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News July 2007

BMR High Graduates 126

By Rene Lafayette

Blackstone-Millville Regional High School graduated 126 members of the Class of 2007 in commencement exercises that echoed with repeated themes of gratitude by student and faculty speakers amid traditional graduation pomp. "These graduates are great. Our BMR school culture is unique. This school is special" said a beaming Principal Richard A. Porter after the Friday, June 8 event concluded. "I have been in education now for many years and I cannot begin to tell you how proud I am of our speakers at graduation. Everyone remembered to thank those responsible for their accomplishments and that speaks volumes about the type of young people we have helped prepare to take on new roles as responsible adults. It also is a great reflection on the faculty members who are retiring" Porter added.

BMR's 37th annual commencement began with musical selections performed by the school's award-winning "Chargers" band under the direction of music director Ronald Bibeault. Following greetings by class president Mary C. Ambacher, and opening ceremonies, Principal Richard A. Porter welcomed faculty, graduates, their families and friends. Quoting Robert F. Kennedy, Porter extolled the virtue of confidence "...you are our freshly minted optimism and bright hope for the future" Porter said. According to Porter, the class profile includes 83% continuing their education by attending trade or technical schools, two or four year colleges or universities; 16% entering the workforce; and, 1% entering the military.

"Every one can impact our lives as a teacher" said valedictorian Emma K. Hardy. In recognizing the sacrifices made by parents, Hardy said "they have taught us how to become happy and successful individuals and how to stay true to the values they have instilled." Continuing to thank teachers who guided her and her classmates to success, Hardy said "Our teachers have taught us through their actions that with dedication and caring, one can truly make a difference in the lives of others." "Everyone has something unique to offer, and since we are all different, everyone can teach you a little something special. Realize that you are teaching the world something about yourself in the way you act and the way you treat others" Hardy said.

Ambacher, who doubled as class salutatorian noted in her address "take the road you truly desire and will not forget." She went on to quote Ralph Waldo Emerson and taking the path including "... where there is no path and leave a trail." She counseled her classmates to "make your own path, be leaders, allow others to follow in your footsteps" Ambacher said. She ended wistfully by quoting Sir Winston Churchill's words: "now this is not the end, it is not even the beginning of the end, but perhaps the end of the beginning."

Following a musical interlude and the singing of the class song Don't Stop Believin by the band Journey, precedent was broken with 5 keynote speakers. Retiring faculty members Pauline Allaire-Adams, Michael Drake, Ann Phipps, Pauline Winn and George Zisiades addressed the graduates. Combined, the group of veteran educators totaled 165 years of service to BMR. Their sentiments were summed up by Zisiades' comment "...thank you, the families of Blackstone and Millville for giving me the chance to start my career." Said Pauline Winn, outgoing foreign language department chair "you never know when some kernel of knowledge will bloom into true understanding." Class vice president Jeffery Bielat who closed the program with farewell remarks tinged with humor and shared memories of faculty members that were much appreciated by the crowd of several hundred turned serious when thanking parents and teachers. "They teach you because they care about you and they make sure that you learn about and understand your world so that when you are out there, on your own, without a hall pass, that you don't lose your way" Bielat said.

Blackstone-Millville Boys U12 Soccer Team MTOC Finalists

By Steve Lobisse

The Blackstone-Millville Boys U12 Div 2 Travel Soccer Team recently completed a spectacular spring season by finishing second in the state at the Massachusetts Tournament of Champions (MTOC), which was played at UMass in Amherst on June 22-24th. The team enjoyed their second consecutive undefeated season by winning all 10 of their regular season Boston Area Youth Soccer (BAYS) games and earned a spot in the BAYS playoffs. After winning two single elimination playoff games against Needham (5-3) and Weston (4-1), the team advanced to the MTOC tournament and earned the right to compete for the state championship.

The boys won all three of their preliminary round robin games against Northbridge, Weymouth, and Manchester to advance to the state semi-finals. The team then eliminated Ludlow in the semi-final round with a hard fought 1-0 victory. Unfortunately, the boys received their first loss of the season against a very strong West Roxbury team in the state championship game. This marked the first

time in 13 years that a Blackstone-Millville team earned a spot at the MTCO tournament.

