



TODAY IN WESTFIELD
HISTORY:
1864: Westfield Athenaeum
incorp. by Samuel Mather,
Hiram Harrison & Cutler
Lafin on Main Street.

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MORE TO COMPASS THEIR
ENDS, THAN THAT GOOD
MEN SHOULD LOOK
ON AND DO NOTHING."
- JOHN STUART MILL

St. Mary's High School to close after more than 100 years

By AMY PORTER
Correspondent

WESTFIELD – A tumultuous two hour meeting was held for St. Mary's parents, students and staff on Monday evening to inform them that after more than 100 years, St. Mary's high school will be closing at the end of the academic year.

Fr. Frank Lawlor, head of schools at St. Mary's, said that St. Mary's Elementary School, which serves pre-school age 3 to grade 8, will not be affected in any way by this action.

Lawlor, referring to a letter he wrote to the parish community over the weekend, said a confluence of demographic and financial trends have made it impossible to keep the high school open. Lawlor said the demographic issue of declining enrollment that is being faced by all schools, public and private is the real reason.

Lawlor said currently there are less than 90 students at St. Mary's High School, down from 120 students five or six years ago, and that trend is expected to continue. He said only nine students are signed up for next year's freshman class. Lawlor also cited Westfield Public Schools' recent enrollment study which he said projects a drop of 15% in the number of high school students over the next ten years.

"We focused on creating a small family-type atmosphere with individual attention to our students," Lawlor said, adding that it's become "too small, and the quality of education is in jeopardy."

Another factor mentioned by Lawlor is attendance at the church. He said fewer families with young children are coming to church, and, overall, families are having fewer children. He said parents also aren't willing to pay the \$8,500 tuition to send their child to St. Mary's High School. "It's each



High School Principal Kathy Friguglietti, Elementary School Principal Juli Jensen-Derrig, and parish Pastor Fr. Frank Lawlor discuss the closing of St. Mary's High School with the gathered parents and students (Photo by Lynn Boscher)



Parents, students, and teachers of St. Mary's High School gathered in the school's gymnasium for a meeting that lasted for 2 hours as Fr. Frank Lawlor presented the diocese information on demographics, finances, and the forecast for the future of the high school (Photo by Lynn Boscher)

parent's decision to make (as to) what's in the best interest of the family and child," he said.

Lawlor did say that Westfield Public Schools are very good, and have "a great reputation." He also mentioned Williston and Suffield Academy as private school options.

When asked about Pope Francis High School, Lawlor said that would be the alternative for a Catholic education. Pope Francis High School has been meeting for two years in the closed Holyoke Catholic School, and will open this fall in a new school building at the site of Cathedral High School, closed after damage from the June 1, 2011 tornado.

The new \$55 million Pope Francis High School is being built to house approximately 330 students and will contain modern baseball, softball, football and other outdoor fields.

Lawlor said the opening of the new Pope Francis High School building was not part of the decision to close St. Mary's. "It had no direct impact on us at all," Lawlor said. "This was a local decision done in conjunction with



Matthew Collins, parent, questions Fr. Lawlor on the decision to close St. Mary's High School. (Photo by Lynn Boscher)

the diocese. St. Mary's is a parish school; we are locally controlled," he said.

"I think it's a tragedy. It's a very sad day. We are on the brink of closing after 100 years," Lawlor said. He said the parish and alumnae have always been very generous and supportive of the school. "It's not monetary. There are just not enough students," he said.

Baseball coach Troy Collins also called it, "a real sad day." Collins, who has coached baseball at the parochial school for the past thirteen years and led them to a state championship in 2017, said he was told the closing is due to financial reasons. He said the financial situation hasn't changed that much since he's been at the school.

Collins also said the timing is bad, a week before the start of spring sports, and just after a big kickoff was held. "Coming from a state championship last year – for a small school, what an achievement that was – It's really going to be tough on the kids," Collins said.

See St. Mary's High School Closing, Page 3

Gateway graduate accepted into U.S. Naval Academy

By AMY PORTER
Correspondent

HUNTINGTON – Gateway 2017 graduate Frank "Franky" Tangredi's goal was to attend the U.S. Naval Academy. When he wasn't selected last year, instead of giving up he gave himself "a full self-evaluation." He enrolled in Greystone Preparatory at Shriner University, where the National Honor Society member worked even harder on his academics, seeking to improve his SAT scores. Captain of varsity soccer at Gateway, Tangredi persisted in the fitness test at Greystone. He also became a vice president of his prep school class.



Frank Tangredi (Gateway 2017) celebrating his acceptance into the U.S. Naval Academy with his mother Patty Tangredi and father Bo Tangredi.

See Gateway Graduate, Page 8



Residents attend the Monday evening Blandford Selectboard meeting (Photo by Amy Porter)



Attorney Timothy D. Zessin and Selectmen Cara Letendre and Adam Dolby present items at the Blandford Selectboard meeting Monday evening. (Photo by Amy Porter)

Dolby resigns from Blandford Selectboard citing personal safety concerns

By AMY PORTER
Correspondent

BLANDFORD – Adam Dolby chair of the Blandford Selectboard, submitted his resignation effective at the end of the meeting on Monday. Dolby said his decision was the direct result of threats made by fellow selectman William Levakis, who was not present at the meeting.

Prior to Dolby making the announcement that he would be resigning, Attorney Timothy D. Zessin of KP Law convened a public hearing with respect to Bryan Young, a member of the Conservation Commission, and an incident

that occurred between Young and Blandford Highway Director Brad Curry.

Zessin said that Young tried to intimidate Curry following an Executive Board session on Feb. 20 regarding an employee, in an attempt to change Curry's mind. He then left the office of the Selectboard, taking another selectman with him. Several people witnessed the incident, according to Zessin, who said he was not present at the meeting.

Asked if that was an accurate representation of the

See Dolby Resigns, Page 8

24th Annual Mayor's Easter Egg Hunt

WESTFIELD — Mayor Brian P. Sullivan announced that the 24th Annual Easter Egg Hunt Event will be held on Saturday, March 31st at South Middle School grounds, 30 West Silver Street with the participation from the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Westfield and Amelia Park Children's Museum. The event will be organized into two different age groups.

Group Ages 1-5 event line up 10:30am

Ages 1-2 will be set to hunt soon after the line up at their designated area

See Easter Egg Hunt, Page 8

Southwick Country Club purchase complete

By GREG FITZPATRICK
Correspondent

SOUTHWICK – The sale of the Southwick Country Club is now officially complete. Purchased for \$1.9 million by Fiore Realty, the documents to buy the 110-acre property were final on February 22.

According to Richard Fiore, the Vice-President of Fiore Realty, he and his colleagues are discussing the

finalized plan that they will then be presented to the Planning Board at their next scheduled meeting March 20. If the developers get approval, they can give the Planning Board their finalized engineering drawings before they can carve out their first plan to build roads.

If all goes well, Fiore Realty is expecting to start construction in April. With a set timeframe, it's

important to have everything go accordingly.

"We're looking to build houses in the June and July timeframe, at least that's our goal," said Fiore.

Fiore Realty expects the 40-50 homes to cost between \$200,000 to almost \$400,000.

"I can't believe the prices on houses

See Purchase, Page 8



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AROUND TOWN

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Crippled Old Busted Bikers donate funds to Domestic Violence Unit

Members of the River Valley chapter of Crippled Old Busted Bikers gathered at the Westfield Police Department Monday to donate the proceeds of a recent fundraiser to the domestic violence unit of the police department. The members of the Westfield based social club had staged a comedy show featuring Bucky Lewis in February and donated the proceeds - \$6,179.60 - to help victims of domestic violence. Capt. Michael McCabe said that the money will be used to provide grants to victims to help them pay for safe alternative housing. The bikers' next fundraising effort will be a pool tournament March 24 at Smith's Billiards in Springfield which will benefit the Huntington Food Pantry. (Photo by Marc St. Onge)

22 **STORM NEWS TEAM**

LOCAL FORECAST

TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
 Snow. 27-28	 Cloudy, flurries. 36-39	 Cloudy. 37-40
WEATHER DISCUSSION Today, periods of snow along with gusty winds at times, especially this morning. Temps nearly steady in the low to mid 30s. Winds NNW at 20 to 30 mph. Chance of snow 100%. Tonight, mostly cloudy with snow showers around before midnight. Low 27F. Wednesday, cloudy. A few flurries or snow showers possible. High 39F. Wednesday Night Cloudy. Flurries. Low 29F. Winds W		
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TODAY		
7:07 a.m. SUNRISE	6:55 p.m. SUNSET	11 hours 48 Minutes LENGTH OF DAY

WEATHER WATCH • WARNING

...WINTER STORM WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL 8 PM THIS EVENING...

- * **WHAT...**Heavy snow. Additional snow accumulations of 7 to 12 inches, with localized amounts up to 14 inches, are expected.
- * **WHERE...**Northern Connecticut and western Massachusetts.
- * **WHEN...**Until 8 PM EDT this evening.

***ADDITIONAL DETAILS ...**
 Significant reductions in visibility are possible. Heavy snow will make travel difficult, especially during the morning commute. The afternoon commute is also expected to be impacted. Plan ahead and use caution if you must travel.

PRECAUTIONARY/ PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

A Winter Storm Warning for snow means severe winter weather conditions will make travel very hazardous or impossible. If you must travel, keep an extra flashlight, food and water in your vehicle in case of an emergency.

LOCAL LOTTERY

LAST NIGHT'S NUMBERS

MASSACHUSETTS

Lucky For Life
 01-08-20-44-45, Lucky Ball: 15
MassCash 16-23-24-33-34
Mega Millions
 Estimated jackpot: \$318 million
Numbers Evening
 2-3-5-1
Numbers Midday
 4-9-7-8
Powerball
 Estimated jackpot: \$420 million

CONNECTICUT

Cash 5
 07-15-20-24-32
Lucky For Life
 01-08-20-44-45, Lucky Ball: 15
Lucky Links Day
 02-07-08-11-12-14-17-18
Lucky Links Night
 01-02-05-06-07-12-13-21
Play3 Day 8-6-3
Play3 Night 2-4-8
Play4 Day 0-3-5-0
Play4 Night 2-1-1-2

TODAY IN HISTORY

TODAY IS TUESDAY, MARCH 13, THE 72ND DAY OF 2018. THERE ARE 293 DAYS LEFT IN THE YEAR.

On March 13, 1928, at least 400 people died when the San Francisquito Canyon in Southern California was inundated with water after the nearly two-year-old St. Francis Dam collapsed just before midnight the evening of March 12.

ON THIS DATE:
 In 1639, New College was renamed Harvard College for clergyman John Harvard.
 In 1781, the seventh planet of the solar system, Uranus, was discovered by Sir William Herschel.
 In 1865, Confederate President Jefferson Davis signed a measure allowing black slaves to enlist in the Confederate States Army with the promise they would be set free.
 In 1901, the 23rd President of the United States, Benjamin Harrison, died in Indianapolis at age 67.
 In 1925, the Tennessee General Assembly approved a bill prohibiting the teaching of the theory of evolution. (Gov. Austin Peay (pee) signed the measure on March 21.)
 In 1933, banks in the U.S. began to reopen after a "holiday" declared by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.
 In 1947, the Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe musical "Brigadoon," about a Scottish village which magically reappears once every hundred years, opened on Broadway.
 In 1954, the Battle of Dien Bien Phu began during the First Indochina War as Viet Minh forces attacked French

troops, who were defeated nearly two months later.

In 1964, bar manager Catherine "Kitty" Genovese, 28, was stabbed to death near her Queens, New York, home; the case gained notoriety over the supposed reluctance of Genovese's neighbors to respond to her cries for help.

In 1980, Ford Motor Co. Chairman Henry Ford II announced he was stepping down, the same day a jury in Winamac, Indiana, found the company not guilty of reckless homicide in the fiery deaths of three young women in a Ford Pinto.

In 1988, yielding to student protests, the board of trustees of Gallaudet University in Washington D.C., a liberal arts college for the hearing-impaired, chose I. King Jordan to become the school's first deaf president.

In 1996, a gunman burst into an elementary school in Dunblane, Scotland, and opened fire, killing 16 children and one teacher before killing himself.

TEN YEARS AGO:
 The body of Chaldean Catholic Archbishop Paulos Faraj Rahho (POW'-loh fah-RAHJ' rah-HOO') was found in a shallow grave in northern Iraq, two weeks after he was kidnapped by gunmen in one of the most dramatic attacks against the country's small Christian community. Gold hit a record, rising to \$1,000 an ounce for the first time. Bode Miller clinched the men's overall World Cup ski title in Bormio, Italy.

FIVE YEARS AGO:
 Jorge Bergoglio of Argentina was elected pope, choosing the name Francis; he was the first pontiff from the

Americas and the first from outside Europe in more than a millennium.

ONE YEAR AGO:
 The Congressional Budget Office said that 14 million Americans would lose coverage the next year under House Republican legislation remaking the nation's health care system, and that number would balloon to 24 million by 2026. Once the world's most-wanted fugitive, Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, the man known as "Carlos the Jackal," appeared in a French court for a deadly 1974 attack on a Paris shopping arcade that killed two people. (He was convicted and sentenced to life in prison for the third time.)

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS:
 Jazz musician Roy Haynes is 93. Country singer Jan Howard is 88. Songwriter Mike Stoller (STOH'-ler) is 85. Singer-songwriter Neil Sedaka is 79. Opera singer Julia Migenes is 69. Actor William H. Macy is 68. Political commentator Charles Krauthammer is 68. Comedian Robin Duke is 64. Actress Dana Delany is 62. Sen. John Hoven, R-N.D., is 61. Rock musician Adam Clayton (U2) is 58. Jazz musician Terence Blanchard is 56. Actor Christopher Collet is 50. Rock musician Matt McDonough (Mudvayne) is 49. Actress Annabeth Gish is 47. Actress Tracy Wells is 47. Rapper-actor Common is 46. Rapper Khujo (Goodie Mob, The Lumberjacks) is 46. Singer Glenn Lewis is 43. Actor Danny Masterson is 42. Bluegrass musician Clayton Campbell (The Gibson Brothers) is 37. Actor Noel Fisher is 34. Singers Natalie and Nicole Albino (Nina Sky) are 34. Actor Emile Hirsch is 33. Olympic gold medal skier Mikaela Shiffrin is 23.



St. Mary's High School Students listen intently to the information leading to the closing of their school (Photo by Lynn Boscher)

St. Mary's High School Closing

Continued from Page 1

"We're all like family," said Collins, whose three children attended St. Mary's, adding, "They're not going to go quietly. It's a strong community and they stay together. We will have our say."

Father Lawlor's letter ended with an apology. "I know that this news will impact a great number of parishioners who have supported our High School for a long time. I am personally devastated by this decision and all I can say is I am sorry. The St. Mary's community will always be grateful to our friends and alumni who have supported this school for many years. The spirit and the success of St. Mary's High School will continue on and we can all cherish the gifts and memories that the school has provided for over 100 years," he wrote.

Since the 1999-2000 school year, St. Mary's High School student enrollment has gone from 140 students to an anticipated 80 next year, an enrollment drop of 43%. Whereas, the new Pope Francis High School is being built despite an enrollment drop of 74% from 1,262 to 330 during that same period. Data from 1999-2000 is from the combined enrollment of Cathedral and Holyoke Catholic high schools which now comprise Pope Francis.

At their peak in the early-1980's, St. Mary's had nearly 250 students while Cathedral/Holyoke Catholic, combined, were almost 2,500.

In data released by the Springfield Diocese earlier this year, as devastating as the June 2011 tornado may have been, it seemed to be a financial windfall for the Diocese generating approximately \$60 million in insurance claims and an additional \$25-30 million in Federal Emergency (FEMA) reimbursement.

Westfield residents will recall the uproar of the opposition to building a 600 student elementary school on Ashley and Cross Streets for about half the cost to build Pope Francis High School, but it would have housed nearly double the students.

There are currently 81 parish churches across the



Michele Arduino, parent, expresses her concerns about what would happen with her children upon the high school closing. (Photo by Lynn Boscher)

Springfield Diocese. In 1986 there were 136. Each church contributes 7% of their weekly mass collections to a diocesan general education fund, including St. Mary's and other parishes with schools. The Diocese determines where and how those funds are distributed.

Snow impacts town election deadlines

BOSTON (AP) — Town election deadlines will be postponed as Massachusetts faces its third nor'easter in two weeks.

State secretary William Galvin announced Monday he obtained an injunction in Suffolk Superior Court postponing all municipal election deadlines for Tuesday, March 13.

These include deadlines for registering to vote, submitting nomination papers and obtaining nomination papers.

