TODAY IN HISTORY

**TODAY IS WEDNESDAY, DEC. 27, THE 361ST DAY OF 2017. THERE ARE FOUR DAYS LEFT IN THE YEAR.**

On Dec. 27, 1927, the musical play "Show Boat," with music by Jerome Kern and libretto by Oscar Hammerstein II, opened at the Ziegfeld Theater in New York, beginning a run of 572 performances.

### ON THIS DATE:

In 1831, naturalist Charles Darwin set out on a round-the-world voyage aboard the HMS Beagle.

In 1892, the cornerstone was laid for the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in New York City.

In 1904, James Barrie's play "Peter Pan: The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up" opened at the Duke of York's Theater in London.

In 1932, New York City's Radio City Music Hall first opened.

In 1945, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund were formally established.

In 1947, the original version of the puppet character Howdy Doody made his TV debut on NBC's "Puppet Playhouse."

In 1949, Queen Juliana of the Netherlands signed an act recognizing Indonesia's sovereignty after more than three centuries of Dutch rule.

In 1968, Apollo 8 and its three astronauts made a safe, nighttime splashdown in the Pacific.

In 1970, the musical play "Hello, Dolly!" closed on Broadway after a run of 2,844 performances.

In 1979, Soviet forces seized control of Afghanistan. President Hafizullah Amin (hah-FEE'-zoo-lah ah-MEEN'), who was overthrown and executed, was replaced by Babrak Karmal.

In 1985, Palestinian guerrillas opened fire inside the Rome and Vienna airports; 19 victims were killed, plus four attackers who were slain by police and security personnel. American naturalist Dian Fossey, 53, who had studied gorillas in the wild in Rwanda, was found hacked to death.

In 1995, Israeli jeeps sped out of the West Bank town of Ramallah, capping a seven-week pullout giving Yasser Arafat control over 90 percent of the West Bank's one million Palestinian residents and one-third of its land.

### TEN YEARS AGO:

Opposition leader Benazir Bhutto, 54, was assassinated in a gun and suicide-bomb attack in Pakistan following a campaign rally. Kenya held an election pitting incumbent president Mwai Kibaki against opposition candidate Raila Odinga; both candidates ended up claiming victory in a vote that observers said was seriously flawed. (Kenya was racked by weeks of ethnic violence; Kibaki and Odinga ended up forming a coalition government.)

### FIVE YEARS AGO:

An Indian-born man, Sunando Sen, was shoved to his death from a New York City subway platform; suspect Erika Menendez later pleaded guilty to manslaughter and was sentenced to 24 years in prison. (Authorities say Menendez pushed Sen because she thought he was Muslim; Sen was Hindu.) Retired Army general Norman Schwarzkopf, 78, died in Tampa, Florida. Character actor Harry Carey Jr., 91, died in Santa Barbara, California.

## ODDS & ENDS

### Woman stunned to find electric bill listed as \$284 billion

ERIE, Pa. (AP) — A Pennsylvania woman says she went online to check her electric bill and was stunned at the amount — more than \$284 billion.

The Erie Times-News reports that Mary Horomanski said her eyes "just about popped out" of her head when she saw the amount. She suspected that her family had put up their Christmas lights wrong.

The silver lining was that she didn't have to pay the full amount until November 2018 — only a \$28,156 minimum payment was due for December.

Horomanski's son contacted Penelac, her electric provider, who confirmed the error. Parent company First Energy said a decimal point was accidentally moved. Her new amount was quickly corrected to \$284.46.

## LOCAL LOTTERY

LAST NIGHT'S NUMBERS  
**MASSACHUSETTS**  
**MassCash**  
03-04-26-30-35  
**Mega Millions**  
10-12-20-38-41, Mega Ball: 25, Megaplier: 4  
Estimated jackpot: \$277 million  
**Numbers Evening**  
0-4-9-6  
**Numbers Middy**  
6-7-7-1  
**Powerball**  
Estimated jackpot: \$337 million



**CONNECTICUT**  
**Cash 5**  
04-14-18-19-30  
**Lotto**  
04-12-13-15-31-37  
Estimated jackpot: \$1.6 million  
**Lucky Links Day**  
02-08-10-13-15-16-19-20  
**Lucky Links Night**  
02-06-07-09-10-14-16-19  
**Play3 Day** 2-5-6  
**Play3 Night** 1-7-4  
**Play4 Day** 6-2-0-9  
**Play4 Night** 8-1-4-7

### ONE YEAR AGO:

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (shin-zoh AH'-bay), accompanied by President Barack Obama, visited Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, where he offered his "sincere and everlasting condolences to the souls of those who lost their lives" in Japan's 1941 attack; Abe did not apologize, but conceded his country "must never repeat the horrors of war again." Actress Carrie Fisher died in a hospital four days after suffering a medical emergency aboard a flight to Los Angeles; she was 60. Cavaliers superstar LeBron James was voted AP Male Athlete of the Year after bringing the NBA title to Cleveland.

### TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS:

Actor John Amos is 78. ABC News correspondent Cokie Roberts is 74. Rock musician Mick Jones (Foreigner) is 73. Singer Tracy Nelson is 73. Actor Gerard Depardieu is 69. Jazz singer-musician T.S. Monk is 68. Singer-songwriter Karla Bonoff is 66. Rock musician David Knopfler (Dire Straits) is 65. Actress Tovah Feldshuh is 64. Journalist-turned-politician Arthur Kent is 64. Actress Maryam D'Abo is 57. Country musician Jeff Bryant is 55. Actor Ian Gomez is 53. Actress Theresa Randle is 53. Actress Eva LaRue is 51. Wrestler and actor Bill Goldberg is 51. Actress Tracey Cherelle Jones is 48. Bluegrass singer-musician Darrin Vincent (Dailey & Vincent) is 48. Rock musician Guthrie Govan is 46. Musician Matt Slocum is 45. Actor Wilson Cruz is 44. Singer Olu is 44. Actor Masi Oka is 43. Actor Aaron Stanford is 41. Actress Emilie de Ravin is 36. Christian rock musician James Mear (Kutless) is 35. Rock singer Hayley Williams (Paramore) is 29. Country singer Shay Mooney (Dan & Shay) is 26.

# Greater Westfield Chamber of Commerce – January Mayor’s Coffee Hour

WESTFIELD — January 8, 2018 (8 – 9 am) Please join us for our monthly Mayor’s Coffee Hour with Westfield Mayor Brian Sullivan hosted by Western Massachusetts Hospital, 91 East Mountain Road, Westfield, MA. This event is free and open to the public. Please call the Chamber office at 413.568.1618 to register for this event so we may give our host a head count.

# Greater Westfield Chamber of Commerce – January After 5 Connection

WESTFIELD — January 10, 2018 (5 – 7 pm) Join us for our January After 5 Connection hosted by Armbrook Village, 551 North Road, Westfield, MA. Free for Chamber members, \$10 Potential Members (cash/credit paid at the door). Refreshments will be served. 50/50 Raffle to benefit our Chamber Scholarship fund! Bring your business cards and make connections! On-line registration will be made available @ www.westfieldbiz.org. For more information, please call Pam at the Chamber at 413.568.1618.

# Christmas Tree Disposal Drop Off Locations

WESTFIELD — The City will this year be providing drop off locations where residents can drop off holiday trees for disposal at their leisure. **There will no longer be curbside service for holiday tree disposal.** The City will monitor the sites so that we are able to get an accurate count on how many trees collected, and to ensure there is space for further drop offs. All trees will be chipped, and repurposed; therefore the trees should be free of lights, ornaments, tinsel, etc.



Drop off locations and hours are as follows:

**CITY HALL**  
59 Court Street  
Back Parking Lot  
7 days, 24 hours

**HAMPTON PONDS PLAYGROUND**  
121 Old Stage Road  
7 days, 24 hours

**HIGHWAY GARAGE, DPW**  
12 Ponders Hollow Road  
7 am - 3 pm  
Monday - Friday

**LITTLE RIVER FIRE STATION**  
366 Little River Road  
Back Parking Area  
7 days, 24 hours

**TWISS STREET TRANSFER STATION**  
37 Twiss Street  
No sticker needed. Can drop off tree only.  
Monday - Friday, 7 am - 2:45 pm  
Saturday, 7 am - 2:45 pm

Drop off areas at each location will be clearly marked. Residents will be able to dispose of their trees at these locations from December 26, 2017 - January 31, 2018.

If there are any questions, please contact City Hall, 572-6201.

**★ WE CATER ★**

Pig Roasts • BBQs  
Weddings  
Special Occasions  
**Home ★ Business**

**NORTH ELM BUTCHER BLOCK**

Here to Stay!

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37 N. ELM ST. WESTFIELD

VISA M.C. We Accept EBT Cards.

REG. STORE HOURS: Thurs. 9-6 • Fri 9-6:30 • Sat 8-4  
Sun 8-1 • Mon 10-5 • Tues 10-5:30 • Wed CLOSED  
NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS

PRICES VALID	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED
DEC	28	29	30	31	CLOSED	JAN 2	CLOSED

**Holiday Hours: OPEN Wed. 12/27 ~ 10-5pm  
Sun. 12/31 ~ 8-1pm • CLOSED Mon. 1/1/18**

**CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF**

**90% LEAN HAMBURG** 2.99 LB.  
10 LB. LOTS .....

**SPOON ROAST** ..... 6.99 LB.

**SIRLOIN STEAKS** ..... 6.99 LB.

**N.Y. STRIP STEAKS** ..... 8.99 LB.

**PORTERHOUSE STEAKS** ... 9.99 LB.

**T-BONE STEAKS** ..... 9.99 LB.

**CHICKEN SALE**

**BONELESS ★ 10 LB. LOTS**  
**CHICKEN BREAST** .... 1.89 LB.

**5 LB. LOTS ★**  
**CHICKEN WINGS** .... 2.99 LB.

**BUTCHER BLOCK'S OWN ALL NATURAL, ANTIBIOTIC FREE, AIR CHILLED:**  
**BNLS CHICKEN BREAST** .... 4.99 LB.

**ZIGGY'S GARDEN**

**WHITE POTATOES** .... 2.29 5 LBS.

**LARGE CARROTS** ..... .69 LB.

**MAKE THE PERFECT HOLIDAY ROAST...**

**ARISTON INFUSED OLIVE OILS** ..... 10.99 EA.

**North Elm's Store Made...**

SPICES, MEAT RUBS & SAUCES  
ALL ON SALE!

**FRESHEST SEAFOOD IN TOWN**

10-20 CT • FRESH  
**DRY SEA SCALLOPS** ..... 13.99 LB.

**FAROE ISLAND SALMON** ... 10.99 LB.

**CALL FOR PRICING...**  
**2-3 LBS. SELECT LOBSTERS**  
**1.5-2 LBS. LOBSTERS**

**DELI SPECIALS**

**LAND O'LAKES AMERICAN CHEESE** .... 3.99 LB.

**STORE COOKED ROAST BEEF** ... 7.49 LB.

**CASTLEWOOD APPLE SMOKED HAM** ... 6.99 LB.

**BOARS HEAD FRESH DELI!**

**SWEET SLICED HAM** LARGE OR SMALL ... 5.49 LB.

**6 Week Beginner Whip City Tai Chi Classes**  
~ Taught by Lenny Burlingame ~  
(27 Years of Experience)

**FREE WORKSHOP**  
Saturday, January 6th  
2-3pm

**WHIP CITY TAI CHI**

**Class Schedule**  
Wed. 11am-12pm  
Jan. 10, 2018  
thru  
Feb. 21, 2018

**Classes to be held at: Westfield Yoga Center**  
Westwood Building • Suite 221 • Westfield, MA

身心神      whipcitytaichi.com  
Body Mind Spirit      whipcitytaichi@gmail.com

## Government Meetings

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 27

**SOUTHWICK**  
Agricultural Commission Meeting at 7 pm

**BLANDFORD**  
Finance Committee at 7 pm  
Fire Department Meeting at 7 pm

SUNDAY, DEC. 31

**SOUTHWICK**  
Historical Commission Meeting at 7 pm

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 3

**BLANDFORD**  
Board of Health Meeting at 6 pm  
Planning Board Meeting at 7 pm  
Fire Department Meeting at 7 pm  
Finance Committee at 7 pm

THURSDAY, JAN. 4

**CHESTER**  
Municipal Light Department Meeting at 6 pm

MONDAY, JAN. 8

**SOUTHWICK**  
Board of Appeals Meeting at 7:15 pm

**BLANDFORD**  
Assessor's Meeting at 6 pm  
Conservation Commission at 6 pm  
Selectboard Meeting at 7 pm  
Zoning Board Meeting at 7 pm

**TOLLAND**  
Men's Coffee at PSC Building at 7:45 am  
Board of Selectmen at 5 pm

**CHESTER**  
Conservation Commission Meeting at 5 pm  
Board of Health Meeting at 6 pm  
Board of Selectmen Meeting at 6 pm  
Planning Board Meeting at 7:30 pm

TUESDAY, JAN. 9

**SOUTHWICK**  
Planning Board Public Hearing at 7:15 pm

**TOLLAND**  
Council on Aging at 9 am  
Conserv Comm Open Office Hours & Business Meeting at 3 pm

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 10

**SOUTHWICK**  
Agricultural Commission Meeting at

**THE SALVATION ARMY**

*It's time once again for*

**THE SALVATION ARMY**

**Christmas Kettle Campaign!**

As in the past we will publish the names of the donors as they come in. Please let us know if you want to remain anonymous.

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help  
**The Westfield News Salvation Army Campaign**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please have The Westfield News acknowledge our pledge as:

Above name(s)     Anonymous  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: The Salvation Army Westfield Unit  
Mail to: The Westfield News / Salvation Army Christmas Fund  
62 School Street, Westfield, MA 01085

- SALVATION ARMY 2017 KETTLE DRIVE**
- Marlene Hills—\$100.00
  - Paul & Debbie Anderson—\$100.00
  - Florence Fitzgerald—\$25.00
  - In memory of Ron Ferron, Jr. from his parents—\$500.00
  - Rick & Linda Hauk—\$30.00
  - Stanley & Joan Konefal—\$100.00
  - Arthur & Joan Boissonnault—\$25.00
  - Anonymous—\$30.00
  - Shirley Glaze—\$50.00
  - Ken & Laura Fellows—\$200.00
  - Anonymous—\$20.00
  - Gwladys Mahoney, in memory of the Mahoney & Evans families—\$50.00
  - Terry & Maureen Dunphy—\$100.00
  - Mr & Mrs John W Farrell—\$25.00
  - Gary & Eileen—\$50.00
  - In memory of Paul Boscher—\$50.00
  - Ann Lentini—\$30.00
  - Anonymous—\$50.00

**Commission offers winter Public Announcement**

WESTFIELD — During these snow-filled times, the Westfield Conservation Commission would like to stress the importance of not plowing or shoveling snow or ice into wetlands, waterways and culverts as this will block streams, cause flooding and degrade wildlife habitat.

If you're unsure if you have wetlands, or of the laws protecting wetlands, please feel free to contact us at 572-6281.

**HEARTLAND QUALITY OMAHA STEAKS**  
SINCE 1917

The Family Gourmet Buffet

- 2 (5 oz.) Filet Mignons
- 2 (5 oz.) Top Sirloins
- 4 Boneless Chicken Breasts (1 lb. pkg.)
- 2 (4 oz.) Boneless Pork Chops
- 4 (3 oz.) Kielbasa Sausages
- 4 (4 oz.) Omaha Steaks Burgers
- 4 (3 oz.) Potatoes au Gratin
- 4 (4 oz.) Caramel Apple Tartlets
- OS Seasoning Packet (33 oz.)

51689GZT | \$199.99\* separately  
**Combo Price \$49.99**

Plus, get  
4 more Burgers and  
4 more Kielbasa  
**FREE!**

Limit 2 pkgs. Free gifts must ship with #51689. Standard S&H will be added. Expires 2/28/18. ©2017 OCG | 17M1957 | Omaha Steaks, Inc.

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# COMMENT



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## US Treasury issues sanctions against 2 North Korean officials

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Treasury Department issued sanctions Tuesday against two officials it describes as "key leaders of North Korea's unlawful weapons programs."

The sanctions against Kim Jong Sik and Ri Pyong Chol block them from any property or interests in property within U.S. jurisdiction, and prohibit them from transactions with American citizens. Treasury said the men are senior officials in North Korea's Munitions Industry Department.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said the sanctions are part of the United States' "maximum pressure campaign" to isolate North Korea and "achieve a fully denuclearized Korean Peninsula."

The United Nations Security Council unanimously approved tough new sanctions against North Korea on Friday in response to its latest launch of a ballistic missile, which Pyongyang says is capable of reaching the U.S. mainland.

Baik Tae-hyun, spokesman of South Korea's Unification Ministry, expressed

hope Wednesday that the continuing campaign of sanctions and pressure will eventually force North Korea into "making the right decision" and engaging in dialogue over its nuclear program.

Baik noted it was the seventh time the U.S. Treasury has imposed unilateral sanctions against the North since the start of President Donald Trump's administration. Baik also pointed out that the two North Koreans had already been under U.N. Security Council sanctions.



