



**TO:** Shawsheen Valley Regional Vocational Technical School District School Committee  
**FROM:** Allison Cammarata, *Director of Community Services & Workforce Development*  
**DATE:** April 1, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** Shawsheen Press Round-Up: March 2022

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2022-03-12	Wilmington Apple	Enjoy Corned Beef And Cabbage From Shawsheen Tech Culinary Students...
2022-03-09	T & W Town Crier	Grand Reopening of Rams Head Dining Room at Shawsheen Tech
2022-03-09	T & W Town Crier	Darcey lifts Rams to dramatic overtime first round state tournament victory
2022-03-09	T & W Town Crier	Milne scores big goal, eyes second round match-up
2022-03-09	T & W Town Crier	Boys Hoop team's successful season comes to an end
2022-03-08	Billerica Minuteman	Shawsheen school committee votes for new superintendent
2022-03-05	Wilmington Apple	Shawsheen Tech To Reopen Rams Head Dining Room On March 9...
2022-03-04	Lowell Sun	Tony McIntosh selected as next Shawsheen Tech superintendent
2022-03-02	T & W Town Crier	Huge week for Rams Boys Hoop Team: Overcome early deficit to take Voc...
2022-03-02	T & W Town Crier	Huge week for Rams Boys Hoop Team: Bourdeau has another big game as...
2022-03-02	T & W Town Crier	Rams send five to All-States and two come away with championship titles
2022-03-02	T & W Town Crier	On the ice, Rams will host East Bridgewater in first round



# Rams send five wrestlers to the Nationals

By MIKE IPPOLITO  
Sports Correspondent

sports@yourtowncrier.com  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA - Anybody who has followed the Shawsheen Tech Wrestling team this season is well aware of the tremendous success the Rams had on a local level, with four of their wrestlers placing at the All-State Meet and advancing to the recent All New England Tournament.

The tremendous season confirmed what most in the local high school wrestling community already knew about the excellence of the Shawsheen Wrestling program over the years.

This past weekend, the Rams went about showing the rest of the country what their program is all about, as they sent those same four wrestlers to the National High School Coaches Association (NHSCA) High School Nationals at the Virginia Beach Sports Center.

As they have all season, the quartet represented the Rams very well, with freshman Sid Tildsley earning All-American honors with a seventh place finish at 126 pounds, while fellow freshman Brayton Carbone went 3-2 at 106 pounds and senior Lucien Tremblay was 1-2 at 113 pounds.

Sophomore Caleb Caceres wrapped his tremendous first season as a high school wrestler with an 0-2 record



Rams in Virginia Beach

From left, Caleb Caceres, Tayla Tildsley, Brayton Carbone, Sid Tildsley and Lucien Tremblay represented Shawsheen Tech at this past week-end's National Wrestling Tournament held in Virginia. (courtesy photo).

against some very stiff competition. On the girls side, the Rams were also very well represented, with All-State champion Tayla Tildsley going 2-2 on the

weekend, coming up just one win shy of earning All-American honors.

Fresh off a season that saw him go 60-0 to become the first freshman wrestler in Massachusetts history to go undefeated and win the All New-England championship, Sid Tildsley once again led the way for the Rams at Virginia Beach.

Wrestling at 126 pounds, as opposed to the usual 132 where he had dominated all season, Tildsley went 5-2 on the weekend, winning three of his matches by pin. Tildsley started his weekend with a win by forfeit in the round of 64, before winning two straight matches by pin to advance to the quarterfinals.

Once in the quarterfinals, the freshman faced defeat for the first time all season, but not without a fight, dropping a double overtime 11-8 decision to Miles Velasquez of Oklahoma. Velasquez would go on to finish fifth in the tournament.

Losing a match for the first time in his high school career certainly stung Tildsley, but the talented freshman didn't let it keep him down for long, battling back in the consolation bracket to take a 5-1 decision over Ian Fritz to assure himself of All American status.

"He knew he had to win the next match if he was going to be an All-American, so he didn't dwell on the loss," Shawsheen coach Doug Pratt said. "He has been there before. He knows what it is like to lose a match from being a youth wrestler as he was learning. But he knows how to bounce back and he did a great job. The kid from North Carolina was really good, but Sid fought hard and got the win."

Tildsley closed his day on Saturday by losing a heartbreaker of a 2-1 decision to Chase Hantz of Pennsylvania, but

once again showing great resiliency, he bounced back the next morning to pin Mason Ketcham of New York in a time of 4:52 and improve his overall record for the season to 65-2.

"Me, Sid and his dad (Brian) talked about it in the hotel room on Saturday night," Pratt said. "We said, look, we are at 64-2 right now. It's been a great season. Let's go out and end the season at 65-2. And sure enough, he went out and did it and finished the season on a winning note."

Another Shawsheen freshman, Brayton Carbone, also had a great weekend for the Rams, going 3-2 at 106 pounds and coming up one win shy of also achieving All-American status.

Carbone, the Division 1 state champion, faced a loaded field at 106 pounds, losing his first match in the Round of 256 to eventual fifth place finisher Colin Martin of Virginia by a technical fall score of 15-0. Carbone was under-terred, however, coming back to win three matches in a row in the consolation bracket, two of them by pin.

He started with a pin of Demian Pryma of California in at time of 2:26, before pinning Braydon Pequignot of Pennsylvania in 3:16 and then taking a 7-2 decision over Grant McCord of North Carolina. Carbone's tournament finally came to an end with a 6-3 loss to Aiden Krass of Louisiana.

"Bray did a great job bouncing back as well," Pratt said. "Winning three in a row in that tournament is pretty good. If he puts a little more time in during the off season he can be even better. He just needs to wrestle a little more and learn a little more and will have a great season next year."

Senior Lucien Tremblay had a bit of an

unfortunate matchup in his 113-pound weight class. After winning his first match in the Round of 32 over Stephen Bowden of Virginia by pin in a time of 1:47, he had the misfortune of drawing number one seed Billy Smith of Ohio in the Round of 16. Tremblay suffered an 8-0 major decision loss to the eventual national champion, and was then eliminated in his next match with a loss by pin to Wyatt Fitzgerald of Virginia in a match he was winning 5-0 at the time of the pin.

The 1-2 weekend capped off a great senior season for Tremblay, the Division 1 North Sectional champ.

"He got a bit of a tough break being matched up with the number one seed in his second match," Pratt said. "And then he was up big when he lost the next one on a defensive pin. He had some bad luck. Who knows what could have happened if he won that match? But he had a great season. He wrestled hard all year and got the most out of his talent."

Sophomore Caleb Caceres went 0-2 on the weekend at 132 pounds, losing a pair of decisions. He dropped a 3-1 decision to Tyler Goldin of Georgia in the first round before being eliminated by Cael Harmon of Pennsylvania by a score of 8-2.

But the 0-2 weekend could not diminish what a great season Caceres had, taking third place at both the Division 1 North Sectionals and the Division 1 states. Although he is a sophomore, this was Caceres' first season as a high school wrestler, after playing lacrosse during last year's 'Spring 2' season.

"Cale is a tough kid, and a strong kid," Pratt said. "And as I told him, he has an advantage that no other kid in the state has, because he gets to go against Sid Tildsley

every day in practice. He can't help but get better, and he has. After this season, he loves wrestling now. He hasn't really been putting in the time yet, but he will now, and he is going to be even better."

The Rams were well represented on the girls side as well, where senior Tayla Tildsley went 2-2 on the weekend at 144 pounds, narrowly missing out on achieving All-American status.

Tildsley started her tournament with a win by pin over Nicole Lewis of Arkansas in just 26 seconds in the round of 32, before picking up a 7-2 win over Jenna Filieri of New Jersey in the Round of 16.

Tildsley, the Massachusetts All-State champion at 150 pounds, then lost a pair of tough matches by decision, first losing by pin to eventual finalist Ruby Rios of Washington in the quarterfinals before being eliminated in a 5-4 heartbreaker in the consolation round to eventual third place finisher Alexis Jimenez of California.

Tildsley led that "blood round" match 4-3 with 30 seconds left before Jimenez caught her with a takedown. A win in that match would have earned All-American status for Tildsley, making the loss especially hard to take. But Pratt knows there are better days ahead for the senior, who will head to Phillips Academy in Andover for a post graduate year in the fall, before deciding where she would like to wrestle in college the following year.

"Tayla just relaxed for a second and got taken down," Pratt said. "She was pretty devastated. But she has another year of high school wrestling ahead of her and then four years of college. She will learn from this and she is going to win a lot more matches."

## Ogden takes second at Level-9 State Championships



Amanda Ogden, 17 of Tewksbury MA, competed at the 2022 USAG Level 9 State Championships at Fitchburg High School. There were 90 total level 9 competitors in the state competition. In order to qualify to the Regional Competition, Level 9 gymnasts had to score a minimum of 34.00 at the state championships. This is Amanda's first time qualifying to USAG Level-9 Regionals. The TMHS junior finished second - silver medalist - in the All-Around with a score of 36.075. She finished as the gold medalist on the floor exercise with an impressive score of 9.475. She was also the silver medalist on uneven bars with a score of 9.05. Ogden qualified to the prestigious USAG Regional competition being held at the MassMutual Center in Springfield MA. Ogden will be vying for a top six finish in her age group (SR. B) - to represent Region 6 at the USAG Eastern National Championships being held in Rochester New York, from May 5-8.

# OBITUARIES

## Nancy A. (Foley) Brooks

*Involved with the Wilmington Senior Center*

Nancy A. (Foley) Brooks, age 94, of Wilmington, formerly of Woburn, Boston, Bath ME, Burlington, and Lovell ME, passed away peacefully on March 27, 2022.

Nancy was born in Woburn, on Jan. 17, 1928; she was one of 10 children to the late Peter and Evelyn (Phinney) Foley. Nancy was raised and educated in Woburn and graduated from Woburn High School.

Nancy married John L. Brooks, Jr., in 1950. The couple lived in Boston for several years before moving to Bath, Maine where John took a teaching position. The family then returned to Boston before settling in Burlington where they continued to raise their family.

Following John's untimely death in 1972, Nancy continued to raise her young family as a hard-working, devoted and loving mother. Nancy's family was always her priority and she treasured the time she spent with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Prior to retiring, Nancy worked as a secretary for the Burlington School System with most of her career spent at the Francis Wyman Elementary School. Nancy was very meticulous in her duties as a secretary but she was like a "mother hen" with the students; she went above and beyond to help them out and treated them as family.

Throughout the years, Nancy enjoyed the time

she spent at Kezar Lake in Lovell, Maine with her good friend John Ganley; this was her "happy place," so beautiful and peaceful. Nancy and the entire extended family shared many great times together in Maine and created many fond memories through the years.

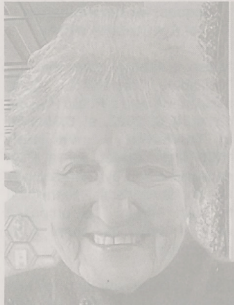
When Nancy moved to Wilmington, she quickly became involved in the Wilmington Senior Center. Nancy fit right in, she made friends quickly, involved herself in all of their activities, and was very helpful in the kitchen.

Nancy will be fondly remembered for her fierce independence and her sharp wit. She was stylish, friendly, helpful, and pleasant to be around. Nancy loved her family and friends with all her heart and she will forever be missed.