Voter registrations that were scheduled for 8 p.m. Tuesday night are rescheduled for 8 p.m. on Wednesday.

Judge allows hospital's flu vaccination policy to stand

BOSTON (AP) — A Massachusetts judge has dismissed a lawsuit that challenged a Boston hospital's requirement that all employees must get flu vaccinations.

A nurses' union had challenged Brigham and Women's Hospital's vaccination policy, but a judge on Monday ruled that the Massachusetts Nurses Association did not have standing to bring the suit.

The hospital last fall mandated that all employees must get flu shots unless they are granted medical or religious exemptions. Workers who do not get inoculated are required to wear face masks around patients.

City Street Snow Parking Ban policy

The City Of Westfield has an on-street snow ban parking policy during plowable snowstorms.

Motorists are not allowed to park on the city streets from the beginning of a parking ban announcement until after the storm ceases and the plowing has been completed on the streets. Announcement of a parking ban is done on the Local Cable Access Channel 15, TV stations WWLP 22 and WGBY 40 and the local radio stations, WMAS, WHYN, WNNZ.

When a parking ban is called motorists must obey the policy or they will be subject to towing and a parking violation.

When a snowstorm is anticipated to begin during the night, motorists who park their vehicles overnight on the street in front of their residence should move their vehicles off the street prior to retiring for the night.

Motorists who use the downtown core streets for business parking during a snow ban must park in one of the city's off-street parking lots. The off-street lots are free during snow

bans from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. only. This action will allow the streets to be plowed and prevent motorists from being towed and receiving parking violations.

Motorists may call the following offices or go on the city's website for confirmation of a parking ban.

- Parking Clerk-572-6202-Press 2
 - Police Dept.-562-5411- Ext 8
 - Mayor-572-6201
 - City Website - Cityofwestfield.Org
- Announcement of a Parking Ban is reported by the following:
- Local Cable Access Channel 15,
 - Tv Stations WWLP 22, CBS3, ABC40, & FOX6
 - The Local Radio Stations
 - City Website - Cityofwestfield.Org
 - www.thewestfieldnews.com

Westfield Snow Removal Ordinance Overview

WESTFIELD — We are well into that time of year. Several significant snowstorms have already graced our city this winter and we are not out of the woods yet. As Westfield repeatedly turns into a winter wonderland our streets and sidewalks are continuously blanketed with the lovely white stuff. That's when the calls begin about unshoveled sidewalks.

The ordinance governing removal of snow on sidewalks can be found in chapter 16-14 of Westfield's City Ordinances. The short version of this ordinance is that if there is a public sidewalk which abuts property owned by you, you are responsible for having the snow removed from that sidewalk within 24 hours of the completion of the snowstorm. If the sidewalk cannot be completely cleared due to ice, you are responsible to "sprinkle... sand, sawdust, or another suitable substance so that such sidewalk shall not be slippery." Although this is not always the best option, sometimes it is the only option. When officers are called to a complaint about a residence that has ice on the sidewalk and it is completely covered with sand we have no choice but to find that no violation exists. The penalty for not complying with this ordinance is \$25 for each day that it is not rectified.

Landlords will sometimes put in their lease or rental agreements that tenants are responsible for snow removal in certain circumstances. If this is the case and snow is not removed, a tenant may be in violation of their rental agreement, but ultimately the property owner, not the tenant, is responsible and may receive a fine.

Please do all you can to have sidewalks abutting your property cleared within the 24 hour deadline. At best an unshoveled sidewalk is an inconvenience and at worst can be dangerous for pedestrians.

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Volunteers provide immigrants with legal assistance

By DUSTY CHRISTENSEN
www.gazettenet.com

NORTHAMPTON, Mass. (AP) — Sitting in a prison cell in Boston, things at times looked pretty bleak for Niberd Abdalla. For more than seven months beginning last June, the Iraqi immigrant faced deportation to a country where he fears death.

"I will be targeted," Abdalla, of Northampton, told the Daily Hampshire Gazette in August — a fear compounded in no small part by his Kurdish ethnicity. "They will bury me alive."

However, although Abdalla was not initially eligible for bond, a team led by Northampton lawyer Buz Eisenberg volunteered endless hours fighting for Abdalla's freedom. And, on Jan. 25, an immigration judge in Boston ordered Abdalla released, much to the delight of his wife, Ellen McShane, and a community of supporters.

Eisenberg and others, meanwhile, continue working to reopen Abdalla's case, to have his removal order canceled and to get him legal status.

"It took an attorney taking the extra step," Megan Kludt, a local immigration attorney who has also worked on Abdalla's case, said of Eisenberg. And Kludt and Eisenberg are far from the only ones volunteering on the local level to fill a gap in legal immigration resources.

Abdalla and many other local immigrants have gained access to much-needed legal resources through the Immigrant Protection Project, a coordinated regional initiative on the part of the American Civil Liberties Union of Western Massachusetts, local lawyers, volunteers and community organizations. After around a year of operation, the project has expanded its work providing legal assistance referrals and advice for immigrants and their advocates in the Pioneer Valley and beyond.

The project is full of lawyers volunteering their time, including many local faces who have similarly worked on long-term or complex cases, and other Valley lawyers who are on the project's coordinating committee.

However, the organization's foundation — its first point of contact for local residents in need — is its call center, run by some 25 bilingual volunteers. Those volunteers field phone calls from immigrants with legal questions or problems, and from as many as 30 community partner organizations. Those groups will also refer people to the project.

"We're getting calls on an extremely wide range of issues," said project coordinator Javier Luengo-Garrido, who previously worked as a liaison, interpreter and education specialist in the Northampton school system.

Call center volunteers come from many different professions and countries, Luengo-Garrido said, and they help to direct immigrants to legal services that will provide them with free assistance for everything from deportation proceedings to obtaining passports for citizen children.

Sitting with a decision tree in front of her late last month, volunteer Camila Rodriguez of Northampton was speaking in Spanish to someone about how an older citizen child might apply for legal status for a parent.

Following a detailed set of instructions, Rodriguez was able to gather all the pertinent information needed for a debrief conversation with Luengo-Garrido. The two then made a judgment about what legal services the caller would benefit from: a family law attorney and possibly an interpreter.

"It's just a reality check that it's happening right here, next to us, all the time," Rodriguez said of federal immigration enforcement and the effects it has on local immigrants. "It made me realize how bad the situation is, how bad people have it."

The project provides legal referrals to immigrants for a wide range of situations, and also trains others to do the same in their communities.

"We have a central place where immigrants and their families and supporters can call," said Bill Newman, director of the local ACLU office and one of the project's founders. Newman described the landscape of immigrant legal materials prior to the project's creation as underorganized and underresourced.

Kludt, the Northampton immigration-law expert, is another of the project's founders, and said the group initially tried to prepare for what they thought would be most-needed during the administration of President Donald Trump: lawyers who could provide legal defense to immigrant detainees.

But soon it became clear other things were more needed. Recently, Trump's rescission of two programs has been the focus of many calls: Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, which shields young undocumented immigrants from deportation; and Temporary Protected Status, or TPS, which offers relief to immigrants who are already in the United States from countries impacted by natural disasters or armed conflict.

"That's the need of the community and what we're requesting to address," Newman said.

"We are getting to a point where our state of mind is that we have to be flexible with whatever the immigrant community needs," Luengo-Garrido added.

Another service the IPP has worked on is a "family preparedness plan" — a packet of advice on child care and legal rights, as well as translated forms, that helps immigrant families prepare for the possibility of family separation. The booklet has been endorsed by the state's attorney general.

Now, the project's volunteer army, around a year into its work, consists of dozens of lawyers specializing in bond hearings, family law and habeas corpus, some 10 translators, the 25 call-center workers and others. Partner organizations include local groups such as Casa Latina, Catholic Charities, Holyoke Health Center, the Pioneer Valley Workers Center and University of Massachusetts Translation Center.

"There was an incredible amount of people willing to do

COMMENT

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor

St. Mary's closing

To all those considering where to go for high school, I'd like to ask you a question: what is the ideal high school experience you want for your child? I'd imagine you'd want your child to thrive academically, and to get the best education possible. You'd want a high school where your child has easy access to helpful and dedicated teachers, anytime they wanted. Where faculty have the time to spend working with a student regardless of who they are when they need help. This school is St. Mary's, and here's my story why it's the best school for your child as well.

I am not, and never have been a math person. I was never good at math and always found it to be a huge challenge. But with the extra help that St. Mary's teachers were able to give me, I finished my senior year with a 95 in my mathematics course.

If your child is athletically driven, St. Mary's has a welcoming athletics program with a no-cut policy where all students are welcomed, given the opportunity to thrive, and encouraged to participate in sports regardless of skill level. I myself stepped onto the Lacrosse field my sophomore year of high school, for the first time, and was met with nothing but support and encouragement. The experience was a humbling one, and something I will treasure for the years to come. If you're looking for the athletic experience that will challenge your child's abilities, form their leadership skills, and constantly work to

broaden their horizons, look no further ... because this is St. Mary's.

If the theater is what excites your child, St. Mary's has one of the best drama programs in the area, putting on famous shows, such as Cole Porter's *Anything Goes* and most recently a fantastic production of *Footloose*. We kept having to add chairs for the audience, because people loved it so much they had to come back! The drama club may have been my favorite part of High School, and I would never have had such an interest in the program if it weren't for teachers like Mr. Lepage (the school's theater director) who motivated me to step outside my comfort zone and encouraged me to join. It was here in the Drama department where I found my niche, and learned of my musical abilities, and am currently pursuing a degree in music. If it weren't for the close relationship that I had with my teacher, I may never have found my passion, and never have had the opportunity to explore my talents. These relationships that you create with your peers, and with your teachers are unique, and is one of many things that makes St. Mary's so special.

My high school experience is one of many from this school, and it allowed me to pursue my passions, explore new areas, and forge long lasting friendships. St. Mary's is so much more than a school community and a fantastic education, its a family that you're apart of for the rest of your life. If you're looking for the best possible education for your child ... You have found it. It's St. Mary's, and if it weren't for this school, I know I wouldn't be the person I am today.

Will Lucardi, St. Mary's Class of 2017

Trump blocks Broadcom takeover bid for Qualcomm

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump blocked Singapore chipmaker Broadcom from pursuing a hostile takeover of U.S. rival Qualcomm, ruling the proposed combination would imperil national security.

The decision, announced late Monday, abruptly ends Broadcom's four-month, \$117 billion bid to buy Qualcomm — a deal that would have been the largest ever completed in the technology industry.

In a statement, Broadcom said it "strongly disagrees" that the acquisition raises any national-security concerns. Qualcomm did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Trump's order gives Broadcom few options other than to drop its bid, said Macquarie Securities analyst Srinivas Pajjuri.

Broadcom faced challenges almost from the start of its quest. Qualcomm quickly spurned its unsolicited suitor and continued to resist even after Broadcom raised its original offer from \$103 billion.

Broadcom's Singapore connections complicated matters, even though the company maintained its physical headquarters in Silicon Valley and virtually all of its shareholders are in the U.S.

The Trump administration nevertheless balked at the prospect of a prominent U.S. chipmaker being owned by a foreign company, particularly at a time countries around the world are gearing up to build ultra-fast "5G" mobile networks that could tip the balance of power in technology.

Although its name isn't widely known outside the technology industry, Qualcomm is one of the world's leading makers of the processors that power many smartphones and other mobile devices. Qualcomm also owns patents on key pieces of mobile technology that Apple and other manufacturers rely upon in their products.

Qualcomm is fending off allegations in complaints filed by Apple and government regulators around the world that it has abused the power of its mobile patents to throttle competition and charge excessive royalties for its technology.

Broadcom CEO Hock Tan had seized on Qualcomm's legal headaches in his attempt to persuade the U.S. government to keep the deal alive. "Qualcomm faces a number of challenges that hamper its role in developing 5G," Tan wrote in a letter sent to U.S. Congress last week. Unlike Qualcomm, Tan said, Broadcom financed its innovation through "lawful practices."

Trump decided to squelch Broadcom's bid on the recommendation of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, which reviews foreign purchases of U.S. entities.

The decision didn't come as a surprise. Earlier this month, the committee branded the proposed deal a potential security risk that could hobble the U.S.'s ability to make the smooth and quick transition to 5G.

In an attempt to ease those worries, Broadcom last week pledged to make the U.S. a leader in the race to build 5G networks, saying it would create a \$1.5 billion fund to support the effort if took control of Qualcomm.

Broadcom also tried to curry favor by moving its legal headquarters from Singapore to the U.S. within the next few weeks.

Singapore became Broadcom's legal home two years ago after it was sold to Avago, a company that once was part of Silicon Valley pioneer Hewlett-Packard.

Broadcom's company's physical headquarters is already in San Jose, California — about 450 miles from Qualcomm's headquarters in San Diego.

Trump hosted Broadcom's Tan in the White House last year when the executive announced the proposed move.

Now that Broadcom has been shoved aside, Qualcomm will be under pressure to prevent its stock price from sinking while trying to complete its own proposed takeover — a proposed \$43 billion purchase of NXP Semiconductors.

"Now it's on (Qualcomm's) management to deliver on what they promised," Pajjuri said.

Trump's strong words on guns give way to political reality

WASHINGTON (AP) — Not two weeks ago, President Donald Trump wagged his finger at a Republican senator and scolded him for being "afraid of the NRA," declaring that he would stand up to the powerful gun lobby and finally get results on quelling gun violence following last month's Florida school shooting.

On Monday, Trump struck a very different tone as he backpedaled from his earlier demands for sweeping reforms and bowed to Washington reality. The president, who recently advocated increasing the minimum age to purchase an assault weapon to 21, tweeted that he's "watching court cases and rulings" on the issue, adding that there is "not much political support (to put it mildly)."

Over the weekend, the White House released a limited plan to combat school shootings that leaves the question of arming teachers to states and local communities and sends the age issue to a commission for review. Just two days earlier, Trump had mocked commissions as something of a dead end while talking about the opioid epidemic. "We can't just keep setting up blue-ribbon committees," he said, adding that all they do is "talk, talk, talk."

Seventeen people were killed in last month's shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, prompting a national conversation about gun laws, fierce advocacy for stronger gun control from surviving students and, initially, a move from Trump to buck his allies at the National Rifle Association.

In a televised meeting with lawmakers on Feb. 28, Trump praised members of the gun lobby as "great patriots" but declared "that doesn't mean we have to agree on everything. It doesn't make sense that I have to wait until I'm 21 to get a handgun, but I can get this weapon at 18."

He then turned toward Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pennsylvania, and questioned why previous gun control legislation did not include that provision.

"You know why?" said Trump, answering his own question. "Because you're afraid of the NRA, right? Ha ha."

Toomey had a ready response after the president's tweet Monday: "It's quite obvious that I'm the guy that stood up to the NRA," he said. Asked if Trump was afraid of the NRA, Toomey said, "I don't know what's driving his decision."

His words rattled some Republicans in Congress and sparked hope among some gun control advocates that, unlike after so many previous mass shootings, meaningful regulations would be enacted. But Trump appeared to foreshadow his change of heart with a tweet the very next night.

"Good (Great) meeting in the Oval Office tonight with the NRA!" the president wrote.

White House aides said Monday the president was focusing on achievable options, after facing significant opposition from lawmakers on a more comprehensive approach. Trump will back two modest pieces of legislation, and the administration pledged to help states pay for firearms training for teachers.

Seemingly on the defensive after his about-face, Trump tweeted Monday of the age limit that "States are making this

decision. Things are moving rapidly on this, but not much political support (to put it mildly)."

The White House insisted that Trump remained committed to more significant changes even if they are delayed.

"We can't just write things down and make them law. We actually have to follow a process," said press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders. "Right now the president's primary focus is pushing through things we know that have broad bipartisan support."

She placed blame for the inaction on Capitol Hill. But Trump has made little effort to marshal the support of congressional Republicans or use his popularity with NRA voters to provide cover for his party during a contentious vote.

Democrats and gun control advocates were quick to pounce on the president's retreat from previous demands, with Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., tweeting that Trump "couldn't even summon the political courage to propose raising the age limit on firearm purchases - despite repeated promises to support such a step at a meeting with lawmakers."

Television personality Geraldo Rivera — who had urged the president to consider tougher age limits during a dinner at Trump's Florida club — tweeted that Trump had "blinked in face of ferocious opposition from #NRA."

Still, Trump argued that this was progress.

"Very strong improvement and strengthening of background checks will be fully backed by White House," he tweeted. He added that an effort to bar bump stock devices was coming and that "Highly trained expert teachers will be allowed to conceal carry, subject to State Law. Armed guards OK, deterrent!"