In this Dec. 23, 2017, photo distributed on Dec. 24, 2017, by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un speaks during the conference of cell chairpersons of the ruling party in Pyongyang. (Korean Central News Agency/Korea News Service via AP)

## Singer files sex assault complaint against former Trump aide

WASHINGTON (AP) — A singer and potential congressional candidate says she has filed a sexual assault complaint against President Donald Trump's former campaign manager for hitting her twice on her buttocks during a Washington gathering in November.

Joy Villa, a Trump backer who wore a "Make America Great Again" dress at the Grammys this year, said Tuesday she plans to meet with detectives in Washington next week about the complaint against Corey Lewandowski.

In a phone interview from Tampa, Florida, Villa said she was initially reluctant to come forward because she was worried about any backlash. But she said she called Washington's Metropolitan Police Department on Christmas Eve after a friend who witnessed the incident spoke about it publicly, and other friends urged her to come forward.

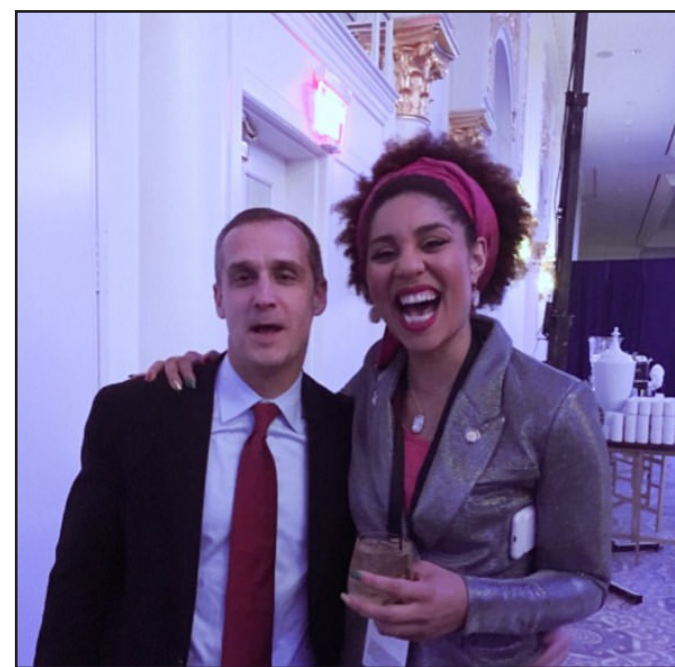
"I didn't know him at all," Villa said about Lewandowski. "I only knew him by reputation. He broke my trust."

She said she saw him at a gathering at the Trump International Hotel on the day after Thanksgiving, and said Lewandowski struck her "extremely hard" even after she told him to stop. She said she felt it was "disgusting and shocking and demeaning."

Villa, who is considering a run for a Florida congressional seat, said she initially thought it was sexual harassment, but police told her that touching someone on any body part that is sexual in nature constituted sexual assault. She said she was told it was classified as a misdemeanor.

"I was initially fearful to come forward with this," she said, adding that she did not want to bring shame or embarrassment on Lewandowski's family or hers.

"I did nothing wrong," Villa said. "I realized if he's not going to respond or apologize to me, I think it's the right thing to do."



Joy Villa, right, a Trump backer, said Tuesday she plans to meet with detectives in Washington next week about the complaint against, left, Corey Lewandowski.

Lewandowski did not respond to an email seeking comment.

Villa made news earlier this year when she wore a dress displaying Trump's campaign slogan at the Grammys. She explained her decision to wear the dress in an Instagram post, writing, "You can either stand for what you believe in or fall for what you don't." She added, "agree to disagree."

This is not the first time Lewandowski has faced police charges. In March 2016 he was charged with misdemeanor battery for an altercation involving a female reporter after a news conference in Florida. The charges were later dropped.

Trump fired him as campaign manager in June 2016.

## PULSELINE OF WESTFIELD



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## Trump adviser say president has confidence in FBI director

By SADIE GURMAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has full confidence in his new FBI director despite a series of attacks on the impartiality of his soon-to-retire deputy, a White House adviser says.

Trump is "very pleased" with Director Chris Wray and "the changes that are taking place," legislative affairs director Marc Short told "Fox News Sunday" as Trump continued to assail Deputy Director Andrew McCabe, who plans to retire from the bureau next year.

McCabe's supervision of the FBI's investigation into Hillary Clinton's email practices came under scrutiny because his wife's Virginia Senate campaign received contributions from Clinton-ally Terry McAuliffe's political action committee. The president and congressional Republicans have seized on that as a sign of anti-Trump bias in FBI leadership.

But, asked if Trump is telling Wray to "clean house," Short said only: "I think he has full confidence in Chris Wray."

Trump's frequent and blistering attacks on the nation's premier law enforcement agency have proven a tough challenge for Wray, who took the reins in August after Trump fired James Comey as he was leading the bureau's probe into possible Trump campaign ties to Russia during the 2016 presidential election. Wray aggressively defended the bureau against Trump's claims that its reputation was "in tatters."

But it's less common for a deputy director to be in the spotlight.

McCabe, a lawyer by training, was a fast-rising leader within the FBI. He was the assistant director in charge of the FBI's counterterrorism division at the time of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, later ascending to executive assistant director of the national security branch and moving on to lead the Washington field office, one of the bureau's largest and most prominent offices.

He was named deputy director by Comey in early 2016.

Yet he became entangled in presidential politics with the October 2016 revelation that his wife's state Senate campaign had received contributions from McAuliffe's political action committee. Though the FBI said that McCabe had consulted beforehand with ethics experts, and was not at the time of the donations in a supervisory role in the Clinton email investigation, Trump nonetheless was able to use the contributions in the final days of the campaign — and as president — to attack FBI leadership as biased against him.

The Justice Department's inspector general's office has been scrutinizing the FBI's handling of the Clinton email case, including McCabe's actions.

"When we put all of our faith and our confidence in the Department of Justice and the FBI knowing that there should be no bias there, (Trump) is making the point that we need to be sure there's no bias," Short said.

Trump's personal attacks against McCabe have continued even though McCabe could ostensibly be in a position to corroborate concerns about the president's conduct that Comey has said he raised internally with senior leadership. Trump tweeted over the weekend about McCabe's wife's campaign being given money by "Clinton Puppets" and seemed to gloat about McCabe's departure.

It was broadly known within the FBI that McCabe was eligible to retire this coming spring. It is standard for FBI officials to leave the bureau for new opportunities upon becoming retirement-eligible, and it was widely expected that McCabe — independent of the criticism from Trump — would retire to give the new FBI director a chance to select his own No. 2.

As for McCabe, Short, the adviser, said, "We wish him well."

## The Westfield News

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PRESIDENT

62 School Street, Westfield, MA 01085

(413)562-4181

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# OBITUARIES

<http://thewestfieldnews.com/category/obituaries>

## Mary J. Liese

SOUTHBRIDGE – Mary J. (Popowich) Liese, 94, (1923-2017) passed away on Sunday, December 24, 2017 at Harrington Memorial Hospital in Southbridge. She was born in Hartford, CT to the late Anthony and Josephine (Sobasko) Popowich and was a 1941 graduate of Westfield High School. She worked in the Springfield Armory as a Woman Ordinance Worker making windage adjustment knobs on the Garand Rifle and also for the US Postal Service bulk mail center in Springfield as a package repair/ re-wraper. Mary enjoyed vegetable and flower gardening, supported Old Sturbridge Village and loved to travel, especially Hawaii. She was predeceased by her beloved husband, William B. Liese in 1972, a daughter Rosemary Liese in 2003, her brother Joseph Popowich in 1991, and her sister Helen in 2007. Mary is survived by her son James B. Liese and his wife Lisa of Stafford Springs and her daughter Laura Liese of Palmer, two grandsons Kevin of Woodstock, CT and James of Seattle, WA and six great grandchildren. A funeral home service will be held on Friday at 12 noon in the Firtion Adams FS, 76 Broad St. Westfield, followed by burial in Pine Hill Cemetery, Western Ave. Westfield. A visiting hour will precede the service from 11-12 PM in the funeral home. Donations may be made to a charity of one's choice. [www.firtionadams.com](http://www.firtionadams.com)



## Donald F. Callahan

WESTFIELD – Donald F. Callahan, 89, (1928) passed away at the Holyoke Soldiers Home on December 24, 2017. He was born in Westfield, MA to the late John F. and Pansy C. (Fairclough) Callahan and was a graduate of Westfield High School. He was employed for 30 years for Mestek/Sterling radiator and retired in 2000 from the City of Westfield. Don served



his country with the United States Army during WWII from 1946-1948, he attained the rank of PFC and received the World War II Victory Medal and the Army of Occupation Medal Japan. He was a proud member of the Sons of Erin in Westfield, the American Legion Post 124 and AMVETS. Don was predeceased by his beloved wife Mary (LeBeau) Callahan in 2007, by his two brothers, William J. Callahan and Robert E. Callahan and his sister Dorothy Griffin. He is survived by his loving children, Sandra J. Callahan of Westfield, Robert E. Callahan and his wife Elizabeth of Westfield and Deborah A. Callahan of West Springfield, his four cherished grandchildren, Katherine Callahan, Remy Rogers, Heather Smithies and Jennifer Smithies and two great grandchildren, Cassandra Smithies and Austin Rogers. A Funeral Mass will be held on Thursday at 12:30 AM in Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Church 127 Holyoke Rd. Westfield, followed by burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Westfield. A Visiting hour will precede the Mass from 11-12 Noon in the Firtion Adams FS, 76 Broad St. Westfield. In lieu of flowers, donations in Don's name to Team Callahan, may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 309 Waverley Oaks Rd. Waltham, MA 02452. [www.firtionadams.com](http://www.firtionadams.com)

## Giuseppe Giucastro

Giuseppe Giucastro, age 77 (1940-2017) of Westfield, Massachusetts, passed away on Thursday, December 21, 2017 surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Buccheri, Sicily to the late Vito and Grazia (Inganne) Giucastro on January 15, 1940. He moved to the United States in 1960 after spending two years in Venezuela where he perfected his skill as a hairdresser. Once in the United States he soon found work in Hartford as a hairdresser hardly able to believe that he was living the American dream. In the years to come, he also worked as a hairdresser in Springfield and New York City. In New York City, he was able to buy his own beauty salon, and to enjoy the benefits of living in the city, one of which was to attend the opera. At times, he could be heard singing some of the arias from his favorite opera, La Traviata. Later, he entered the restaurant business in Connecticut when he began to help his sister and brother-in-law in their pizzeria. When the couple returned to Sicily, Giuseppe took over their business and opened several other restaurants in Connecticut. In his thirties, he became interested in writing, and through this interest, he became lasting friends with Professor Joseph Tobia, his wife Rosalie, and their family. Upon retirement, he returned to his hometown in Sicily and set up an organization to provide music lessons to children and youth there. On a trip back to Westfield to visit his daughter and family in 2013, he met his future wife, who also was a writer, and they were married in August, 2016. In their few years together, they spent much time in writing, and in June 2017, Giuseppe published his first book, Another Face of God, a dream come true. Giuseppe was predeceased by his parents Vito and Grazia Giucastro and his sister, Giovanna Giucastro. He is survived by his wife, Judith (Palmer) Foard-Giucastro, his children, Tinamarie Fioroni, Daniela Gilbert, and Michael Gilbert, his grandchildren, John and his wife Donna and Annemarie Fioroni, his son-in-law, Michael Fioroni, his sister, Gaetana Ciurcina, and his step children, Lawrence C. Foard and spouse, Eric Bowman, and La Rue Reed and her husband, Steven. The funeral service was held on Saturday, December 23, 2017 at Second Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Westfield. Burial will be later in Buccheri, Sicily. The family would like to thank those medical health professionals who so diligently cared for Giuseppe during his illness, namely, Dr. Roger Beneitone, Dr. Krishnan Babu, Dr. Andrew Wagner, Dr. David Einstein, and Dr. Brian Halbert. Also the family wishes to thank the staff of Baystate Hospital, Springfield, the oncology unit doctors, nurses, and staff of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, and the Baystate Visiting Nurses and Hospice Services. Memorial contributions may be made to Behavioral Health Networks, The Carson Center, 77 Mill Street, Westfield or Westfield Food Pantry, 101 Meadow Street, Westfield. [www.firtionadams.com](http://www.firtionadams.com)



In Memory of  
**Kevin J. Regan**  
February 25, 1952  
December 27, 2014



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Missing You... Rest In Peace,  
Lynda, Family and Friends

## Holiday gift: Town gives plow trucks to another town in need

SANDISFIELD, Mass. (AP) — A Massachusetts town at one end of the state has spread holiday cheer to a town at the other end that lost its entire snow-plowing fleet in a fire. The Berkshire Eagle reports Quincy has given Sandisfield three used plow trucks that were delivered before Christmas. Quincy's mayor saw a report about the fire on a television news program and decided to donate the trucks. A spokesman for the mayor says the equipment otherwise would have been auctioned off as surplus. Sandisfield Road Superintendent Bobby O'Brien says the trucks need a little work but are in good condition. The state highway department and other cities also have pitched in to help, donating or lending equipment and assisting in plowing efforts.

## There's a big chill in New England, and it's sticking around

Memories of a white Christmas have been replaced with the stark reality of dangerous cold. The National Weather Service says there's the potential for record-breaking cold this week in New England as a big chill sets in. Meteorologist Andy Pohl says temperatures will max out in the single digits in parts of northern New England on Thursday. Temperatures in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island are not expected to rise out of the 20s all week and could dip into single digits.

## POLICE LOGS

### WESTFIELD Major crime and incident report Monday, Dec. 18, 2017

- 6:19 a.m.:** Accident, Washington Street. Police reported that an officer noticed a street sign that was hit on the corner of Washington Street and Arnold Avenue. The incident was allegedly a hit-and-run.
- 11:02 a.m.:** Motor vehicle violation and arrest, Summer Street. Police reported that they stopped a vehicle after it had allegedly made a marked lanes violation. Police reported that the operator **Nathaniel E. Larrabee**, 40, of Westfield, reportedly had a warrant out for their arrest. Police arrested them on the warrant.
- 6:40 p.m.:** Larceny, Old Stage Road. Police received a report of a person who went to sell a used cell phone and the person who bought it allegedly gave them fake money and took off through the woods with the phone.

## COURT LOGS

### Westfield District Court Dec. 18, 2017

- Eric S. Jenney**, 58, of 132 North Ridge Road, Westfield, had three charges of possess child pornography dismissed nolle prosequi. Previously, Jenney had three charges of possess firearm without FID card and one charge store improperly firearm dismissed upon request of defendant on July 26, 2017. All charges brought by Westfield Police.
- Joshua Perrier**, 18, of 12 Madison St., Westfield, was released on his personal recognizance pending a Feb. 16 hearing after being arraigned on charges of miscellaneous motor vehicle equipment violation, improper operation of motor vehicle, person under 21 possess liquor, speeding in violation of special regulation, marked lanes violation, operating under influence of liquor or .08 percent and negligent operation of motor vehicle, brought by Westfield Police.
- Omy J. Calderon**, 22, of 28 Florida St., Springfield, was released on his personal recognizance pending a Jan. 11, 2017 hearing after being arraigned on charges of operating motor vehicle with license suspended and speeding in violation of special regulation, brought by Westfield Police.