Nancy was the beloved wife of the late John L. Brooks, Jr., devoted mother of John L. Brooks III and his wife Susan, Paul R. Brooks and his wife Sally, Nance Brooks, the late James Brooks and his wife Jane, and Susan Harper and her husband Chris.

Loving "Gram" of Robert Brooks, Katherine Brooks Hollis, Samantha Brooks, Matthew Brooks, Michael Brooks, Erin Brooks, John Brooks, Emily Brooks, Ryan Brockhage, Grace Harper, and Faith Harper. Great-Gram of Brooks Hollis and Welles Brooks.

Nancy was the dear sis-



ter of the late Paul Foley and his wife Pauline, the late Claire McLaughlin and her late husband Bernie, David Foley and his wife Irene, Marcia Doherty and her husband Paul, the late Peter Foley and his wife Pat, Jack Foley and his wife Karen, Tom Foley and his wife Linda, Charles Foley, and Dan Foley.

Nancy is also survived by her devoted caregiver JoAnne Sakalinski as well as her many loving nieces, nephews, extended family and dear friends.

Family and friends will gather at the Nichols Funeral Home, 187 Middlesex Ave. (Rt. 62), Wilmington, on Thursday, March 31 for Visitation from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. followed by a Service at 1 p.m. Interment will take place in Woodbrook Cemetery, Woburn.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Nancy's memory to the Wilmington Senior Center, 15 School St., Wilmington, MA 01887.

[www.nicholsfuneralhome.com](http://www.nicholsfuneralhome.com)

## Harold K. 'Hank' McCard

*Joined the Navy and served on USS John Hood*

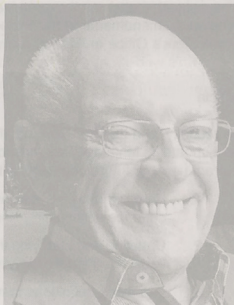
Harold K. "Hank" McCard, beloved husband of Charlotte (Despres) McCard, passed away on March 4, 2022 at Portsmouth Regional Hospital after a brief illness. He had recently celebrated his 90th birthday.

Hank was born in East Corinth, ME to Fred and Ada (Drake) McCard. He grew up on his parents' farm, where he worked long hours when he wasn't attending school. His father taught him how to grow, build and fix just

his honorable discharge, he enrolled at the University of Maine in Orono to pursue a degree in electrical engineering.

He met the love of his life, Charlotte, on a blind date in Bangor. They moved to Massachusetts in 1959, where he joined the Avco Corporation in Wilmington as a junior engineer. He earned an MS in Engineering degree at Northeastern University in Boston while working his way up the management ladder at Avco.

In 1976, he was selected to attend MIT's Sloan



slopes of Sugarloaf, where he and Charlotte owned a second home. He was a gifted researcher, and was devoted to studying cli-

## Shawsheen librarian Katie McGinness receives 2022 Audrey Friend Scholarship

BILLERICA — The Massachusetts School Library Association (MSLA) awarded Shawsheen Tech Librarian Katie McGinness the 2022 Audrey Friend Scholarship during their annual conference last weekend.

The award was presented to McGinness during the MSLA Annual Conference on March 26. The scholarship, named after a long-time member of both the Massachusetts School Library Association and the Massachusetts Library Association, is presented annually to "an applicant who is currently enrolled in an academic program to earn the degree or certification necessary to become a library teacher."

"I didn't know my dream job would be a librarian when accepting a math aide position at Shawsheen a few years ago," McGinness said. "I have always loved reading, so it was inevitable that during my time as an aide I would find my way to the library. It was there that I met the soon-to-retire Librarian Tricia Healey, who shared about the school librarian role."

McGinness is in her second year as librarian for Shawsheen Valley Technical High School, after two years of mentorship from recently retired successor Healey.

"Tricia's mentorship was critical for me to attain this position, but more importantly, she instilled in me the importance of this role playing in school culture and student success."

In her short time as Librarian, McGinness started the literacy initiative "Walk a Mile in Someone Else's Shoes" to encourage students to read about people different from themselves, while promoting students to read more. This effort resonates with McGinness' vision for the library, in being a safe space for students to be themselves and explore. McGinness believes "the most important job a school librarian has, is being a safe and reliable adult for students."

McGinness has a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Massachusetts Lowell and joined Shawsheen in 2018.



She is enrolled at Salem State University, and is expected to graduate with a Masters in Education (Library Media) in Fall 2022.

The Massachusetts School Library Association works to ensure every school has a school library program that is fully integrated at all grade levels across the curriculum and has a significant and measurable impact on student achievement.

The MSLA Awards Committee, Wendy Garland, Ingrid Mayyasi, and Patricia Fontes, are proud to present McGinness the Audrey Friend Scholarship for 2022, and they congratulate McGinness on all she's done and plans to do as the librarian at Shawsheen Valley Technical High School.

### About Shawsheen Valley Regional Vocational School District

Established in 1965, Shawsheen Valley Regional Vocational Technical School District (SVRVTS) is a student-centered public institution serving the five member towns of Billerica, Bedford, Burlington, Tewksbury, and Wilmington. Shawsheen Valley Technical High School serves more than 1,300 students in grades 9-12 and is "Dedicated to Excellence in

Education", integrating academics with more than 20-vocational-technical career pathways.

Shawsheen is located in Billerica on a sprawling 100-acre campus. The school building features state-of-the-art facilities and athletic fields, twenty-four varsity sports, and dozens of extra-curricular clubs and activities. All of Shawsheen's faculty and staff are committed to the mission "to provide a positive learning experience in a safe educational environment that encourages all students to reach their full potential, emphasizes the value of a strong work ethic, and prepares them for adult life in a competitive world."

Shawsheen Valley Regional Vocational Technical School District also provides high-quality educational programming for youths and adults through Adult Education, Afterschool Exploratory Programs, Community Events, and Summer Camps and Enrichment Programs. Shawsheen is consistently working to increase its rich and varied programming opportunities for the community, which supports its mission that education is a lifelong, continuous process with many paths to living a successful and fulfilling life.



SPORTS

## Brooke Johnson takes flight with Fitchburg women's lax

Billerica native and Shawsheen Valley Tech grad enjoying breakout season with Falcon's Lax team



Billerica native and Fitchburg State junior women's lacrosse player Brooke Johnson, left, is enjoying a breakout season with the Falcon's this spring. The Shawsheen Valley Tech graduate has 15 goals and 16 points in her team's first eight games, doubling her point totals of her last two seasons combined. (Courtesy photo/ Fitchburg State Athletics)

By **CHRISTOPHER HURLEY** | [churley@lowellsun.com](mailto:churley@lowellsun.com) | Lowell Sun  
PUBLISHED: March 28, 2022 at 7:00 a.m.

Brooke Johnson is going for broke at Fitchburg State. The Billerica native is enjoying a breakout season with the Falcon's women's lacrosse team.

After enduring a bumpy start to the season, Fitchburg State (4-4) has steadied the ship with a pair of back-to-back victories, culminating with a 21-7 blowout over Regis, March 25, putting the Falcons back at the .500 mark. And with a marquee matchup against Mass Maritime looming on the horizon, the team appears in midseason form.

"It's been going well," said Johnson. "We got off to a rocky start in our first game against Smith (a 17-6 loss, Feb. 26), just learning how to play off each other, seeing everyone's different styles. Our main goal was just to get to know each other."

According to Johnson, the team came into its own during a pivotal 16-12 win over Mass-Dartmouth, March 22.

"We definitely found our groove there," said Johnson, 20. "The big thing coming off these past couple of games is learning how to win, figuring out how everyone plays and just trying to be an even better team."

An exercise and sports science major, Johnson opened the season strong during a three-game road trip scoring seven points, including her first of two collegiate hat tricks, a four-point effort in a crucial 14-9 win at Rivier, March 3.



Billerica native and Fitchburg State junior women's lacrosse player Brooke Johnson, center, is enjoying a breakout season with the Falcon's this spring. The Shawsheen Valley Tech graduate has 15 goals and 16 points in her team's first eight games, doubling her point totals of her last two seasons combined. (Courtesy photo/ Fitchburg State Athletics)

Johnson is currently posting career best numbers with the Green and Gold. The Shawsheen Valley Tech grad has netted 15 goals and 16 points in her team's first eight games, doubling her point totals of her last two seasons combined. The 5-foot-8 junior attack/midfielder has scored nine goals over her last four games, including a pair in the route over Regis, March 25.

She attributes her success to the talented crew she shares the field with.

"Honestly, I think it's just knowing my teammates, and trusting them with how I want to play," said Johnson. "We really didn't have that in the past. Just being confident in what people can do and knowing that they will finish out plays, like getting a good stop on defense and knowing that they'll give you a good pass. I think it all comes down to just trusting each other.

"We've had a great offense this year," she added. "Freshman year we only played four games and got cut short because of Covid. So, we really didn't have that chance to shine, even last year we only played conference games."

Listed as both an attack and midfielder on her team's roster, Johnson has thrived in her dual capacity.

"I see myself as more of an attacker, especially this year," Johnson said. "I originally joined the team as a defenseman and coach moved me around, but I feel that I'm more of an attacker now."

According to teammate Alexis Raymond, Johnson has generated an impressive net-front presence.

"Brooke's amazing on draws," said Raymond. "You know when she's right in front of the net, if you pass it to her, she'll get it in. It's awesome to watch both in practice and in games."

Born and raised in Billerica, Johnson was a multi-sport athlete at Shawsheen Tech and regular on the softball diamond. After playing her freshman season, however, she elected to try her hand at a brand-new sport as a way to stay in shape for the upcoming volleyball and basketball seasons.

"To keep up my cardio I decided to play lacrosse, and I fell in love with it," said Johnson. "It was just a different sport that I really never played before. I've always been interested in it, playing on the football field, but it was always softball for me (before that)."

Johnson helped anchor a highly successful Rams squad, what won the Voke championship three years in a row.

"We were pretty successful over there," Johnson said.

Her spirited play soon caught the attention of several college recruiters, including Fitchburg State Head Coach Rick Terrio. The longtime NCAA coach liked what he saw, making Johnson an offer she couldn't refuse before graduating in 2019.

"I was blown away," said Johnson. "I originally was just playing this sport up to keep my cardio up for my other sports. I never thought in my life that I would be playing at the college level."

Now a fixture on the Fitchburg attack, Johnson is focused helping her team take it to the next level. They Falcon's play host to Castleton on Tuesday, March 29, before gearing up for another marquee match-up Saturday, April 1.

"Our upcoming game against the Mass Maritime (April 1) is really going to be a tough," said Johnson. "But I think if we really keep up our hard work and keep up that mentality of learning how to win, we should do pretty well in these next few games. We just want to keep the winning streak going. We can do that if we just keep playing the way we can."

And with Brooke Johnson leading the charge, anything is possible.



## Shawsheen Librarian Katie McGinness receives 2022 Audrey Friend Scholarship

Ms. McGinness sees the library as a safe space for students to be themselves and explore



Shawsheen Tech Librarian Katie McGinness was awarded the 2022 Audrey Friend Scholarship by the Massachusetts School Library Association

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“I didn’t know my dream job would be a Librarian when accepting a math aide position at Shawsheen a few years ago” Katie said. “I have always loved reading, so it was inevitable that during my time as an aide I would find my way to the library. It was there that I met the soon-to-retire Librarian Tricia Healey, who shared about the school librarian role.”