Without strong advocacy from the White House, an ambitious gun package was unlikely to even get off the ground, given most Republicans' opposition to any new restrictions. The two measures backed by Trump — an effort to strengthen the federal background check system and an anti-school violence grant program — both enjoy bipartisan support, though some Republicans object and many Democrats say they are insufficient.

Trump drew some Republican backing, with Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah, who wrote the school safety bill, tweeting he was "grateful" for the White House backing and calling the measure "the best first step we can take" to make students safer.

Separately, Attorney General Jeff Sessions on Monday directed the FBI to identify localities that are not fully reporting information about arrests and mental health records to federal authorities. Such information could prevent someone from purchasing a gun if discovered during a background check.

Sessions told the FBI that people who can't legally own guns shouldn't be able to pass background checks "simply because information was not available to you."

No deadline was set for recommendations from Trump's planned commission, but officials expected them within a year.



In this Feb. 28, 2018, file photo, President Donald Trump speaks in the Cabinet Room of the White House, in Washington, during a meeting with members of congress to discuss school and community safety. With the president from left, Vice President Mike Pence, Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas., the president, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., and Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa. Not two weeks ago, Trump scolded a Republican senator for being "afraid of the NRA" and declared that he would stand up to the powerful gun lobby and finally get results on quelling gun violence. Now Trump is striking a very different tone as he backpedals from his earlier demands for sweeping reforms. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster, File)

The Westfield News

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Wake, funeral slated for mom, children found slain in home

WEST BROOKFIELD, Mass. (AP) — A Massachusetts mother and her three children found slain in their home are being laid to rest.

A wake for 38-year-old Sara Bermudez, 8-year-old Madison Bermudez, 6-year-old James Bermudez and 2-year-old Michael Bermudez is scheduled for Monday.

A funeral Mass is scheduled for All Saints Roman Catholic Church in Ware on Tuesday.

They were found March 1 in their West Brookfield home by police making a well-being check.

The deaths were ruled homicides but authorities have not announced any arrests.

Sara Bermudez was remembered in her obituary for her "love for God and family."

The obit says: "Madison enjoyed being the true princess, with a smile always on her face. James was always running around playing and laughing at his own inside jokes. Michael was the joy and reflection of his siblings."

Police: Man douses girlfriend, baby with lighter fluid

LAWRENCE, Mass. (AP) — Police say a Massachusetts man doused his girlfriend and their 1-year-old baby with lighter fluid and threatened to light them on fire.

A judge ordered 37-year-old William Connatser, of Lawrence, held without bail Monday. Prosecutors say he has been charged with assault on murder, reckless endangerment of a child and mayhem among other offenses.

Police say Connatser left a pre-release program home to go to a nearby supermarket Saturday. He met his girlfriend there, and police say the two began to argue inside a vehicle.

Authorities say he then poured the liquid on the woman and baby, telling the woman to drive away.

The woman and a bystander were able to get the attention of a nearby officer who arrested Connatser.

It is unclear if Connatser has a lawyer.

Man accused of sending white powder to Trump Jr. released

WORCESTER, Mass. (AP) — A Massachusetts man charged with sending a threatening letter with white powder to President Donald Trump's son has been ordered released from jail while awaiting trial.

A judge ordered Daniel Frisiello to be released Monday.

Frisciello will be confined to his family's home and is prohibited from using the internet and sending mail. He has been behind bars since he was arrested this month.

The letter to Donald Trump Jr. was opened in February by his wife, Vanessa Trump, who reported she was coughing and felt nauseous and was briefly hospitalized. The substance turned out to be nonhazardous.

Postal Inspector Michael Connelly says Frisiello also sent a threatening letter containing white powder to a Trump family member during the 2016 presidential race.

Frisciello's attorney has said he has some "issues" and has been on medication his entire life.

POLICE LOGS

WESTFIELD

Major crime and incident report
Tuesday, March 6, 2018

8:27 a.m.: breaking and entering, Taylor Avenue, a contractor called to report that he arrived at a worksite to find the front door damaged and unlocked, the responding officer reports that there are obvious signs of forcible entry but nothing appears to be missing;

10:58 a.m.: shoplifting, East Main Street, a caller reports a female party who has shoplifted from the store previously has returned, the responding officer reports the caller said that a Hispanic female accompanied by a girl believed to be her daughter has been in the store previously and each time stole merchandise, the officer reports the suspect left the area before he arrived;

5:10 p.m.: fire, East Main Street, a caller reports a possible brush fire under the Air National Guard Bridge, the responding firefighters report that a homeless person was found with a small campfire who extinguished it after he was advised of the pertinent regulations;

5:14 p.m.: school investigation, Westfield Middle School South, a school resource officer reports he was advised of a pupil who made a threatening verbal outburst, the officer interviewed the pupil to confirm that any threats made were empty, a supervisory officer advised the pupil's parents of the incident and confirmed that the pupil has no access to weapons.

Girls get chance to compete in Cub Scouts' Pinewood Derby

NORTON, Mass. (AP) — Ally Crawford, a 10-year-old girl from Norton, sat on the edge of her chair last Sunday as she watched dozens of handmade wooden cars dart down a huge yellow ramp, eager to see if hers would win.

For someone who had been to the Cub Scout Pack 27 Pinewood Derby before, she seemed extra excited this time around.

That's because last year when Ally attended the event, she was there as a family member of her brother Ian, a Cub Scout at the time.

This year, as she sat next to the other boys in the troop, she wasn't just someone's sister, she was a Cub Scout herself.

"This is the first event I get to go to as a real Cub Scout," Ally said with a smile on her face. "I've been a Cub Scout for two weeks."

Thanks to a decision by the Boy Scouts of America in October of 2017, girls are now allowed to become members of the Cub Scout program, where they can learn and advance alongside their male counterparts.

For girls like Ally, this decision meant she could finally be a part of the group that she's been working with for the past three years.

"She was able to participate in the activities they opened up for siblings," said Donna Crawford, 49, Ally's mother. "She's been working with them for years, but now she gets to officially call herself a Cub Scout."

Michelle Sparks, a Pack 27 cubmaster, said that Ally was always eager to see what the boys would be doing next to see if she could participate herself.

"And I kept saying, 'yes she can,' 'yes she can,'" Sparks said. "I always knew she was going to ask, so I always wanted to make something for her."

"She was pretty much doing all of the work but getting none of the credit," said Beth Strojny, another Cub Scout leader. "I'm very happy about this. Ally has always excelled in the activities, and everyone has been very supportive."

Even though Ally was a member of the Girl Scouts, she said that the program never did the kinds of activities that she wanted to do.

"We used to go camping inside a lot," Ally said. "When I got to go camping with my brother, and I got to go fishing. I even caught an eel. I also passed the swim test, so I could go swimming wherever I wanted."

Strojny said that the Cub Scouts focus more on outdoor activities than the Girl Scouts. She also said that she thinks the Cub Scouts are going to see a lot more girls join next year.

"We already have some girls who we know are interested," Strojny said. "Ally has definitely driven us in this direction."

Both Strojny and Sparks said that there has been unanimous support and encouragement from the Boy and Cub Scout leaders as well as the parents of the boys involved.

"I haven't seen anyone being unwelcoming," Strojny said. "The boys are all very welcoming too. A lot of them already knew her, so she's made lots of friends."

According to Donna Crawford, the Cub Scouts were always more willing to accept girls than the Girl Scouts were to the boys.

"Our experience with the Girl Scouts was that they weren't as welcoming to (Ally's) brother," Crawford said. "The kids were fine, but the parents sometimes weren't."

For Crawford and her husband, having both of their children in the same group also makes transportation much less of a hassle.

"For us, we're both working, and so it was hard to be there to take them places," Crawford said. "This way is much easier for us, and Ally is happy."

Crawford and Strojny both encouraged parents with young girls to look into joining the Cub Scouts.

Police force aims to recruit more Spanish-speaking officers

NEW BEDFORD, Mass. (AP) — Jose Bercian-Ramos was clutching his back trying to stop the bleeding from a stab wound in April 2013 after an attack in New Bedford's South End.

Crying and scared, the man, only 10 years removed from leaving his native Guatemala, saw his life flash before his eyes. He feared he was going to die and never see his family again, he told The Standard-Times recently through an interpreter at the Community Economic Development Center.

The now 57-year-old man does not speak English and could not explain to police what happened to him. Fortunately, a good Samaritan who spoke Spanish called an ambulance. She later provided the officer with information that helped identify and arrest the suspect, too.

The suspect pleaded guilty in January 2015 to charges of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and larceny from a building and received 3 to 5 1/2 years in prison.

The experience of Bercian-Ramos and other Spanish-only speaking residents in New Bedford is not uncommon.

Roberto Osorio, who has owned Quichelenses Market on North Front Street since April 2010, said he has called police regarding robberies, thefts and vandalism at his business, and has run into a language problem several times because he speaks little English.

Osorio, a 43-year-old native of Guatemala, has a work permit and understands he has to learn more English because he runs a business. However, he said he wishes there were more Spanish-speaking officers and dispatchers in the New Bedford Police Department so Spanish-only speaking people could be understood better.

"It would really be helpful because people would be able to communicate clearly and be comfortable the dispatchers understands them," Osorio said through an interpreter.

Corinn Williams, executive director of the Community Economic Development Center, said the language problem with police surfaces in so many ways — muggings, motor vehicle stops, accidents, police investigations, prosecutions.

There have been incidents where Spanish-only speaking people cannot explain their side of an accident; they have difficulty scheduling a follow-up interview with a detective; and there have been even instances where the victim, and not the perpetrator, has been charged because of an inability to communicate with the police.

"Language access is such a big problem," she said. "It's at all levels that the communication can break down. It can be difficult at all different stages. Those are the kinds of things we come across."

"If you can't talk to each other, there's no way of telling who's good, who's bad, who's telling the truth and who's not," said Miriam Watkins, program coordinator at the CEDC.

The center acts as a liaison between Spanish speakers and the police department. "Overall, in a perfect world, there would be enough (Spanish-speaking officers) to be a resource for people who speak Spanish," Williams said.

According to information provided by Frances Alonzo, a Spanish public affairs specialist for the U.S. Census Bureau, 19 percent of New Bedford's estimated population of 94,988 in 2016 or 18,048 people are of Hispanic or Latino origin.

Williams said the problem is compounded because of the change in the Trump administration's attitude toward immigration, causing a fear of deportations for non-criminal offenses. "Reaching out to police is a lot harder because of the current administration," she said. "It's a really tough time right now because people are afraid. The deportations are very impactful. People are leaving their families behind."

The lack of a Spanish newspaper or radio station in New Bedford — providing an ability to speak directly with Spanish-only speaking people — makes it hard to combat those fears, she said.

The language barriers would be reduced "without a doubt," if there were more Spanish-speaking officers in New Bedford,

See New Recruits, Page 8

Greater Westfield Chamber of Commerce –March After 5 Connection

March 14, 2018 (5 – 7 pm) Join us for our March After 5 Connection hosted by Spotlight Graphics, 9B Whalley Way, Southwick, MA. FREE for Chamber members, \$10 General Public (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 available @ www.westfieldbiz.org. For more information, please call Pam at the Chamber at 413.568.1618.

Fire Victim's Fundraiser Spaghetti Dinner

Montgomery announces the Fire Victim's Fundraiser Spaghetti Dinner to benefit the Bodendorf and Camp families. This winter our town has suffered, these two families have lost both their homes due to fire. Please come and support your neighbors at the Spaghetti Dinner held in the Montgomery Town Hall on **March 15 at 6 pm**. Tickets are \$8 for Adults and \$5 for kids under 12, there will be a 50/50 raffle and ToGo boxes if you cannot stay. The Pitoniak Brother's will be providing live music as well! Volunteers and donations please contact Paula at the Montgomery Library (413-862-3894 or montgomerylibrary@yahoo.com)



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- MONDAYS •••••
- 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

RADIO FOR THE WESTFIELD MASSES

"I think you should check out both and see what they're both about," Crawford said. "And then let your child decide where they feel most comfortable."

As for the derby, Ally explained that after receiving a kit including a block of wood, two axles and four wheels she and her fellow scouts were tasked with creating a car that would be raced in the derby.

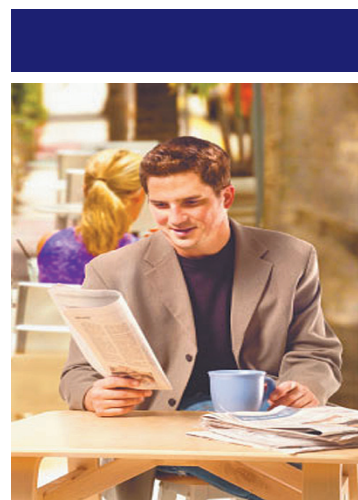
But regardless of whether her car was chosen to move onto the regional competition, it was still a proud day for Ally and her family.

"There's been a lot of fun stuff to do," Ally said. "I'm really happy."

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HEALTHFITNESS

Judge tosses Massachusetts lawsuit over birth control rules

BOSTON (AP) — A federal judge has tossed the Massachusetts attorney general's lawsuit against President Donald Trump's administration over rules allowing more employers to opt out of providing no-cost birth control to women.

U.S. District Judge Nathaniel Gorton ruled against Democratic Attorney General Maura Healey on Monday. Gorton said the state lacks standing to sue.

Healey said in a statement that she's disappointed in the decision but remains committed to ensuring "affordable and reliable reproductive health care for women."

Republican Gov. Charlie Baker signed a law in November that aims to guarantee insurance coverage for women's birth control regardless of changes in federal policy.

Judges in California and Pennsylvania last year blocked the new birth control rules. Federal prosecutors said last month that they plan to appeal the California judge's decision.



In this March 18, 2011 photo, Cassidy Hempel waved at hospital staff as she was being treated for a rare disorder. Her mother Chris, left, fought to gain permission for an experimental drug. (AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez)

THE CONVERSATION

Giving patients the 'right to try' experimental drugs is a political maneuver, not a lifesaver

In this March 18, 2011 photo, Cassidy Hempel waved at hospital staff as she was being treated for a rare disorder. Her mother Chris, left, fought to gain permission for an experimental drug. AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez

After a year in which President Donald Trump devoted much of his health policy attention to the repeal and replace of the Affordable Care Act, Trump used part of his recent State of the Union address to press Congress to focus attention in 2018 on a new health priority — the passage of "right to try" legislation.

Right to try legislation gives terminally ill patients the right to use experimental medications that have not yet been approved by the Food and Drug Administration. In 2017, the US Senate unanimously passed HR 878, legislation that would do just that. The president's address has pressured the US House to follow suit, where a bill is being voted on this March 13.

President Trump's push for the passage of right to try nationally builds on the efforts of the Libertarian-leaning Goldwater Institute, which has used the broad popularity of the policy to help achieve passage of similar legislation in 38 states, even though it diverges with current federal regulations.

Despite these state gains and the policy's growing popularity among states, ethical questions remain about the tangible impact of a federal right to try law on Americans with terminal illnesses. Most notably, a growing body of evidence from policy analysts argues that the legislation would unfortunately accomplish very little change for most patients, and it could actually make it harder to get new drugs approved in the future.

How the drug approval process works

Pharmaceuticals in the United States are regulated by the FDA. When a drug company develops a new compound intended for patient use, the medication goes through three phases of clinical trials that often take years to complete.

The first phase of trials requires a company to prove the drug is relatively safe for humans — that the drug itself will not poison the patient. These phase 1 trials are often conducted on as few as 30 patients.

In later phases, the clinical trials test whether the drug is effective at treating the condition for which it is intended without problematic

side effects. It is at this stage that the vast majority of drugs fail to pass approval, because many drugs turn out to be ineffective or to cause severe side effects.

Drugs typically go through three phases of clinical trials before they gain FDA approval and are made available to the public. Atelier211/Shutterstock.com

The right to try legislation the Trump administration is currently pushing would authorize doctors to administer drugs that have cleared the first phase, but which have not yet completed these later human clinical trials. By doing so, the legislation gives terminally ill patients the right to use potentially lifesaving medications without rigorous testing from the FDA and without years of waiting for the drugs to become commercially available.

For people suffering from terminal conditions such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, for which there are promising treatments in the midst of the approval process, the legislation brings hope.

The ice bucket challenge raised money and awareness of the ravages of ALS. Wanphen Chawarung/Shutterstock.com

That said, we believe the promises made by right to try advocates are far greater than the actual impact it will have on patients.

'Right to try' grants no real rights

Despite good intentions — and the legislation's name — right to try legislation grants no rights. It would merely grant permission for a patient to try to get experimental medication from a pharmaceutical company.

Patients would be allowed to try experimental drugs, but nothing in the legislation would make it mandatory for pharmaceutical companies to provide these medications.