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- 6-8 am:** By George... it's Monday with George Delisle
- 8-10am:** Owls on the Air with Michael "Buster" McMahon '92

**TUESDAYS**

- 6-8 am:** WOW, It's Tuesday, with Bob Plasse
- 8-10am:** Ken's Den, with Ken Stomski

**WEDNESDAYS**

- 6-8 am:** Wake Up Wed., with Tina Gorman
- 8-10am:** Wednesday Roll Call - Rotating Hosts
- 1st Wed** On The Town with Mayor Brian Sullivan and Denny Atkins (8-10am)
- 2nd Wed** Window into Westside with Mayor Wil Reichelt (8-9am) Chamber Chatter with Kate Phelon (9-10am)
- 3rd Wed** Everything Southwick with Selectman Joe Deedy (8-9am) ArtsBeat with Mark Auerbach (9-10am)
- 4th Wed** Rock on Westfield with Harry Rock (8-9am) Boys and Girls Club Hour with Bill Parks (9-10am)

**THURSDAYS**

- 6-8 am:** The Westfield News Radio Show, with host Patrick Berry
- 8-9 am:** In The Flow with Rob & Joe: Westfield Tech. Academy's Rob Ollari & Joe Langone
- 9-10am:** Superintendents' Spotlight with Stefan Czaprowski

**FRIDAYS**

- 6-8 am:** JP's Talk about Town, with Jay Pagluica
- 8-9 am:** Owls Sports Weekly with Devin Bates '18 and Anthony Swenson '18
- 8-9 am:** Conversations with Pete Cowles

**SATURDAYS**

- 6-10am:** Polka Jammer Network, with Billy Belina

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

# FOODTRAVEL

## Gourmet Mushroom Risotto

6 cups chicken broth, divided  
3 tablespoons olive oil, divided  
1 lb. portobello mushrooms, thinly sliced  
1 lb. white mushrooms, thinly sliced  
2 shallots, diced  
1-1/2 cups Arborio rice  
1/2 cup dry white wine  
Sea salt & freshly ground black pepper to taste  
3 tablespoons finely chopped chives  
4 tablespoons butter  
1/3 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese



In a saucepan, warm the broth over low heat. Warm 2 tablespoons olive oil in a large saucepan over medium-high heat. Stir in the mushrooms, and cook until soft, about 3 minutes. Remove mushrooms and their liquid, and set aside. Add 1 tablespoon olive oil to skillet, and stir in the shallots. Cook 1 minute. Add rice, stirring to coat with oil, about 2 minutes. When the rice has taken on a pale, golden color, pour in wine, stirring constantly until the wine is fully absorbed. Add 1/2 cup broth to the rice, and stir until the broth is absorbed. Continue adding broth 1/2 cup at a time, stirring continuously, until the liquid is absorbed and the rice is al dente, about 15 to 20 minutes. Remove from heat, and stir in mushrooms with their liquid, butter, chives, and parmesan. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

## Oven-Seared Beef Tenderloin with Herb Pan Sauce

2 beef tenderloin steaks (1-1/2" thick)  
1/4 teaspoon kosher salt  
1/2 teaspoon coarsely ground pepper  
2 tablespoons vegetable oil

### Herb Pan Sauce:

1 tablespoon unsalted butter  
2 tablespoons finely diced shallots  
1 tablespoon deli-style brown mustard  
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce  
2 tablespoons heavy cream  
2 teaspoons chopped fresh parsley  
1 teaspoon chopped fresh chives  
1 teaspoon chopped fresh thyme  
1 teaspoon chopped fresh oregano

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Pat the steaks very dry with paper towels; season both sides with salt and pepper. Allow steaks to rest at room temperature for about 30 minutes while the oven pre-heats. Heat a 10-inch cast iron pan over medium-high heat for about one minute. Add the oil to pan and swirl to evenly distribute the oil. Place the steaks in the pan, allowing room between steaks. Cook without moving steaks for 2 minutes. Using tongs, lift the steaks and flip them over. If properly seared the steaks should release easily, without sticking to the pan. Immediately place cast iron pan into the hot oven. Cook steaks until firm and reddish-pink and juicy in the center, about 7 minutes. An instant-read thermometer inserted into the center should read 130 degrees F (54 degrees C). Remove skillet from oven and transfer steaks to a warm plate lightly tented with foil. (The internal temperature of the steaks will increase by about 5 degrees while resting.) Melt unsalted butter in the same skillet over low heat; add diced shallots. Cook and stir, releasing the browned bits from the bottom of the pan, about 1 minute. Stir in the deli mustard. Increase the heat to medium-high. Whisk in Swanson(R) Beef Stock and Worcestershire sauce, continuing to scrape up browned bits from the pan. Bring to a boil and cook until slightly reduced, about 5 minutes. Reduce the heat to medium. Whisk in the cream; simmer until sauce clings to the back of a spoon, about 2 minutes. Stir in the parsley, chives, thyme, and oregano. Spoon the herb sauce over steaks; serve immediately.

## California salmon lose way after ride downstream in drought

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — A desperate decision to truck California's native baby salmon toward the Pacific Ocean during the state's drought may have resulted in generations of lost young salmon now hard-pressed to find their way back to their reproductive grounds.

With fewer native fall-run Chinook salmon able to make their way back home to the leading salmon hatchery in the state, that hatchery could have only about half as many young salmon as usual to release next spring, the Sacramento Bee reported Tuesday.

For those involved in safeguarding California's struggling native salmon, it had always been understood that resorting to tanker trucks to carry tiny salmon to the ocean during the drought was a trade-off, John McManus, executive director of the fishing industry's Golden State Salmon Association, told the Bee. Getting a lift on their migration saved countless salmon, but disoriented them.

"Everybody kind of acknowledged and understood at the time the consequences," McManus said.

Native salmon historically anchored food chains and habitats on both land and in the water in California. Salmon still boost the state's economy by \$1.4 billion annually, the salmon industry says.

Dams that cut native salmon off from their former upstream spawning grounds, and general human demands on water, have helped cut salmon numbers drastically in the state, making state and federal hatcheries crucial for the fish.

California's drought, declared over just last spring, included some of the driest spells ever recorded in the state. In 2014 and 2015, hatchery managers resorted to sucking baby salmon into tanker trucks for their 280-mile migration toward the ocean, biologists say. Chinook salmon spend two or three years in the ocean before heading back upstream to reproduce.

Since the 2014 class of salmon didn't learn the route by swimming it on their own power, many have gone astray as they head back upstream now.

Biologists say only a small fraction of those made it back to what would be their usual point of return, at the Coleman hatchery. Salmon managers are tracking now how many of the strayed salmon wound up in other watersheds.

## Salmon Puffs

8 oz. smoked salmon, chopped  
12 oz. crumbled feta cheese  
1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper  
1/8 teaspoon minced garlic  
1 (17.5 oz.) pkg. frozen puff pastry, thawed  
1 egg white, beaten



Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper. Combine smoked salmon, feta cheese, black pepper and garlic. Roll out puff pastry on lightly floured surface to form a 12x12 inch sheet. Cut sheet into 16 3x3-inch squares. Place a spoonful of salmon filling in the center of each square. Pull together corners of each square to form 16 small packets. Brush packets with egg whites and place on prepared baking sheets. (The puffs can be frozen at this point.) Bake in preheated oven until pastry is golden brown, about 20 minutes. Serve warm.

## Peppermint Meringues

2 egg whites  
1/8 teaspoon salt  
1/8 teaspoon cream of tartar  
1/2 cup white sugar  
2 peppermint candy canes, crushed

Preheat oven to 225 degrees F. Line 2 cookie sheets with foil. In a large glass or metal mixing bowl, beat egg whites, salt, and cream of tartar to soft peaks. Gradually add sugar, continuing to beat until whites form stiff peaks. Drop by spoonfuls 1 inch apart on the prepared cookie sheets. Sprinkle crushed peppermint candy over the cookies. Bake for 1-1/2 hours in preheated oven. Meringues should be completely dry on the inside. Do not allow them to brown. Turn off oven. Keep oven door ajar, and let meringues sit in the oven until completely cool. Loosen from foil with metal spatula.



## RECIPES

## COOKING ON DEADLINE: Chopped Winter Salad

By KATIE WORKMAN  
Associated Press

How often do we read some article about how meaningful it is to cook with the seasons? But winter can test those good intentions.

You try and make a meal out of two rutabagas and a turnip.

But hey, I'm not really that curmudgeonly about winter. I love cold-weather cooking, in fact. And I like a challenge.

Making a salad in the warm months is an exercise in greediness and narrowing down choices. Our bowls overfloweth. But this time of year, the pickings get slimmer. Time for those creative juices to flow: We might think about including a cooked ingredient or two in a salad, and maybe some cold-weather fruit.

In this salad, beautiful, sweet, orange, butternut squash gets roasted with some slightly — but appealingly — bitter radicchio. Roasting sweetens up the lettuce a bit, and the squash too. When cooled, they are mixed with some assertive endive, tart apple and earthy chickpeas.

You can choose between red wine or balsamic vinegar for the dressing. Either will amp

up the tartness, and the balsamic will add a little sweetness as well.

The ricotta salata is the amazing finishing touch. It is an Italian cheese that should be a lot more popular than it is. Ricotta salata is made from the whey of sheep's milk. It has an ivory color, a lovely saltiness and a firm, crumbly texture. If you can't find it, a cup of crumbled feta would do fine. You could also use goat cheese, but I might sprinkle that over the top of the salad so it stays distinct and doesn't mush into the rest of the dish.

### CHOPPED WINTER SALAD

Serves 6  
Start to finish: 50 minutes

1 pound cubed (3/4-inch) butternut squash  
Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper to taste  
4 tablespoons olive oil, divided  
1 large head radicchio, quartered and cored, and each quarter sliced in thirds crosswise  
1/4 cup balsamic or red wine vinegar

2 large heads endive, sliced cross-wise into 1/2-inch slices  
1 (15.5 ounce) can chickpeas, drained and rinsed  
1 green apple, cut into 1/2-inch dice  
1 cup slivered ricotta salata

Preheat the oven to 425 degrees F. Place the squash with 1 tablespoon of the olive oil on a rimmed baking sheet, season with salt and pepper, and toss well. Spread out into a single layer, and roast for 15 minutes, until almost tender. Remove from the oven, add the radicchio, toss again, and spread out again into a single layer. Roast for another 8 to 10 minutes until the squash is tender, but still firm, and the radicchio is wilted. Remove and let cool to room temperature.

In a large bowl whisk together the vinegar, remaining 3 tablespoons olive oil, and salt and pepper. Add the cooled squash and radicchio, endive, chickpeas, apple, and ricotta salata, and toss to combine. Taste and adjust seasonings as needed.

Nutrition information per serving: 305 calories; 145 calories from fat; 16 g fat (5 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 21 mg cholesterol; 282 mg sodium; 31 g carbohydrate; 11 g fiber; 6 g sugar; 11 g protein.

Katie Workman has written two cookbooks focused on easy, family-friendly cooking, "Dinner Solved!" and "The Mom 100 Cookbook." She blogs at <http://www.themom100.com/about-katie-workman>. She can be reached at [Katie@themom100.com](mailto:Katie@themom100.com).

This November 2017 photo shows a chopped winter salad in New York. This dish is from a recipe by Katie Workman. (Mia via AP)



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## A look at travel lists

# Where to go in 2018

### The Associated Press

Many travel brands, guidebook publishers and websites offer lists of places to go in the new year. Here's a look at some of those lists for 2018. They include destinations from every continent, cities large and small, islands, rural regions and wilderness areas, places in the news and places you've never heard of.

**AFAR MAGAZINE:** Abu Dhabi; Athens; Bhutan; Big Sur, California; Dundee, Scotland; Faroe Islands; France; Guatemala; Haida Gwaii, British Columbia; Kazakhstan; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Mexico City; Northern California wine country; Palau; Seattle; Sun Valley, Idaho; Tromsø, Norway; Twin Cities, Minnesota. AFAR's Traveler's Choice Destination Awards (based on votes from readers): U.S. road trip, California; European city, Barcelona; adventure, Torres Del Paine, Chile; Caribbean/Mexico Beach: Turks & Caicos; wine region, Bordeaux; arts & culture, Cape Town, South Africa; U.S. beach: Manele Bay, Lanai, Hawaii; Asian/Middle Eastern city: Tokyo; U.S. city, Austin; epic trip: overwater bungalow in French Polynesia; global festival, Day of the Dead; sports event, 2018 Winter Olympics; food destination, Paris; ski destination, St. Moritz, Switzerland; water sports destination, Fiji.

**BOOKING.COM:** Top 10 emerging destinations (highest increase in bookings from 2016 to 2017): Sapporo, Japan; Nashville; Bucharest, Romania; Zakopane, Poland; Taitung City, Taiwan; Brisbane, Australia; Bogota, Colombia; Portland, Oregon; Lima, Peru; Hanover, Germany.

**CONDE NAST TRAVELER:** Antarctica; the Bahamas; Guadalajara, Mexico; Minneapolis; New Orleans; Malta; The Azores, Portugal; Georgia (country); Bratislava, Slovakia; South Korea; Chengdu, China; Kolkata and the Andaman Islands, India; Petra, Jordan; Quito, Ecuador; Northern Peru; Great Barrier Reef, Australia; Accra, Ghana; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

**DK EYEWITNESS TRAVEL** (guidebook publishers): South Africa, Chile, Malta, Norway, Northern France, Japan, Pacific Northwest, Singapore, United Kingdom, India.

**FODOR'S:** First 10 on a list of 52 destinations: Marrakesh, Morocco; Cook Islands; Salar de Tunupa, Bolivia; Split, Croatia; Kuwait; Memphis; Armenia; Mongolia; Dublin; Belize.

**FROMMER'S:** Lake District, Cumbria, England; Nicaragua; Mauritius; Malta; County Clare, Ireland; Bisbee, Arizona; St. Helena; Jordan; Gotthard Panorama Express, Switzerland; San Antonio, Texas; Colombia; Madurai, Tamil Nadu, India; New Orleans; Hamburg, Germany; Faroe Islands; Juneau, Alaska; Mekong River; the Caribbean.

**INSTAGRAM:** Emerging beaches and islands, based on year-over-year growth of geotag check-ins: Miami-South Beach; Boracay, Philippines; Sochi, Russia; Phi Phi Islands, Thailand; San Andres Island, Colombia; Bondi Beach, Sydney; Arraial Do Cabo, Rio de Janeiro; Waikiki Beach-Honolulu; Penang Island, Malaysia; Kuta Beach, Pantai Kuta, Bali, Indonesia.

**LONELY PLANET:** Top 10 countries: Chile, South Korea, Portugal, Djibouti, New Zealand, Malta, Georgia, Mauritius, China, South Africa. Top 10 cities: Seville, Spain; Detroit; Canberra, Australia; Hamburg, Germany; Kaohsiung, Taiwan; Antwerp, Belgium; Matera, Italy; San Juan, Puerto Rico; Guanajuato, Mexico; Oslo, Norway. Top 10 regions: Belfast & the Causeway Coast, Northern Ireland; Alaska; Julian Alps, Slovenia; Languedoc-Roussillon, France; Kii Peninsula, Japan; Aeolian Islands, Italy; Southern U.S.; Lahaul and Spiti, India; Bahia, Brazil; Los Haitises National Park, Dominican Republic. Top 10 best value: Tallinn, Estonia; Lanzarote, Canary Islands, Spain; Arizona; La Paz, Bolivia; Poland; Essaouira, Morocco; United Kingdom; Baja California, Mexico; Jacksonville, Florida; Hunan, China.

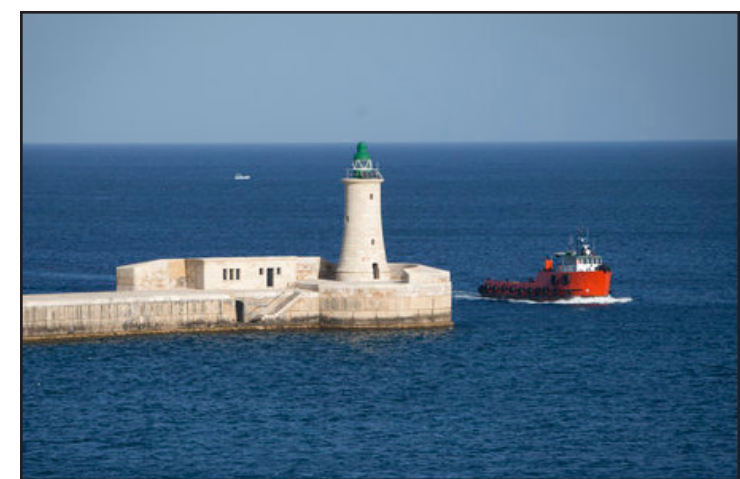
**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC:** Harar, Ethiopia; Jujuy Province, Argentina; Tbilisi, Georgia; Sydney, Australia; Oaxaca, Mexico; Vienna; North Shore, Oahu, Hawaii; Malmo, Sweden; Jordan Trail; Dublin; Madagascar; Santiago, Chile; Phnom Penh, Cambodia; Cleveland, Ohio; Tetouan, Morocco; Seoraksan National Park, South Korea; Albania; San Antonio, Texas; Labrador, Canada; Friesland, Netherlands; Ruaha National Park, Tanzania.

**ROBB REPORT:** Napa Valley; Buenos Aires; Burgenstock, Switzerland; Shanghai; Rwanda; St. Barts; Pyeongchang, South Korea; Antarctica; New Orleans; Cambodia; Mexico City; Iceland; Toronto; Hamburg, Germany; Malta; Israel; Botswana; St. Kitts; Marrakech, Morocco; Newport, Rhode Island; Russia.

**TRAVEL LEADERS:** Top 15 from survey of luxury travel agents: Italy, European river cruise, Mediterranean cruise, U.S., Ireland, Australia, Mexico, Caribbean cruise, France, Iceland, Jamaica, South Africa, England, Greece, New Zealand and Spain (last two tied for 15th)

**TRAVEL + LEISURE MAGAZINE:** First 10 on a list of 50: Solta, Croatia; Greenville, South Carolina; Grenada; Buenos Aires; Los Cabos, Mexico; Walla Walla Valley, Washington; Uzbekistan; Egypt; Marrakesh, Morocco; Fiji.

**U.S. TOUR OPERATORS ASSOCIATION:** Off-the-beaten path: Iceland, Colombia, Vietnam. Most popular: Australia, Spain, Iceland and Italy (tied for third), France and Japan. U.S.: California, Florida and Hawaii (tied for second), New York, Alaska and Nevada (tied for fourth) and Washington, D.C.