The boys were coached by Steve Lobisser and Marco Rego. The team was led offensively by Ben Symes, Jamison Lobisser, and Kevin Gautreau. The rock solid defensive corps was anchored by Billy Burns and Matthew Osborne. Tyler Symes, Cory Leja, Matthew Nordquist, Marley Rego, Mitchell Herrick, and Aaron Staples provided strong play at the Midfield and offensive positions. The team received spectacular goaltending all season long from both Mark Volpe and Kurt Paterson.

Dean Bank Seminar for Women

Wayne A. Cottle, President and CEO of Dean Bank, announced today that the bank will be hosting a free and informative seminar intended to give valuable financial advice to women. While women are earning more, spending more, and living longer, most women are not saving enough or preparing for their future. Women of all ages will walk away from this "Taking Charge of Your Financial Future" seminar with less worry and more control concerning their finances and their future. Note: This is not a sales presentation. Free Informative Seminar for Women: "Taking Charge of Your Financial Future" Date: Wednesday, July 18, 2007 Location: Dean Bank, 21 Main Street, Franklin Time: 9 - 11am Register: call Judy Alfred at 508-528-0088 to register as seating is limited. Call today if you are a women who's interested in learning how to control your debt, save more, and plan for your future. Dean Bank, founded in 1889, is a Massachusetts state-chartered, mutually owned institution with assets in excess of \$200 million. The bank has offices located in Franklin, Blackstone, Bellingham, and Mendon and a full-service educational and training facility at Tri-County Regional Vocational High School in Franklin.

BMMA awards \$5,000 in Scholarships

By Paula Budnick

The Blackstone Millville Music Association recently awarded \$5,000 from their annual scholarship fund, to 14 students from the BMR school district. 5 seniors heading to colleges near and far and 9 undergraduates, who plan to improve their musical abilities through various summer residential programs offered at area colleges, were this year's winners. Students were required to write an essay as well as provide a list of their many activities and achievements, relating to music that they have amassed through out their academic careers.

The BMMA are pleased to be able to serve so many deserving musicians through their many fund raising activities. This year's recipients were: Seniors: Erin LaMan and Amanda Baisley-\$1000, Amy Pratt and Melissa Boisvert- \$750, Jeffrey Bielat-\$500. Undergraduates: Nick Marcotte and Kyle Bouchard \$150, Richard Frend, Kari Lukovics, Maria Franciosa, Jill Muller, Justin Larue, and Kelsey Godin- \$100. To get more information about the music programs, the BMMA and the many ways to get involved, please visit www.blackstonemillvillemusicassociation.org. Any parent who has a child in the music programs at any of the district's schools are automatically members of the BMMA.