The reasons for a company to withhold a drug are many. Giving access to preapproval drugs can be costly, particularly given the limited supply, and almost no medical insurance will cover experimental treatments. Access to the drugs will likely only be feasible for wealthy Americans who can afford to pay for the treatment, as well as the consequences of any negative side effects out of pocket.

Many drug companies also worry that making the drug available without approval opens them up to lawsuits if the drugs prove ineffective or have unforeseen side effects. The current federal right to try proposal does provide some protections for companies in this regard,

but until those protections have been tested in court, it is likely companies will remain cautious.

Providing the drug to patients outside of clinical trials can also be disruptive to the approval process because it can lead to data on negative clinical outcomes outside the highly controlled trial setting. While new legislation prevents this data from being used unless it is deemed "critical to determining safety," bad outcomes might give the FDA pause and delay the approval of drugs that might otherwise be available sooner.

The 'right to try' legislation changes very little

Beyond these issues, federal right to try legislation will have minimal impact on the availability of experimental drugs for patients. Not only have 38 states already passed similar legislation, but the FDA already has a program in place designed to provide patients with experimental medications.

This program, known as the "compassionate use" program, performs essentially the same function as the right to try legislation, allowing patients to try experimental drugs after approval from a review board and panel of experts. In recent years, the FDA has approved 5,816 of 5,849 requests — a 99.4 percent approval rate.

While right to try would eliminate the FDA's role in this process, the legislation does little more than slightly simplify a process that already exists to ensure that those who need experimental medications have access to them.

More harm than good?

Ultimately, we believe right to try is poised to give the Trump administration a political win on a popular public policy but will do little to change the status quo for terminally ill patients. Some opponents say, if anything, it could give terminally ill patients false hope for new access to drugs they already can obtain through existing FDA policy.

Even if right to try does simplify federal regulation, patients must still convince a reticent pharmaceutical industry to provide drugs outside of trials, and patients must still bear the costs for these experimental treatments, which is out of reach for almost all Americans.

The right to try legislation will score the president and members on both sides of the aisle in Congress points, but ultimately it will change little for terminally ill patients and their families.

FREE Hearing clinic

The Southwick Senior Center will be holding a FREE Hearing clinic by Avada, Wednesday, March 14th. Appointments start at 9:30, please call the center at 569-5498 to make one. Free screenings may be done and Hearing Aides cleaned.

Fire Victim's Fundraiser Spaghetti Dinner

Montgomery announces the Fire Victim's Fundraiser Spaghetti Dinner to benefit the Bodendorf and Camp families. This winter our town has suffered, these two families have lost both their homes due to fire. Please come and support your neighbors at the Spaghetti Dinner held in the Montgomery Town Hall on March 15 at 6 pm. Tickets are \$8 for Adults and \$5 for kids under 12, there will be a 50/50 raffle and ToGo boxes if you cannot stay. The Pitoniak Brother's will be providing live music as well! Volunteers and donations please contact Paula at the Montgomery Library (413-862-3894 or montgomerylibrary@yahoo.com)

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 March 18th, 25, and April 8th from 1:00PM to 2:15PM. 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

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Fate hazy for GOP bill helping dying patients try new drugs

WASHINGTON (AP) — A leading House Democrat announced his opposition Monday to a Republican bill making it easier for some terminally ill patients to try experimental drugs, clouding the measure's fate.

Republicans are hoping for House approval Tuesday, seven months after a similar package cleared the Senate. The "Right to Try" bill gained added momentum after President Donald Trump called for its passage in January's State of the Union address.

Under the bill, if a doctor and drug maker

agree to let a patient with life-threatening ailments try an experimental treatment, the federal Food and Drug Administration would no longer need to consent. The FDA would have to be notified of the decision and of any problems that occur.

New Jersey Rep. Frank Pallone, top Democrat on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, said the measure is risky, unneeded and "provides false hope to patients."

See Right to Try, Page 8



This undated photo shows Amber and Elliott Ash holding son, Ethan. The Ash's have filed a class action lawsuit against University Hospitals in Cleveland after its fertility clinic in suburban Cleveland discovered a storage tank malfunction March 4 and said last week that as many as 2,000 frozen eggs and embryos may have been damaged. (Ash family photo via AP)

Fertility-clinic breakdowns baffle experts, upset couples

Simultaneous refrigeration failures at two fertility clinics in San Francisco and suburban Cleveland have damaged or destroyed potentially thousands of frozen eggs and embryos in the biggest such loss on record in the U.S. The malfunctions have left parents-to-be heartbroken and baffled experts.

Here are some questions and answers about the two cases.

WHAT HAPPENED?

In Ohio, University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center estimates 2,000 eggs and embryos may have been damaged or destroyed when an unexplained storage tank malfunction caused temperatures to rise on March 4. The medical center apologized.

On the same day in San Francisco, an embryologist at the Pacific Fertility Clinic noticed the liquid nitrogen level in one tank was very low during a routine check, clinic president Dr. Carl Herbert told ABC. He said the tank was immediately replenished and the embryos were later transferred to a new tank.

There's no known connection between the two episodes, said Dr. Kevin Doody, lab director at the Center for Assisted Reproduction in Texas and past president of the Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology. He said such breakdowns are extremely rare, and two at once is "beyond stunning."

"It's two black swan events happening in the same day. One of them causes the beehive to buzz. Two? We're all in shock," Doody said.

Officials have yet to say exactly what went wrong.

Barbara Collura, president of the patient advocacy group RESOLVE, called for "a very open, transparent investigation where the results are clear and public for all of us."

"We all need to know what has happened," she said.

CAN THE EMBRYOS BE USED?

Scientists can easily tell by looking through a microscope whether an egg or embryo survived a thaw, said David Ball, another past president of the Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology.

If doctors were to implant a damaged embryo, it might not lead to a pregnancy, but if it did, it would not raise the danger of birth defects in the child, Ball said.

WHO WILL INVESTIGATE?

The American Society for Reproductive Medicine said it plans to review the incidents with the clinics and their equipment suppliers this week. The group will then make recommendations to its members.

"In the meantime, infertility clinics around the country have been double- and triple-checking their own procedures and equipment to ensure everything is working properly," the group said in a statement.

Accrediting bodies such as the College of American Pathology may also conduct reviews, and the clinics themselves will investigate or hire outside experts to do so, Doody said.

But government review is unlikely because there is minimal federal oversight of fertility clinics. The politics surrounding abortion have made federal regulation too tricky, said George Annas, a medical ethicist at the Boston University School of Public Health.

"We've never been able to separate the embryo debate from the abortion debate in the United States," Annas said.

WHAT RECOURSE DO PATIENTS HAVE?

At least two lawsuits have been filed against the Cleveland-area hospital by couples who were trying to conceive.

The patients will have to prove negligence, Annas said. "Nobody's going to be charging these clinics with murder or manslaughter," he said.

Determining any damages owed to the patients could involve looking at the cost of repeating a fertility treatment, which can run up to \$15,000, he said, "unless it's the last embryo you could make because one partner is dead."

"It's hard to think it's worth more than the cost of making more embryos, unless you believe these are babies," he said. "Then it's hard to put a monetary value on it because it's so high."

UK says ex-spy poisoned with Soviet-developed nerve agent

LONDON (AP) — The use of Russian-developed nerve agent Novichok to poison ex-spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter makes it "highly likely" that Russia was involved, British Prime Minister Theresa May said Monday.

Novichok refers to a class of nerve agents developed in the Soviet Union near the end of the Cold War. The agents were ostensibly created in an attempt to avoid the international chemical weapons treaty that had just been signed; any new substances wouldn't be subject to past treaties.

Novichok behaves slightly differently than other nerve agents, with some reports that the class of substances is deadlier than similar chemicals like sarin or VX and harder to identify.

"Novichok agents significantly extend the range of possibility for nerve agents," said Andrea Sella, a professor of inorganic chemistry at University College London. There are five known nerve agents, which are mostly colorless liquids that can kill within minutes, if ingested.

"With Novichok, you have the potential for a slower-release agent, which gives you much more control," Sella said. "Using Novichok makes it pretty clear that it was likely Russia that was behind this."

Gary Stephens, a pharmacology expert at the University of Reading, noted that the component ingredients of Novichok nerve agents aren't on the banned list.

"It means the chemicals that are mixed to create it are much easier to deliver with no risk to the health of the courier," he said.

Nerve agents are typically inhaled or absorbed through the skin. They work by blocking a key enzyme that controls communication between nerve cells and muscles — inhibiting the enzyme causes muscles and glands to be overstimulated. That results in symptoms including contracted pupils, vomiting, breathing difficulties and convulsing muscles.

While the raw materials needed to make a nerve agent are cheap and relatively accessible, transforming them into a deadly weapon requires specialized expertise and the kind of safety precautions normally only found in government laboratories.

But trained chemists with access to secure facilities would theoretically be able to produce nerve agents, which have been described by some scientists as the most deadly invention humans have ever made, after the atom bomb.

"With these kinds of substances, they are just so dangerous that no fly-by-night terrorist group is going to cook this up," Sella said. "It

really smells like a government outfit," he said, adding that nations other than Russia would also be capable of producing Novichok.

Alastair Hay, a professor emeritus of environmental toxicology at the University of Leeds, said it was possible the Skripals' food was contaminated or the nerve agent was absorbed through the skin, which could take an hour or longer if the substance was administered using something similar to a nicotine patch.

People attacked with Novichok can potentially be treated with compounds called oximes, but recovery would depend on how quickly doctors are able to pinpoint the right compound, according to Hay.

Since nerve agents affect the respiratory center in the brain and reduces the amount of oxygen in the body, the primary worry for people exposed to nerve agents is brain damage, he said.

"All of the evidence is that for people who are this severely poisoned, is that a full recovery is far from guaranteed and they may have residual problems as a result of damage to the brain," Hay said.

Scientists will likely be analyzing any trace amounts left of the Novichok to determine which lab might have produced it.

Experts said any remaining bits of the substances used to make the nerve agent or impurities left by the chemical reaction used in the manufacturing process could be revealing.

"Those might give you a clue where it was made," Hay said. "Intelligence agencies and governments have a reasonable idea about the different processes that have been used and which countries use specific methods of manufacturing." Still, he said this wasn't an exact science and that police would have to gather evidence beyond the laboratory to narrow down where the nerve agent originated.

Any samples of the Novichok left in the environment could also be useful as police construct a timeline of the attack — analyzing where the agent was left in the highest concentrations will help determine where Skripal, his daughter and the police officer who first responded were exposed.

Hay said that among the crime's biggest mysteries is why the perpetrators even chose to use Novichok.

"If you wanted to kill someone, there are much more effective ways to do this than to go to these lengths with something that's so identifiable," he said. "But maybe that's part of the message," he said. "Maybe this is just somebody saying, 'we don't care if you identify us as the attackers and we don't care if you know.'"



Military personnel in College Street Car Park in Salisbury, Sunday March 11, 2018, as police and members of the armed forces probe the suspected nerve agent attack on Russian double agent Sergei Skripal, which took place on Sunday March 4. (AP Photo)

Study: Cholesterol drug lowers risk of death, heart attack

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — A newer cholesterol drug, used with older statin medicines, modestly lowered heart risks and deaths in a big study of heart attack survivors that might persuade insurers to cover the pricey treatment more often.

Results on the drug, Praluent, were announced Saturday at an American College of Cardiology conference in Florida. It's the first time a cholesterol-lowering drug has reduced deaths since statins such as Lipitor and Crestor came out decades ago.

"It's the ultimate outcome; it's what matters to patients," said study leader Dr. Philippe Gabriel Steg of Hospital Bichat in Paris.

But the benefit was small — 167 people would need to use Praluent for nearly three years to prevent a single death.

"That's a high cost" that may still hinder its use, said one independent expert, Dr. Amit Khera, a preventive cardiologist at UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas and a spokesman for the American Heart Association.

The drug's makers, Sanofi and Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, sponsored the study and said they would work with insurers on pricing to get the medicine to those who need it the most.

ABOUT THE STUDY

Doctors focus on lowering LDL, or bad cholesterol, to prevent heart problems. Statins are the main medicines for this, but some people can't tolerate or get enough help from them.

This undated product image provided by Sanofi shows Praluent 150 mg, a drug sold by Sanofi and Regeneron Pharmaceuticals. It's one of a new class of cholesterol medicines that lower cholesterol far more than statin medicines can. A key study tested whether it also reduces heart attack risks and deaths. (Sanofi via AP)

Praluent and a similar drug, Amgen's Repatha, work in a different way and lower cholesterol much more. Patients give themselves shots of the medicine once or twice a month. The drugs have been sold since 2015 but cost more than \$14,000 a year, and insurers have balked at paying without proof that they reduce health problems, not just the cholesterol number.

Last year, a study showed Repatha cut heart problems but did not improve survival. The new study tested the rival drug, Praluent, for a longer time and in patients at higher risk — nearly 19,000 people who in the previous year had a heart attack or chest pain serious enough

to put them in the hospital.

All had LDL over 70 despite maximum statin use. Half were given Praluent and the rest, dummy shots. Praluent was started at a lower dose and increased if LDL did not drop below 50.

After nearly three years, 9.5 percent of those on Praluent and 11.1 percent of those on dummy medicine had suffered a heart attack, stroke, heart-related death or serious chest pain; 3.5 percent on Praluent and 4.1 percent on dummy medicine died.

That worked out to a 15 percent lower risk with Praluent. Benefits were greater for those whose LDL was 100 or more at the start of the

study. The drug had no major safety issues.

WHAT DOCTORS SAY

"We need to reset our expectations" and realize that benefits for any new drug are going to be fairly small when added to already good treatments such as statins, said Dr. Jeffrey Kuvin, conference leader and cardiologist chief at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. The new drugs clearly help people at high risk and are not aimed at people at low risk, such as those who have high cholesterol but have never had a heart attack, he said.

"I've been unconvinced" of the drugs' benefits but now may prescribe them for certain very high risk patients, said Duke University cardiologist Dr. Christopher Granger. But preventing fewer than one heart problem a year at the drug's current price is not cost-effective, he said.

PRESSURE ON PRICE

An independent group, the Institute for Clinical and Economic Review, on Saturday released a new range for what Praluent should cost, based on the new results — \$2,300 to \$3,400 per year for people like those in the study. A price of \$4,500 to \$8,000 per year would be justified for patients at higher risk, with LDL over 100.

From 300,000 to 400,000 people in the U.S. each year fall in that second category. Praluent's makers say they will aim for those price ranges for insurers that remove barriers to coverage for people at the highest risk.

Right to Try

Continued from Page 6

He also noted that the bill doesn't require drug makers to provide these treatments to patients, which is often where stumbling blocks can occur. Companies sometimes prefer using what they've produced for clinical trials needed for final FDA approval, or worry that a problem could hurt the drug's marketing prospects.

A recent study by the Government Accountability Office, Congress' investigative agency, found the FDA currently approves 99 percent of such requests, often within hours.

The measure strikes a balance between safety and providing "hopeful news for patients desperately seeking the right way to try" experimental treatments, said Energy and Commerce Chairman Greg Walden of Oregon and Michael Burgess of Texas, another top panel Republican.

Pallone's stance is important because GOP leaders want to rush the legislation through the House using a process, normally reserved for uncontroversial measures, that could require a two-thirds majority. If all Republicans vote yes, they'd need the backing of at least 50 Democrats.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., hadn't taken a public position on the bill by late Monday afternoon. Republicans released the latest version of their proposal Saturday.

Legal Assistance

Continued from Page 3

something a year ago," Luengo-Garrido said, referring to the time around Trump's election and inauguration. "How it started was with this raw energy. Now we've been able to harness that energy."

An example of the quickness with which the project and partner organizations can respond happened on Nov. 7, when federal immigration agents pulled over a van in Hatfield with nine farmworkers inside. The target of the stop was the driver, but agents with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, also arrested two other men. All of them were undocumented Guatemalan immigrants.

A phone call about the raid came in to the Pioneer Valley Workers Center's emergency hotline, and that group dispatched volunteers to the scene. The project was alerted and was able to arrange for a lawyer and interpreter to meet the detainees almost immediately at the Franklin County House of Correction.

Purchase

Continued from Page 1

anymore," said Fiore. "Everything is more expensive nowadays."

In two to three years, Fiore is hoping that all of the lots will be complete and people will be residing in those developments. It's a project that Fiore Realty is confident that will please everyone involved.

"We're looking forward to building out a really good project that everyone's going to love," said Fiore.

In February, Fiore informed the Westfield News that he decided to acquire the Candlewood Inn, which is the property that was used as a restaurant at the Southwick Country Club. Although Fiore Realty acquired the Candlewood Inn, they did that in order to use the property for their development and no longer as a restaurant. Fiore explained that he didn't think having a restaurant right next to homes would be very appealing to prospecting homebuyers.