In this Feb. 3, 2017, file photo, a boat passes through the entrance to the Grand Harbour in Valletta, Malta. Valletta was declared one of two European Capitals of Culture for 2018, kicking off with an island-wide Maltese Festa Jan. 14-21. The other European Capital of Culture is the Dutch city of Leeuwarden, the capital of Friesland. (AP Photo/Virginia Mayo, File)



Rochelle Carlotti, 28, shovels steps near her home after a record snowfall on Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2017, in Erie, Pa. The National Weather Service office in Cleveland says Monday's storm brought 34 inches of snow, an all-time daily snowfall record for Erie. (Greg Wohlford/Erie Times-News via AP)

## Erie smashes snowfall record with flakes still falling

ERIE, Pa. (AP) — Snow continues to fall in Erie, Pennsylvania, and surrounding areas that already have seen a record amount of snow over the past few days, prompting a disaster emergency declaration.

Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper signed a declaration of disaster emergency which she said would allow "needed resources to be obtained."

Emergency management coordinator Dale Robinson says that will allow officials to bring in some National Guard resources with forecasters predicting more snow Wednesday.

The storm brought 34 inches of snow on Christmas Day, an all-time daily snowfall record for Erie. Another 24.5 inches fell by Tuesday night, bringing the total since Dec. 23 to more than 62.9 inches.

Erie has issued a snow emergency, citing "dangerous and impassable" roads. Officials urged people to avoid travel.



Patrick Harden clears snow from the roof of his car on Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2017, in Erie, Pa. The National Weather Service office in Cleveland says Monday's storm brought 34 inches of snow, an all-time daily snowfall record for Erie. Another 19 inches fell before dawn Tuesday, making the greatest two-day total in commonwealth history. (Greg Wohlford/Erie Times-News via AP)

## Amid sales drop, Harley-Davidson wants to teach more to ride

By IVAN MORENO

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) —

Harley-Davidson is placing a renewed emphasis on teaching people to ride as part of its efforts to attract more customers.

The Milwaukee-based company's decision to expand the number of dealerships with a Harley "Riding Academy" comes as the industry grapples with years of declining sales and an aging customer base.

The program launched in 2000 with about 50 locations and now 245 dealerships in the U.S. offer the three- or four-day course. The company says about a quarter of those launched since 2014.

Harley sold 124,777 new motorcycles through nine months in 2017, down from 135,581 during the same period the previous year, according to the company's most recent earnings report.

The Motorcycle Industry Council says the median age of motorcycle owners increased from 32 to 47 since 1990. About 46 percent of riders are over 50; only about 10 percent are 30-34.

Samantha Kay rode on the back of her father's motorcycle growing up, but when the 25-year-old took a class to ride for the first time she couldn't help being anxious.

"I think motorcycles inherently do scare a lot of people," said Kay, a Milwaukee woman who is one of 50,000 people nationwide who took a riding course at a Harley-Davidson dealership this year.

The training is one of the ways Harley is trying to attract a new generation of riders like Kay amid big demographic shifts.

"Some of the aging Baby Boomers, which have been the guts of Harley-Davidson's purchasers, they're getting older and some of them are just getting out of the sport because they can't handle the motorcycle anymore," said Clyde Fessler, who retired



In this Dec. 12, 2017, photo, Terri Meehan poses on a 2018 Harley Softail Slim in Milwaukee's House of Harley. Meehan took a riding course at the dealership as part of Harley-Davidson's "Riding Academy," an initiative the company hopes will help bring new customers. (AP Photo/Ivan Moreno)

from Harley-Davidson in 2002 after holding several executive positions over 25 years. He created what became the "Riding Academy."

He said the idea "is getting people comfortable on a motorcycle and getting them to feel safe and confident."

In addition to riders getting older, a slow economic recovery has made it harder for millennials to buy new motorcycles, said Jim Williams, vice president of the American Motorcyclist Association.

Among the newest models, a 2018 Softail Slim starts at \$15,899 and a 2018 Sportster Forty-Eight at \$11,299.

"The younger generations are buying plenty of motorcycles, they're just not new," Williams said.

But it's not all the millennials' fault, said Robert Pandya, who managed public relations for Indian Motorcycles and Victory Motorcycles. Pandya recently launched "Give A Shift," a volunteer group discussing ideas to promote motorcycling. One of their conclusions, he said, is the idea that "if mom rides, the kids will ride."

have younger riders in mind. In all, the company plans to release 100 new motorcycles over the next 10 years. During that time, the company also wants to gain 2 million new riders.

Terri Meehan took plenty of motorcycle rides with friends as a passenger but has wanted to be in the driver's seat for a while. The 42-year-old took the Harley-Davidson riding course in October because she wanted to learn from "an expert who could teach right way versus someone who had learned bad habits."

The price of the class varies by dealership but it's generally about \$300. Students spend time in class learning about motorcycle safety and on ranges learning to ride. Meehan plans to buy a motorcycle soon.

"My son's a psychology major so he asked me if I was going through a mid-life crisis, which is actually quite hilarious," said Meehan.

Kay's experience notwithstanding, another challenge for Harley-Davidson is motorcycling simply isn't a major part of people's upbringing like it was once, Malenshek said.

"If you think about Baby Boomers, they probably were brought up on a dirt bike or had an uncle or a neighbor or something who was riding around in a Harley-Davidson. That may not be the case today," she said.

She said the company's CEO, Matthew Levatich, is encouraging employees to engage people in conversations about motorcycling if someone happens to say, "Nice bike." Malenshek took that to heart during an interaction with someone at a gas station who complimented her on her motorcycle and told her he'd never thought about riding.

"And I said, 'I can get you hooked up with the riding academy!'"

# Cowles Bridge

Continued from Page 1

The letter sent to the Westfield Fire Department read as follows:

*"It has come to the attention of MassDOT that a Westfield Fire Department vehicle exceeding the posted weight limits crosses the bridge. While MassDOT understand that the restrictions may be a hardship to some Municipal services, a vehicle exceeding the posted limits should not cross the bridge unless an analysis of the specific vehicle has been performed and MassDOT has granted a waiver for that vehicle to cross the bridge."*

The department was using the bridge for emergency purposes prior to the letter from MassDOT, which was previously OKed by the Westfield Police Department, according to Westfield Fire Chief Mary Regan in the Aug. 9 article from The Westfield News.

However, according to Westfield Police Officer Charles Kielbasa of the city police department's traffic bureau from the same article, he was unaware of such an agreement.

"I don't know where that came from, if in fact had anything like that," he was quoted as saying in the article.

The department requested a waiver from MassDOT, and also devised ways to respond to the other side of the bridge, though delays in responses had occurred.

The department and city were initially given a timeline of about three weeks from MassDOT of when a potential waiver could be received. However, as that time passed and no waiver or result was produced, concern grew in the city.

In September, the City Council looked into the matter, as their Public Health and Safety Committee held a meeting with city and state officials on the matter. It was said by Rep. John Velis that he had also placed pressure upon MassDOT for a decision.

Eventually, on Nov. 20, word finally came from Velis that a waiver would be coming to the city. Then, two days later on Nov. 22, the Westfield Fire Department finally received a waiver from MassDOT.

The waiver would allow for four of the five department engines to use the bridge, with additional restrictions of a 5 MPH speed limit and that the bridge only be used in emergencies.



The posted weight limit on Cowles Bridge.

# Arrests

Continued from Page 1

incident. In addition, Noel was also arraigned on a charge of assault and battery serious bodily injury for the Dec. 21 incident, which he was also arraigned on the same day.

Both were held without right to bail pending a dangerousness hearing scheduled for Jan. 2, 2018, at Westfield District Court.

According to statements of facts of Noel and Sein at Westfield District Court for the Dec. 16 incident, a witness reportedly observed the alleged assault occur, with additional witnesses reportedly having the defendants in the area around the time of the incident.

Then, according to a statement of facts of Noel at the district court for the Dec. 21 incident, the victim had reportedly identified Noel through pictures provided.

Previously, police reported assaults that occurred on Dec. 16 and 21, each of which resulted in the victim from each incident being transported to area hospitals for injuries reportedly sustained from the incidents.

On Dec. 16, police reported that they received a report at their station from the alleged victim shortly before 7:30 p.m. that they were assaulted. The victim was allegedly assaulted by three males in the vicinity of East Bartlett Street and Phelps Avenue.

According to The Westfield News article on Dec. 19, "Police reported that the victim claimed that one male party had approached him and initially threw him to the ground, then allegedly began punching him."

Then, according to police, it was reported that two additional males had allegedly began to punch and kick the victim. Also, \$29 was allegedly taken from the victim.

Police reported that the victim was reportedly transported to Baystate Medical Center due to injuries.

Then, on Dec. 21, police received a report shortly before 12:45 a.m., which was in relation to an assault that had reportedly occurred on Chapel Street.

According to police, the victim was allegedly assaulted by two males and sustained a jaw injury, with their pockets also allegedly "rummaged" through.

The victim was transported to Baystate Medical Center for their injuries.

# Few Accidents

Continued from Page 1

according to police. Police received a report at 6:50 p.m. of a pedestrian that was struck by a vehicle while they were in the crosswalk.

According to police though, the pedestrian that was reportedly struck was standing when police arrived and the vehicle that struck them was still on scene. The pedestrian was taken

to Baystate Noble Hospital via Westfield Fire ambulance and personnel.

# Hilltowns

Continued from Page 1

cost to Gateway," LeClair said.

In support of the effort, the Jacob's Ladder Business Association ([www.jlba.org](http://www.jlba.org)), another collaborative hilltown organization, is offering a prize for the best business plan produced by students at the end of the year, in lieu of the annual scholarship the organization used to give. LeClair said she is hoping to host a "Shark Tank" style public event, at which students can pitch their plans for the prize.

Although the grant funding the position is for 12 months only, LeClair and the Hilltown Collaborative are hoping that the six towns will agree to put shared funding for the position in their annual town budgets for FY19.

HUNTINGTON –Renewed energy in the hilltowns was also reflected in contested races for both Selectmen and Town Clerk in Huntington in the town election on May 19.

Elected for a three-year term on the Board of Selectman was Capital Planning Committee member Karon Hathaway, who defeated fireman Dylan Mosher 229 to 50. Elected for a two-year term was Finance Committee chair Darlene McVeigh, who had 183 votes to business owner and Planning Board member Evelyn Korfias' 99.



Kathleen Thomas (l) and Judith Guyette(r) tied in the race for Town Clerk in Huntington.

Three residents ran for the office of Town Clerk. The position became available in March when the former town clerk and tax collector resigned, citing personal reasons. Kathleen Thomas, who had served as assistant town clerk was named interim town clerk, and also ran for the elected office against former town clerk Judith Guyette and Melissa Reid, a lifelong resident of the town and member of the Board of Health.

In the election, Thomas received 139 votes and Guyette, who previously served as Town Clerk from 1983 to 2003 also received 139 votes. Board of Health member Melissa Reid, the third candidate, received 10 votes. The tie was unprecedented, according to Thomas. A recount was scheduled, which yielded the same result. Following the recount, Guyette conceded the race for personal reasons, and Thomas was appointed by the Board of Selectmen as Temporary Town Clerk until the next election in May, 2018.

BLANDFORD –Meanwhile, the appointed Town Administrator position in Blandford was also facing a vote. Angeline Ellison, who became the first Town Administrator in ten years in September of 2016 faced two efforts by area citizens to reduce her part-time salary from \$40,000 to \$1, effectively eliminating the position.



Blandford Town Administrator Angeline Ellison. (WNG File Photo)

At the Annual Town Meeting in May, residents voted on a Citizen's Petition submitted by town resident Don Carpenter to fund the Town Administrator salary line at \$1 for fiscal year 2018. Both the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen recommended that the town take no action on the article. At the meeting, Town Moderator David B. Hopson asked for a motion on the question, and the vote to take no action passed 76 to 32 by secret ballot.

Ellison had been hired in part on a recommendation by the state Department of Revenue that the town hire a town administrator, after the former tax collector was charged with stealing more than \$150,000 from taxpayers and the town. In January, LeeAnn Thompson, 47, of North Chelmsford, was indicted by a Hampden County Grand Jury on the charges of Embezzlement by a Public Officer (1 count), Larceny Over \$250 (1 count), and Use of an Official Position to Secure an Unwarranted Privilege (1 count). In November, a trial date for Thompson was set for March 19, 2018.

Ellison's difficulties with the town continued after the Annual Meeting. In October, a second citizen's petition submitted by resident Anthony J van Werkhoven with 99 signatures forced another vote at a Special Town Meeting on Nov. 20 to reduce the town administrator's salary to \$1.00. Once again, a motion was made to postpone the vote indefinitely, which passed by a majority show of hands.

Earlier this month, it was announced that Ellison had been offered the full-time job of town

manager in Uxbridge. Ellison, who lives in Sturbridge said they were still in negotiations, but she was looking forward to it, especially being closer to home. "It's been a wonderful experience, full of challenges and lots of opportunity for growth and development," she said about her year in Blandford.

"My responsibility to her as her manager is that she leaves better than when she started. I would never begrudge an employee leaving for a better opportunity and this is more hours, more compensation, and a shorter commute. I've enjoyed working with her and wish her the best," said Adam Dolby, chair of the Blandford Board of Selectmen this week.

BLANDFORD SKI AREA – Before a standing room only crowd of members and friends, the Springfield Ski Club held a special meeting of current membership on July 18 to vote on whether to move forward with the sale of Blandford Ski Area to Butternut Basin. After hearing from Mike Gagnon, president of the ski club and Jeff Murdock, owner of Butternut Basin, 286 members, including proxy ballots of those not able to attend, were in favor of the sale. The vote was well over the two-thirds of the 338 current members required to move forward.

Prior to the sale, which became finalized on September 1, The Blandford Ski Area, owned by the Springfield Ski Club, celebrated its 80th season as the oldest club-owned ski area in North America.

In late October, Ron Crozier became the new General Manager for Ski Blandford. Crozier previously worked for Butternut from 1999 to 2004. He said the new position of general manager was like "coming home."

Crozier said they were working at Blandford to make the place presentable. Projects include maintenance of the chair lift, mowing the slopes, and weeding. They repaired Blandford's snow guns, and leased four more from the manufacturer. "More firepower," he said. They also bought a "new used" Pisten Bully groomer.

HUNTINGTON –Another significant sale was through an auction for the historic 1882 St. Thomas Church on the corner of East Main and Basket Streets on July 20 p.m. on the church grounds. There were six bidders in all, according to auctioneer Corey Fisher of Aaron Posnik & Co., Inc. auctioneers of West Springfield, who also said the church held a deed restriction that no eventual usage inconsistent with the Roman Catholic Church would be permitted.



St. Thomas church in Huntington was auctioned off July 20. (Photo by Amy Porter)

The church also had a Local Historic District restriction put on the church by the town of Huntington in 2012, when they voted to amend the town's bylaws to create a single property Local Historic District, consisting solely of the St. Thomas Roman Catholic Church.

The successful bidder at \$75,000 was Gerry Farelly of Westfield on behalf of the Farelly Family Realty Trust. Farelly declined to comment on his plans for the church.

St. Thomas Roman Catholic Church closed in February of 2010, after the membership of St. Thomas, Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Russell and St. John Mission in Chester voted to merge parishes and worship in the Russell church, which was then renamed the Holy Family Parish. St. Thomas went on sale shortly afterwards, originally listed for \$199,900.

CHESTER – Coming full circle, Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito visited Chester on July 26, accompanied by Michael Knapik, director of the Baker-Polito administration's Western Massachusetts office in Springfield to celebrate a \$1 million grant for a 5 1/2 mile stretch of East River Road awarded by the MassWorks infrastructure grant program in partnership with MassDOT.



Rosanne McClaflin of the Chester Highway Department and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito.

"I have enjoyed so much the visits across the Commonwealth, and to be able to work directly with you on moving towards your goals," Polito said at the end of the visit. "I think it's very exciting. Thank you for all of your efforts," she added.

After Polito and Knapik left to attend another meeting in the town of Mount Washington, Chester Selectman Barbara Huntoon said she was "honored and thrilled that she came." "It shows the commitment on the state level for local issues. That's big for us, especially being pretty far away from the center." Myers said.

"The governor and lieutenant governor were selectmen, so they understand. We're pretty excited for Chester's future," added Selectman Rene Senecal.

## CSF Scholarship Application Deadline March 18th

WESTFIELD — The CSF Westfield Dollars for Scholars Board of Directors announces that beginning February 1st high school seniors and college students in undergraduate studies residing in Westfield may apply for college scholarships online through the website, <http://csfwestfield.dollarsforscholars.org>. Students will have the ability to create online profiles, which allow them to apply for and be matched to multiple scholarships on both the local & national level for the 2018-2019 school year. We encourage prospective college students to begin developing online profiles now to assure that you are alerted of scholarship opportunities in advance of deadlines. CSF awards are need and merit based. Applications must be completed, the 2018-2019 SAR report from the FAFSA and most recent academic transcript uploaded into the Additional Documents section, and submitted by March 18, 2018.

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62 School St. Westfield, MA

# SPORTS

## Sports Year-In-Review: The Beginning

By **CHRIS PUTZ**  
Staff Writer

*This is the first of a four-part series looking back on the local sports world in 2017. Coming Thursday: Spring '17.*

In the beginning...