Katie McGinness is in her second year as Librarian for Shawsheen Valley Technical High School, after two years of mentorship from recently retired successor Healey. “Tricia’s mentorship was critical for me to attain this position, but more importantly, she instilled in me the importance this role plays in school culture and student success.”

In her short time as Librarian, Katie started the literacy initiative “Walk a Mile in Someone Else’s Shoes” to encourage students to read about people different from themselves, while promoting students to read more. This effort resonates with Katie’s vision for the library, in being a safe space for students to be themselves and explore. Katie believes “the most important job a school librarian has, is being a safe and reliable adult for students.”

Katie has a bachelors degree in English from the University of Massachusetts Lowell and joined Shawsheen in 2018. She is enrolled at Salem State University, and is expected to graduate with a Masters in Education (Library Media) in Fall 2022.

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# WICKEDLOCAL.com

## BILLERICA MINUTEMAN

# Shawsheen Tech librarian awarded Audrey Friend Scholarship

Submitted to the Billerica Minuteman Allison Cammarata

Published 6:18 p.m. ET March 28, 2022

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McGinness has started the literacy initiative, "Walk a Mile in Someone Else's Shoes" to encourage students to read about people different from themselves, while promoting students to read more. This effort resonates with her vision for the library, as being a safe space for students to be themselves and explore.

She believes, "...the most important job a school librarian has, is being a safe and reliable adult for students."

McGinness has a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Massachusetts Lowell and joined the Shawsheen staff in 2018. She is enrolled at Salem State University and is expected to graduate with a Masters's in Education (Library Media) in the fall of 2022.



Shawsheen Valley Technical High School Librarian Katie McGinness [Courtesy Photo]

Cammarata, A. (2022, April 1). Shawsheen Tech librarian awarded Audrey Friend scholarship. Billerica Minuteman. Retrieved April 1, 2022, from <https://www.wickedlocal.com/story/Billerica-minuteman/2022/03/28/Shawsheen-tech-librarian-awarded-audrey-friend-scholarship/7196764001/>



LOCAL NEWS

# Shawsheen Tech announces first semester Seniors of the Month



Shawsheen Tech's Seniors of the Month for the first semester of the 2021-2022 year. From left, Kevin Stevens, Kasey McFadden, Victor Lam, Gabriela Ortiz, John Zembeck, Lee Singer, Connor Halko and Devin Sweeney. (Photo Courtesy: Allison Cammarata)

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By **SUBMITTED ARTICLE**

PUBLISHED: March 25, 2022 at 7:39 pm

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**BILLERICA** – The Senior of the Month program at Shawsheen Valley Technical High School has resumed after being sidelined due to the pandemic.

The initiative has been a tradition at Shawsheen for many years and has been a positive and rewarding program for seniors. The program enables faculty to honor students during their senior year. From the monthly winners, one senior will be selected as the Senior of the Year, which includes a scholarship sponsored by the Billerica Lodge of Elks.

The Senior of the Month program selects one male and one female senior student every month based on a variety of criteria. Criteria includes evaluation of character, leadership, citizenship, service to school and community, scholastic achievement and vocational competencies. Students are recognized for their accomplishments to their class as well as Shawsheen Tech, and are chosen with optimism that they will be outstanding alumni and members to the community after graduation.

The seniors selected during the fall semester are as follows:

## October

Kevin Stevens is an electrical student from Wilmington. Kevin is in Honor Society and has competed on behalf of Shawsheen in SkillsUSA competitions. He is on the soccer, swimming, and track teams. Kevin is an orientation leader at Shawsheen, a youth group leader, and is an Eagle Scout candidate. Kevin participates in the cooperative education program and is placed at Comeau Electric. Upon graduation he plans to continue his education through post-secondary programming to become a master electrician.

Kasey McFadden is a Tewksbury resident and studies Medical Assisting at Shawsheen. Kasey is in Honor Society and has held class office all four years; she is currently serving as Class President. Kasey has been a 4-year varsity athlete for lacrosse, volleyball and swimming, and she is actively involved in her community. Kasey qualified for Shawsheen's cooperative education program and is placed at RIM Associates. She plans to attend college to pursue a career in nursing after graduation.

## November

Victor Lam, of Burlington, studies Office Technology and Marketing and participates in the cooperative education program with placement at Tonneson & Company. Victor is in Honor Society and runs in both cross country and track. He participates in many school activities and has worked for the Billerica Food Pantry. After graduation, Victor plans to attend college to study data analytics.

Gabriela Ortiz is a resident of Tewksbury and is in the Dental Assisting program. Gabriella is in Honor Society and has held class office for four years. She is a tri-sport athlete who plays soccer, volleyball and lacrosse, and is Shawsheen's first National SkillsUSA medalist to place in Dental Assisting (2021). Gabriella works for The Perico Group as part of Shawsheen's cooperative education program, and she plans to continue her education at a university to pursue biology of dental hygiene.

## December

John Zembeck is a Culinary student from Burlington. He is in Honor Society and has been a competitor in SkillsUSA for three years. John runs cross country, is on the swim team and plays tennis. As a cooperative education qualifier, he continues his education bi-weekly at Benchmark Senior Living. John plans to continue to work for Benchmark after he graduates and continue in the field of culinary arts and hospitality management.

Lee Singer is a Burlington resident in the Medical Assisting program. Lee has held class office for four years, is in National Honor Society and has volunteered for Relay for Life and Special Olympics. Lee is a tri-sport athlete who plays volleyball, swimming and lacrosse. She currently works for Countryside Vet Hospital as part of the cooperative education program. After graduation, Lee will attend college to pursue nursing.

## January

Connor Halko is a resident of Billerica and is in the Graphics Communications program. Connor was instrumental in the graphic design work for the fall 2021 project "Fenway at Shawsheen," and was featured on NBC10 Boston for his work. Connor is a polite, hardworking student, and is a top achiever in his vocational program. Connor plans continue in a career as a graphic designer after graduation.

Devin Sweeney is a medical assisting student who resides in Burlington. She has held class office for four years, is in Honor Society and has volunteered for the Lowell Homeless Shelter, Relay for Life and Baystate Marathon. Devin has competed in SkillsUSA, and is on the cross country, lacrosse and volleyball teams. She participates in the cooperative education program with placement at RIM Associates, and plans to attend college for exercise science/physical therapy after graduation.



## Shawsheen Students win 71 medals at SkillsUSA Districts

Students who placed will be moving onto the State competition



Shawsheen's SkillsUSA Leadership Team pose for a picture while setting up for Districts. (Back L-R) Katrina Raymond, Giana Manoloulis, Zoey Hemeon, Isabella Luis, Paige Spurr, Toby Lage, Rebecca Langone, Paige Lipski, Madison Bastarche. (Front L-R) Grace Steinmetz, Joan Dickie, Erica Spurr.

## Shawsheen Students win 71 medals at SkillsUSA Districts

BILLERICA – Students from Shawsheen Valley Vocational Technical High School swept the SkillsUSA District competition earning 71 medals from the event; 28 gold, 26 silver, and 17 bronze.

Shawsheen's SkillsUSA chapter was one of seven schools taking part in the District IV regional competition held on March 17. The competition included 1023 students from Shawsheen, Greater Lowell Tech, Greater Lawrence Tech, Nashoba Tech, and Essex Tech; 155 of those students were from Shawsheen.

SkillsUSA Districts is the qualifying event for students to compete at the state competition. The district competition consists of three exams in a technical area: a written SkillsUSA Employment Skills test, a written trade knowledge test, and a written safety test.

Shawsheen had students compete in 55 out of the 89 technical occupational categories offered. Examples of technical areas include Medical Math, Automotive Refinishing, Computer Programming, CNC Turning, Power Equipment Tech, Masonry, Carpentry, and Plumbing.

Three students were interviewed about their experience at the competition.

Brooke Haley, a Tewksbury resident in Cosmetology, competed in esthetics and earned a gold medal. This achievement earned her a seat at the states in April. Haley said, "I'm excited but very nervous for states. The Cosmetology program covers hair, skin, and nails, but most of our time is spent on hair. This means I have to make time to practice esthetics and

Cammarata, A. (2022, March 25). Shawsheen students win 71 medals at SkillsUSA Districts. Shawsheen Students win 71 medals at SkillsUSA Districts. Retrieved March 25, 2022, from <https://www.burlingtonbuzz/p/shawsheen-students-win-71-medals?s=r>

makeup artistry on my own.” Brooke is up for the challenge and plans to work with her teachers to ensure her home studies are efficient and productive. “I’m sure I will be ready to compete at states on competition day, but until then, there will never be enough time in the day to study and practice.”

Health Assisting student Michaela Vittum, a Burlington resident, competed in the Nurse Assisting competition and earned a silver medal. “I’m happy with the silver medal because it means I get to move onto the state competition,” Michaela said. “It will be an advantage for me to see what states is like as a junior, so that if I don’t place this year, I can build on my experience next year.”

Bronze medalist Brian Vitale, a Drafting student from Bedford, competed in Technical Drafting and said, “Districts is fun, but it is challenging to study for.” Vitale explained, “You have to prioritize all your other work so that you have time to study your skills for the competition.”

“It takes a lot of preparation, commitment, and practical training for students to be eligible to compete at Districts,” said Assistant SkillsUSA Advisor Karen Meister. “With such a high number of students placing at the competition, it is certainly something we are proud of.”

SkillsUSA is a national organization serving high school and college students enrolled in technical, skilled, and service training programs. The organization prepares quality education experiences for students in leadership, teamwork, citizenship, and character development. SkillsUSA also includes competitions in which students demonstrate occupational and technical skills, which is an opportunity most vocational schools take part in.

“I am proud of our students for all their effort and commitment to the chapter,” said SkillsUSA Advisor Heidi Lloyd, “Shawsheen has a reputation of placing well at these competitions, so students feel the pressure to maintain that status. Regardless of the overall number, each medal is an accolade we hold in high regard.”

Shawsheen students who placed at Districts will continue to refine their skills and prepare for the SkillsUSA State Competition. The state competition is held in Marlboro, and generally hosts 1500 students from over 65 public schools in the commonwealth.

## Shawsheen Students win two SkillsUSA contests



Ava Rega of Wilmington (left) and Leslie Cota of Billerica (right), stand with Superintendent Jackson after earning medals from a SkillsUSA contest.

Earlier in the year, SkillsUSA sponsored a contest for a t-shirt design and pin design for the SkillsUSA national competition. Two Shawsheen students placed in the contest. Ava Rega, a sophomore in DVC from Wilmington, won the bronze medal in the national t-shirt contest and Leslie Cota, a junior from Billerica in the graphic communications program, earned the silver medal in the national pin contest. Ava and Leslie were the first two medalists for Shawsheen for the 2021-2022 school year, and were honored for their initiative and success.

Cammarata, A. (2022, March 25). Shawsheen students win 71 medals at Skillsusa Districts. Shawsheen Students win 71 medals at SkillsUSA Districts. Retrieved March 25, 2022, from <https://www.burlington.buzz/p/shawsheen-students-win-71-medals?s=r>

# WILMINGTON APPLE

March 25, 2022 / by ROBERT HAYES

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Students test during SkillsUSA Districts at Shawsheen Tech on March 17.