In November of 2017, Southwick Country Club owner Bill Najam filed papers to sell the property. Employing around 30 people, the country club was operating and allowed play on the golf course until the fall of the 2017.

Gateway

In February, he received his letter of acceptance into the U.S. Naval Academy. This was his third letter, having been accepted already into West Point and the U.S. Air Force Academy. Tangredi chose the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, where he will be inducted on June 28.

On Monday, U.S. Congressman Richard Neal and aide Jeanne Ahearn came to Gateway Regional to congratulate Tangredi on his acceptance. Also gathered were his teachers, guidance counselor, family members and friends.

After congratulating Tangredi and his family, and initiating singing "Happy Birthday" to Franky's mother Patty Tangredi, Neal spoke about attending the homecoming for Kacey Bellamy in Westfield over the weekend. He said Bellamy told him that she had earned two silver medals, but wanted gold. "I think people forget what it takes to get to that gold medal," he said.

Neal said in the past he's had nominees that didn't get in and decided to try something else, but added that Tangredi went for the gold. He also said to get into the military academies requires superb SAT scores, great class



U.S. Congressman Richard Neal with Frank Tangredi and his girlfriend Diana Tereshchuk (GRSD 2017). "With all the effort he put in, it's very rewarding," Tereschuk said.

standing, athletic abilities and community service. Tangredi served as a volunteer firefighter in the Montgomery Fire Department. Neal said that whenever he meets these young people, "You come away with one word: Wow!"

New Recruits

she said. Helena DaSilva Hughes, executive director of the Immigrants' Assistance Center, said the New Bedford Police Department should reflect the immigration population they serve — Portuguese, Spanish, and Creole to better assist more Cape Verde residents.

People are more comfortable and will provide more information if they can speak to an officer in their native language, she said. She hears of problems with accuracy that come up in some police reports and others that do not have all the information because the complainant could not make themselves understood.

"I think it is extremely important to have officers who speak other languages and basically reflect the immigrant population," she said.

Both Arthur J. Kelly III, a former New Bedford police chief and Timothy M. Lee, a former Dartmouth police chief, said ideally a police department reflects the community.

"You want to reflect the society you serve," Kelly said, now an international police consultant on threat risk and vulnerability assessment.

"You want the department to reflect the makeup of the community. Portuguese-speaking officers in New Bedford and Fall River are just as valuable," Lee said.

Rene Moreno, a former interpreter in the district and superior courts in Massachusetts, and now an interpreter in the



Mayor Brian Sullivan speaking with attendees at a previous Easter Egg Hunt. (Photo courtesy Mayor Brian Sullivan's office)

Dolby Resigns

Continued from Page 1

events, Dolby said it was a "diplomatic one."

"It left me with an uncomfortable feeling," Dolby added, saying he was concerned enough to discuss having a hearing for the removal of Bryan Young from the Conservation Commission.

At that point, Young, who had been in a Conservation Commission meeting, joined the Selectboard meeting, saying he heard he was being sued.

Dolby said there was no litigation. "We felt as a result of behavior at the meeting of Feb. 20, it wasn't appropriate for you to be representing (the town)."

"I was not hostile or threatening," Young said, despite what he called the circulation of a recording of his outburst made without this knowledge or consent.

Selectman Cara Letendre, who was present Monday and at the meeting in question, said she had her phone at the ready at the Feb. 20 meeting to call 911 because she felt threatened, and made the recording on her phone.

Young said he called Curry a name, which Dolby and Letendre said was not the name he called him. Using expletives, Young said he could say whatever he wanted, and called it "workshop banter."

"The First Amendment entitles you to speak your mind. It doesn't mean you are free from consequences," Dolby said.

"Fire me, I don't care. It's an unpaid job," Young said, defending his right to conduct himself in that way in certain situations. "Wherever I go on my job, I carry myself professionally and courteously," he said, before quitting with a series of expletives.

Town clerk Laurie Boucher said Young had not been served notice until Monday, making the public hearing null and void. Letendre said she had the constable serve him notice last week, and also signed and dated a letter she sent to Young.

"For the record, Mr. Young voluntarily resigned as a member of the Conservation Commission," said Zessin to close the public hearing.

Dolby then said there was probably not a better time for him to segue to his decision, which came as a surprise

Easter Egg Hunt

Continued from Page 1

Ages 3-5 will be set to hunt soon after the line up at their designated area

Group Ages 6-10 event line up 11:30am

Ages 6-8 will be set to hunt soon after the line up at their designated area

Ages 9-10 will be set to hunt soon after the line up at their designated area

• There will be a maximum of 10 candy filled eggs to be collected by each child in each age group. *Remember to bring a basket for the egg hunt.*

• Prizes will be given to the lucky child who collects the Golden egg in each age division.

• Optional- Easter Bunny costume contest for each age division. Winner will get a small prize.

• There will be a special appearance by the Easter Bunny along with some of our local mascots, as well as music and games for the children to enjoy.

A very special thank you to the generous contributions from Westfield Gas & Electric, Big Y Foods, Stop & Shop, Mt. Moriah Lodge, Kiwanias Club of Westfield and the volunteer efforts of many students and the employees of the City of Westfield.

to most of the 30 some people attending the meeting. "This was a great example of the treatment presented to the Selectboard of late," Dolby said.

He said he had recently had a call from a prospective employer, and spent 45 minutes on the phone with him explaining why there was so much vitriol against him on a Facebook page Levakis created, which claims to be the "most up to date information site" about Blandford. The prospective employer wanted to know why people were making threats against him.

The conversation caused Dolby to review the page, where he found 30 posts targeting him, and an equal number targeting Letendre.

Dolby, who is a lieutenant and EMT in the Blandford Fire Department, said he is used to a certain amount of risk when he goes on a call for them. He said he does not accept that his wife and his young daughters are fearful for him when he goes to Selectboard meetings. "Tonight, my little girls were in tears, afraid I was going to get hurt," he said before announcing this would be his last meeting. He also requested that his name be taken off the ballot for reelection.

"I am fine with political criticism. I am not okay with implications against my character, Cara (Letendre's) character, and not okay with threats," Dolby said.

Letendre said she and town hall employees have also felt unsafe. She said she was "heartbroken" to see Dolby go, but when she became a selectman last year, Levakis had told her she couldn't do it because she is a girl. Letendre said she would not resign, to applause from the room.

"After 22 years in the Marine Corps and 45 years in the military, I have never seen this much dissension in a small town," said retired EMT Robert "Bob" Costello. "As far as Adam goes, years back I sponsored him for Blandford Fire. He has always acquitted himself with the epitome of professionalism," he added.

"My view is, it takes two people to have an argument. I don't want to participate in this one any longer," Dolby said. "My first responsibility is to my family, which is why I'm making this decision," he added.

Continued from Page 1

Neal then asked Tangredi to say a few words. "Thank you to everyone who's here. You all helped me get here, one way or the other: my teachers, family, Congressman. I'm extremely grateful, appreciative, and excited about what awaits me in Annapolis," he said.

"He has big ambitions," said Patty Tangredi about her son, adding, "I'm just so proud of you." Franky's father Bo Tangredi, who owns Whip City Brew in Westfield, talked about the time his son, who was always determined to do whatever he set his mind on, ran into a wall at age 3 and broke his arm. "As he turned into a young man, I knew he was going to succeed in anything he planned on doing. I'm right behind you all the way," he said to his son.

Neal also congratulated Gateway Regional on Tangredi's success, saying that it takes a family, a school system, a neighborhood and a country. Gateway Superintendent Dr. David B. Hopson agreed. "It reflects well on his teachers, and the PE staff," he said, adding that he is an Army man, so was leaning that way.

Tangredi said he chose the U.S.



U.S. Congressman Richard Neal with Frank Tangredi and the Gateway teachers he invited to the ceremony (L-R) Soccer Coach Tim Gamble, PE teacher Mike Mason, School Counselor Meghan Wasiak, Physics and Chemistry teacher Dan Shea, and retired English teacher Rod Kleber.

Naval Academy because of the opportunities on land, sea and air. "Whatever I decide, there are plenty of paths," he said. His goal at the academy is to serve on the honor board or the conduct board. Looking beyond, he has bigger dreams.

"My dream is to be a naval aviator, commissioned as a pilot flying fighter jets," Tangredi said. "Right now, that's what I want to do," he added.

Continued from Page 5

Rhode Island Federal Court, acknowledged there is "a big need" for more Spanish-speaking officers in New Bedford, as well as programs for Spanish-speaking people to learn English. "It is a big need for more programs to teach English as a second language," he said.

The command staff of the New Bedford police department is aware of the breakdown in communication.

"The Police Department and the chief have been trying to improve the community policing strategies and that's a welcome change, but we still have a lot of work to do," Williams said.

For example, muggings of Central American immigrants continue in the North End, she said.

Lt. Nathaniel Rodriguez, the NBPD's newest public information officer, speaks Spanish and has been coming to the center for the past two years to review police reports with many people who cannot speak English. He goes over reports with the victims, explains things to them, tracks down reports for them and talks about personal steps they can take to reduce the possibility they will become a victim of a crime.

Rodriguez, 41, grew up in a household where Spanish was a second language and it was spoken very often. "It's very important to speak Spanish. I think the Latino culture will continue to grow in the city," he said.

Rodriguez said his being at the center gives people who can't speak English a direct line to the Police Department.

"We're here to protect them like everyone else," he said. "My Spanish isn't perfect, but I can understand what they say and they can understand what I say."

He speaks with them about reporting crimes when they are victimized and suspicious activity when they see it as well as the importance of arranging for direct deposit of their pay checks so they will not be as susceptible to muggings.

Julio Rivera works the desk at the South End police station and said his ability to speak Spanish is an asset.

Spanish-speaking people seek him out. The department will transfer calls to him when there is a need for an interpreter. "It's easy for them. I can speak the language. It's advantageous," he said, adding his ability also helps other officers who don't speak Spanish.

He estimated he handles a call for service or a question from a Spanish-only speaking resident "once or twice a day." He also believes an ability to speak Spanish and the knowledge of what questions enables him to obtain additional information. "They probably open up to me a lot more," he said.

He also finds people are appreciative when they can speak with an officer in their native language. "They thank me over and over again," he said.

Police Chief Joseph C. Cordeiro said he is aware the department needs more Spanish-speaking officers and is working on it.

SPORTS



The Westfield 6th Grade Division 1 Suburban team, pictured from left to right (back row) Head coach Patrick Strange, Gianna Strange, Emma Goodreau, Grace Burke, Ali LaPanne, Ava Pedersen, Assistant coach Erik Pedersen, Assistant coach John DeLand; (middle row) Lindsey DeLand, Abby Dorunda, and Avry Albert; (front row) Alejandra Strange and Lexi Sanchez. (Submitted photo)

Catch them if you can

WESTFIELD – Watch out Lady Huskies (UConn), the Westfield 6th grade girls are closing in!

After capping off their 2017-2018 Suburban and CYO seasons with championship wins this past weekend, this core group of girls has now won 54 consecutive games dating back to last summer.

While they are realistically only about halfway to Connecticut's 111 wins in a row, Westfield's strong play is starting to draw attention nonetheless.

"I've had more than one opposing coach tell me this season that their mission is to beat us", said John DeLand, CYO head coach and Suburban assistant coach. "And that makes it a lot of fun when you know the other teams are bringing their best efforts and game plans when they face us."

Likewise, Westfield head coach on the Suburban side, Patrick Strange, began his Suburban Championship post game speech Sunday evening by praising the competition from Chicopee.

"I want to thank these girls and coaches from Chicopee who played a great game and for continually pushing us all season long," coach Strange said.

Push them they did, closing to within six points early in the second half before Westfield starting point guard Lexi Sanchez drained a three pointer to put the Bombers up 34-25.

Westfield never looked back, pulling away for a 46-32 victory in front of a packed gym at Chicopee Comprehensive High School. Westfield forward Lindsey DeLand led all scorers with 17 points and fellow forward Gianna Strange added 14, including three 3-pointers. Sanchez had six points in total and Ali LaPanne, Emma Goodreau, and Abby Dorunda chipped in for nine more.

One day earlier, Westfield finished off its Western MASS CYO season with a 43-23 win against the Migs of Springfield. That win, Saturday, in front of a loud full house at St Mary's Academy in Longmeadow, completed the girls' 15-0 CYO Division 1 season.

In Saturday's championship game, Westfield jumped out to an early 16-2 lead and used strong defensive play from Paige Hutkoski, Ava Pedersen, and Jahneesa Armstead to protect the lead the rest of the way. Westfield's front court starting trio of DeLand, Strange, and LaPanne combined for 28 points and their guards chipped in 15 more from Sanchez (8 points), Eliza Burger (3), and Avry Albert (2) and Alejandra Strange (2).

The win streak began back in summer ball, on the outdoor courts in Wilbraham. Westfield went undefeated in the summer heat and beat Belchertown 29-8 in the finals.

Westfield started off its 2017-18 winter season campaign by sweeping through the West Springfield and Wilbraham tournaments which included title wins against Pittsfield and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish (Springfield). They then embarked on their Suburban and CYO regular season play, which saw them play nearly 40 games over a three-month span.

While playing in two Division 1 leagues arguably lets Westfield see the best competition that the Pioneer Valley has to offer and, with that being said, not every win came easily. Back in December, down eight points with under three minutes to play



The Westfield 6th Grade Division 1 CYO team, pictured from left to right, (back row) Assistant Coach Scott Hutkoski, Lindsey DeLand, Ali LaPanne, Gianna Strange, Jahneesa Armstead, Ava Pedersen, and Assistant Coach Adam LaPanne; and, (front row) Head Coach John DeLand, Lexi Sanchez, Eliza Burger, Avry Albert, Alejandra Strange, Paige Hutkoski, and Assistant coach Erik Pedersen (not shown; Abby Dorunda). (Submitted photo)

in enemy territory to an aggressive Tantasqua team, the Whip City girls closed the gap to two with 40 seconds to play, and after a Tantasqua free throw, Gianna Strange saved the day with a 3-pointer as time expired in regulation. The home town girls would win by three in overtime thanks to a DeLand layup and two key free throws from LaPanne.

The team would use that game as an impetus for the remainder of the season.

Westfield has had to endure countless practices and scrimmages and weekends devoted almost entirely to basketball. But with the support of assistant coaches Erik Pedersen, Adam LaPanne, and Scott Hutkoski, Strange and DeLand have put an

emphasis on skills and sportsmanship and all the coaches agree that the biggest reward they receive is seeing each girl improving at something individually while still having fun as a team.

And while the streak will no doubt end some day, their improvement and fun never have to. – Courtesy of John DeLand

UConn, Irish, Louisville, Miss St top seeds in women's NAAs

NEW YORK (AP) — UConn is back in a familiar place — the No. 1 overall seed in the women's basketball NCAA Tournament.

Joining the Huskies as top seeds are Notre Dame, Louisville and Mississippi State.

The Huskies enter as the lone unbeaten team and will be vying for their 12th national championship. It's the ninth time that UConn has entered the NAAs undefeated, including last year when the Huskies went in as the overwhelming favorite before their 111-game winning streak ended with a loss to Mississippi State in the Final Four.

This year's Final Four is in Columbus, Ohio, and will take place on March 30. The national championship game is on Sunday, April 1.

Defending national champion South Carolina and A'ja Wilson await as a possible Elite Eight matchup for UConn in the Albany Regional. The Gamecocks are the two-seed.

"What can you do? You have to beat some pretty good teams. Is it an impossible feat? Obviously not," South Carolina coach Dawn Staley said. "We saw that last year. If we're in the position where we have to play them, we're going to give it our best shot and let the chips fall where they may."

The Gamecocks lost by 25 at home against UConn on Feb. 1.

Florida State and Georgia are the other top seeds in the Huskies' part of the bracket. "Brackets are brackets. There are good teams in every bracket," UConn coach Geno Auriemma said. "There are great matchups in every bracket and it doesn't really matter at this stage where you're placed, what region, you're going to have to beat some really good teams. The schedule we play, I knew we'd get somebody two or three that we already played. We know that."

UConn, which has been a No. 1 seed every year since 2007, opens up against 16-seed Saint Francis (Pennsylvania) on Saturday morning. All of the top four teams in each region host the opening two rounds at home.

Like the Huskies, the Irish are a No. 1 seed again. Notre

Dame has been a top seed the last seven years. This might be one of coach Muffet McGraw's finest accomplishments as Notre Dame lost four pivotal players to injury, but only three games on the season. Two of those losses came to Louisville.

"A great reward for this team for what they've been through ... playing the toughest schedule and getting a No. 1 seed," McGraw said. "I'm so proud of this group and what they have accomplished. (Being a No. 1) is quite an accomplishment for what we've been through all year long."