The Year 2017 began like many before it for the New England Patriots – with another Super Bowl title.

Flash back to the beginning of the 2016-17 NFL season. Tom Brady served a suspension. Backup and backup-to-the-backup quarterbacks Jimmy Garoppolo and

Jacoby Brissett tossed the Patriots wins in relief duty. New England went on to win its fifth Super Bowl championship, joining the likes of the Steelers, 49ers, and Cowboys from bygone eras as unflappable dynasties.

Back at our office on School Street, confetti and streamers rained all over local resident Rita Hurt. Not exactly, but Hurt was showered with praise after winning our Beat The Putz pro football contest.

Hurt's Week 13 winner – she went 11-2 that week to capture a gift certificate to The Tavern Restaurant –



*Beat The Putz 2017 winner Rita Hurt, second from right, accepts the grand prize, a flat screen television from Manny's TV & Appliances local store manager Patrick Barrett, second from left, Wednesday. Westfield News sports editor Chris Putz, right, and sales director Flora Masciadrelli were on hand for the award presentation. (Staff Photo)*

point in a late season boys ice hockey game, joining legendary locals Nick Masciadrelli and Trey Tremblay on a select list of 100-point hockey scorers.

Gezotis finished the 2016-17 season with 55 goals and 45 assists.

The good times continued in the local sports world when the Westfield High School boys ice hockey team secured its fourth west sectional title in five seasons, and 10th since 2002, with a 4-2 win over Longmeadow. The Bombers and Lancers have produced 15 of the last 16 champions.



*St. Mary senior boys' ice hockey player Shaun Gezotis is recognized for scoring the 100th point of his career.*



*Westfield High's Rebecca Stephens, center, junior Grace O'Connor, left, and sophomore Lauren O'Connor, right, are all smiles after successfully completing a challenging season (thanks in large part to Mother Nature) with a nice run at the state championship in March at Wachusett Mountain in Princeton.*

eventually led to her grand prize net of a flat-screen television, courtesy of Manny's TV & Appliances.

Speaking of championship runs, Westfield skiers Rebecca Stephens and Grace O'Connor dominated the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference leaderboard all winter season. Stephens won a silver medal at the individual championships in February; O'Connor finished just short of the top 10 in 11th place.

At the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association state championships, O'Connor became a gold medal winner on the Giant Slalom. Stephens placed third on the slalom.

St. Mary's skier Matthew Masciadrelli one-upped his fellow competitors, navigating past a field of 150 skiers and blazing the trail en route to first place in the Giant Slalom championship.

Masciadrelli wasn't the only Saint feeling blessed. St. Mary center Shaun Gezotis netted his 100th career



**WESTFIELD BOMBERS**  
2016-17 D3 Boys' Ice Hockey West Sectional Champs

### LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDINGS/RESULTS

#### BOYS ICE HOCKEY

Westfield 4-1

#### BOYS BASKETBALL

Westfield 4-0  
Southwick 2-0  
Gateway 0-4  
Westfield Technical Academy 1-1  
St. Mary 0-2

#### GIRLS BASKETBALL

Westfield 2-2  
Southwick 1-1  
Gateway 2-3  
Westfield Technical Academy 0-2  
St. Mary 0-1

#### GIRLS ICE HOCKEY

Westfield-Longmeadow Co-Op 0-0

#### GIRLS SWIMMING

Westfield 3-0

#### BOYS SWIMMING

Westfield 3-0

#### WRESTLING

Westfield 3-1

#### SATURDAY RESULTS

**BOYS ICE HOCKEY**  
Westfield 2, Minnechaug 0

# WESTFIELD STATE SPORTS SCHEDULES

## 2017-2018 Westfield State Men's-Women's Indoor Track and Field

### DAY DATE EVENT LOCATION

Saturday Jan. 20 Maroon & White Classic  
Springfield College- Springfield, Mass.  
Saturday Jan. 27 Massasoit Classic  
Springfield College- Springfield, Mass.  
Fri.-Sat. Feb 2-3 NEICAAA  
Championship  
Reggie Lewis Center- Boston, Mass.  
Saturday Feb. 3 Wesleyan University  
Invitational II  
Wesleyan University- Middletown, Conn.  
Saturday Feb. 10 MASCAC/Alliance  
Championships  
Rhode Island College- Providence, RI  
Fri.-Sat. Feb. 16-17 New England  
Division III Finals (W)  
Springfield- Springfield, Mass.;  
M) Middlebury - Middlebury, Vt.  
Sat. Feb. 24 TBD  
Saturday March 3 Tufts Final Qualifying  
Meet  
Tufts University- Medford, Mass.  
Fri.-Sat. March 9-10 NCAA Division III  
Championships  
CrossPlex- Birmingham, Ala.

## 2017-2018 Westfield State University Men's Basketball Schedule

### DAY DATE OPPONENT TIME

Sat Dec. 30 at Trinity Tournament vs. Regis 7:00  
Sun Dec. 31 at Trinity Tournament Consolation/ Championship 12:00/2:00  
Sat Jan. 6 at MCLA 3:00  
Sat Jan. 13 BRIDGEWATER STATE 3:00  
Wed Jan. 17 FRAMINGHAM STATE 7:30  
Sat Jan. 20 at Salem State 3:00  
Tues Jan. 23 at Fitchburg State 7:30  
Thur Jan. 25 WORCESTER STATE 7:30  
Sat Jan. 27 MCLA 3:00  
Sat Feb. 3 at Bridgewater State 3:00  
Wed Feb. 7 at Framingham State 8:00  
Sat Feb. 10 SALEM STATE 3:00  
Wed Feb. 14 FITCHBURG STATE 7:30  
Sat Feb. 17 at Worcester State 3:00  
Tues Feb. 20 MASCAC Quarterfinals TBA  
Thur Feb. 22 MASCAC Semifinals TBA  
Sat Feb. 24 MASCAC Championship TBA

## 2017-2018 Westfield State University Women's Basketball Schedule

### DAY DATE OPPONENT TIME

Sat Jan. 20 at Salem State 1:00  
Tues Jan. 23 at Fitchburg State 5:30  
Thur Jan. 25 WORCESTER STATE 5:30  
Sat Jan. 27 MCLA 1:00  
Sat Feb. 3 at Bridgewater State 1:00  
Wed Feb. 7 at Framingham State 6:00  
Sat Feb. 10 SALEM STATE 1:00  
Wed Feb. 14 FITCHBURG STATE 5:30  
Sat Feb. 17 at Worcester State 1:00  
Tues Feb. 20 MASCAC Quarterfinals TBA  
Thur Feb. 22 MASCAC Semifinals TBA  
Sat Feb. 24 MASCAC Championship TBA

## 2017-2018 Westfield State University Women's Swimming & Diving Schedule

### DAY DATE OPPONENT TIME

Fri Jan. 19 at Saint Joseph, CT 5:00  
Sat Jan. 27 WESTERN CONNECTICUT 1:00  
Sun Jan. 28 at Rhode Island College (at Bryant) 1:00  
Sat Feb. 3 LEC Championships 11:00 a.m.  
@ UMass Dartmouth  
Fri Feb. 16 New England Championships  
Sat Feb. 17 New England Championships  
Sun Feb. 18 New England Championships  
@ University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI

## 2017-2018 Westfield State Ice Hockey Schedule

### DAY DATE OPPONENT TIME

Thur Jan. 4 at Becker 7:00  
Sat Jan. 6 at Salem State 2:00  
Fri Jan. 12 at Martha's Vineyard Tournament vs Curry 3:00  
Sat Jan. 13 at Martha's Vineyard Tournament vs Salve Regina 1:00  
Thur Jan. 18 UMASS DARTMOUTH 7:35  
Sat Jan. 20 at Worcester State 3:30  
Thur Jan. 25 at Fitchburg State 7:00  
Sat Jan. 27 PLYMOUTH STATE 5:35  
Tues Jan. 30 FRAMINGHAM STATE 7:35  
Thur Feb. 1 SALEM STATE 7:35  
Thur Feb. 8 at Framingham State 7:30  
Sat Feb. 10 at UMass Dartmouth 4:30  
Thur Feb. 15 WORCESTER STATE 7:35  
Sat Feb. 17 FITCHBURG STATE 5:35  
Tues Feb. 20 at Plymouth State 6:00  
Sat Feb. 24 MASCAC Quarterfinals TBD  
Tues Feb. 27 MASCAC Semifinals TBD  
Sat March 3 MASCAC Championship TBD

# NFL Playoff Scenarios

The Associated Press

### AFC

**CLINCHED:** New England - AFC East division title and first-round bye; Pittsburgh - AFC North division title and first-round bye; Jacksonville - AFC South division title; Kansas City - AFC West division title  
**NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS (12-3) vs. New York Jets (5-10)**  
New England clinches home-field advantage throughout AFC playoffs with:  
— A win or Pittsburgh loss  
— A tie and a Pittsburgh tie  
**PITTSBURGH STEELERS (12-3) vs. Cleveland (0-15)**  
Pittsburgh clinches home-field advantage throughout AFC playoffs with:  
— A win and a New England loss or tie  
— A tie and a New England loss  
**BALTIMORE RAVENS (9-6) vs. Cincinnati (6-9)**  
Baltimore clinches a playoff berth with:  
— A win or tie  
— A loss or tie by Buffalo or Tennessee  
**TENNESSEE TITANS (8-7) vs. Jacksonville (10-5)**  
Tennessee clinches a playoff berth with:  
— A win  
— A tie and losses or ties by Buffalo and Los Angeles  
— Losses by Buffalo and Los Angeles  
**LOS ANGELES CHARGERS (8-7) vs. Oakland (6-9)**  
Los Angeles clinches a playoff berth with:  
— A win and a loss or tie by Buffalo and Tennessee  
— A win and a loss or tie by Baltimore and Tennessee  
— A tie and a Tennessee loss and a Buffalo loss or tie  
**BUFFALO BILLS (8-7) at Miami (6-9)**  
Buffalo clinches a playoff berth with:  
— A win and a Baltimore loss  
— A win and a loss or tie by Tennessee and Los Angeles  
— A tie and losses by the Los Angeles and Tennessee

### NFC

**CLINCHED:** Philadelphia - NFC East division title and home-field advantage throughout NFC playoffs;  
Minnesota - NFC North division title; Los Angeles Rams - NFC West division title; New Orleans - playoff berth; Carolina - playoff berth  
**MINNESOTA VIKINGS (12-3) vs. Chicago (5-10)**  
Minnesota clinches a first-round bye with:  
— A win or tie  
— A Carolina loss or tie  
— A win by New Orleans or Los Angeles  
**NEW ORLEANS SAINTS (11-4) at Tampa Bay (4-11)**  
New Orleans clinches NFC South division title with:  
— A win or a Carolina loss  
— A tie and a Carolina tie  
**CAROLINA PANTHERS (11-4) at Atlanta (9-6)**  
Carolina clinches NFC South division title with:  
— A win and a New Orleans loss or tie  
— A tie and a New Orleans loss  
Carolina clinches a first-round bye with:  
— A win and a Minnesota loss and losses or ties by New Orleans and Los Angeles  
**ATLANTA FALCONS (9-6) vs. Carolina (11-4)**  
Atlanta clinches a playoff berth with:  
— A win or a Seattle loss  
— A ties and a Seattle tie  
**SEATTLE SEAHAWKS (9-6) vs. Arizona (7-8)**  
Seattle clinches a playoff berth with:  
— A win and an Atlanta loss or tie  
— A tie and an Atlanta loss

# Another touchdown reversal has NFL facing more scrutiny

By ARNIE STAPLETON  
AP Pro Football Writer

With yet another touchdown reversal by officiating chief Al Riveron, the only thing that's "clear and obvious" anymore is the owners' decision to grant full replay authority to NFL headquarters has only added to the league's cluster of headaches.  
To the player protests, president's put-downs, receded ratings and sidelined superstars add the unrelenting second-guessing the league has invited with its frame-by-frame micromanagement of the on-field officiating in 2017.  
After Jets tight end Austin Seferian-Jenkins lost two TDs and Bears tight end Zach Miller another this season, the latest example came Sunday when Kelvin Benjamin's 4-yard TD catch just before halftime against New England was overturned on review.  
Initially, Benjamin was ruled to have gotten both feet down while in possession of the ball. After looking at replays, officials ruled that he was juggling the ball when his first foot hit the turf.  
"It was clear and obvious that he did not have control of the ball until he brought it all the way down into his chest," referee Craig Wrolstad said in a pool report after the game.  
It didn't appear to be so egregious a call as to merit the league's reversal, however, and

the decision was met with widespread criticism.  
Bills coach Sean McDermott, whose team settled for a field goal and a 13-13 halftime tie before fading after halftime, was perplexed by the league's decision.  
"I am at a loss for how a play like that can get overturned," he said.  
Former NFL officiating VP Mike Pereira was, too.  
"Regarding the Buffalo no touchdown, nothing more irritating to an official than to make a great call and then someone in a suit in an office in New York incorrectly reverses it," he posted on Twitter.  
Pereira suggested the league needs to change the rule book.  
"Now that another touchdown has been taken away without clear and obvious evidence, it is time to move on to the catch rule. It doesn't work. It doesn't make sense. Start with the Jesse James play. That should be a catch and a touchdown, not an incomplete pass," Pereira tweeted.  
James' TD to beat New England was erased last week in a move that could have a major impact on the playoffs.  
The dour faces in the CBS studio belied the festive holiday decorations as the Benjamin TD reversal dominated the Christmas Eve discussion.

"What else do you want these wide receivers to do?" asked analyst Nate Burleson. "I don't care what they said ... he caught that ball and dragged his feet. That's exactly what you're supposed to do. What do you want him to do? Do you want him to put it inside his jersey and take it home with him?"  
Bill Cowher and James Brown opined on how unrealistic it is to expect a spinning football to stick to the receivers' gloves and freeze in a split second.  
"The control element keeps coming up tie after time because when you go frame by frame it's going to look like it's moving and it doesn't mean you've lost control," Cowher suggested.  
"Movement does not mean loss of control," Brown agreed.  
"The fact that we are sitting here arguing about it tells you what? If it wasn't clear cut then it should not have been overturned," added Boomer Esiason. "It was ruled a touchdown. The fact that we're sitting here debating it means it should not be overturned. It has to be clearly an error and that is not clearly an error."  
Other notable calls and debatable decisions in Week 16 included:  
—The Packers drew the ire of several teams for placing quarterback Aaron Rodgers back on injured reserve with a playoff berth out of

reach. He returned from a broken collarbone to play in Week 15. It didn't appear he had a new injury before going back on IR.  
—The Denver Broncos activated rookie receiver/returner Isaiah McKenzie for the first time since his sixth fumble led to a safety and his second benching. He cost them a chance at points just before halftime at Washington when he caught a pass from Brock Osweiler but instead of stepping out of bounds spun back to the middle of the field and was tackled at the 20-yard line as the clock ran out.  
McKenzie, active because Emmanuel Sanders and Cody Latimer were hurt, didn't realize the Broncos had no more timeouts.  
"Well, he should be aware," coach Vance Joseph said. "He was told, and that stuff we work on all the time. That's no excuse at all that he wouldn't know that. He was told we had no timeouts. It was an outside throw or nothing. We had three points. That's something he has to know. Unacceptable."  
Former Broncos lineman Ryan Harris said on CBS4 in Denver that the blame should fall on the coach.  
"Isaiah McKenzie should not be playing in the game," Harris said. "I played with the Steelers and even coach Mike Tomlin benched Antonio Brown, now the best receiver in the game, because he was making mistakes like this."

# HIGH SCHOOL 2017 WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULES

### WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

**Wed., Dec. 27, 2017**  
 GIRLS ICE HOCKEY (Longmeadow Co-Op) vs. East Catholic High School, Olympia Ice Center, 4:30 p.m.  
 BOYS ICE HOCKEY vs. Beverly, Gloucester High School, 6 p.m.

**Thurs., Dec. 28, 2017**  
 WRESTLING @ Phil Tomkiel Holiday Tournament, Agawam High School, 10 a.m.  
 GIRLS ICE HOCKEY (Longmeadow Co-Op) at Dennis-Yarmouth, Tony Kent Ice Arena, 2 p.m.  
 JV GIRLS BASKETBALL at Holyoke High School, 5:30 p.m.  
 GIRLS BASKETBALL at Holyoke High School, 7 p.m.  
 BOYS ICE HOCKEY vs. TBD, Gloucester High School, Time TBA

**Fri., Dec. 29, 2017**  
 JV BOYS BASKETBALL vs. Minnechaug, 5:30 p.m.  
 BOYS BASKETBALL vs. Minnechaug, 7 p.m.

**Sat., Dec. 30, 2017**  
 GIRLS ICE HOCKEY (Longmeadow Co-Op) at Marshfield, Hobomock Arena, 6:50 p.m.

**Mon., Jan. 1, 2018**  
 NEW YEAR'S DAY - No Sports Scheduled

**Tues., Jan. 2, 2018**  
 No Sports Scheduled

**Wed., Jan. 3, 2018**  
 SWIMMING at Central High School, 4 p.m.  
 JV BOYS BASKETBALL at West Springfield High School, 5:30 p.m.  
 BOYS BASKETBALL at West Springfield High School, 7 p.m.  
 BOYS ICE HOCKEY vs. East Longmeadow, Amelia Park Arena, 7 p.m.  
 WRESTLING at Holyoke, Dean Tech High School, 7 p.m.