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Ava Rega of Wilmington (left) and Leslie Cota of Billerica (right), stand with Superintendent Jackson after earning medals from a SkillsUSA contest.

### About Shawsheen Valley Regional Vocational School District

Established in 1965, Shawsheen Valley Regional Vocational Technical School District (SVRVTS) is a student-centered public institution serving the five member towns of Billerica, Bedford, Burlington, Tewksbury, and Wilmington. Shawsheen Valley Technical High School serves more than 1,300 students in grades 9-12 and is “Dedicated to Excellence in Education”, integrating academics with more than 20-vocational-technical career pathways.

Shawsheen is located in Billerica, MA on a sprawling 100-acre campus. The school building features state-of-the-art facilities and athletic fields, twenty-four varsity sports, and dozens of extra-curricular clubs and activities. All of Shawsheen’s faculty and staff are committed to the mission “to provide a positive learning experience in a safe educational environment that encourages all students to reach their full potential, emphasizes the value of a strong work ethic, and prepares them for adult life in a competitive world.”

Shawsheen Valley Regional Vocational Technical School District also provides high-quality educational programming for youths and adults through Adult Education, Afterschool Exploratory Programs, Community Events, and Summer Camps and Enrichment Programs. Shawsheen is consistently working to increase its rich and varied programming opportunities for the community, which supports its mission that education is a lifelong, continuous process with many paths to living a successful and fulfilling life.





LOCAL NEWS

## Billerica Youth Advisory Committee runs voter registration drive

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By **TREA LAVERY** | [churley@lowellsun.com](mailto:churley@lowellsun.com) | Lowell Sun  
March 20, 2022 at 6:44 a.m.

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**BILLERICA** — The recently formed Billerica Youth Advisory Committee is getting going on its first major project: encouraging the town's young adults to get involved in politics.

The committee is holding a voter registration drive, encouraging those who have recently turned 18 to register and anyone 16 and over to preregister, by designing posters with all the relevant information in one place.

"In a lot of cases, we're talking to our peers who are turning 18 and we say, 'Are you registered?' and they say, 'I have to register?'" said Sean Furbush, chair of the committee and a senior at Billerica Memorial High School.

Furbush said one of the founding ideas of the committee, which he created with fellow senior and committee Vice Chair Thomas Postell in the fall, was to get youth more involved in local government, and he felt this was the first step in that direction. He noted that voter turnout for local elections is almost always very low, and wants to help change that.

"This should be inverse. The town government has so much more influence," Furbush said. "They control utilities, pay for schools and emergency services. That voter turnout should be way higher."

The committee reached out to the graphic design students at Shawsheen Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School to design posters that include a QR code that links the user to information on how to register, where to register and what elections are coming up locally. The posters will be put up at both high schools as well as Innovation Academy in Tyngsboro and several local businesses.

The committee will also post items on its social media pages to get the information to as many people as possible.

"We really hope that it's not only going to spread the message to youth where they're at, but to the community as a whole," Furbush said. "Hopefully some parents might see it and it'll spark a conversation."

# Shawsheen school committee votes for new superintendent

## Keefe Regional Technical School director chosen for position

**Joy M. Hosford**

Wicked Local  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Two years after the first search for Shawsheen Valley Regional Vocational Technical superintendent resulted in the hiring of current Superintendent/Director Dr. Brad Jackson, School Committee members voted 8-2 to start the hiring process for the district's newest leader.

The decision to hire Director of Career and Technical Education at Keefe Regional Technical School Anthony

McIntosh came two years after Jackson was hired with the caveat his contract would be shorter than most as he headed towards retirement.

"We had two great candidates and I am looking forward to completing the process," Jackson said.

Committee Chairperson Patricia W. Meuse of Tewksbury was one of the eight who voted in favor of McIntosh during the Thursday, March 3, meeting.

Contract negotiations will be held during the hiring subcommittee's executive session on Monday, March 21,



**McIntosh**

and the final announcement will be made the following day.

"I am looking forward to working with Tony McIntosh," said Committee Treasurer Taryn Gillis of Billerica, who also voted for McIntosh. "I think he will contribute to the great culture we have at Shawsheen and help us continue to be the great school that we are."

She said of nine original applicants the pool was whittled down to two, McIntosh and Brad Morgan, superintendent for North Middlesex Regional

School District.

"Both candidates were excellent," Meuse said. "It was a very good process."

She added her personal reason for choosing McIntosh, an Athol native, and resident, was, in part that he is a graduate of a vocational school, and has worked his way up from teaching, to administration.

"I am looking forward to working in a distinguished district like Shawsheen," said McIntosh who will receive guidance from Jackson in the weeks prior to July 1, when he will officially take on the position.

# Keefe Regional Technical School director chosen for Shawsheen position

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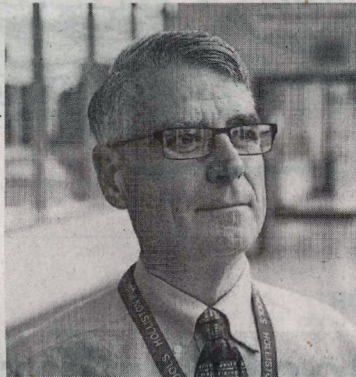
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**Director of Career and Technical Education at Keefe Regional Technical School Anthony McIntosh** [COURTESY PHOTO]



**Shawsheen Valley Technical High School Superintendent-Director Brad Jackson** WICKED LOCAL FILE PHOTO

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*Joy M. Hosford, Senior Multimedia Journalist, Billerica Minuteman*

*For the most up-to-date news from Billerica and beyond go to our website, and make sure to sign up for our daily newsletter while you're there.*

## Diversity

Continued from Page 1A

### Heated response

Select Board member Robert Hogan called the presentation "mindboggling," stating it was unlikely the town could change as fast as Reid was asking. He took issue with the academic language used in the report, calling it "convoluted," and "hoity-toity," and said, "I'm a smart guy, I've got a bachelor's degree, but I looked the words up and it didn't make sense in some of them. [You should] Use basic English and not try to impress everyone with how smart we all are."

While agreeing the town "had work to do," he said "I know everybody in every town, in every community in the country and free world has issues, but I don't think everybody needs to be talked down to. I think we just need to all talk to each other about this."

Select Board member Michael Runyan, while agreeing "there's some things we can do to make strides along the way," said "asking every town employee to fill out a self-evaluation sheet and have it signed by a supervisor and put in his file forever as part of his permanent record is just not going to happen."

Select Board member Joseph Morandi said he was "lost here with some of this stuff."

"I would like to find out what's wrong with what we have?" he said. "Why is all this coming in front of us now? If people are just nice to people, that's the bottom line. I don't understand a lot of this, I don't get it. I'm not against it. Don't take it the wrong way."

Reid asked, "Why did you create the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee?"

Hogan responded, "That's not the right question. That's almost insulting. What you came to us with is an academic thesis that a lot of us want to work with, but it is just too much stuff. You expect everyone to drop what they doing to wrap their heads around it. It's not the idea is wrong. It has to be done in stages and steps."

### Community response

Community reaction was sharp. In comments on the BCAT Facebook page,

residents characterized Board comments as racist and ignorant.

"Intelligent women and intelligent people of color are not unfamiliar with the anger of people who feel threatened by their intelligence, but it is still jarring to witness," one person said. "The select board should consider asking for support in understanding anything that confuses them rather than spending meeting time questioning why hard work needs to be done."

Another commented, "These white men had their fragility threatened by an educated woman of color and they couldn't handle it."

At the March 8 School Committee meeting, Carl Foss, a member of the DEI, said the Select Board reaction was an indication of why the committee's work was necessary.

"We need to be clear-eyed, forthright and strong in the continued efforts of the town DEI subcommittee," he said, adding there had been an outpouring of community support in the days since the Select Board meeting.

### Select Board Chairman responds

In a conversation with the Burlington Union a few days after the meeting, Select Board Chair James Tigges said the board members were reacting to the academic nature of the presentation, that it was unlike the typical presentations they receive from department directors and business leaders. He added the suggestions to amend union contracts would be challenging as such things as diversity scorecards and self-assessments would need to be negotiated.

Tigges said he supports the work of the committee, and used the town Police Department as an example of a diverse work force.

"Burlington has been changing and we need to change with the times," he said. "Burlington is a melting pot. We want this to happen, but we need to do it the right way. Maybe this [meeting] can be the catalyst to make things happen."

### Next steps

At the DEI committee meeting March 9, Reid said she would propose the Select Board hire her as an executive coach and pay her the salary of \$1, "in order to get the board where they need to be to advance DEI throughout the town's administration."

## Off-Campus: Rooney revs up Franklin Pierce lax

Wilmington native scores three goals in FPU 18-3 win over Felician University



Before tearing it up for the Franklin Pierce men's lacrosse team, Wilmington native and Shawsheen Valley Tech grad Conor Rooney, left, shined on the football field, including this 2019 game against Stoneham in MIAA Northern Mass Division 6 semifinal. (SUN/Julia Malakie)

By **CHRISTOPHER HURLEY** | [churley@lowellsun.com](mailto:churley@lowellsun.com) | Lowell Sun  
March 16, 2022 at 12:34 a.m.

Sophomore midfielder Conor Rooney netted his first hat trick of the season, potting three goals as the Franklin Pierce men's lacrosse team fleeced Felician University 18-3, Tuesday in their non-conference road trip in Rutherford, New Jersey.

With the win, the Falcons improved to 3-0 on the season.

A Wilmington native and Shawsheen Valley Tech graduate, Rooney kicked the offense into gear in the closing minutes of the first quarter, giving the Falcons a 3-0 lead. The 6-foot-3, 205-pound emergency medical services major struck twice more in the third quarter, rounding out his hat trick with 58 seconds remaining in the stanza, giving Franklin Pierce the commanding 11-1 cushion. Rooney now has five goals and two assists in his team's first two games this season.

The Ravens return to home turf this Saturday, March 19 for their first NE10 Conference matchup of the season against Assumption, at 12 noon.

## Shawsheen announces semester 1 seniors of the month

**BILLERICA** — The “Senior of the Month” program at Shawsheen Valley Technical High School has resumed after being sidelined due to the pandemic. The initiative has been a tradition at Shawsheen for many years and has been a positive and rewarding program for seniors.

The Senior of the Month program enables faculty a means to honor students during their senior year. From the monthly winners, one senior will be selected as the “Senior of the Year,” which includes a scholarship sponsored by The Billerica Lodge of Elks.

The Senior of the Month program selects one male and one female senior student every month based on a variety of criteria. Criteria includes evaluation of character, leadership, citizenship, service to school & community, scholastic achievement, and vocational competencies. Students are recognized for their accomplishments to their class as well as Shawsheen Tech, and are chosen with optimism that they will be outstanding alumni and members to the community after graduation.

The seniors selected during the fall semester are

listed below.