BMR High School Honors Class of 2007 \$24,900 in Scholarships Awarded

The 21st annual awards night was recently held in the school's Molony-Sullivan Auditorium honoring the academic, athletic and community achievements of the Class of 2007. 126 graduating seniors were joined by approximately 300 faculty, family and friends according to BMR Principal Richard A. Porter. Greetings were extended by Blackstone-Millville Regional School Committee chairperson Toni Harvey. BMR Superintendent of Schools Everett B. Campbell offered remarks to the graduates and congratulations to parents and guardians for their support during school years. The BMR "Chargers" Jazz Band, under the direction of Russell Arnold performed A Time for Love as the graduates entered and left the auditorium and Bistro Latino as an interlude in the program. Awards totaling \$24,900 in scholarship funds were presented during the event emceed by BMR guidance counselor Kevin Maloney. Scholarships and recipients were: Joseph Struzik Memorial Award & Scholarship, \$500 each to Joshua Gonya and Tricia Breault. Lucien P. Benoit Memorial Scholarship \$1,000 each to Emma Hardy and Joshua Gonya. Matthew Gignac Memorial Scholarship, \$500 each to Lauren Hartin and Matthew Chamberlin. Kevin Gignac Humanitarian Scholarship \$500 to Jeffery Hill. Jessica Harpin Memorial Scholarship, \$500 to Brittney Sherry. Edward Robbins Memorial Scholarship, \$500 to Christopher Halacy. Blackstone-Millville Athletic Boosters Association Scholarship \$500 each to Tricia Breault and Jeffery Hill. Russell Kane Memorial Scholarship, \$300 each to Mary Ambacher and Christopher Halacy. Blackstone-Millville Athletic Association Scholarship, \$400 each to Tricia Breault and George Sergi. Augustine F. Maloney Memorial Scholarship, \$500 to Denise Perks. Blackstone Ambulance Association, \$500 to Caitlyn Metz. Thomas Connors Memorial Scholarship, \$500 to Andrew Rais. Andrew Kelly Memorial Scholarship \$1,000 to Jeffery Hill. UniBank for Savings Scholarship, \$2,000 to Mary Ambacher. Dean Bank Scholarship, \$1,000 to Brittney Sherry. Blackstone Police Association Scholarship, \$500 to Dyanna Dery. Andrew Bibeault Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000 to Matthew Chamberlin. BMR National Honor Society Scholarship \$400 to Amy Pratt. Ann C. Maloney Memorial Scholarship, \$500 to Kira Poznanski. BMR Educators' Association Scholarship, \$500 to Patrick Salome and Kira Poznanski. BMR School Committee Scholarship, \$500 each to Tricia Breault and Joseph Ristaino. ANP Blackstone Energy Scholarship, \$500 each to Melissa Boivert and Matthew Charpentier. BMR Chapter, Future Business Leaders of America Scholarship, \$500 to Zach Capozzoli. James Anagnostos Memorial Scholarship, \$500 to Jeffery Bielat. Blackstone Lions Club Scholarship, \$500 to Amanda Woolford. Blackstone Cable Advisory Board Scholarship, \$500 to Jennifer Martain and Matthew Chamberlin. BMYSO Rohan Cowie Memorial Scholarship, \$250 each to Joseph Ristaino, Christopher Halacy, Joshua Gonya and Denise Perks. Milford Regional Medical Center/52-Club Scholarship, \$300 each to George Sergi and Shawn Giatas. Millville Police/Jack Moore Memorial Scholarship, \$500 each to Brittney Ross and Mason Maltais. Blackstone-Millville District Principals' Scholarship, \$1,000 to Elizabeth Decasse. Community awards were presented with Emma Hardy receiving the Massachusetts Secondary Schools Administrators Association award. Jennifer Martain received the Commonwealth Award for Exemplary Community Service. New England Tech Book Award went to Thomas Sinsabaugh,

Adam Spataro, Matthew Killian, Craig Rondeau and Matthew Charpentier. Academic Awards were presented to Mary Ambacher, Outstanding Achievement in World History. Excellence in Social Studies to Matthew Chamberlin. Andrew Rais received the Outstanding Achievement in US History. Outstanding Achievement in Spanish was presented to Elizabeth Decasse. Outstanding Achievement in French, Kaitlin Millette. Excellence in Biology awarded to Amy Pratt. Excellence in Chemistry to Kaitlin Millette. Excellence in English to Emma Hardy. Accomplished Creative Writer to Elizabeth Decasse. Most Improved in English Award to Joseph Regan. National Honor Society Service Award to Jennifer Martain. Excellence in Physical Education to Zachary Peloquin and Joshua Gonya. Excellence in Marketing to Ashley Cournoyer. Excellence in Computer Aided Design to Shawn Giatas. Excellence in Graphic Design to Kayla D'Allesandro. Excellence in Webpage Design to Samantha Pine. A.P. Calculus Award to Joshua Gonya. Excellence in Mathematics to Mary Ambacher. Outstanding Mathematical Achievement to Joseph Regan. Excellence in Video Production to Jeffery Bielat. Outstanding Musicianship to Melissa Boisvert, Jeffery Bielat and Amy Pratt. Excellence in Drawing to Samantha Pine. Excellence in Painting to Jessica Petriello. Excellence in Ceramics to Bethany Ethier. Blackstone-Millville Regional High School was established in 1970. It consists of students from the towns of Blackstone and Millville and is located at 175 Lincoln Street in Blackstone, Massachusetts and is accredited by the New England Association of Schools & Colleges.

Shakespeare at Daniels Farmstead

The Algonkuin Theatre Company will present Shakespeare's thrilling, masterly, and blood-curdling broad-sword conflict that is Richard III on Saturday, July 14 and 15. Bring a picnic. Enjoy dinner and a show. The Algonkuin Theatre Company is under the direction of Marty BlackEagle-Carl. This program is part of the Shakespeare in the Parks program which is supported in part by grants from the Northbridge and Holliston Art Councils, local agencies which are supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. Also in part by a generous donation by Sunrise Studios of Uxbridge. Summer Schedule July 7 & 8 Whitin Park, 60 Main St. Whitinsville July 14 & 15 Daniels Farmstead, Blackstone July 21 & 22 Kampersal Field, Holliston July 28 & 29 River Bend Farm, Uxbridge For additional information visit www.AlgonkuinTheatre.org