**Thurs., Jan. 4, 2018**  
 SKIING @ Berkshire East, 5 p.m.  
 JV GIRLS BASKETBALL at Northampton High School, 5:30 p.m.  
 GIRLS BASKETBALL at Northampton High School, 7 p.m.

**Fri., Jan. 5, 2018**  
 INDOOR TRACK vs. TBD, 3:45 p.m.  
 SWIMMING vs. Agawam, 4 p.m.  
 JV BOYS BASKETBALL vs. Amherst-Pelham, 5:30 p.m.  
 BOYS BASKETBALL vs. Amherst-Pelham, 7 p.m.

**Sat., Jan. 6, 2018**  
 GIRLS ICE HOCKEY (Longmeadow Co-Op) at Austin Preparatory School, Essex Sport Center, 3:30 p.m.  
 BOYS ICE HOCKEY at Wachusett, Northstar Youth Forum, 6 p.m.

**Mon., Jan. 8, 2018**  
 JV GIRLS BASKETBALL vs. Longmeadow, 5:30 p.m.  
 GIRLS BASKETBALL vs. Longmeadow, 7 p.m.

**Tues., Jan. 9, 2018**  
 SKIING @ Berkshire East, 5 p.m.  
 JV BOYS BASKETBALL at Northampton High School, 5:30 p.m.  
 BOYS BASKETBALL at Northampton High School, 7 p.m.

**Wed., Jan. 10, 2018**  
 JV GIRLS BASKETBALL vs. Amherst-Pelham, 5:30 p.m.  
 GIRLS BASKETBALL vs. Amherst-Pelham, 7 p.m.  
 BOYS ICE HOCKEY vs. Minnechaug, Amelia Park Arena, 7 p.m.  
 WRESTLING at East Longmeadow High School, 7 p.m.

**Thurs., Jan. 11, 2018**  
 SKIING @ Berkshire East, 5 p.m.

**Fri., Jan. 12, 2018**  
 SWIMMING at Belchertown, Chestnut Hill Community School Pool, 4 p.m.  
 JV BOYS BASKETBALL vs. Pope Francis, 5:30 p.m.  
 JV GIRLS BASKETBALL at Mount Greylock High School, 5:30 p.m.  
 BOYS BASKETBALL vs. Pope Francis, 7 p.m.  
 GIRLS BASKETBALL at Mount Greylock High School, 7 p.m.

**Sat., Jan. 13, 2018**  
 WRESTLING at Ludlow Duals, 9 a.m.  
 BOYS ICE HOCKEY at Agawam, Olympia Ice Center (West Springfield), 4:30 p.m.  
 GIRLS ICE HOCKEY (Longmeadow Co-Op) vs. Leominster, Fitzpatrick Ice Arena, 8 p.m.

### SOUTHWICK-TOLLAND REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

**Wed., Dec. 27, 2017**  
 JV GIRLS BASKETBALL vs. Ware, 5:30 p.m.  
 GIRLS BASKETBALL vs. Ware, 7 p.m.

**Thurs., Dec. 28, 2017**  
 WRESTLING @ Phil Tomkiel Holiday Tournament, Agawam High School, 10 a.m.  
 JV BOYS BASKETBALL at Granby, 5:30 p.m.  
 BOYS BASKETBALL at Granby, 7 p.m.

**Fri., Dec. 29, 2017**  
 No Sports Scheduled

**Mon., Jan. 1, 2018**  
 NEW YEAR'S DAY - No Sports Scheduled

**Tues., Jan. 2, 2018**  
 JV GIRLS BASKETBALL at Putnam, 5:30 p.m.  
 GIRLS BASKETBALL at Putnam, 7 p.m.

**Wed., Jan. 3, 2018**  
 JV BOYS BASKETBALL vs. Greenfield, 5:30 p.m.  
 WRESTLING at Mahar, Grzesik-Bixby Gymnasium Complex, 7 p.m.  
 BOYS BASKETBALL vs. Greenfield, 7 p.m.

**Thurs., Jan. 4, 2018**  
 SKIING @ Berkshire East, 5 p.m.  
 JV GIRLS BASKETBALL at Turners Falls, 6 p.m.  
 GIRLS BASKETBALL at Turners Falls, 7:30 p.m.

**Fri., Jan. 5, 2018**  
 JV BOYS BASKETBALL vs. Ware, 5:30 p.m.  
 BOYS BASKETBALL vs. Ware, 7 p.m.  
 INDOOR TRACK vs. Mahar, Smith College (Northampton), 6:45 p.m.

**Sat., Jan. 6, 2018**  
 WRESTLING @ Mt. Anthony Tournament, Mt. Anthony Union Hing School, 10 a.m.

**Mon., Jan. 8, 2018**  
 JV GIRLS BASKETBALL vs. McCann Tech, 5:30 p.m.  
 GIRLS BASKETBALL vs. McCann Tech, 7 p.m.

**Tues., Jan. 9, 2018**  
 SKIING at Berkshire East, 5 p.m.  
 JV BOYS BASKETBALL vs. Mahar, 5:30 p.m.  
 BOYS BASKETBALL vs. Mahar, 7 p.m.

**Wed., Jan. 10, 2018**  
 WRESTLING at West Springfield High School, 7 p.m.

**Thurs., Jan. 11, 2018**  
 SKIING at Berkshire East, 5 p.m.  
 GIRLS BASKETBALL at Athol, 6 p.m.

**Fri., Jan. 12, 2018**  
 INDOOR TRACK vs. TBD, Smith College, 3:45 p.m.  
 JV BOYS BASKETBALL at Monson, 5:30 p.m.  
 BOYS BASKETBALL at Monson, 7 p.m.

**Sat., Jan. 13, 2018**  
 WRESTLING at The Gilbert School, 10 a.m.

### GATEWAY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

**Wed., Dec. 27, 2017**  
 No Sports Scheduled

**Thurs., Dec. 28, 2017**  
 WRESTLING @ Phil Tomkiel Holiday Tournament, Agawam High School, 10 a.m.  
 JV BOYS BASKETBALL vs. Hampshire, 5 p.m.  
 BOYS BASKETBALL vs. Hampshire, 6:30 p.m.

**Fri., Dec. 29, 2017**  
 BOYS BASKETBALL at John J. Duggan Academy, 7 p.m.

**Mon., Jan. 1, 2018**  
 NEW YEAR'S DAY - No Sports Scheduled

### WESTFIELD TECHNICAL ACADEMY

**Wed., Dec. 27, 2017**  
 JV BOYS BASKETBALL at St. Mary's, Westfield Middle School South, 2 p.m.  
 BOYS BASKETBALL vs. Pioneer Valley Christian Academy, 6 p.m.

**Thurs., Dec. 28, 2017**  
 GIRLS BASKETBALL vs. John J. Duggan Academy, 6 p.m.

**Fri., Dec. 29, 2017**  
 JV BOYS BASKETBALL vs. Baystate Academy Charter Public School, 5:30 p.m.  
 BOYS BASKETBALL vs. Baystate Academy Charter Public School, 7 p.m.

### SAINT MARY HIGH SCHOOL

**Wed., Dec. 27, 2017**  
 BOYS BASKETBALL vs. Westfield Technical Academy, Westfield Middle School South, 2 p.m.  
 BOYS JV ICE HOCKEY vs. TBA

**Thurs., Dec. 28, 2017**  
 GIRLS BASKETBALL vs. Sci-Tech, Westfield Middle School North, 6:30 p.m.

**Fri., Dec. 29, 2017**  
 BOYS BASKETBALL vs. Hampden Charter School of Science, Westfield Middle School South, 7 p.m.

**Sat., Dec. 30, 2017**  
 BOYS JV ICE HOCKEY vs. TBA

## BEAT 'THE PUTZ'

### NFL FOOTBALL CHALLENGE

**Pick Sunday NFL Games, Beat Our Sports Guy & Win!**

- Entry forms will appear in Monday thru Friday's printed editions of The Westfield News.
- Original entry forms must be used. No duplications or copies will be accepted.
- Completed Entry Forms must be postmarked by midnight on Friday of that week's contest.
- The Putz's Picks will appear in the Saturday edition of The Westfield News.
- **Beat 'The Putz' AND finish with the best record overall to claim that week's gift certificate.**
- **Each weekly winner will be eligible for the GRAND PRIZE drawing!!**

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### NFL SCHEDULE - WEEK 17 SUNDAY, DEC. 31

<input type="checkbox"/> Carolina at	<input type="checkbox"/> Atlanta
<input type="checkbox"/> Green Bay at	<input type="checkbox"/> Detroit
<input type="checkbox"/> Jacksonville at	<input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee
<input type="checkbox"/> Houston at	<input type="checkbox"/> Indianapolis
<input type="checkbox"/> Buffalo at	<input type="checkbox"/> Miami
<input type="checkbox"/> Chicago at	<input type="checkbox"/> Minnesota
<input type="checkbox"/> NY Jets at	<input type="checkbox"/> New England
<input type="checkbox"/> Washington at	<input type="checkbox"/> NY Giants
<input type="checkbox"/> Dallas at	<input type="checkbox"/> Philadelphia
<input type="checkbox"/> Cleveland at	<input type="checkbox"/> Pittsburgh
<input type="checkbox"/> New Orleans at	<input type="checkbox"/> Tampa Bay
<input type="checkbox"/> Cincinnati at	<input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore
<input type="checkbox"/> Kansas City at	<input type="checkbox"/> Denver
<input type="checkbox"/> San Francisco at	<input type="checkbox"/> LA Rams
<input type="checkbox"/> Oakland at	<input type="checkbox"/> LA Chargers

**TIEBREAKER:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Arizona at	<input type="checkbox"/> Seattle
-------------------------------------	----------------------------------

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

**CHECK YOUR PICKS & MAIL OR DROP OFF YOUR ENTRY TO:**  
**Beat the Putz**  
**c/o The Westfield News**  
**62 School Street**  
**Westfield, MA 01085**

TOTAL POINTS: \_\_\_\_\_

This contest is open to any/all readers eighteen (18) years of age or older, unless otherwise specified by the Westfield News Group, LLC. Contest is open to U.S. residents only. The Westfield News employees and their relatives are not eligible for the contest. Odds of winning a prize will depend on the number of qualified entries. All contest entries become the sole property of Westfield News Group, LLC. Only one winner or qualifier per family or household will be allowed. The decision of Westfield News Group, LLC, is final. All contestants acknowledge as a condition of entry, that Westfield News Group, LLC has a right to publicize or broadcast the winner's name, character, likeness, voice, or all matters incidental herein. All prizes are non-transferable and void where prohibited by law. No cash substitution of prizes allowed. Winners understand and agree that they are responsible for any and all taxes incurred on prizes received within the year of winning. If required by Westfield News Group, LLC, or its affiliates, winners must sign a liability release prior to receiving their prize. Prizes will be mailed either first, second, or third class U.S. Mail at the discretion of Westfield News Group, LLC. If the prize is to be mailed, it is the responsibility of the winner to provide Westfield News Group, LLC with a current and correct mailing address. Westfield News Group, LLC is not responsible for, nor obligated to replace, any lost, stolen, or damaged prize sent through the U.S. Mail. If the winner is instructed by Westfield News Group, LLC or its affiliates to personally pick up their prize, it must be claimed within thirty (30) calendar days of winning. Upon pick-up of prize, proper picture identification (i.e. valid driver's license, passport) from the winner may be required. Westfield News Group, LLC will not notify winners of the time remaining on their prize. It is the responsibility of the winner to claim the prize within the thirty-(30) day timeframe. All unclaimed prizes after thirty (30) days will automatically be forfeited. Westfield News Group, LLC is at liberty to give away any unclaimed prize at the end of the thirty-(30) day grace period. In the event that a winner voluntarily chooses to not accept a prize, he/she automatically forfeits all claims to that prize. Westfield News Group, LLC then has the right, but not the obligation, to award that prize to a contest runner-up. Westfield News Group, LLC may substitute another prize of equal value, in the event of non-availability of a prize. Employees of Westfield News Group, LLC and their families or households are ineligible to enter/win any contest. All contestants shall release Westfield News Group, LLC, its agencies, affiliates, sponsors or representatives from any and all liability and injury, financial, personal, or otherwise, resulting from any contests presented by Westfield News Group, LLC. Additions or deletions to these rules may be made at the discretion of Westfield News Group, LLC and may be enacted at any time. Contestants enter by filling out the "Beat the Putz" pick sheets, included in Monday through Friday's editions of The Westfield News. Copies of entry forms will not be accepted. Contestants choose one team to win each game from the list of NFL games for that particular week. The winning entry will be the one with the most wins on Sunday. In the event of a tie among more than one entry, the Sunday night game score will be used as a tie-breaker. Contestants are to choose the total number of points scored in the Sunday night game. To be given credit for the tiebreaker, the contestant must come closest to the total points scored in the game. Westfield News Group, LLC will award a maximum of one (1) prize per week. The exact number of prizes awarded each month will be decided by Westfield News Group, LLC in its sole discretion. The prizes to be awarded each week will be determined by Westfield News Group, LLC in the event that there are more eligible winners than the number of prizes awarded for a particular week. Westfield News Group, LLC will randomly select one winner for that particular week. Winner is determined by most correct games won. The tiebreaker is used when more than one entry have the same number of wins. At that point, the total number of points given by the contestant will determine winner. In the event of a game not being completed, that game will not be considered in the final tabulation for that week's games. The grand prize winner will be selected by a random drawing of all entries better than "The Putz" from throughout the entire 17-week regular season. This contest is merely for entertainment purposes. It is not meant to promote or to facilitate gambling or illegal activity.



# Dear Annie

By ANNIE LANE

## The Mommy Burden

**Dear Annie:** My boyfriend and I are starting to get serious, and everything is going smoothly except for one constant bump in the road: his mother. His dad is out of the picture. She is single, and he is an only child and lives at home. She desperately wants him to be a mama's boy, but he never has been and never will be, which frustrates her. She needs to know where he is, texts him constantly, becomes judgmental when he drinks any alcohol or is out late, and demands his constant attention. He used to be able to maintain a balance; he would choose his battles but also try to talk her down and explain to her that he is an adult and can make his own choices. However, she seems to get needier as he and I get closer.

I try my best to be friendly and kind when I interact with her, but I've overheard conversations between the two of them (I know; I shouldn't eavesdrop) that basically come down to her accusing me of taking him away and being a bad influence. He is aware of how difficult she is and apologizes on her behalf, but I don't know what to do or say. Annie, I don't want to create conflict between my boyfriend and his mother, but I don't want to have to fight over him. Though her behavior irritates me, I would still like to get along with her, but she so clearly dislikes me, and nothing I've tried so far has changed that. How do I ensure that she will back off a bit so that my relationship can continue to grow? -- No More Tug of War

**Dear No More Tug of War:** It takes two to engage in tug of war, so step away from the rope and stay out of the mud. Meet any of her rudeness with kindness. But do talk to your boyfriend about how you're feeling. It sounds as though his mom is overly dependent on him and he's enabling this dynamic. Though moving out would certainly help give him space from his mom, he might bring guilt with him, and then the codependent pattern might continue. Encourage him to attend a few therapy sessions so he can get a clearer perspective of his own emotional needs. Until he establishes healthy boundaries with her, it will be impossible for him to have a healthy relationship with you.

**Dear Annie:** I reluctantly agree with your assertion that "anyone who can't afford to leave a tip shouldn't be eating out in the first place." But you missed an opportunity to point out the absurdity of the modern tip system.

Tips are supposed to reward excellent service, not serve as mandatory wage supplements. Today service workers are being paid less than minimum wage in most places solely because the economic system has adapted to assume that standard levels of service will always be acknowledged by an "optional" payment, whose standard value has risen from 15 percent to 18 percent to 20 percent just over the past couple of decades.

This custom is silly. It's the economic equivalent of "participation awards."

Servers should be paid at least the same minimum wage as everyone else, and restaurants should adjust their prices accordingly. The custom of tipping should return to its roots as an optional gift for excellent service rather than an amount that the customer feels obligated to provide to support underpaid wait-staff. -- Just a Tip for You

**Dear Just a Tip for You:** I agree with you. I'd love to see that system change here in the United States. Here's hoping -- though I'm not holding my breath.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. To find out more about Annie Lane and read features by other Creators Syndicate columnists and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.

## HINTS FROM HELOISE

**TWO KITCHEN HINTS**  
Hi, Heloise: Just popping into your column to give your readers two kitchen hints:

- To help peel a hard-boiled egg, when it's cool, roll it on the counter for a bit to loosen the shell, then crack and peel.
- Plain, unflavored dental floss can cut a cake! The floss will make a clean, beautiful cut.

-- Poppy M. in Minneapolis

### CLOSET HOOKS

Dear Heloise: I use shower-curtain hooks over my closet rod to hold jeans, handbags, scarves and other items I want to store hanging up.