**KEVIN STEVENS** is an electrical student from Wilmington and is the male senior of the month winner for October. Kevin is in Honor Society and has competed on behalf of Shawsheen in SkillsUSA competitions. He is on the soccer, swimming, and track teams. Kevin is an orientation leader at Shawsheen, a youth group leader, and is an Eagle Scout candidate. Kevin participates in the cooperative education program and is placed at Comeau Electric. Upon graduation he plans to continue his education through post-secondary programming to become a master electrician.

**KASEY MCFADDEN** is the female student of the month winner for October. She is a Tewksbury resident and studies Dental Assisting at Shawsheen. Kasey is in Honor Society and has held class office all four years; she is currently serving as Class President. Kasey has been a 4-year varsity athlete for both volleyball and swimming, and she is actively involved in her community. Kasey qualified for Shawsheen’s cooperative education program and is placed

at RIM Associates. She plans to attend college to pursue a career in nursing after graduation.

**VICTOR LAM**, a Burlington resident, is the male senior of the month for November. He studies Office Technology and Marketing at Shawsheen and participates in the cooperative education program with placement at Tonneson & Company. Victor is in Honor Society and runs in both cross country and track. He participates in many school activities and has worked for the Billerica Food Pantry. After graduation, Victor plans to attend college to study Data Analytics.

**GABRIELLA ORTIZ** is the female senior of the month for November. She is a resident of Tewksbury and is in Shawsheen’s Dental Assisting program. Gabriella is in Honor Society and has held class office for four years. She is a tri-sport athlete that plays soccer, volleyball, and lacrosse, and is Shawsheen’s first National SkillsUSA medalist to place in Dental Assisting (2021). Gabriella works for The Perico Group as part of Shawsheen’s cooperative education program, and she plans to continue her education at a university to pursue Biology of Dental Hygiene.

**JOHN ZEMBECK** is a culinary student from Burlington, and he is the male senior of the month for December. He is in Honor Society and has been a competitor in SkillsUSA for three years. John runs cross country, is on the swim team, and plays tennis. As a cooperative edu-

cation qualifier, he continues his education bi-weekly at Benchmark Senior Living. John plans to continue to work for Benchmark after he graduates and continue in the field of Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management.

**LEE SINGER** is a Burlington resident in the medical assisting program at Shawsheen; she is the female senior of the month winner for December. Lee has held class office for four years, is in National Honor Society, and has volunteered for Relay for Life and Special Olympics. Lee is a tri-sport athlete who plays volleyball, swimming, and lacrosse. She currently works for Countryside Vet Hospital as part of the cooperative education program, and after graduation, Lee will attend college to pursue nursing.

**CONNOR HALKO** is a resident of Billerica and is in the graphics communications program at Shawsheen Tech; he is the male senior of the month for January. Connor was instrumental in the graphic design work for the fall 2021 project “Fenway at Shawsheen,” and was featured on Channel 10 Boston for his work. Connor is a polite, hard-working student, and is a top achiever in his vocational program. Connor plans continue in a career as a graphic designer after graduation.

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▲ Shawsheen Valley Technical High School semester 1 seniors of the month: (back, from left) Victor Lam, Kevin Stevens, John Zembeck, Connor Halko, (front, from left) Kasey McFadden, Gabriela Ortiz, Lee Singer, and Devin Sweeney.

(Courtesy photo)

teered for the Lowell Homeless Shelter, Relay for Life, and Baystate Marathon. Devin has competed in Skills USA, and is on the cross country, lacrosse, and volleyball teams. She participates in the cooperative education program with placement at RIM Associates, and plans to attend college for Exercise Science/Physical Therapy after graduation.

### About Shawsheen Valley Regional Vocational School District

Established in 1965, Shawsheen Valley Regional Vocational Technical School District (SVRVTS) is a student-centered public institution serving the five member towns of Billerica, Bedford, Burlington, Tewksbury, and Wilmington. Shawsheen Valley Technical High School serves more than 1,300 students in grades 9-12 and is “Dedicated to Excellence in Education”, integrating academics with more than 20-vocational-technical career pathways.

Shawsheen is located in Billerica on a sprawling 100-

acre campus. The school building features state-of-the-art facilities and athletic fields, 24 varsity sports, and dozens of extra-curricular clubs and activities. All of Shawsheen’s faculty and staff are committed to the mission “to provide a positive learning experience in a safe educational environment that encourages all students to reach their full potential, emphasizes the value of a strong work ethic, and prepares them for adult life in a competitive world.”

Shawsheen Valley Regional Vocational Technical School District also provides high-quality educational programming for youths and adults through Adult Education, Afterschool Exploratory Programs, Community Events, and Summer Camps and Enrichment Programs. Shawsheen is consistently working to increase its rich and varied programming opportunities for the community, which supports its mission that education is a lifelong, continuous process with many paths to living a successful and fulfilling life.

## Upcoming local events

Friday, March 18, 2022 - Friends of the Lawrence Library Book Sale, Fitzpatrick Collaborative, 45 Main St., Pepperell. 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Face masks required.

Friday, March 18, 2022 - Jack Kerouac Exhibit including the On the Road scroll — Boott Mills. 115

Road in Wilmington Sunday, March 20, 2022 - Family Fun Day, Tewksbury Public Library, 300 Chandler St., 12 - 4 p.m. \$5 per person/\$20 per family. Games, activities, food.

Tuesday, March 22, 2022 - Bargain movies at O’Neill Cinema Littleton at the Point and De Lux Cinema

# From Brian, a former star at WHS, to his three kids, wrestling is a family affair

## Don't try to takedown these siblings



The Tildsley Family enjoyed quite a wrestling season, which includes from left, Sid, a New England Champion, Tayla, a state champion in the female division, and James, an eighth grader, who was a finalist at the All-State Meet (courtesy photo).

## Tayla and her two brothers, Sid and James, dominated on the mats

By MIKE IPPOLITO  
Sports Correspondent

sports@yourtowncrier.com  
BILLERICA - If you heard about a wrestling team that sent three wrestlers to the All-State Tournament and came away with two champions and a runner up, it would be looked at as a pretty great accomplishment for that team. That would be considered to be a pretty strong wrestling program.

Now consider one family accomplishing that feat all on their own, and you begin to get an idea of just what a special wrestling season the Tildsley family just had. The three siblings, Tayla, Sid and James, each just wrapped up seasons that would make any family proud to have just one of their members accomplish, let alone three.

Tayla and Sid, a senior and a freshman respectively at Shawsheen Tech, both captured the All-State championship in their weight classes at the All-State Tournament a few weeks ago at Game On in Fitchburg, with Tayla winning the Girls All-State title at 147 pounds and Sid winning the boys title at 132 pounds in his way to completing an undefeated sea-

son. James, meanwhile, came up just short of matching his siblings, earning a second place finish at All-States at 106 pounds. Oh, by the way, did we mention that James is an eighth grader wrestling for Billerica High School?

Their father Brian, a former star wrestler at Wilmington High who went on to captain the UMass Lowell Wrestling team and was on the sidelines for each of their victories as an assistant coach with Shawsheen.

The performance at the All-State Meet by the Tildsleys only tells part of the story, however. Not only did they have an incredible performance at that meet, they also had tremendous seasons overall, with Sid going 60-0, while capturing sectional, Division 1 State, All-State and New England titles. James meanwhile overcame a gruesome finger injury to win a sectional title, while also taking third place at the Division 2 State Tournament, and second at both All-States and New Englands. Tayla meanwhile, spent most of her season competing and winning several matches against boys before finally winning the state title

that had eluded her the previous two seasons.

### TAYLA BREAKS THROUGH

With the cancellation of all post season wrestling meets last season, due to COVID, Tayla Tildsley lost her opportunity to compete for an All-State title and complete a mission that had eluded her during her freshman and sophomore seasons when she had reached the finals of the tournament only to come up just short of claiming the state crown.

But she was not going to be denied this time around, as she swept through the competition on her way to winning the title at 147 pounds. Tayla started her tournament like she was on a mission, pinning Joanna Gary of Nashoba Tech in the quarterfinals in just 15 seconds, before moving on to the semifinals where she pinned Billerica High's Sofia Vranka in a time of 2:55.

That left only her finals opponent Ella Agudelo of Agawam standing between her and a state title, having come so close before. Tayla was not going to take any chances this time around, and she

made short work of Agudelo, pinning her in a time of 1:01 to claim the title.

With the win came not only the joy of being a champion, but also a flood of emotions for her former coach, the late Mark Donovan, who had been such an influence on her prior to his death due to cancer in October of 2021.

"I felt relieved, because I worked so hard and I definitely wanted to win it, especially my senior year, and especially without having Dinnie here, I wanted to win it for him," Tayla said. "Even though I wish he was in my corner, I had coach (Doug) Pratt in my corner and my dad, so it was kind of cool doing it for the people who had supported me for the whole season. And I knew Dinnie was still there with me."

Tildsley's relationship with Donovan was extra special for her, particularly with the way he welcomed her to Shawsheen when she was not quite sure about her decision to attend the school.

"From freshman year, he kind of took me under his wing, because I was super hesitant at first about going to Shawsheen, but he helped me out and helped guide me, so we had a great relationship," Tayla said. "I loved annoying him and aggravating him over the years. We got super close and he was just somebody who I could always go to and talk to, because I knew he was super close with my family and close to me. He was just that kind of person for me."

One of the things that made Donovan such a legendary coach was his famous tough love style of coaching, where he could bring the hammer down on an athlete just as quickly as he would wrap his arms around them for a hug. Tayla may have been the exception to that rule, because Donovan seemed to leave out the 'tough' part of his love.

"I was his first girl, so we were close anyway, but I think I sort of had a special place in his heart. He would never yell at me, or get mad at me like he would with the boys,"

Tayla recalled with a laugh. "He would just be like 'ok Tayla, that's fine, you do what you want to do'. He was super proud of me. He wanted to see my name up there on the banner, so it meant a lot to me to finally get that this year, so I can leave something behind."

While Donovan may have been a little softer with Tayla than the boys, there was nothing soft about the competition she would face on a daily basis in practice or in meets when she was squaring off against boys. She was grateful for that training, as it brought out the best in her when she competed against girls.

"I think it helps me a lot, honestly, because boys are just physically going to be naturally stronger than girls," Tayla said. "So, I always had to work to get up to their level, and once you do get to that level, wrestling girls that are technically supposed to be on the same level as you physically it is not necessarily easier, but it definitely helps me train better going against boys."

"I think it's pretty cool when I beat one of the boys. I feel really proud of myself. I kind of feel like a badass, when I come off. I feel like when I go on the mat, I have nothing to lose, because no one is expecting a girl to win, so when I come off it is just like a relief with that good feeling and show people that if you work hard, you can be on the same level as a boy."

Shawsheen coach Doug Pratt, who saw Tayla get better every single season at Shawsheen before finally landing the state title this season, couldn't have been prouder to see her accomplish her goal.

"It was awesome to be there with her and see her do that, and to be there with her dad as well," Pratt said. "A lot of times, the boys get all the accolades, so it was great to see her get the accolades this time. And she was so happy to do it for Dinnie. I think it was almost more for him than for her. For her to be the first girl to get her name on the banner was the biggest thing."