The Irish are in the Spokane Regional and open up against Cal State Northridge on Friday. If Notre Dame advances, the Irish would head out west to potentially face No. 2 seed Oregon.

"We've never been in the West bracket. I love playing Friday at 5. That's awesome," McGraw said.

The Ducks could stay out west and play in Spokane, where coach Kelly Graves spent many years as Gonzaga's coach. Ohio State and Texas A&M are the three and four seeds in that region.

Louisville won the Atlantic Coast Conference for the first time this season. The Cardinals open up against Boise State and are one of eight ACC teams in the field. The Southeastern Conference has seven teams in the tournament, while the Pac-12 and the Big Ten have six.

"We're really excited about the opportunity," Louisville coach Jeff Walz said. "We're excited to host the first two at home against two very good basketball teams. If we're fortunate enough to advance, we get the opportunity to play in Lexington, which would be great for our fans."

The Lexington Regional is stacked with former NCAA Tournament winners with Baylor the two-seed, Tennessee the three and Stanford the four. While the Lady Vols have been in the NCAA Tournament every year since it began in 1982, Nicholls State, Northern Colorado, Mercer and Seattle will be making their first appearances.

Stanford potentially is headed to Lexington for the third straight year if it can advance.

Mississippi State is a No. 1



In this March 6, 2017, file photo, Connecticut head coach Geno Auriemma gestures to his team during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game against South Florida in the American Athletic Conference tournament finals in Uncasville, Conn. UConn finishes No. 1 in The Associated Press women's basketball poll for the fifth straight year. The Huskies (32-0) enter the NCAA Tournament as the lone unbeaten team and went wire-to-wire as the unanimous top team. They received all 32 votes from the national media panel Monday, March 12, 2018. (AP Photo/Jessica Hill, File)



The Rev. Stephen Sundborg, left, president of Seattle University, speaks Monday, March 12, 2018, in Seattle after the school's women's basketball team learned they are playing the University of Oregon in the NCAA college tournament. (Ken Lambert/The Seattle Times via AP)



Baylor head coach Kim Mulkey, center, and players react after they hear their seeding during an NCAA college basketball selection show Monday, March 12, 2018, in Waco, Texas. (Jerry Larson/Waco Tribune-Herald via AP)

seed for the first time in school history. The Bulldogs won their first 32 games this season before losing to South Carolina in the SEC title game. With most of their players back from last season's runner-up finish — including Morgan Williams, who hit the game-winner in overtime to knock off UConn — the Bulldogs hope to make another deep NCAA run.

The NCAA revealed Sunday night the final eight teams under consideration for the last four spots in the tournament. Buffalo, Creighton, Minnesota and Oklahoma got in. Purdue, Rutgers, Southern Cal and West Virginia were the first four teams out.

Oklahoma got in with a 16-14 record — the fewest wins for an at-large team since 2005 — a day after the Oklahoma men got an at-large berth with an 18-13 record and losses in 11 of their final 15 games.

"We spent almost seven hours on that decision of who those last four teams in and

first four out were," NCAA women's basketball committee chair Rhonda Bennett said. "We went through those

resumes and their body of work. We took as long as it took to get those teams into the bracket."

Bennett said Oklahoma's strength of schedule, which was second best in the country, was a key to its selection.

Science of upsets: Prof has formula that doubles your shot

Message to hoops fans: This story could make you look brilliant. A computer science professor at University of Illinois has created a formula that predicts NCAA tournament upsets at double the success rate of someone picking at random — including, but not limited to, those who throw darts at the bracket, or pick based on their favorite color, the most ferocious mascot or the number of vowels in the coach's last name.

This year's upset picks both come out of the South region. They are No. 13 Buffalo over No. 4 Arizona and No. 14 Wright State over No. 3 Tennessee.

But before betting the mortgage, read on: The computer scientist who spearheads this project, Sheldon Jacobson, says the computer models only analyze potential upsets by 13, 14 and 15 seeds. A 16 seed has never beaten a 1; anything involving 11s or 12s produce "too much noise," Jacobson says, meaning the relative closeness of the underdogs with their fifth- and sixth-seeded opponents interferes with the statistical model he uses to predict the upsets.

Jacobson and fellow scientists pared down 115 publicly available metrics for every team in college basketball to 15 that have served as the best predictors of upsets in years past.

Some examples include effective possession ratio — essentially the number of points a team scores per possession — along with average scoring margin and opponent's 3-point shooting percentage.

Now for the science: The framework of these formulas is called "balance optimization subset selection" (BOSS), which is an artificial-intelligence algorithm (Google that if so inclined). The National Science Foundation initially funded Jacobson for a project that used artificial intelligence to explore societal issues, such as whether government-sponsored programs to enhance job skills ultimately lead to higher incomes for workers.

After the funding ran out, Jacobson sought uses for his creation that could REALLY help people.

March Madness generates more than \$10 billion a year in wagering, much of which comes when players chip in \$10 or \$20 and fill out brackets for their office pools and collect points based on the number of correct picks.

Picking the eventual champion — No. 1 seeds Villanova and Virginia started at 5-1 odds to win it all, with No. 2 Duke at 6-1 — always helps. But sometimes the real difference makers are the correct upset picks in the early rounds. That's when the Buffalos and Wright States of

See NCAA Upsets, Page 14

PUTZ'S ULTIMATE SPORTS CHALLENGE







Take part in the race to ultimate victory! Win weekly prizes and become our grand prize winner. Choose your top PGA men's golfer from each of the four Majors, a NASCAR racer from the Daytona 500, a horse in the race to the Triple Crown, March Madness Final Four, and — all new for 2018 — the winner for every Red Sox-Yankees series throughout the summer. Points will be awarded based on where your selection finishes (1st – 3 points, 2nd – 2 points, 3rd – 1 point). Pick the 2017 Division I Men's Basketball Final Four. Receive one point for each correct Final Four team. One bonus point will be awarded for the exact Final Four. Beat our sports editor, Chris Putz, become each sporting event's top points-getter, and win our weekly prize. Any ties for the weekly prize will be broken by a random drawing. All winning entries will be eligible for our grand prize. **One entry per person.**

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Predict the Division I Men's Basketball Final Four!



YOUR FOUR TEAMS:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

MAIL OR DROP OFF YOUR ENTRY TO:
Putz's Ultimate Sports Challenge
c/o The Westfield News
62 School Street
Westfield, MA 01085

ENTRY MUST BE RECEIVED BY 4:00 PM ON WED., MAR. 14TH

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HIGH SCHOOL 2018 SPRING SCHEDULES

WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

SATURDAY 03/24

Boys Varsity Volleyball
Westfield High School
@ Southington High School, 9 AM
Saturday 03/31
Boys Varsity Volleyball
Westfield High School
@ Glastonbury High School, 9 AM
Monday 04/02
Boys Varsity Lacrosse
Westfield High School
@ Agawam High School, 4 PM
Boys Varsity Track
Westfield High School
@ Ludlow High School, 4 PM
Boys Junior Varsity Lacrosse
Westfield High School
@ Agawam High School, 5:30 PM

TUESDAY 04/03

Girls Varsity Track
Westfield High School
@ Chicopee Comprehensive HS, 4 PM
Boys Varsity Tennis
Westfield High School
@ Sabis International Charter School
Forest Park, 4 PM
Boys Varsity Volleyball
Agawam High School
@ Westfield High School, 6:30 PM
Boys Junior Varsity Volleyball

Agawam High School
@ Westfield High School, 5 PM
Girls Junior Varsity Lacrosse
Westfield High School
@ Enfield High School, 4:15 PM

WEDNESDAY 04/04

Boys Varsity Baseball
Taconic High School
@ Westfield High School
Bullens Field, 4 PM
Girls Varsity Softball
Westfield High School
@ Northampton High School, 4 PM
Girls Varsity Tennis
Westfield High School
@ Longmeadow High School
Blinn Tennis Courts, 4 PM
Girls Junior Varsity Softball
Westfield High School
@ Northampton High School
JFK Middle School, 4 PM

THURSDAY 04/05

Boys Varsity Lacrosse
Westfield High School
@ East Longmeadow High School, 7 PM
Girls Varsity Lacrosse
West Springfield High School
@ Westfield High School, 4 PM
Boys Varsity Tennis
Holyoke High School

@ Westfield High School, 4:30 PM
Boys Varsity Volleyball
Westfield High School
@ Minnechaug Reg. High School, 5 PM
Boys Junior Varsity Volleyball
Westfield High School
@ Minnechaug Reg. High School, 4 PM
Girls Junior Varsity Lacrosse
West Springfield High School
@ Westfield High School, 5:30 PM
Boys Junior Varsity Lacrosse
Westfield High School
@ East Longmeadow High School, 5 PM

FRIDAY 04/06

Girls Varsity Softball
Hampshire Regional High School
@ Westfield High School, 4 PM
Girls Varsity Tennis
Westfield High School
@ South Hadley High School
Mount Holyoke College, 4 PM
Boys Varsity Volleyball
Acton-Boxborough Reg H.S.
@ Westfield High School
American International College -
Butova Gymnasium, 6 PM
Girls Junior Varsity Softball
Hampshire Regional High School
@ Westfield High School, 4 PM

SAINT MARY PARISH SCHOOL

THURSDAY 03/29

Boys Varsity Lacrosse
Belchertown High School
@ Saint Mary Parish School
Boardman Field, 4 PM

MONDAY 04/02

Girls Varsity Lacrosse
Saint Mary Parish School
@ Monson High School, 4 PM

TUESDAY 04/03

Boys Varsity Lacrosse
McCann Technical High School
@ Saint Mary Parish School
Boardman Field, 4 PM

WEDNESDAY 04/04

Girls Varsity Tennis
Renaissance School
@ Saint Mary Parish School
Municipal Tennis Courts, 4 PM

THURSDAY 04/05

Boys Varsity Tennis
Springfield HS of Science and
Technology @ Saint Mary Parish School
Municipal Tennis Courts, 4 PM
Boys Varsity Lacrosse
Lee Middle and High School
@ Saint Mary Parish School
Boardman Field, 4 PM

FRIDAY 04/06

Girls Varsity Tennis
Turners Falls High School
@ Saint Mary Parish School
Municipal Tennis Courts, 4 PM
Girls Varsity Lacrosse
Belchertown High School
@ Saint Mary Parish School
Boardman Field, 5:30 PM
Boys Varsity Lacrosse

Springfield Central High School
@ Saint Mary Parish School
Boardman Field, 4 PM

MONDAY 04/09

Boys Varsity Tennis
Saint Mary Parish School
@ Greenfield High School
Davis St Courts, 3:30 PM
Boys Varsity Lacrosse
Pathfinder RVT High School
@ Saint Mary Parish School
Boardman Field, 4 PM

TUESDAY 04/10

Girls Varsity Tennis
Mohawk Trail Regional HS
@ Saint Mary Parish School
Municipal Tennis Courts, 5 PM
Girls Varsity Lacrosse
Saint Mary Parish School
@ Amherst-Pelham Reg High School,
4 PM

Boys Varsity Baseball
Southwick Regional School
@ Saint Mary Parish School
North Middle School, 4 PM
Boys Junior Varsity Baseball
Southwick Regional School
@ Saint Mary Parish School
Hampden Ponds, 4 PM

WEDNESDAY 04/11

Boys Varsity Tennis
Holyoke High School @ Saint Mary
Parish School
Municipal Tennis Courts, 4:30 PM
Boys Varsity Lacrosse
Saint Mary Parish School @ Granby
Jr./Sr. High School, 4 PM

WESTFIELD TECHNICAL ACADEMY

FRIDAY 04/06

Boys Varsity Baseball
McCann Technical High School
@ Westfield Technical Academy
Bullens Field, 4 PM
Boys Junior Varsity Baseball
McCann Technical High School
@ Westfield Technical Academy
Jachym Field, 4 PM

TUESDAY 04/10

Boys Varsity Baseball
Westfield Technical Academy
@ Springfield HS of Science and
Technology
Forest Park Diamond #1, 4 PM
Girls Varsity Softball
Renaissance School
@ Westfield Technical Academy
Whitney Park, 4 PM

FRIDAY 04/13

Boys Varsity Baseball
Southwick Regional School
@ Westfield Technical Academy
Bullens Field, 4 PM
Girls Varsity Softball
Westfield Technical Academy
@ Gateway Reg. High School, 4 PM
Boys Junior Varsity Baseball
Southwick Regional School
@ Westfield Technical Academy
Jachym Field, 4 PM

MONDAY 04/16

Boys Varsity Baseball
Smith Vocational and Agricultural HS
@ Westfield Technical Academy
Bullens Field, 1 PM
Boys Junior Varsity Baseball
Westfield Technical Academy
@ Smith Vocational and Agricultural

HS

Arcanum Field, 1 PM

TUESDAY 04/17

Girls Varsity Softball
Westfield Technical Academy
@ Smith Vocational and Agricultural
HS

Sheldon Field, 4 PM

WEDNESDAY 04/18

Boys Varsity Baseball
Westfield Technical Academy
@ Putnam Voc/Tech Academy
Blunt Park, 1 PM
Boys Junior Varsity Baseball
Westfield Technical Academy
@ Putnam Voc/Tech Academy
Blunt Park Dia. #2, 1 PM

FRIDAY 04/20

Boys Varsity Baseball
Franklin County Tech. School
@ Westfield Technical Academy
Bullens Field, 4 PM
Girls Varsity Softball
Springfield HS of
Science and Technology @
Westfield Technical Academy
Whitney Park, 11 AM
Boys Junior Varsity Baseball
Westfield Technical Academy
@ Franklin County Tech. School, 4 PM

TUESDAY 04/24

Boys Varsity Baseball
Westfield Technical Academy @ John
J. Duggan Academy
Hubbard Park, 4 PM
Girls Varsity Softball
Westfield Technical Academy @
Franklin County Tech. School, 4 PM

GATEWAY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY 04/04

Girls Varsity Softball
Gateway Reg. High School
@ Ware High School, 4 PM
Girls Junior Varsity Softball
Gateway Reg. High School
@ Ware High School
Grenville Park, 4 PM

THURSDAY 04/05

Girls Varsity Softball
Gateway Reg. High School
@ Southwick Regional School, 4 PM
Girls Junior Varsity Softball
Gateway Reg. High School
@ Southwick Regional School
Southwick JV Softball Field, 4 PM
Friday 04/06
Boys Varsity Baseball
Gateway Reg. High School
@ Pioneer Valley Christian Academy,
4 PM

Boys Junior Varsity Baseball
Gateway Reg. High School
@ Pioneer Valley Christian Academy,
4 PM

MONDAY 04/09

Girls Varsity Softball
Gateway Reg. High School
@ High School of Commerce
Marshall Roy Field, 4 PM

TUESDAY 04/10

Girls Varsity Softball
Gateway Reg. High School
@ Pathfinder RVT High School, 4 PM
Girls Junior Varsity Softball
Gateway Reg. High School
@ Pathfinder RVT High School, 4 PM

FRIDAY 04/13

Boys Varsity Baseball
Springfield HS of Science and
Technology
@ Gateway Reg. High School, 4 PM
Girls Varsity Softball
Westfield Technical Academy
@ Gateway Reg. High School, 4 PM
Boys Junior Varsity Baseball

Springfield HS of Science and
Technology

@ Gateway Reg. High School, 4 PM

MONDAY 04/16

Boys Varsity Baseball
Gateway Reg. High School
@ McCann Technical High School
Joe Wolfe Baseball Field, 4 PM
Boys Junior Varsity Baseball
Gateway Reg. High School
@ McCann Technical High School,
4 PM

WEDNESDAY 04/18

Boys Varsity Baseball
Smith Vocational and Agricultural HS
@ Gateway Reg. High School, 4 PM
Boys Junior Varsity Baseball
Smith Vocational and Agricultural HS
@ Gateway Reg. High School, 4 PM

FRIDAY 04/20

Boys Varsity Baseball
Putnam Voc/Tech Academy
@ Gateway Reg. High School, 4 PM
Girls Varsity Softball
Gateway Reg. High School
@ Franklin County Tech. School, 4 PM
Boys Junior Varsity Baseball
Putnam Voc/Tech Academy
@ Gateway Reg. High School, 4 PM

TUESDAY 04/24

Boys Varsity Baseball
Gateway Reg. High School
@ Pathfinder RVT High School
St Joes Field, 4 PM
Girls Varsity Softball
Gateway Reg. High School
@ Smith Vocational and
Agricultural HS, 4 PM
Boys Junior Varsity Baseball
Gateway Reg. High School
@ Pathfinder RVT High School, 4 PM
Girls Junior Varsity Softball
Gateway Reg. High School
@ Smith Vocational and Agricultural
HS, 4 PM