The hooks are strong, sturdy and cheap, and I can make more room in my dresser drawers for T-shirts and necessities. -- Jeannette E., Bowling Green, Ky.

### LIGHT READING

Dear Heloise: I have a collection of small magazines and books that I keep just for traveling. (I don't have an e-reader, and I'd be afraid that I would lose it on the road anyway.)

This reading material is light and fun; there are puzzles and games included, and the best part is that I can leave the books behind for someone else to enjoy, and at the same time, I am emptying my drawer at home! -- Kathryn A. in New York

Send a money-saving or timesaving hint to Heloise, P.O. Box 795000, San Antonio, TX 78279-5000, or you can fax it to 1-210-HELOISE or email it to Heloise(at)Heloise.com. I can't answer your letter personally but will use the best hints received in my column.



### TV Sports Tonight

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wednesday, Dec. 27</b> <b>COLLEGE BASKETBALL</b></p> <p>6:30 p.m. FS1 — Butler at Georgetown</p> <p>7 p.m. ESPN2 — E. Michigan at Syracuse ESPNU — Florida Gulf Coast at Rhode Island</p> <p>7:30 p.m. CBSSN — Villanova at DePaul</p> <p>8 p.m. SEC — CS Bakersfield at Arkansas</p> <p>8:30 p.m. FS1 — Xavier at Marquette</p> <p>9 p.m. ESPN2 — UCF at SMU ESPNU — Chicago St. at Wisconsin</p> <p>9:30 p.m. CBSSN — Colorado St. at Boise St.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>COLLEGE FOOTBALL</b></p> <p>1:30 p.m.</p>	<p>ESPN — Independence Bowl, Southern Miss. vs. Florida St., at Shreveport, La.</p> <p>5:15 p.m. ESPN — Pinstripe Bowl, Boston College vs. Iowa, at Bronx, N.Y.</p> <p>8:30 p.m. FOX — Foster Farms Bowl, Arizona vs. Purdue, at Santa Clara, Calif.</p> <p>9 p.m. ESPN — Texas Bowl, Texas vs. Missouri, at Houston</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>NBA BASKETBALL</b></p> <p>8 p.m. NBA — Toronto at Oklahoma City</p> <p>10:30 p.m. NBA — Utah at Golden State</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>NHL HOCKEY</b></p> <p>8 p.m. NBCSN — Washington at N.Y. Rangers</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SOCCER</b></p> <p>2:45 p.m. NBCSN — Premier League, Newcastle vs. Manchester City</p>
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## On The Tube

# ‘Real Housewives of New York City’ star arrested in Florida

By JENNIFER KAY  
*Associated Press*

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP) — A star of the reality television series "The Real Housewives of New York City" apologized Sunday after she was arrested in Florida, saying her visit to exclusive Palm Beach brought up "long-buried emotions."

Palm Beach County court records show 52-year-old Luann de Lesseps was booked Sunday on charges of battery on a law enforcement officer, resisting arrest with violence, disorderly intoxication and corruption by threat.

De Lesseps, who lives in Sag Harbor, New York, was released on her own recognizance, according to jail records. Her next court appearance is scheduled Jan. 25.

The circumstances of de Lesseps' arrest late Saturday in Palm Beach were not immediately available. The Palm Beach Post reported that a prosecutor said de Lesseps slammed a door and kicked at least one police officer, and she made threatening comments before she was arrested.

In a statement emailed by her spokesman Pete Sanders, de Lesseps offered her sincere apologies to anyone she might have offended with her behavior.

"This was my first time in Palm Beach since my wedding and being there brought up long-buried emotions," she said.

She said she was committed to a "transformative and hopeful 2018."

De Lesseps married Tom D'Agostino Jr. in Palm Beach on New Year's Eve. The couple split earlier this year.

Messages left Sunday morning for a Palm Beach Police spokesman were not immediately returned.



LUANN DE LESSEPS

## Orr's 1970 Cup-winning goal and leap remains top NHL moment

By STEPHEN WHYNO  
*AP Hockey Writer*

Growing up in Brantford, Ontario, Wayne Gretzky always heard his father, Walter, wax poetic about Bill Barilko's 1951 Stanley Cup-winning goal for the Toronto Maple Leafs.

"We didn't really even have TV back then and there was kind of clips of it, there was kind of pictures of it — moments of it, so to speak," Gretzky said.

At age 9, Gretzky watched in the same kind of awe as Bobby Orr scored in overtime to win the Cup in 1970 for the Boston Bruins. Orr beat St. Louis Blues goaltender Glenn Hall, leaping through the air to celebrate what has become the most iconic goal in NHL history.

"People from the '50s and '60s remember the Barilko goal and then the new generation of kids who got to see the goal like myself could relate to what our parents and grandparents were talking about," Gretzky said. "Time sort of stopped in a moment that you could compare something so unique."

"The Great One" downplays his own accomplishments but considers Orr's goal an unforgettable moment in hockey history. As the NHL celebrates its 100th anniversary, Orr's goal is so important that it reached the finals of the "Greatest Moments" bracket 47 years after it happened.

While Barilko's goal inspired the Tragically Hip song "Fifty Mission Cap," Orr's has inspired decades of highlights and conversation.

Almost 50 years later, the goal is still revered and remembered, from Ray Lussier's timeless photo to Dan Kelly's play-by-play call of Orr's give-and-go with Derek Sanderson to complete the Boston sweep. Orr's goal was voted one of the two most memorable moments in NHL history finishing behind only Mario Lemieux scoring goals five different ways in one game in 1988.

Many current fans weren't even alive



In this May 10, 1970, file photo, Boston Bruins' Bobby Orr goes into the air after scoring a goal against the St. Louis Blues that won the Stanley Cup for the Bruins in Boston. As the NHL celebrates its 100th anniversary, Orr's goal is so important that it reached the finals of the "Greatest Moments" bracket 47 years after it happened. (Ray Lussier/The Boston Herald via AP, File)

top five photographs in sports journalism — not just hockey," said actor Jon Hamm of "Mad Men" fame, a longtime Blues fan from St. Louis. "It's amazing. It captures the whole thing. It's Bobby Orr's commitment. He's horizontal to the ice, it's the winning goal, it's the whole thing."

Orr told author Andrew Podnieks for "The Goal: Bobby Orr and the Most Famous Shot in Stanley Cup History" that he jumped as soon as he saw the puck go in to seal the Bruins' first title since 1941. The other five "Original Six" teams had all won the Cup at least once in those 29 years.

"So it wasn't like Montreal, Toronto or Detroit," Hamm said. "It was some new blood on the Cup."

It was one of just two Cup rings for Orr, who was forced to retire young because of knee injuries.

"The only thing is I wish I could've played longer," Orr said in 2013. "I didn't play that long, so (I think about) the years I could have played if I had been healthy. That's the only regret I have."

Even though he played only 10 full NHL seasons and parts of two more, the Parry Sound, Ontario, native won the Norris Trophy as top defenseman eight times and the Hart Trophy as NHL MVP three times.

Deputy commissioner Bill Daly said a Hockey Hall of Famer and one of the best players of all-time scoring the goal fuels the powerful memories to this day. Gretzky said Orr being "one of the greatest players if not the greatest player to ever live" makes the goal even more special.

NHL chief content officer and executive vice president Steve Mayer compared it to Babe Ruth calling his shot on a home run during the 1932 World Series because the picture of Orr has been seen by sports fans for generations.

"It's grown over the years as being just this mythical goal," Mayer said.

when Orr scored the goal, let alone remember it. Yet among the 17 Cup-winning overtime goals, it sticks out as the most memorable.

"There's some moments in hockey that are just so special that we'll never be able to ever sort of recreate that moment again," Gretzky said. "And that's one of those iconic moments that we'll never be able to recreate."

It has become such a flashpoint that Orr recalled in the NHL's 100 years documentary: "Each time I see Glenn Hall, Glenn says, 'Is that the only goal you ever scored?'" It was actually one of nine goals Orr scored in 24 games during the 1970 playoffs.

So why has Orr's goal become one of the central moments in hockey history? Lussier's snapshot, Orr's legendary career, the advent of television and the importance of the goal for the Bruins' franchise all contribute.

Lussier took the famous photo for the Boston Record American, and recreations of it are everywhere, including on the wall of TD Garden where the Bruins now play. Orr saw it in the newspaper the next morning in its full glory.

"That picture, it's probably one of the

### UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

2	7	4	5					
6	4			8				3
	8				7			
			9	6		4		
	9	6		3	1	7		
1		3		8				
		2					5	
9			3				1	7
			4	5		3		2

Complete the grid so every row, column and 3 x 3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

**Previous puzzle solution**

1	5	6	7	4	3	8	2	9
8	9	3	6	1	2	4	5	7
2	7	4	8	9	5	6	3	1
9	2	5	1	6	8	3	7	4
3	6	7	5	2	4	1	9	8
4	8	1	3	7	9	5	6	2
7	1	8	2	5	6	9	4	3
6	4	2	9	3	1	7	8	5
5	3	9	4	8	7	2	1	6

12/27 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆ © 2017 by Andrews McMeel Syndication 1228

# COMICS

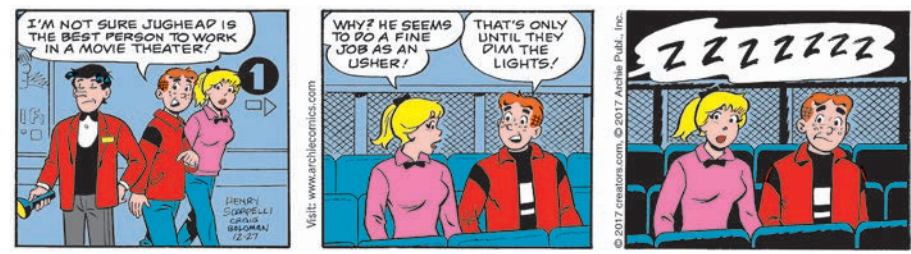
**SPEED BUMP** Dave Coverly



**AGNES** Tony Cochran



**ARCHIE** Fernando Ruiz and Craig Boldman



**RUBES** Leigh Rubin



**DADDY'S HOME** Tony Rubino and Gary Markstein



## YOUR HOROSCOPE

By Jaqueline Bigar

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** for Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2017:  
 This year you reveal a more thoughtful personality. You often have conflicts with others that stem from your own inner struggles. You will not tolerate interference with a project. If you are single, you attract many different types of people, but maintaining a close relationship will take work. Hold off on making a commitment until next year, if possible. If you are attached, you could be challenging for your mate, as you might become controlling. Be sensitive to your significant other. **ARIES** tends to irritate you.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)  
 ★★★★★ You might wake up feeling as if you have witnessed a revolution. Consider the pros and cons of getting involved in a power play. You will eye a possible change, and even might act on it very soon. Expect some people to be taken aback. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
 ★★★★★ You might have been suppressing some feelings, which seem to have manifested in a dream you woke up to. Work with your insights, and don't do anything just yet. You are likely to trigger some unexpected events. Try not to be overly reactive. Tonight: Make it an early night.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
 ★★★★★ Your personality draws in many different people from various walks of life. You easily can see the common ties. Beware of a need to have control. A power struggle could be awaiting you. You might approach a potential partnership with some trepidation. Tonight: Hang at home.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)  
 ★★ You feel as if you have little choice, as you seem to be pulled in two different directions and have difficulty juggling the two. A partner or close friend could become unusually demanding. Work with surprises, and embrace the unexpected. Tonight: Do your best to avoid a conflict.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
 ★★★★★ Take an overview, especially as others seem to be caught up in their own issues and needs. By gaining a new perspective, you will resolve a problem. You grow by remaining open. Do not be fearful when things seem to get out of control. Tonight: Be willing to break from tradition.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
 ★★ Deal with a loved one on an individual level, and resist making any sarcastic comments. You do not want to create an uproar, especially when you are as close as you are to manifesting a better understanding between you and this person. Tonight: Go with the togetherness theme.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)  
 ★★★★★ Happiness surrounds you. Greet an unanticipated happening with a smile. You will see how easily your life can flow if you become less critical and more open. You will be delighted by someone else's sudden change of mood. Make fun plans! Tonight: Among the crowds.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
 ★★★★★ Honor a fast change, but know that it could throw your plans into chaos. You could become reactive and stubborn as a result. Trust that you can handle what comes down the pike. You will exude confidence, allowing others to see the true you. Tonight: Keep plans relaxed.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
 ★★★★★ You could be exhausted by everything that is happening. Your creativity seems to come up with idea after idea, to the point that it's overwhelming. This ingenuity colors your relationships and interactions. You might experience some quick changes. Tonight: Avoid a power play.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)  
 ★★★★★ Do not fight the inevitable with a family matter over a domestic issue. You are likely to make excuses rather than get down to the root of the problem. The unexpected continues to shake up the status quo. Do not fight this trend. Tonight: Head home at a reasonable hour.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
 ★★★★★ Keep reaching out to others and be ready to hear some startling statements. You might not even realize how shocking a statement is, as you seem to be getting used to outrageous ideas. Let go of a nagging fear, or else you'll create a bigger nightmare. Tonight: Hang with a close friend.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
 ★★★★★ Refuse to become uptight over the possibility of a major change. You could see some financial agreements coming up. You might want some time to assess your various choices. Sometimes you sabotage your decision-making process. Tonight: Out on the town.

**BORN TODAY**  
 Actress Marlene Dietrich (1901), journalist Savannah Guthrie (1971), actress Emilie de Ravin (1981)

## CONTRACT BRIDGE

### Partnership rapport

South dealer.  
 North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ A Q 10 8 3  
 ♥ K J 7 4  
 ♦ K 6 5  
 ♣ 8

**WEST**  
 ♠ 6 4  
 ♥ 10 8 6 3  
 ♦ J 3  
 ♣ K Q J 6 2

**EAST**  
 ♠ J 9 5 2  
 ♥ Q 9 2  
 ♦ 8 7  
 ♣ A 9 7 4

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ K 7  
 ♥ A 5  
 ♦ A Q 10 9 4 2  
 ♣ 10 5 3

The bidding:  
 South West North East  
 1♠ Pass 1♠ Pass  
 2♦ Pass 2♥ Pass  
 3♦ Pass 5♦ Pass  
 6♦

Opening lead king of clubs.

a slam.  
**But North went out of his way** to pinpoint both his high-card strength and his 5-4-3-1 distribution, and his graphic description of both did not fall on deaf ears.  
**Although South could not see his partner's hand**, he recognized that North had five spades and four hearts because he had bid spades first. South also inferred from partner's third-round leap to five diamonds that he had at least three diamonds — and therefore could not possibly have more than one club.  
**And so**, while it might seem that South should have been more deeply concerned about his three club losers before undertaking a slam with his minimum-looking hand, the fact is that he was resting on very solid ground when he decided to bid six. As pays off so often in bridge, South gave much more credence to what he heard than what he saw.  
**It is quite likely** that many pairs, including some long-standing partnerships, would fail to reach this excellent slam. The chief reason might be North's failure to describe his 5-4-3-1 pattern, which is the crux of the matter, or possibly South's failure to recognize the message his partner was imparting. In any case, the deal highlights the enormous value of close partnership rapport.