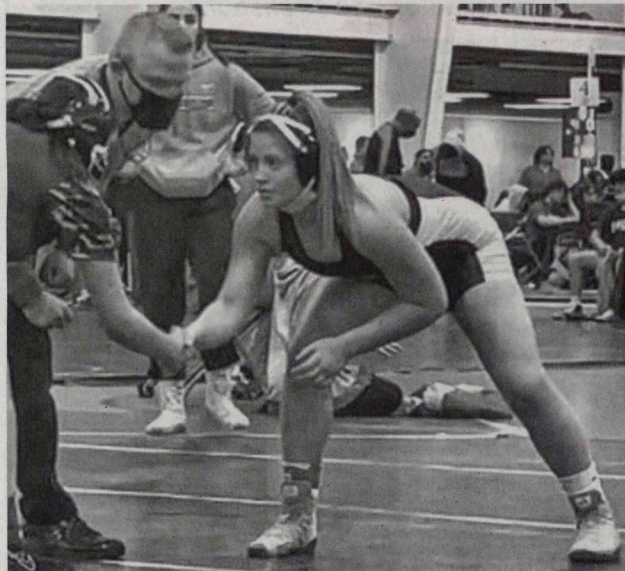
That was something they both wanted."

Tildsley will be graduating from Shawsheen in May, and moving on to college shortly thereafter where she will continue her wrestling career. But not before spending a post graduate year at Phillips Academy in Andover where she was recently accepted.

"I wanted to get another year of high school and build myself up both academically and athletically, so I thought that doing a post grad year at Phillips would be really beneficial for me. I am really excited to do that before college," Tayla said. "I have been looking at a few programs and talking to a few coaches but I am really not sure yet where I will go to college, because I know that a lot of programs are going to open in the next year because women's wrestling is growing so fast, so that is another reason I wanted to take a year and go to Phillips Academy. I am really excited to see what opens up in the next year."

Tayla has thrived with the support of her siblings as well as her parents. While she pointed out how important her brother's support has been for her, she is also very grateful to have two parents have been equally supportive.

Brian wrestled at Wilmington High before going on to be a four-year letter winner at UMass Lowell where he was a team captain in his senior year of 1999. He then went on to coach wrestling at Minuteman Tech in Lexington for 13 years before resigning in 2012. Brian was the head football coach at Minuteman up until last season, when he came to Shawsheen to coach the offense, including Sid at quarterback, along with Pratt. He is also the head lacrosse coach at Minuteman. Erica meanwhile, was an All-American sprinter and hurdler for UMass Lowell where she still holds several records, was named one of the Top Ten Female Athletes in school



Shawsheen Tech senior Tayla Tildsley captured the state championship title in the 147-pound division earlier this season. (courtesy photo).

"Because both of them are athletes, they understand what it takes to reach your goals. With my dad wrestling, he understands what it takes, so he pushes us to our full potential," Tayla said. "Some people might think he is too hard on us or too strict, but I don't see it that way. We have a very well rounded life even though we wrestle a lot. He knows what we need to do, and he pushes us to it because he knows what we are capable of."

#### EIGHTH GRADER SHINES

It was January 17 of this year, Martin Luther King Day, a day off from wrestling for James that nearly cost him his season and possibly his career and truthfully possibly something much worse. James, who was off to a 25-0 start to his high school career at the time, was in his garage working on a dirt bike. He was spinning the brake drums when his finger got caught in the steel brake drum and lopped the top of his finger off. It was a gruesome injury for anybody, let alone a young wrestler who obviously relies heavily on his hands to be successful.

Beyond the pain and horror of the injury itself, wrestling was out of the question for the foreseeable future, and who knows how long after that. Never mind wrestling, training was also out of the question, at least anything beyond running to keep in shape. James's season looked to be all but over at that point.

But this is one tough eighth grader. About four weeks later, 27 days to be exact, James was back on the mat, competing for Billerica High in the Division 2 North Sectional Tournament. He didn't just compete however. Without the benefit of so much as a practice heading into the meet, James swept through the competition, going 4-0 in the tournament to take home the sectional title.

He pinned his first three opponents, all in one minute or less, before pulling out an 8-0 major decision win over Lowell Catholic's Scotty Moreau in the finals. For James, the most difficult part of returning to the mat, along with missing part of his finger, was dealing with a lack of conditioning.

"It was definitely different, having to avoid certain moves and just getting very gassed early in matches. There is a dif-

ference between being in workout shape and being in wrestling shape," James said. "I was in workout shape, with running and everything, but going on the wrestling mat is a lot different when you are trying use your muscles and take someone down. You can get tired pretty easily."

The fact that he returned to the mat, let alone won the tournament, shocked the wrestling community.

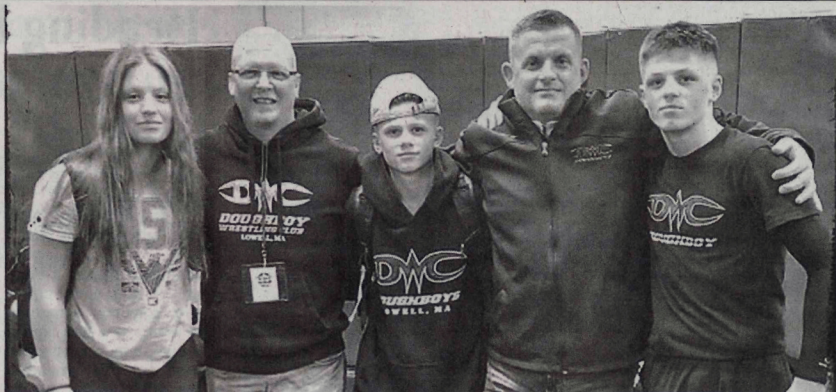
"To be honest, everybody I have talked to in the wrestling community, nobody thought he could come back from it, but 27 days later he was in the sectionals," his dad, Brian said.

Pratt, who was not coaching James this season, but will coach him next season when he transfers to Shawsheen Tech for his freshman year, was amazed at what he was able to do in his recovery from injury.

"He is a tough, tough kid. One of the toughest kids I know," Pratt said. "I have coached him in youth football since he was in sixth grade, so I knew how tough he was, but what he did here was incredible. When I say tough, I mean tough. I don't know many kids who could do what he did. For him to do what he did, not only in sectionals, but then to finish second in All-States and New Englands was incredible. He is second to none as far as toughness goes."

The tremendous post season was just part of an incredible season overall for James, who went 35-3 on the year, with all three of his losses coming to the same wrestler, Musa Tamarazde of West Springfield, in the semifinals of the state tournament and the finals of the All-State and New Englands. As great as his season was, James was not entirely surprised by it after the preparation he had gotten at the youth level, as well as while working out at Dough Boy Wrestling in Lowell under the direction of Mike Marshall.

"I didn't anticipate success at the beginning, because obviously as an eighth grader going into a high school season, it's not something where a lot of eighth graders do that well. I wanted to win. I wanted to win everything, so I just kind of set my mind to where I was going to work for it," James said. "My last year of youth (wrestling) was one of my best years. I wouldn't say this year was easi-



The siblings, Tayla far left, James (middle) and Sid (far right) took a picture during the 2021 season along with the late Shawsheen Tech coach Mark Donovan (second from left) and their father Brian, a former star wrestler at Wilmington High and UMass-Lowell. (courtesy photo).

er, because it definitely wasn't easier, but the competition wasn't as high level as some of my youth matches. So, I think I did so well at the start of the year because of the competition I had faced last year at the youth level."

Another thing that James had going for him this season was that he certainly wasn't intimidated by the big stage of a state or even New England tournament. The only intimidation he did feel was self-inflicted, as he always put pressure on himself to win.

"The pressure of the environment didn't phase me, because growing up with youth tournaments there are a million people watching the tournament," James said. "I have lost at the youth level almost as much as I have won, so I am used to that losing kind of feeling, so that kind of makes the pressure go down when you have had that feeling. It helps motivate you because you don't want to have that feeling."

Another thing that motivated James this season was his desire to match Tayla and Sid's success. The Tildsley siblings are each other's biggest fans, but at the same time, none of them want to lag behind the others. He and Sid in particular certainly engaged in a friendly rivalry this season.

"It was Sid's first year of high school wrestling too, so we kind of competed with each other at the beginning of the season, like who hadn't given up a takedown yet, and things like that. It was cool to kind of get that full high school experience together," James said. "Losing and having your sibling win is good in the moment, because you are

happy for them, but later it is terrible, because it is the ultimate bragging rights and you don't want to be the one who lost."

Sibling rivalry aside, James knows that all of the Tildsleys, including with their younger brother Sonny, who as an eight-year old is already making his mark on the youth level, benefit from having each other to work out with and game plan with. Whether it is working out in their basement wrestling room or discussing strategy with each other, wrestling is always a big part of their lives.

"It is definitely something we talk about at dinner and things like that, and then we can train in the basement as well and work on things together," James said. "Every time if we are not at Dough Boy or somewhere else for practice, we are down here kind of tightening things up and fixing those little things we have to work on."

#### SID MAKES HISTORY

Clearly, each of the Tildsleys had incredible seasons for their respective schools, but Sid's season stood out not only within the family, but also in the entire state. In his first year of high school wrestling, Sid not only took home the sectional, state, All-State and New England titles, but he also finished the season with a perfect 60-0 record, becoming the first freshman in Massachusetts history to go undefeated and win the New England title in the same season.

It is not hyperbole to say it is a season that it is a season that may never be duplicated. Pratt for one isn't anticipating seeing it again any time soon.

"I have never seen it in my 31 years of coaching. It was a very special year for him, so for me to experience it with him and his dad was incredible," Pratt said. "It made watching what he did even better. I am not going to say it will never happen again, but I had never seen it before, and don't think I will see it again."

Sid, like James, got his season off to quick start with a win at the Blue Devil Wrestling Classic in Salem, New Hampshire. That was his first clue that this might be a special season, but truth be told, much like James, he knew going into the season that he had the opportunity to be successful at

the high school level.

"A lot of kids I wrestled this year are kids I wrestled during youth, so it was kind of a journey with them. I knew I would end up wrestling a lot of them in high school, so it wasn't really a step up or down so much as it was 'I have been here before I know what I am doing and what it takes to beat these kids,'" Sid said. "I felt like even if it was a bigger stage, I had faced those kids before, so I knew what I could do."

The quick start to the season was great, and by the time the prestigious George Bossi Holiday Tournament rolled around in December, Sid had already established himself as a force to be reckoned with. His performance at that tournament, including a win in the finals over St. John's Prep senior Adam Schaublin, the defending state champion, took his expectations for the season to another level. Namely, he began to think about the possibility of an undefeated season. After discussing it with Pratt as well as fellow Shawsheen coaches Nick Gamble, Rob McIsaac and of course his dad, it became apparent that they believed in his ability to achieve that goal.

"Obviously after the Salem Tournament I felt pretty good winning my first tournament, and then I just kept going. And then by Holidays, after I beat Schaublin in the finals, the coaches told me, you can do this. You can go all the way and win it all. So, at that moment I knew I had a chance," Sid said.

The win over Schaublin at the Bossi Tournament was one of six wins by Sid over the defending state champion, with his final victory coming in the finals of the All-New England Tournament. Schaublin lost just six matches all season, all six of them to Sid, a remarkable achievement for the freshman over the senior.

"That first match, I knew I was ready for it, but I had usually wrestled Alex, his younger brother, so Adam was a new test for me, and his style was something I had never seen, with that rushing and that square stance, so that first match was kind of boring, it was just 2-0 with no takedowns. The next match I opened him up a little more and I think it was 5-0," Sid said.