SOUTHWICK-TOLLAND REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

SATURDAY 03/24

Boys Varsity Volleyball
Southwick Regional School
@ West Springfield High School, 9 AM

THURSDAY 03/29

Girls Varsity Track
Southwick Regional School
@ Frontier Regional School, 3:30 PM

MONDAY 04/02

Girls Varsity Softball
Southwick Regional School
@ Northampton High School, 4 PM
Girls Junior Varsity Softball
Southwick Regional School
@ Northampton High School
JFK Middle School, 4 PM

TUESDAY 04/03

Boys Varsity Volleyball
Southwick Regional School
@ Sabis International Charter School,
5 PM
Boys Junior Varsity Volleyball
Southwick Regional School
@ Sabis International Charter School,
4 PM

WEDNESDAY 04/04

Boys Varsity Track
Hampden Charter School of Science
@ Southwick Regional School
Richard Atkinson Track, 4 PM
Boys Varsity Track
South Hadley High School
@ Southwick Regional School
Richard Atkinson Track, 4 PM

THURSDAY 04/05

Girls Varsity Track
Mahar Regional School
@ Southwick Regional School
Richard Atkinson Track, 4 PM
Girls Varsity Track
South Hadley High School
@ Southwick Regional School
Richard Atkinson Track, 4 PM
Girls Varsity Softball

Gateway Reg. High School
@ Southwick Regional School
Southwick Varsity Softball Field, 4 PM

Boys Varsity Volleyball
Southwick Regional School
@ Holyoke High School, 5 PM
Girls Junior Varsity Softball
Gateway Reg. High School
@ Southwick Regional School
Southwick JV Softball Field, 4 PM
Boys Junior Varsity Volleyball
Southwick Regional School
@ Holyoke High School,
4 PM

FRIDAY 04/06

Boys Varsity Volleyball
West Springfield High School
@ Southwick Regional School
James E. Vincent Gymnasium,
6 PM
Boys Junior Varsity Volleyball
West Springfield High School
@ Southwick Regional School
James E. Vincent Gymnasium,
4:30 PM

MONDAY 04/09

Girls Varsity Softball
Southwick Regional School
@ Easthampton High School
Nonotuck Park, 4 PM
Girls Junior Varsity Softball
Southwick Regional School
@ Easthampton High School
Nonotuck Park, 4 PM

TUESDAY 04/10

Boys Varsity Baseball
Southwick Regional School
@ Saint Mary Parish School
North Middle School, 4 PM
Boys Junior Varsity Baseball
Southwick Regional School
@ Saint Mary Parish School
Hampden Ponds, 4 PM

Dear Annie

By ANNIE LANE

Be Happy for Your Mom

Dear Annie: Why can't children of widowed parents be happy when their surviving parent finds a new companion? As a recently divorced senior citizen, I have re-entered the dating scene. I have dated a couple of widows whose children (in their 30s and 40s) have proved to be a real challenge. These ladies have been widowed for three to 10-plus years, yet their children are a real obstacle. Why can't they be happy that their mom has found a new companion instead of resisting it and, in one case, preventing their mom from continuing the relationship? I think this is very selfish and even harmful to their parent. What would you tell these adult children? -- We Deserve Happiness

Dear We Deserve Happiness: I would tell these adult children to let love rule. It's unfair for them to prevent their parents from being in loving romantic relationships. Perhaps they're displacing their anger over the loss of a parent, taking it out on the new love interest. It might help if you were to take care to respect the memory of their fathers and make clear that you're not trying to replace anyone.

Lastly, I'm not saying this is the case with you, but sometimes grown children pick up on signs that new partners don't have their parents' best interests at heart, and their protectiveness is justified.

Dear Annie: My boyfriend has a friend named "Melissa," and I'm wary of their relationship. I've seen Melissa put her arms around my boyfriend's neck while his hands were on her hips. They've kissed repeatedly on the lips in front of me.

I privately and calmly complained to my boyfriend about the kissing and how disrespectful and hurtful it is to me, and I asked him how he would feel if I were kissing another man like that. His answers were: "It's a Southern thing" and "Melissa's mother just died." (Her mother died a few months ago.) He then accused me of being jealous.

I told him that at least where I come from, we have boundaries, have respect for other people's feelings and treat others the way we would like to be treated. Now whenever a grandmotherly friend gives him a peck on the cheek, he brings up the Melissa incidents with me, trying to say it's the same thing. And every single time, we have a disagreement and I burst into tears.

Is this a "Southern thing," and how should I handle it if it happens again? -- Southern Exposure

Dear Southern Exposure: Rounding first base with friends is not a "Southern thing," and there isn't enough Southern charm in the world to sell that whopper. This man's behavior and his disregard for your concerns are both billowing red flags. If he's not willing to hear out your (perfectly reasonable) request that he not kiss the lips or touch the hips of other women, it's time to move on.

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

HARD-WATER DEPOSITS

Dear Heloise: My shower head is clogged with hard-water deposits. How do I remove the deposits? -- Denise A. in San Antonio

Denise, you can remove the shower head and soak it in full-strength vinegar overnight, or fill a plastic bag with vinegar and slip it up over the shower head so that it is totally submerged in vinegar. Let it soak overnight, and in the morning, remove the bag and scrub the head with a clean brush. There's nothing like the full force of a shower to wake you up in the morning. If you like this hint, I have many more uses for vinegar in my *Fantabulous Vinegar Hints and More* pamphlet. To order a copy, send \$5, along with a stamped (71 cents), self-addressed, long envelope, to: Heloise/Vinegar, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. Or you can order online at www.Heloise.com. Pour the vinegar from the plastic bag into the toilet to freshen the bowl. Leave it for about five minutes, then flush. -- Heloise



WEDDING-BELL BLUES

Dear Heloise: If you want to have a beautiful wedding but are on a tight budget, set the amount you can spend, and don't go over it. Figure out how much you'll need for flowers, food, clothes and other things, then start cutting back if you don't have the funds. When the wedding is over and all the excitement dies down, you'll be glad you stuck to your budget! It's better to have a small, intimate wedding and have money left to put down on a house than to go into debt to have a splashy affair. -- Lara G. in Miami

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UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

TV Sports Listings

Tuesday, March 13

Baseball

- 1 p.m. MLB Spring Training: Detroit Tigers vs. New York Yankees (YES)
- 1 p.m. MLB Spring Training: Tampa Bay Rays at Philadelphia Phillies (MLB Network)
- 4 p.m. MLB Spring Training: Chicago Cubs at San Diego Padres (MLB Network)
- 7 p.m. MLB Spring Training: New York Mets at Washington Nationals (MLB Network)

Basketball

- 6:40 p.m. NCAA Tournament First Four: LIU Brooklyn vs. Radford (TRUTV)
- 7 p.m. NIT First Round: Northern Kentucky at Louisville (ESPN)
- 7 p.m. NIT First Round: Wagner at Baylor (ESPN2)
- 7 p.m. NBA: Minnesota Timberwolves at Washington Wizards (NBA TV)
- 7:30 p.m. NBA: Dallas Mavericks at New York Knicks (MSG, MSGPL)
- 7:30 p.m. NBA: Toronto Raptors at Brooklyn Nets (YES)

- 8 p.m. NIT First Round: Vermont at Middle Tennessee (ESPN2)
- 9 p.m. NIT First Round: Florida Gulf Coast at Oklahoma State (ESPN)
- 9 p.m. NIT First Round: Hampton at Notre Dame (ESPN2)
- 9:40 p.m. NCAA Tournament First Four: St. Bonaventure vs. UCLA (TRUTV)
- 10 p.m. NIT First Round: Southeast Louisiana at Saint Mary's (ESPNU)
- 10:30 p.m. NBA: Denver Nuggets at Los Angeles Lakers (NBA TV)
- 11 p.m. NIT First Round: UNC Asheville at USC (ESPN2)

Hockey

- 8:30 p.m. NHL: Colorado Avalanche at Minnesota Wild (NBCSN)

Olympics

- 12 a.m. PyeongChang 2018 Winter Paralympic Games (NBCSN)

Soccer

- 3:30 p.m. UEFA: Champions League: Sevilla at Manchester United (FS1)

On The Tube



This image released by Twentieth Century Fox shows Jorge Lendeborg, Nick Robinson, Alexandra Shipp and Katherine Langford in "Love, Simon." (Ben Rothstein/Twentieth Century Fox via AP)

Review: 'Love, Simon' a fresh and classic take on first love

Some things are universal about being a teenager: The budding sexuality and sense of identity, the dramatic emotions, the profound need for acceptance and confusing inklings of first love.

Countless movies (and books and songs and TV shows) plumb the agony and elation of teen romance, but "Love, Simon" brings fresh perspective to the genre by focusing on an experience unseen in coming-of-age tales: What high-school first love might be like if you're gay.

This film treats 17-year-old Simon Spier's quest for love and self-acceptance with the tender, timeless, Hollywood touch of John Hughes: It's a classic story of a first crush made groundbreaking by centering on a closeted gay kid.

Nick Robinson is Simon, a shaggy-haired high-school senior who describes his life as "totally normal." He has a loving family and the same clutch group of friends for years. Simon is gay — he's known ever since a recurring adolescent dream about Daniel Radcliffe — but has kept his sexuality a secret from everyone.

He finally finds an outlet after an anonymous post on the school's online gossip forum. A student calling himself Blue confesses that he's gay but hasn't told anyone, and Simon writes to him, using a pseudonym. They begin an anonymous pen-pal friendship that turns into a deep connection, and Simon starts fantasizing about Blue's real identity.

He keeps this all this from his friends, who are drawn in classic Hughes tradition: There's awkward, self-conscious Leah ("13 Reasons Why" star Katherine Langford), who's been crushing on Simon since they were kids; Abby (Alexandra Shipp), the transfer student and hottest girl in school; and Nick (Jorge Lendeborg, Jr.), a nice-guy athlete who serves as Simon's heterosexual foil.

All the other "Grease" and "Sixteen Candles" archetypes are here, too: The bullies, jocks and popular kids, the wacky administrator (played oddly over-the-top by Tony Hale), and the no-nonsense drama teacher (Natasha Rothwell, as much of a hilarious standout here as she is on HBO's "Insecure.") Jennifer Garner and Josh Duhamel play Simon's dreamy, slightly farfetched parents.

Simon's life starts to unravel when the school's class clown, Martin (Logan Miller), finds his secret emails. Martin threatens to expose the exchange — and Simon's gay status — unless Simon agrees to set Martin up on a date with Abby.

As with any story set in the emotional minefield of high school — especially in the era of social media — dramatic social chaos ensues for everyone. And it rings painfully true whether you were the Leah, Abby, Nick, Martin or Simon of your teenage group.

The heart of "Love, Simon" lies in the authenticity of its characters, which were born in psychologist-turned-author Becky Albertalli's debut novel, adapted by "This Is Us" screenwriters Elizabeth Berger and Isaac Aptaker, and brought lovingly to the screen by director Greg Berlanti. A veteran

writer and producer of such teen fare as TV's "Riverdale," "Dawson's Creek," "Supergirl" and "The Flash," Berlanti knows this world intimately, both personally and professionally. He says he was "a closeted gay high-schooler" himself and celebrates "Love, Simon" as the first mainstream Hollywood coming-of-age film with a gay lead.

The success of "Black Panther" and the momentum behind #MeToo are propelled by the idea that representation matters, and "Love, Simon" is part of that conversation. Movie fans who aren't white and straight have long projected themselves onto the big-screen stories of those who are. But we all want to see our experiences validated, to have our stories deemed significant, to feel that we are not alone and that others can identify with what we've gone through.

"Love, Simon" is a universal story, even if you're not a gay teenager. The challenge of figuring out who we are and standing comfortably in that identity might begin in high school, but often lasts a lifetime. As Simon so aptly says: "No matter what, announcing who you are to the world is pretty terrifying."

"Love, Simon," a Twentieth Century Fox release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for "thematic elements, sexual references, language and teen partying." Running time: 110 minutes. Three and a half stars out of four.



This image released by Twentieth Century Fox shows Nick Robinson in "Love, Simon." (Ben Rothstein/Twentieth Century Fox via AP)

COMICS

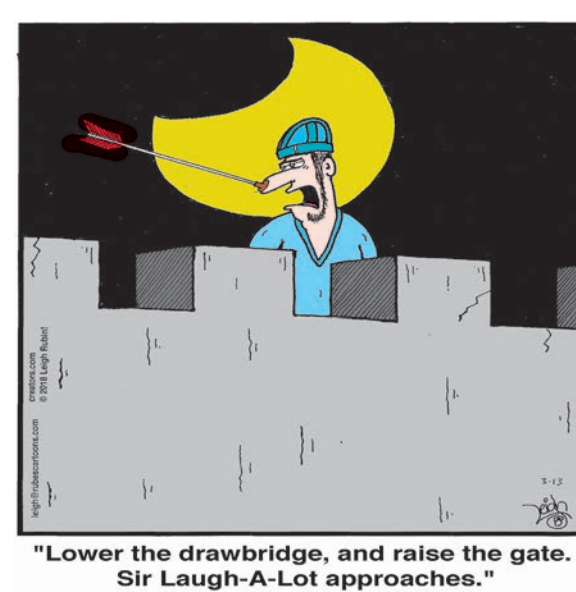
SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



AGNES Tony Cochran



RUBES Leigh Rubin



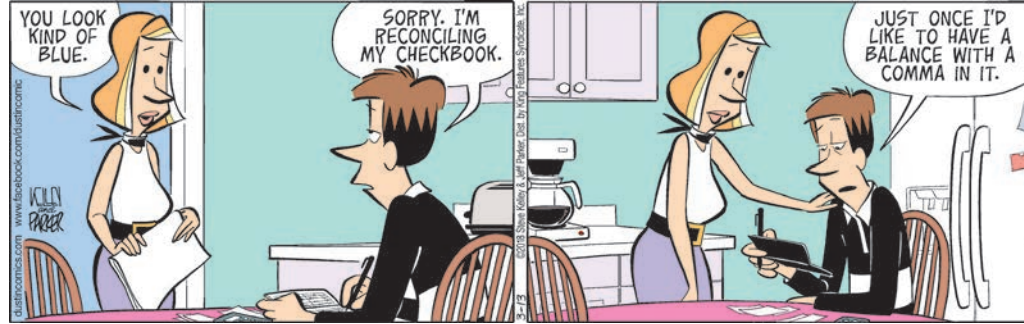
DADDY'S HOME Tony Rubino and Gary Markstein



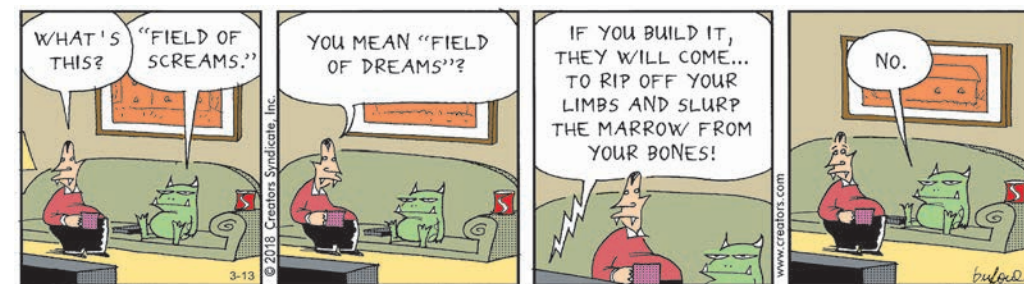
ARCHIE Fernando Ruiz and Craig Boldman



DUSTIN By Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



SCARY GARY Mark Buford



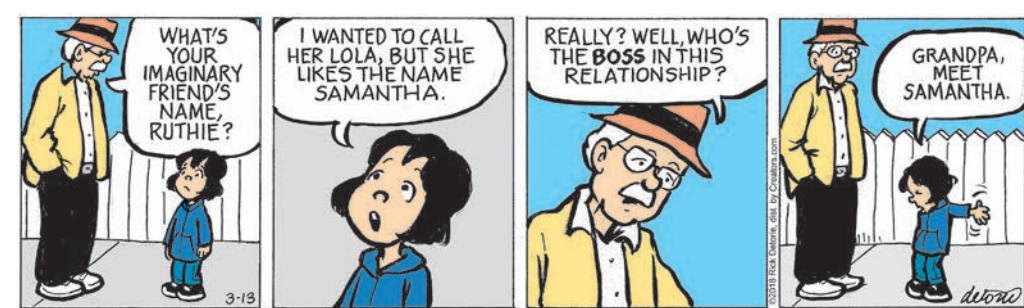
DOGS of C-KENNEL Mick and Mason Mastroianni