Tomorrow: A resistible temptation.  
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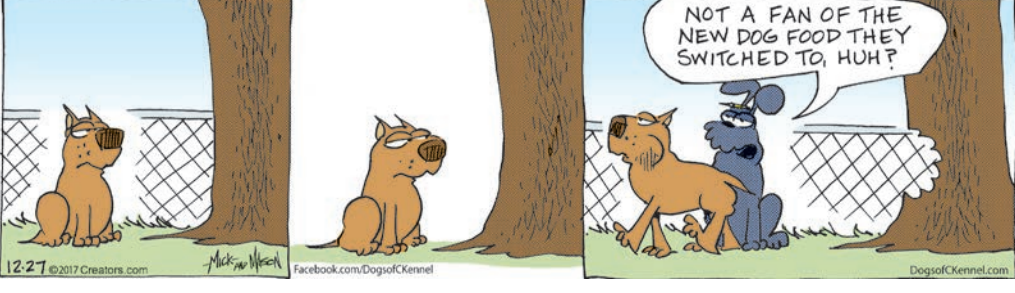
**DUSTIN** By Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



**SCARY GARY** Mark Buford



**DOGS of C-KENNEL** Mick and Mason Mastroianni



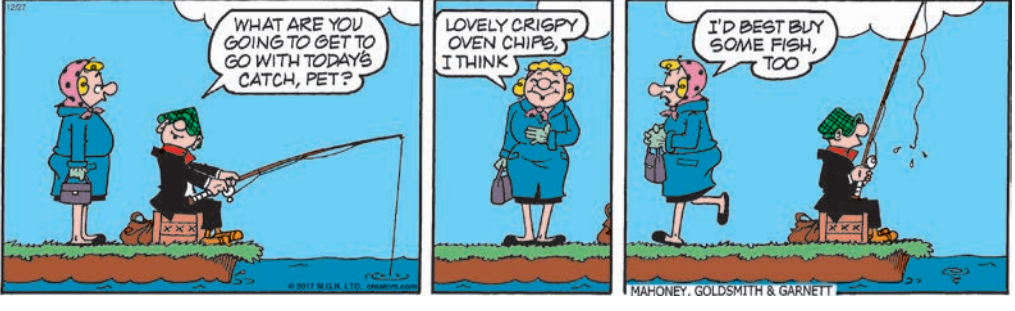
**B.C.** Mastroianni and Hart



**ONE BIG HAPPY** Rick Detorie



**ANDY CAPP** Mahoney, Goldsmith and Garnett



**ZACK HILL** John Deering and John Newcombe



## CROSSWORDS

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>DOWN</b>
1 Eden evictee	1 Like most car radios
5 300, to Cato	2 Sandwich shop
8 Release money note	3 Old Testament book
12 Office network	4 Sacred song
13 Foot rub response	5 Trinidad music
14 Within (Pref.)	6 Nev. neighbor
15 Fleet of ships	7 Utter disorder
17 Swelled heads	8 Ladybugs, e.g.
18 Stephen King novel	9 One of the Leeward Islands
19 Dense	10 Altar vows
21 Gratitude	11 Misplace
22 Arias for one	16 Eye part
23 Stolen	
26 Away from NINE	
28 Boob tube, to a Brit	
31 Love god	
33 Gut-punch reaction	
35 Lost traction	
36 Singer Lena	

**Solution time: 23 mins.**

V	A	M	P	R	E	R	R	I	P	E
E	M	U	S	A	D	E	G	U	L	L
R	E	G	A	R	O	N	A	I	S	L
A	S	I	R	M	N	A	R	F		
P	A	L	E	O	G	O	T	T	A	G
A	D	O	G	Y	A	K	I	M	A	G
C	O	U	R	I	E	R	S	N	O	R
			E	F	T	B	E	G		
S	I	F	T	L	O	A	Z	A	P	
A	S	I	F	R	E	G	R	O	U	P
G	U	R	U	N	A	G	A	L	P	S
O	P	E	L	S	H	Y	R	U	S	T

Yesterday's answer 12-27

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15			16					17		
18						19	20			
23	24	25	26		27	28		29	30	
31		32		33		34		35		
36			37		38		39		40	
	41			42		43		44		
45	46					47		48	49	50
51				52	53					
54				55				56		
57				58				59		

## CRYPTOQUIP

DL MAIJRAHU CKJVOJFXJHTU  
 MGX AK G RAV LZAI  
 HAIDKA'M, PACTH NJ RJ TLX  
 PDXN XNJ ODEEG FZCMNJH?  
**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** WHEN HIGH WINDS TOTALLY RUIN YOUR OUTDOOR EVENT, I WOULD SAY YOU'VE HAD UNINVITED GUSTS.  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals U

# NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

## AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East											
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
y-New England	12	3	0	.800	432	290	5-2-0	7-1-0	9-2-0	3-1-0	4-1-0
Buffalo	8	7	0	.533	280	343	6-2-0	2-5-0	6-5-0	2-2-0	2-3-0
Miami	6	9	0	.400	265	371	4-3-0	2-6-0	5-6-0	1-3-0	2-3-0
N.Y. Jets	5	10	0	.333	292	356	4-4-0	1-6-0	5-6-0	0-4-0	2-3-0

South											
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
y-Jacksonville	10	5	0	.667	407	253	6-2-0	4-3-0	9-2-0	1-3-0	4-1-0
Tennessee	8	7	0	.533	319	346	5-2-0	3-5-0	7-4-0	1-3-0	4-1-0
Houston	4	11	0	.267	325	414	3-5-0	1-6-0	3-8-0	1-3-0	1-4-0
Indianapolis	3	12	0	.200	241	391	2-5-0	1-7-0	2-9-0	1-3-0	1-4-0

North											
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
y-Pittsburgh	12	3	0	.800	378	284	5-2-0	7-1-0	9-2-0	3-1-0	5-0-0
Baltimore	9	6	0	.600	368	272	5-2-0	4-4-0	7-4-0	2-2-0	3-2-0
Cincinnati	6	9	0	.400	259	322	4-4-0	2-5-0	5-6-0	1-3-0	2-3-0
Cleveland	0	15	0	.000	210	382	0-8-0	0-7-0	0-11-0	0-4-0	0-5-0

West											
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
y-Kansas City	9	6	0	.600	388	315	6-2-0	3-4-0	7-4-0	2-2-0	4-1-0
L.A. Chargers	8	7	0	.533	325	262	4-3-0	4-4-0	5-6-0	3-1-0	2-3-0
Oakland	6	9	0	.400	291	343	4-4-0	2-5-0	5-6-0	1-3-0	2-3-0
Denver	5	10	0	.333	265	355	4-3-0	1-7-0	4-7-0	1-3-0	2-3-0

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East											
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
y-Philadelphia	13	2	0	.867	457	289	7-0-0	6-2-0	10-1-0	3-1-0	5-0-0
Dallas	8	7	0	.533	348	332	3-5-0	5-2-0	6-5-0	2-2-0	4-1-0
Washington	7	8	0	.467	332	370	5-3-0	2-5-0	5-6-0	2-2-0	1-4-0
N.Y. Giants	2	13	0	.133	228	378	1-6-0	1-7-0	0-11-0	2-2-0	0-5-0

South											
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
x-New Orleans	11	4	0	.733	424	295	7-1-0	4-3-0	8-3-0	3-1-0	4-1-0
x-Carolina	11	4	0	.733	353	305	6-2-0	5-2-0	7-4-0	4-0-0	3-2-0
Atlanta	9	6	0	.600	331	305	4-3-0	5-3-0	8-3-0	1-3-0	3-2-0
Tampa Bay	4	11	0	.267	304	358	3-4-0	1-7-0	2-9-0	2-2-0	0-5-0

North											
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
y-Minnesota	12	3	0	.800	359	242	6-1-0	6-2-0	9-2-0	3-1-0	4-1-0
Detroit	8	7	0	.533	375	365	3-4-0	5-3-0	7-4-0	1-3-0	4-1-0
Green Bay	7	8	0	.467	309	349	4-4-0	3-4-0	5-6-0	2-2-0	2-3-0
Chicago	5	10	0	.333	254	297	3-5-0	2-5-0	1-10-0	4-0-0	0-5-0

West											
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
y-L.A. Rams	11	4	0	.733	465	295	4-3-0	7-1-0	7-4-0	4-0-0	4-1-0
Seattle	9	6	0	.600	342	306	4-3-0	5-3-0	7-4-0	2-2-0	4-1-0
Arizona	7	8	0	.467	269	337	5-3-0	2-5-0	4-7-0	3-1-0	2-3-0
San Francisco	5	10	0	.333	297	370	3-5-0	2-5-0	2-9-0	3-1-0	0-5-0

x-clinched playoff spot  
y-clinched division

### Monday's Games

Pittsburgh 34, Houston 6  
Philadelphia 19, Oakland 10

### Sunday, Dec. 31

**N.Y. Jets at New England, 1 p.m.**  
Washington at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.  
Chicago at Minnesota, 1 p.m.  
Dallas at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.  
Green Bay at Detroit, 1 p.m.  
Cleveland at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.  
Houston at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.  
Cincinnati at Baltimore, 4:25 p.m.  
New Orleans at Tampa Bay, 4:25 p.m.  
Kansas City at Denver, 4:25 p.m.  
Jacksonville at Tennessee, 4:25 p.m.  
Buffalo at Miami, 4:25 p.m.  
Arizona at Seattle, 4:25 p.m.  
San Francisco at L.A. Rams, 4:25 p.m.  
Oakland at L.A. Chargers, 4:25 p.m.  
Carolina at Atlanta, 4:25 p.m.

### Saturday's Games

Baltimore 23, Indianapolis 16  
Minnesota 16, Green Bay 0

### Sunday's Games

Chicago 20, Cleveland 3  
New England 37, Buffalo 16  
L.A. Chargers 14, N.Y. Jets 7  
Washington 27, Denver 11  
Carolina 22, Tampa Bay 19  
Cincinnati 26, Detroit 17  
Kansas City 29, Miami 13  
L.A. Rams 27, Tennessee 23  
New Orleans 23, Atlanta 13  
Seattle 21, Dallas 12  
Arizona 23, N.Y. Giants 0  
San Francisco 44, Jacksonville 33

## LEGAL NOTICES

December 20, 27, 2017  
January 3, 2018

### NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 308 Hillside Road, Westfield, Massachusetts By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Edward J. Haracz, Michael E. Haracz and Joseph Haracz to First Niagara Bank, N.A. and now held by First Niagara Bank, N.A., said mortgage dated October 24, 2013, and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds, in Book 20127 at Page 566, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on January 10, 2018, at 10:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land in Westfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts, being the most northerly lot fronting on Hillside Road as shown on a Plan entitled "Survey of Land, Stanley Haracz, Hillside Road, Westfield, Massachusetts" ...Conlon Associates, Inc., ... Scale 1" = 50' ... May 6, 1971 ... recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book of Plans 127, Pages 20 and 21, more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Bounded NORTHWESTERLY by Hillside Road as shown on said plan, one hundred fifty and 00/100 (150.00) feet;

NORTHERLY by land of L. and S. Fisher as shown on said plan three hundred ninety-six and 00/100 (396.00) feet;

SOUTHEASTERLY by other land now or formerly of Stanley Haracz and Jessie L. Haracz as shown on said plan, one hundred fifty and 00/100 (150.00) feet; and

SOUTHERLY by other land now or formerly of said Haracz as shown on said plan, three hundred and ninety-six and 00/100 (396.00) feet. Containing 43,560 square feet. Being the same premises conveyed to the grantor herein by deed of Lisa M. Haracz dated June 2, 2003 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 13484, Page 40.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication. For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated June 22, 2012, and recorded in Book 19315 at Page 257 with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds.

**TERMS OF SALE:** Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described. TEN THOUSAND (\$10,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within forty five (45) days after the date of sale. Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Marinosci Law Group, P.C.  
275 West Natick Road,  
Suite 500  
Warwick, RI 02886

Attorney for  
First Niagara Bank, N.A.  
Present Holder of the Mortgage  
Telephone: (401) 234-9200  
MLG File No.: 15-14691

## LEGAL NOTICES

December 27, 2017

City of Westfield  
Office of Community  
Development

### NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND

### NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Westfield.

### REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about January 15, 2018, the City of Westfield will submit a request to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under TITLE I of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1998, as amended, for the release of Community Development Block Grant funds, to undertake a project known as Riverfront Area Spot Blight Removal Project-340 Elm Street project.

### PROJECT

The City of Westfield proposes to allocate approximately \$110,000 in funds to demolish a blighted commercial structure at 340 Elm Street, Westfield, Massachusetts.

### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City of Westfield has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the Department of Community Development at City Hall, 59 Court Street, Third Floor, Westfield, MA and may be examined or copied weekdays, 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to Mr. Peter Miller at the Department of Community Development. All comments received by 5:00 pm on January 15, 2018 will be considered by DCD prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commenters should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

### RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Department of Community Development certifies to HUD that Mr. Peter Miller in his capacity as Director of Community Development consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allow the City of Westfield to use Program funds.

### OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and the DCD's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by Peter Miller of DCD; (b) the DCD has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to HUD grant administration office at 10 Causeway Street, Boston, MA 02108. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Peter Miller  
Director of  
Community Development  
City of Westfield  
59 Court Street  
Westfield, MA 01085

## LEGAL NOTICES

December 27, 2017

COMMONWEALTH OF  
MASSACHUSETTS

(SEAL)

LAND COURT  
DEPARTMENT OF  
THE TRIAL COURT

17 SM 007686

### ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:

Craig S. Blair;  
Richard Blair

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act., 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901(et seq):

Ditech Financial LLC fka Green Tree Servicing LLC

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Westfield, numbered 67 Montgomery Street, given by Nancy C. Blair and Craig S. Blair to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for GMAC Mortgage Corporation, its successors and assigns, dated September 22, 2004, and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 14503, Page 140, and now held by plaintiff by assignment has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before January 22, 2018 or you will be forever barred from claiming that you are entitled to the benefits of said Act.

Witness, JUDITH C. CUTLER  
Chief Justice of this Court  
on December 14, 2017

Attest:  
Deborah J. Patterson  
Recorder

(17-008000 Orlans)

December 27, 2017

Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts

The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court

Hampden Probate and  
Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
413-748-7758

Docket No. HD17P2262EA

### LETTERS OF AUTHORITY FOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Estate of:  
Melanie O Midura

Date of Death:  
05/30/2017

To:

Louise J Hartnett  
31 Linda Dr.  
Westfield, MA 01085

and

Cynthia Midura-Dennis  
144 Grove Point Rd  
Southwick, MA 01077

You have been appointed and qualified as Personal Representative in Unsupervised administration of this estate on November 28, 2017.

These letters are proof of your authority to act pursuant to G.L. c. 190B, except for the following restrictions, if any:

### CERTIFICATION

I certify that it appears by the records of this Court that said appointment remains in full force and effect. IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court.

Date: November 28, 2017

Suzanne T. Seguin  
Register of Probate

# Patriots remain on top in latest AP Pro32 poll

By SIMMI BUTTAR  
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Heading into the final weekend of the regular season, Tom Brady and the New England Patriots have that familiar look that the rest of the NFL has grown accustomed to over the years.

Championship contender.

The Patriots remained No. 1 in the AP Pro32 poll on Tuesday, receiving 10 of 12 first-place votes for 381 points in balloting by media members who regularly cover the NFL.

New England (12-3) needs just a win or a Pittsburgh loss to claim home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs again.

"The road to the Super Bowl will undoubtedly go through Foxborough — again — now that the Patriots are one win away from clinching home-field advantage — again — in the AFC playoffs," Newsday's Bob Glauber said.

"Rob Gronkowski makes the Bills pay — again — for not drafting the hometown star tight end, as the Pats dominate Buffalo.

"All they need now to clinch the No. 1 seed is a season-ending win over the Jets — a layup if there ever was one."

The Pittsburgh Steelers and Minnesota Vikings, who received one first-place vote, are tied for No. 2.

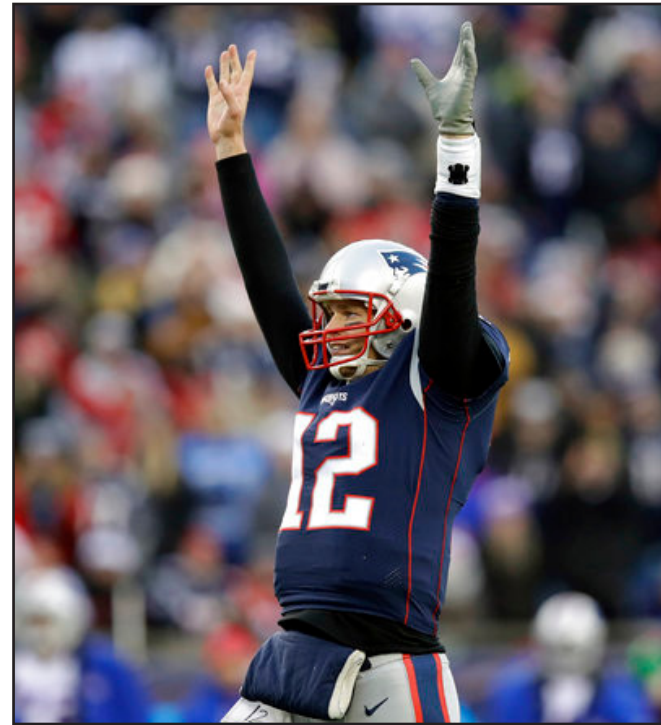
"Don't think Ben Roethlisberger and company wouldn't relish a rematch against the Patriots, even if it's in Foxborough with a Super Bowl berth on the line," Ira Kaufman of SB Nation Radio said of the Steelers.

Despite having the NFL's best record at 13-2 and home-field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs, the Philadelphia Eagles, who received the other first-place vote, couldn't make up any ground and remained No. 4. The Eagles got past the Oakland Raiders 19-10 on Christmas night in a sluggish game.

"Doug Pederson probably has won Coach of the Year, managing to keep winning without Carson Wentz," said Charean Williams of Pro Football Talk.

"But the Eagles didn't look like Super Bowl contenders against the Raiders."

Another NFC division champion, the Los Angeles Rams, maintained its spot in the poll at No. 5.



TOM BRADY

"Keep hitting high notes," Fox Sports John Czarnecki said of the NFC West champions.

The New Orleans Saints and Carolina Panthers, tied for first place in the NFC South, followed at No. 6 and No. 7 respectively.

"It has to please Sean Payton how well the defense is finishing the season," John Clayton of 710-ESPN Seattle said about the Saints coach. "What a turnaround."

The Jacksonville Jaguars, set to host a playoff game for the first time since the 1999 season, remained at No. 8.

"Does anyone outside of Jags HQ trust Blake Bortles in the playoffs?" asked Alex Marvez of The Sporting News.

The Kansas City Chiefs (No. 9) and Atlanta Falcons flipped places from last week to round out the top 10.

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Please call: Ms. Hartman 562-4181 x117

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