By the time they reached sectionals, matches were

very close, with Sid winning 3-2. Sid then took a 6-4 decision in states with a last second takedown, followed by a triple overtime win in All-States and then a 3-2 win in New Englands after he had entered the third period trailing 1-0.

"We had kind of figured each other out and it was a battle the whole time," Sid said. "We always talk about how we have to spill our guts, meaning if we do what we can do, this kid won't beat us. So, I knew if I gave it everything I had he wasn't going to beat me."

Now that he has had a chance to look back in his season, Sid has had a chance to appreciate just how special it was. As Pratt said, 60-0, especially for a freshman, simply doesn't happen. Except in this case, it did happen.

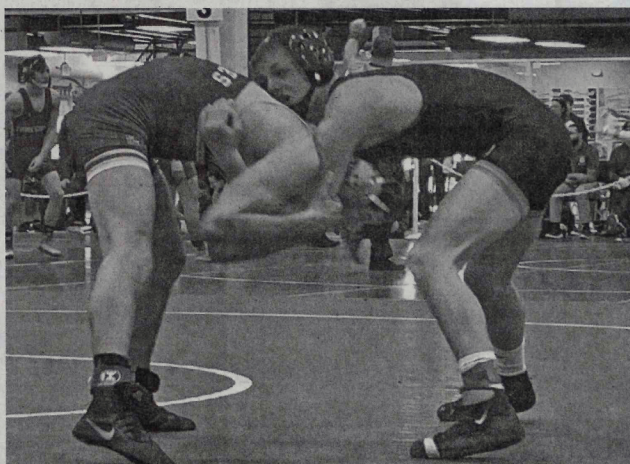
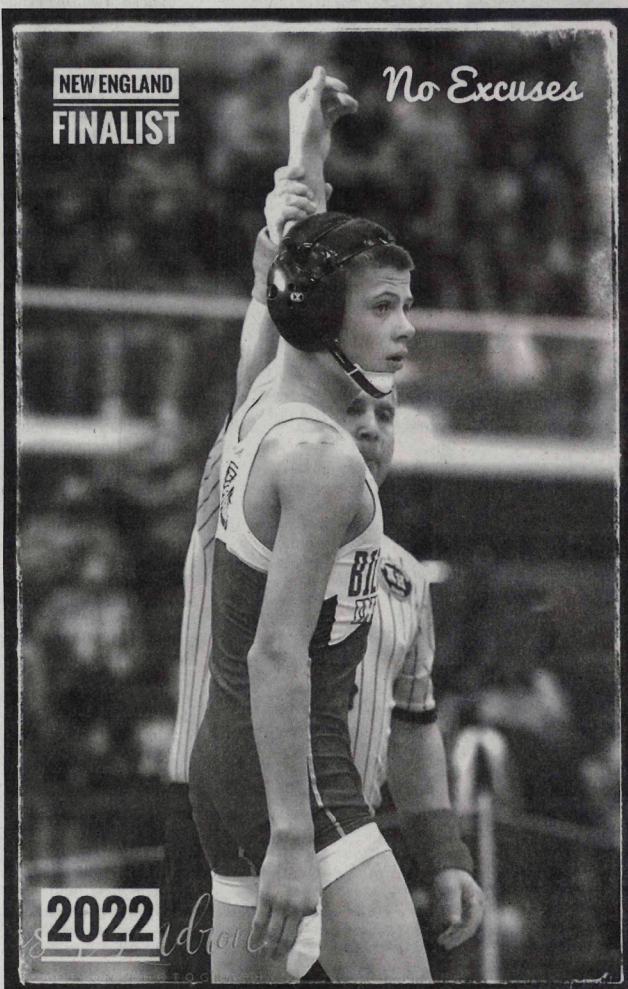
"I am very humble about it, but the accomplishment is something we have dreamed about since I was in third grade," Sid said. "Even after winning my first youth title, that felt great, but I knew that high school was where it really mattered. Now that I am here, that kind of accomplishment was something I have been training a long time for."

Sid credits his coaches, both past and present, including his dad for him being able to accomplish what he did in his first year of high school wrestling.

"This whole year was a new step for me because it was high school. Usually, it is just us over at Dough Boy where coach Marshall was always a great help as a youth wrestler," Sid said. "Now that I am in high school, it was more the high school coaches, like coach Gamble, coach McIsaac, coach Pratt and my dad obviously. So, it was kind of like a new step for us to come together and prove what we can do on the high school level."

He also of course credits Tayla and James for always bringing out the best in him. While he wants to be the best not only in the state, but also in the family, he knows that regardless of what happens, they will always be each other's biggest fans.

"We always root for each other, but afterwards if you lose and they win, you know you don't have the bragging rights, and you definitely want that," he said. "But I always knew, even after James lost that he would always be in my



On the left, eighth grader James Tildsley, was an all-state finalist in the 106-pound weight class as a member of the Billerica High team and above, Sid, a freshman, completed the season undefeated, including taking the NE Championship title. (courtesy photos).

# Shawsheen Rams gets Sandwiched

By **MIKE IPPOLITO**  
Sports Correspondent

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**BOURNE** - After playing their best game of the season in their thrilling Round of 16 win over Winthrop last Wednesday night, the Shawsheen Tech Boys Hockey team hit the road once again two nights later to take on another powerful opponent in their home rink, this time taking on No.4 seed Sandwich at the Gallo Arena in Bourne in the quarterfinals of the MIAA Division 4 State Tournament last Friday night.

Unfortunately for the No. 12 Rams, the results were not quite as favorable this time around, as they came up on the short end of a 7-0 score, marking a tough end to a fine season that saw Shawsheen finish 16-6-1 overall.

As good as Shawsheen had played against some very tough competition in their first two playoff games in picking up wins over West/East Bridgewater and Winthrop, it seemed clear from the outset that Sandwich was on another level, as they controlled play almost from the outset, outshooting the Rams 14-5 in the first period and continuing with that trend for much of the game.

"We played one of our worst games against a very good team. I feel if we performed as we did on Wednesday, it would have been a much different game," Shawsheen coach Chuck Baker said. "We basically could not get out of our own way and made way too many mental mistakes to even be in the game. With that being said, the team had a great season and battled hard throughout. They showed resiliency all season long. They are a great group."

The large advantage in

shots eventually paid off for Sandwich, as they took a 1-0 lead with 4:37 left in the first period on a goal by sophomore Jack Connelly. Still, thanks to the efforts of Shawsheen goalie Aiden MacLeod, who had already played two outstanding games in the state tournament, it looked like the Rams would go to the first period intermission facing just that one goal deficit.

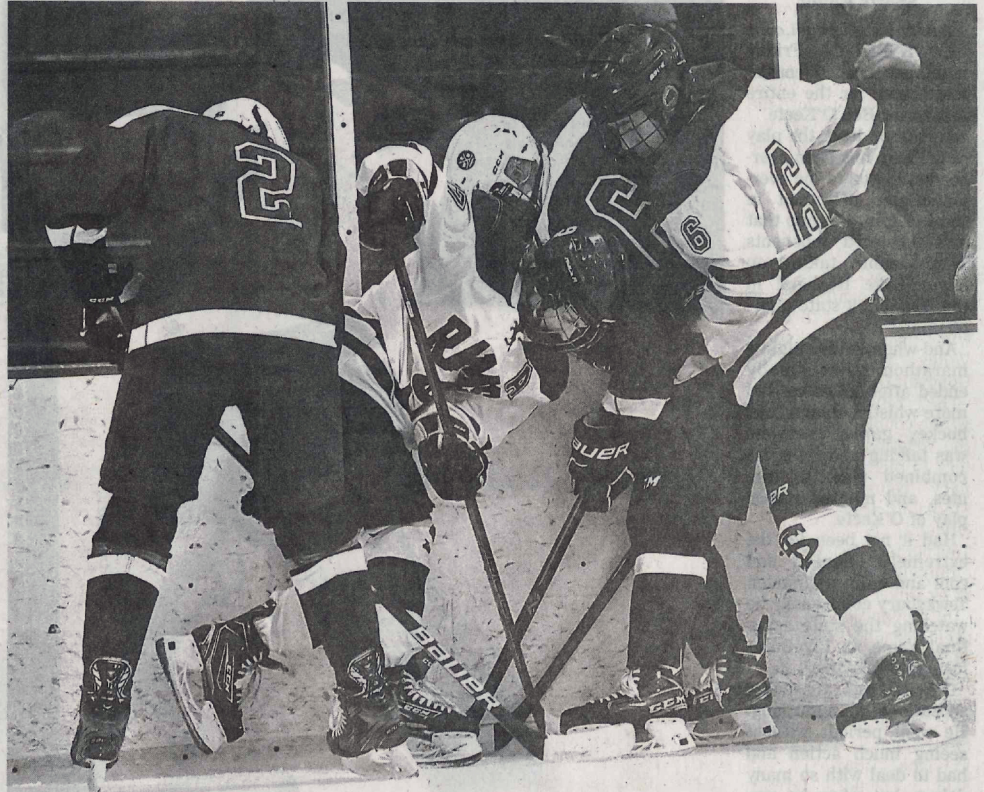
That was not to be the case, however, as Blue Knights sophomore Chris Cardillo scored a back breaker of a goal with just three seconds left in the period, putting in a rebound of a Chris McIver shot to make it 2-0, and send the Rams to the locker room deflated after their first 15 minutes of play.

"There is a huge difference between a 1-0 and 2-0 score to end a period, especially in a state game. The way that it occurred with minimal time left on the clock was another kicker. I could see it in the team's eyes in the locker room," Baker said. "They already looked defeated. But with that being said, we didn't come out of the locker room like the team I saw all season long battling to get back into games if we needed to."

"We came out in the second flat again and allowed Sandwich to control the play again. It was very mind boggling to the coaching staff."

Sandwich took advantage of their momentum at the start of the second period when senior Drew MacKinnon scored his 23rd goal of the season to make the score 3-0 just 34 seconds into the frame and when MacKinnon added another goal, this time a shorthanded tally with 6:46 left in the period to make it 4-0, it was all but over for the Rams.

Shawsheen continued to battle, with Quinn Fallon



Shawsheen Tech's Aydan Churchill (2nd from left) and Roland Spengler (right) battle for the puck along the boards, against East Bridgewater/Bridgewater's Sam Hall (left) and Jeff Young during an earlier playoff win.

(photo by JoeBrownphotos.com).

and Zack Patterson each having a chance late in the period to get on the board, but Sandwich goalie Michell Norkevicius was equal to the task each time and the teams headed to the second intermission with the score still at 4-0.

Three more goals by the Blue Knights in the third period brought a rather humbling end to the season for the Rams, but as they went through the traditional handshake line, it was impossible to think of their season as anything other than a success.

While they were unable to win a fifth consecutive CAC title, finishing second to Essex Tech, they won 16 games including a pair

of state tournament games. Baker would have of course liked to win even more games in the tournament, but he was proud of the season they had.

"Absolutely I am very happy. There was very little or no tournament experience on this team," Baker said. "But they worked hard all season long, and played into the second week of March and knocked off the fifth seed in Winthrop. The team has a great bond from the seniors down to the freshmen. They are a great group of kids."