TOWN OF BLACKSTONE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS 2006 DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT Public Water System ID # 2032000

Dear Customer:

The Town of Blackstone Department of Public Works (BDPW) is proud to issue our Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires that utilities issue an annual "Consumer Confidence" report to customers in addition to other notices that may be required by law. This report covers all testing completed from January 2006 through December 2006. We are pleased to tell you that our compliance with all state and federal drinking water laws have been met through scheduled water sampling. The Blackstone Department of Public Works is committed to providing you with the safest and most reliable water supply. Informed consumers are our best allies in maintaining safe drinking water.

The Water & Sewer Commission encourages public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting drinking water. The Water and Sewer Commission meetings are normally scheduled for 6:00 PM on the first Wednesday of each month at the Blackstone Town Hall. The public is welcome to attend.

Overview

In 2006 the Blackstone Department of Public Works pumped just under 202 million gallons of water to the residents, schools and businesses in town. We took more than 300 water samples for testing purposes. The system added 21 new connections, bringing the total number of service connections to 2,423. This means we serve about 79% of the households in town.

March of 2006 was a trying time for the Blackstone Department of Public Works due to the criminal vandalism that occurred at the Bellingham Road water tank. On March 28th the Department of Environmental Protection issued a "Do Not Use Order" The order was lifted on March 30th after the entire distribution system was flushed and numerous water samples were taken.

We have four water storage tanks (a) Upper Blackstone Street tank which received a new coat of paint on the inside and outside in 2005 is a steel tank that holds 1 million gallons of water. (b) Lower Blackstone Street is a steel tank that holds 500,000 gallons of water. (c) Lincoln Street tank is a steel tank that holds 560,000 gallons of water. (d) Bellingham Road water tank is a new wire-wound concrete tank that holds 1.3 million gallons of water and was put in to service in August of 2005. This brings our total storage capacity up to 3.3 million gallons of water. There are over 470 fire hydrants located on over 46 miles of water main. The Director, Superintendent and three other DPW employees are certified water distribution and treatment operators.

Compliance

The Blackstone Water Department was in compliance with Mass DEP rules and regulations for 2006.

Water Sources

The Town of Blackstone has seven wells in four different locations; all of them are currently active. They are located off of Summer Street and Elm Street. They draw water from the Blackstone River underground aquifer basin. In 2006 the BDPW cleaned four of the town wells. In 2007 the remaining wells will be cleaned. This will increase the towns pumping ability. Cleaning the wells consists of removing pumps and motors and having them checked. It also involves the use of chemicals to clean well screens and well casings. Also this past year a new cleaning technology was used which is called Aqua-Free, this was in addition to the traditional cleaning.

Source Water Assessment Program

In February of 2002 the Mass DEP issued what is known as a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) report for our water system. This report identifies potential contaminants hazards within the delineated protection areas around each well, known as the Zone I (the immediate area around the well) and the Zone II (the larger zone of contribution to the well). The SWAP report also recommends actions the community can take to protect the water supply. The system's overall ranking of susceptibility to threats is high. However, the actual risk of a terrorist attacking our water supply system is minimal. This ranking is based on the proximity of one or more of our wells to at least one high-threat land use, such as railroad tracks and underground storage tanks, within the water protection areas. Two of the wells are located at the intersection of Summer Street and Park Streets. Three of the wells are located behind the DPW building. The other two wells are located next to Veterans Field. A copy of this report is available upon request from the BDPW @ 508-883-9331.

Substances Found in Drinking Water

Sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and in some cases radioactive material. It can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife. (B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic waste water discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming. (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses. (D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems. (E) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Environmental Protection (Mass DEP) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and MA Department of Public Health regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants, can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on lowering the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

An Explanation of the Water-Quality Data Table

The table on the next page shows the results of our water-quality analyses. The Blackstone Water Department tests for more than 140 different contaminants. Regulated contaminants that we have detected in the water, even in the minutest traces is listed here. The table contains the name of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation (MCL), and the ideal goals for public health (MCLG). The amount detected, the usual sources of such contamination, footnotes explaining our findings, and a key to units of measurement. Some contaminants listed below have not yet had an MCL or MCLG established. Definitions of MCL and MCLG are important for everyone to understand.