B.C. Mastroianni and Hart



ONE BIG HAPPY Rick Detorie



ANDY CAPP Mahoney, Goldsmith and Garnett



ZACK HILL John Deering and John Newcombe



YOUR HOROSCOPE

By Jaqueline Bigar

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, March 13, 2018: This year you find positive solutions to difficult challenges. Others might be envious of your resourcefulness. You are able to ask the right questions to get the information you need. Others find you to be a very positive source of energy. If you are single, you don't need to stress out about meeting people -- encounters happen naturally. If you so choose, you could form a meaningful bond. If you are attached, the two of you might debate the pros and cons of various issues and situations. Your intense conversations become more and more embedded into your relationship. **AQUARIUS** is a natural healer for 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) Continue to be as discreet as possible about a money matter. Know that everything will work out, even if you have misjudged the situation. Refuse to stand on ceremony. Ask questions, and listen to the answers. The more open you are, the better off you'll be. Tonight: Share more.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Your take-charge attitude emerges at work and when dealing with key people in your life. Note what is going on with a child or loved one. How you see a situation could radically change because of your interactions. Creativity surges and you gain another perspective. Tonight: Respond to an invitation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You could greet a new beginning, but only if you let go of any preconceived ideas. Be aware of a tendency to be negative or upset. A partner or loved one might be off, but ultimately only this person can change his or her mood. Tonight: Share important news with a loved one.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Financial matters that involve you and another person come to your attention. You might have to negotiate a bit in order to reach an agreement. You could be less than enthusiastic about a situation involving your daily life. Just go with the flow. Tonight: Happiest close to home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) To achieve your goal, you might need to defer to others. You could resent having to take a step back, but later you will find that this was the right call. You come from a place of compassion and centering. Tonight: Follow through on a request, and you'll like what happens.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Pace yourself in order to complete everything that is needed. Keep smiling with confidence, even if someone questions your motives. Your ability to communicate is enhanced. Why not clear the air with a difficult situation? You will be a lot happier if you do. Tonight: Out late.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You could be at the point where you can't seem to contain yourself. Listen to news, and decide how you feel about what you are hearing. New beginnings are possible if you are willing to let go. Be aware of what you want from someone. Tonight: Express your childlike side.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Pressure builds around your home life. You could feel as if you don't have enough funds to deal with the issue behind the pressure. Stop, and do something else for now. Return to the problem when you are more relaxed and can see the issue clearly. Tonight: Go with a suggestion.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Keep your distance, and be aware of the ramifications of what has happened. Get to the bottom of a problem. A conversation easily could clear up the issue. Your instincts take you to a new level, though you need to verify the value of your sixth sense. Tonight: Keep to your budget.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Follow your convictions. You might want to do the unexpected to help move a cause forward. Listen to news, especially before you make a financial decision. Do yourself the favor of checking out a new idea with care. The toll of an error could be huge. Tonight: Say "yes."

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) The Moon in your sign highlights your capabilities. Recognize your limits when dealing with a long-term desire. Your ability to understand your choices helps strengthen your position at work. An authority figure actually might be lucky for you. Tonight: A must appearance.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Listen to your inner voice, and you will get past a problem with ease if you do. Your ability to detach and see the big picture helps you gain a fresh perspective, no matter what goes down. You express the ability to get around difficult situations. Tonight: Relax to a movie.

BORN TODAY Musician Adam Clayton (1960), actor Emile Hirsch (1985), singer/songwriter Neil Sedaka (1939)

CONTRACT BRIDGE

It's easy to self-destruct

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A Q
♥ Q 2
♦ Q 10 8 6 3
♣ J 7 5 2

WEST
♠ J 9 6 4
♥ J 10 9 6 3
♦ 4
♣ K 4 3

EAST
♠ K 10 8 5 3
♥ 8 7 5 4
♦ J
♣ Q 9 8

SOUTH
♠ 7 2
♥ A K
♦ A K 9 7 5 2
♣ A 10 6

The bidding:
North East South West
Pass Pass 1♦ Pass
3♦ Pass 5♦

Opening lead: jack of hearts.

Consider this deal where South twice had the opportunity to make a game. First, he could have bid three hearts at his second turn, inviting North to bid three notrump if he had stoppers in spades and clubs. At that contract, North would have had no difficulty scoring 10 tricks against any lead.

But then, having bid five diamonds instead, South should have found the way to score 11 tricks. Unfortunately, he failed that test also.

After taking the heart lead with the ace, declarer cashed the ace of trumps and then led a spade to the queen. East won with the king and exited with a heart. Declarer won, crossed to the ace of spades and led a club to the ten, losing to the king. When West returned a club, South could not avoid losing another club trick and finished down one.

Declarer could have assured making five diamonds with more careful play. His downfall can be directly attributed to the spade finesse he took at trick three. In fact, had dummy not held the spade queen, South would probably have found the winning route to 11 tricks without difficulty.

After drawing trumps, declarer should have cashed the heart king and then played the A-Q of spades. Regardless of which defender won the trick, South would have been certain to make the contract.

Suppose East has the king of spades, as in the actual deal. He cannot safely return a heart or a spade, which would allow declarer to discard a club while he ruffed in dummy, so he leads a low club. South ducks this to West, who, upon winning the trick, must yield a ruff-and-discard or return a club, either way handing South the game-going trick.

The outcome is the same if West wins the king of spades. After his forced club return, South cannot lose more than one club trick, and again the contract comes sailing home.

Tomorrow: The rationale of good defense.
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CROSSWORDS

ACROSS

- 1 Prejudice
- 5 Sea, to Henri
- 8 Voucher
- 12 Bullets
- 13 Metal source
- 14 "Funny!"
- 15 Pablo Picasso, for one
- 17 Oodles
- 18 Part of NIMBY
- 19 Poland's continent
- 21 Poet Nash
- 24 Bit of banter
- 25 Dorm alternative
- 26 Specific period
- 30 Fish propeller
- 31 Serious
- 32 2016 Olympics city
- 33 All aglitter
- 35 Coop group
- 36 LAX postings
- 37 Ashen

DOWN

- 1 Some coll. degrees
- 2 Little rascal
- 3 Docs' bloc
- 4 Shakespeare poem
- 5 Castle defense
- 6 Mess up
- 7 Cashed in
- 8 Astrologer's aids
- 9 Angelic light
- 10 Denny's rival
- 11 London gallery
- 16 Charged bit
- 20 Manual reader
- 21 Does in, mob-style
- 22 Clench
- 23 Comic Carvey
- 24 Agrees (with)
- 26 Fibbed
- 27 Corp. VIP
- 28 "If it broke ..."
- 29 Inquisitive
- 31 USMC ranks
- 34 Required
- 35 Gretel's brother
- 37 Season opener?
- 38 Yarn
- 39 Actor Estrada
- 40 Frost
- 41 Sci-fi fleet
- 44 Check-cashing needs
- 45 Slapstick missile
- 46 Director Lee
- 47 Ultra-modernist

Solution time: 22 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 3-13

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 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

CRYPTOQUIP

W FUY EMS DH UYETQ SRUS W
UFSBUNNQ KMFHLM KNBWDR -
JBTJNM. W DBJJHDM W
RUCM U CWHNMS SMLJMT.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AT THAT MEETING OF PARTY LEADERS, MANY PEOPLE WERE ROWDY AND FIGHTING. WHAT A RAUCOUS CAUCUS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals B

Red Sox could head into season with pitching uncertainty

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP) — The idea of beginning a season with four regular pitchers unavailable could be anywhere from daunting to devastating for many teams.

But that is what the Boston Red Sox could be facing.

The Red Sox have four pitchers who might be out for opening day. Three potential starters — left-handers Drew Pomeranz and Eduardo Rodriguez and knuckleballer Steven Wright — could start the season on the disabled list for the AL East champions.

Closer Craig Kimbrel has been in Boston since Feb. 28, when 4-month-old daughter Lydia, who was born with heart ailments, underwent her second surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Kimbrel has been working out in the Boston area but has not been able to pitch to hitters, and there's no timetable for his return.

New manager Alex Cora and the organization have been completely supportive of Kimbrel staying with his family. But with opening day little more than two weeks away, they might have to get creative.

"We've got a few things set up for him up there," Cora said Monday morning before his team beat Toronto 6-4 in Dunedin, Fla. "It's hard for me to tell him he has to come here. There's ways for him to face quality hitting. We just took a 2½-hour drive here, and what's that for a flight, 2½ hours?"

Perhaps the Red Sox could fly hitters to Boston to fly Kimbrel.

"I don't know," Cora said. "We'll see."

Carson Smith, Matt Barnes and Joe Kelly are potential closers in Kimbrel's absence.

Pomeranz, Rodriguez and Wright have all been delayed by injuries this spring. And, the Red Sox have been bringing along left-handers Chris Sale and David Price — the top two pitchers in the rotation — slowly this season in an effort to monitor their workloads and keep them healthy and strong throughout the season.

Rodriguez and Wright, both coming back from knee surgeries, have yet to appear in a Grapefruit League game. Pomeranz left his only start of the spring, March 2 against the Cardinals, after one inning with a mild flexor tendon strain in his forearm.

Cora has said Pomeranz is progressing. He threw a short bullpen session Monday morning, mostly fastballs, and could throw live batting practice later this week. He would likely need several more of those sessions before returning to game activity.

"We have to wait and see," Cora said, on whether Pomeranz could be ready for opening day. "I'm not going to push him just to push him."

Cora is encouraged by Wright's



Boston Red Sox starting pitcher Hector Velazquez throws in the first inning of a spring baseball exhibition game against the Toronto Blue Jays, Monday, March 12, 2018, in Dunedin, Fla. (AP Photo/John Raoux)

progress. The knuckleballer is scheduled to throw a two-inning bullpen session on Wednesday.

"Big day for him," Cora said. "Two innings of live BP is a big step for him, to face hitters and be on the mound. Kind of like that last hurdle. Sometimes you need that to feel OK physically and mentally."

"The Steven Wright hurdle is

huge because of who he is. His arm is there. We'll clear this hurdle and go from there. If he can clear that one, you never know what can happen," Cora said.

The Red Sox are taking a more cautious approach with Rodriguez.

"Eddie threw two innings today," Cora said. "That was huge for him. He's been amazing in the training

room and weight room."

Rodriguez has also been a regular at the pingpong table in the team's spring training clubhouse.

"You guys have seen him play," Cora said. "I haven't seen him. When I see him, I look to the left rather than right."

Right-hander Hector Velazquez and left-hander Brian Johnson are

the top candidates to take a spot in the rotation if a starter is not available.

"I understand there are 162 games and I hear people say that the games count just as much in April (as in) late September," Cora said. "But we want them healthy for the majority of the season."

Tom Brady scores win, beats Colbert in beer-chugging contest

NEW YORK (AP) — New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady may not like strawberries, but he has skills when it comes to chugging beer.

Appearing Monday on CBS's "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert," Brady promoted his book "The TB12 Method," in which he writes about diet and athletic performance. That includes abstaining from alcohol.

Brady told Colbert he rarely drinks beer. But acknowledged he was a "pretty good beer chugger back in the day." So the host challenged him.

Brady drained his glass within seconds, with Colbert finishing a distant last.

Colbert also got Brady to eat his first strawberry. Brady said he had never eaten the fruit because he hated the smell. Brady said it was "not that bad."

Alex Ovechkin joins NHL's exclusive 600-goal club

WASHINGTON (AP) — Everyone around Alex Ovechkin had a hunch this was his night.

His wife, Nastya, had flown back from Moscow just in time. Coach Barry Trotz noticed Ovechkin was unusually quiet.

By the time he scored the 599th goal of his career, Ovechkin sensed it, too. Less than four minutes into the second period of the Washington Capitals' game against the Winnipeg Jets, Ovechkin put back a rebound and skated into the spotlight as the latest member of the NHL's 600-goal club.

The Russian superstar scored twice to reach the milestone in typical Ovechkin fashion, becoming the fourth-fastest player in NHL history to 600 behind only Wayne Gretzky, Mario Lemieux and Brett Hull.

"When I score 599, I felt like, 'OK I still have to make a push two periods,'" Ovechkin said. "Finally, I scored."

Ovechkin's rebound goal past Connor Hellebuyck 3:53 into the second period was his 42nd of the season as he tries to hit 50 for the eighth time. His first goal 4:35 into the first period came on a 5-on-3 power play as the Russian winger looked determined to reach 600 after several games on the doorstep.

"He knew he was going to get it done today," Trotz said after the Capitals' 3-2 overtime victory. "The great thing about Ovi is when he puts something to it in his mind, he was going to get it done."

Capitals fans who have watched Ovechkin shine as the most productive goal scorer of the past decade-plus gave him a standing ovation for almost a minute after he reached the mark. Chants of "Ovi! Ovi!" continued as he waved from the bench in the moments after and during

a video montage at the next timeout.

After scoring 33 goals in 2016-17, his second-lowest total in a non-lockout-shortened season, the 32-year-old Ovechkin's resurgence made his climb to 600 all the more impressive. No player 32 or older has led the NHL in goals since Phil Esposito in 1974-75.

"He's the best goal scorer probably of my time, definitely, and a generation," said linemate Tom Wilson, who had the primary assist on Ovechkin's 600th. "It's on us if we don't get him the puck. It's a little bit of pressure, definitely, but you just go out there and play your game and it was one of those things that was just going to happen. He's too good not to hit that milestone."

Greeting Ovechkin the locker room, owner Ted Leonsis took the moment to express his gratitude for 600 goals over the past 13 seasons.

"I told him I loved him and respected him and was very grateful and appreciated everything he's done for the fans and for our team and looking forward to the next 100 goals," Leonsis said. "We should never take Alex for granted. It's really remarkable what he's accomplished."

Ovechkin recaptured sole possession of the NHL lead against Jets winger Patrik Laine, who scored his 41st of the season to attempt to keep pace with his idol. Even while hoping Ovechkin wouldn't score No. 600 against Winnipeg, Laine can't help but appreciate the scoring pace.

"That's pretty amazing to reach that," Laine said Monday morning. "Six-hundred goals in under 1,000 games, it's pretty unreal."

Two former Capitals teammates, Matt Hendricks and Mathieu Perreault, were watching from the Jets' side when Ovechkin reached his latest round number in a career full of accomplishments.

NCAA Upsets

Continued from Page 10

the world beat Goliath and briefly restore faith in the gumdrops-and-lollipops notion that anything really is possible.

It's not, Jacobson assures us.

Still, his website, bracketodds.cs.illinois.edu, gets thousands of hits a day this time of year. Among his other basketball-related projects are predicting which teams will make the tournament and where they'll be seeded. The computer didn't do so well this year — it had Louisville and USC comfortably in — in large part because, as Jacobson says, the selection committee "keeps changing the rules."

"You had a team like Arizona State that got in despite some horrible home losses to mediocre Pac-12 teams, and then you have Louisville, which is the kind of team that typically gets in but didn't," Jacobson said.

But that was then. Once the brackets were revealed, Jacobson set the computer's focus toward picking these upsets. Its track record since 2003 is hardly perfect, but still probably better than yours.

Using BOSS, the computer picks the two most likely upsets each year. Last season, not a single 13, 14 or 15 advanced, so it got 0 percent. Two

seasons ago, there were three such upsets — Iona and Buffalo — but the computer didn't pick either of them.

But in 2015, BOSS picked Georgia State and UAB and went 2 for 2.

And since 2003, 10 of its 26 selected games have resulted in upsets. That's 38.4 percent, or double the expected number of correct selections a person would get by using a "weighted random selection method." In other words, double what you'd get by picking slips out of a hat, or choosing a team because you like the fight song.

For those placing faith in his science, Jacobson warns of the large gulf between predicting the future and forecasting what could happen.

"Nobody predicts the weather," he says. "They forecast it using chances and odds."

Similarly, he says, "artificial intelligence looks at some outcomes that the human eye can't catch. The models we use give some indication of what the future may look like."

A few other caveats: Jacobson freely admits he does not gamble on basketball or anything else.

Nor does he fill out a bracket.

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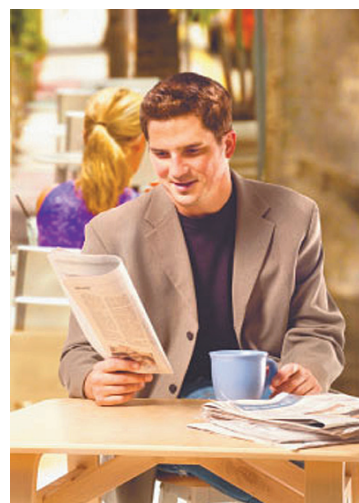
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