And while the Rams will have to deal with the loss of some key seniors, particularly tri-captains Ryan Dusablou and Aydan

Churchill of Wilmington along with Tom Sampson, as well as goalies Tom Dalton and Joe McLaren, both of Wilmington, they will bring back a strong core to next year's team.

Leading scorers Chase and Brady Darcey, a sophomore and a junior respectively, will return to power the Rams offense as will sophomore forward Kyle Gray of Wilmington, junior forward Nick Calouro of Tewksbury and sophomore defenseman Derek Nazzaro of Tewksbury. Junior goalie Aiden MacLeod will also return between the pipes after some stellar post season play, so there is plenty of reason for optimism for

the Rams moving forward.

The reality is they could be even better next season, but Baker knows that it will not come without a lot of hard work.

"Every team has the potential to be better. It all depends on how hard they want to work at it in the offseason," Baker said. "I hope this team has that itch now to succeed and will put in that extra effort off of the ice and train for next season. We need to get stronger and faster as a team. That all happens off the ice."



# MacLeod saves the day in second round win

By **MIKE IPPOLITO**  
Sports Correspondent

sports@yourtowncrier.com

**WINTHROP** - Heading into their Round of 16 matchup with Winthrop in the MIAA Division 4 State Hockey Tournament last Wednesday night, the Shawsheen Tech Boys Hockey team knew they would have to play their best game of the season if they were going to pull off the upset against Winthrop in their own building.

As it turned out, that was exactly what the No. 12 Rams got, as they put together a great three period effort on their way to a 5-3 victory at Larsen Rink, eliminating the No. 5 Vikings, and advancing to the state quarterfinals.

The Rams were led by a pair of shorthanded goals, including the eventual game winner late in the second period, from sophomore forward Chase Darcey, as well as in incredible performance in

net by junior goalie Aiden MacLeod, who stopped 47 of 50 shots to backbone his team to victory.

The Rams had advanced to the Round of 16 with a first round win at home over

West/East Bridgewater, a game in which they had played well in spurts, but had left coach Chuck Baker looking for more of a complete three period effort. On Wednesday night, he got what he was looking for. The Rams youngest players, including Darcey had never played in a high school tournament game prior to their first round win. By the time Wednesday night rolled around, they looked like seasoned playoff veterans.

"The effort was solid. It was the most complete team game we have played all season. The boys were buzzing," Baker said. "Winthrop was a great team. This place was packed with spectators. It was a great

atmosphere for playoff hockey. We battled each shift with no let downs. I am happy for this group, because they work hard and are a very close group. The young guys had no choice, and they have all responded great."

The Rams got off to a fast start in this one, taking an early 1-0 lead on a goal by sophomore forward Kyle Gray of Wilmington, his second goal in as many playoff games.

Sophomore defenseman Derek Nazzaro of Tewksbury got the play started, fighting for a loose puck along the boards and getting off a tough shot on net. The puck deflected off a Winthrop defenseman and an alert Gray pounced on it and wasted little time in beating the Winthrop goalie to the glove side with 12:30 left in the first period.

"It was great to score first. Often times we will give up the first goal,"

Baker said. "The game was a rollercoaster ride for sure but we battled and roared out the storm at times. I feel for the first time this season we had a little puck luck where the bounces were going our way. Hard work is usually what brings that luck and we worked hard for sure in this one."

It looked like the Rams might have a chance to extend their lead later in the period when they went on a power play, but instead it was Winthrop who got on the board next, when Peter Silverman scored an unassisted goal with 5:35 left in the period to make the score 1-1, and that is how the first period would end.

Shawsheen would get a little more of the puck luck that Baker referred to for their second goal, when senior forward Quinn Fallon tried to set up linemate Aydan Churchill in front with a pass from behind the net. Instead connecting with Churchill, the pass instead deflected off the skate of a Winthrop defenseman and into the net for a 2-1 Shawsheen lead with 11:57 left in the second period.

The Rams extended their lead to 3-1 with 8:39 left in the period on Chase Darcey's first goal of the game. After allowing a shorthanded goal earlier in the game, the Rams returned the favor with Darcey's goal, as he scored on the rebound of a Brady Darcey shot. Brady got off a good shot from the right side of the net that Winthrop goalie Anthony Indrisano made a nice save on, but the rebound kicked out to Chase on the left side of the net and he quickly cashed in to give the Rams a two goal lead.

Winthrop called a timeout after the goal, and

whatever their coach said to them must have hit its mark, because 20 seconds after the ensuing faceoff, the Vikings made it a one goal game again on a goal by Phil Boncore, making the score 3-2. Winthrop actually controlled play for the next several minutes after their goal as well, with only the stellar goaltending of MacLeod keeping the Rams in the lead.

When Shawsheen was called for a penalty late in the period, it looked like a great opportunity for Winthrop to tie the game. But instead, it was once again Chase Darcey with a big play and a shorthanded goal for the Rams. Darcey made a great play to block a Winthrop shot at the Shawsheen blue line and then took it the other way for a breakaway goal and a 4-2 Shawsheen lead with 1:48 left in the period.

"Chase had his best game of the season in all three zones. As far as the goal, unreal is all I can say," Baker said. "He made a great defensive play on the PK and finished it off with his second shorthanded goal on the night."

But just as they had earlier in the game, Winthrop wasted very little time in responding after the Rams had taken a two goal lead, this time needing just 11 seconds after the faceoff before Vikings defenseman Ari Hain scored to pull his team within 4-3, sending the teams to the second intermission with the Rams holding a slim lead, but the Vikings holding the momentum.

Shawsheen had been called for another penalty in the final minute of the second period, meaning Winthrop had not only the momentum, but also a power play for the first 1:16 of the third period.

The Rams managed to kill off the early power play and thanks to the efforts of MacLeod, they were also able to stave off the Winthrop comeback attempt.

"Aiden made some high-light reel saves in the game. He managed the game, making the routine saves, making some big stops and tied the puck up when he needed to," Baker said. "The 47 saves were huge for the team and his confidence. He is showing huge growth over the past two games. The coaching staff is very proud of him."

Both teams would have their chances in the closing minutes, but the score would remain 4-3 until Fallon scored his second goal of the game into an empty net with ten seconds left to clinch the victory for the Rams and move them into Friday night's quarterfinal matchup with Sandwich.

"It was also great seeing Quinn Fallon pop a couple," Baker said. "Quinn was out most of the season with a broken collar bone."

With the win, the Rams moved on to the Division 4 state quarterfinals against Sandwich last Friday night. And just as Baker knew his team would have to be better against Winthrop than they were in their first round game against West/East Bridgewater, he knew they would need to be even better against Sandwich.

"Sandwich is a very good team. You don't get a four seed for being bad. We do not know too much but I am on the hunt for info and watching film," Baker said. "The confidence is there, but plain and simple we need to play our brand of hockey and put together another A+ effort and see what happens."



Shawsheen Tech's Tom Sampson battles with Christian Bates during the playoff win over Bridgewater/East Bridgewater. (photo by JoeBrownphotos.com).

# Rams Boys Hoop team cleans up with post-season awards

By **MIKE IPPOLITO**  
Sports Correspondent

sports@yourtowncrier.com

**BILLERICA** - It was a fantastic season for the Shawsheen Tech Boys Basketball team, as the Rams went 17-7 overall, including 11-1 in the CAC to win their first outright CAC title since 2008, while also winning their first Large School State Vocational championship since 2008 with a thrilling win over Blackstone Valley Tech at Mark Donovan Gymnasium.

They returned to their gym a couple of days after the vocational school victory to pick up a preliminary round win over Madison Park in the Division 3 State Tournament before being eliminated in the Round of 32 by Dover Sherborn.

In recognition of their great season, three Rams, as well as third year coach Joe Gore were recently honored with post season awards. Shawsheen junior Mavrick Bourdeau, as well as seniors Jeremy Perez of Tewksbury and Jeff Kelly, were each voted to the CAC All-Star team, and Bourdeau was selected as CAC MVP. Gore meanwhile, was voted as CAC Coach of the Year by his fellow coaches for the second consecutive season.

Gore was very proud of his three All-Stars, and truly appreciated all that they brought to the team this season.

"I am so happy for these guys. In my eyes, they truly earned this," Gore said. "We are the only team to have three All-Stars and I am proud of the fact that they are three of the hardest workers we have ever had."

It was the third consecutive All-Star appearance for Perez, while Bourdeau averaged 17 points, nine rebounds and two steals per game on his way to winning the MVP. The three All-Stars, not coincidentally, were also three of the Rams four captains this season, and they displayed their leadership with their tremendous work ethic throughout the season.

"They earned every bit of those awards," Gore said. "They showed the underclassmen what it means to be a varsity athlete with their dedication to the team and the hard work they put in."

Gore was honored to be voted as Coach of the Year once again by his peers, but he deflected much of the credit for the award to his players and fellow coaches.

"It's obviously a big accomplishment but the bigger picture is I am fortunate enough to be surrounded by great people," Gore said. "That goes from our managers to a group of players that totally bought in to what we preached as a coaching staff."

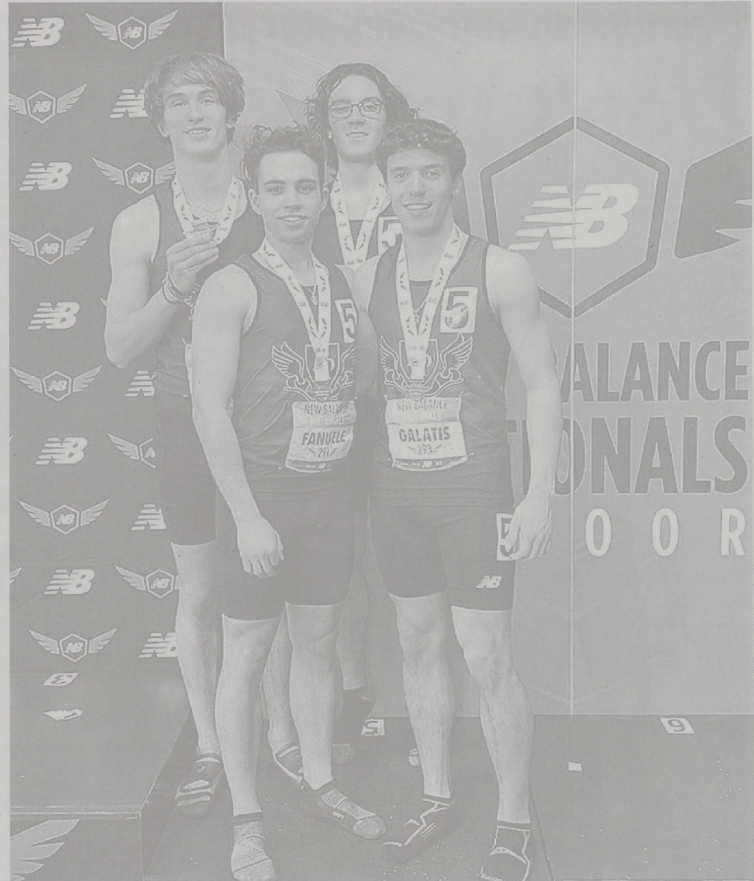
And speaking of that coaching staff, which

includes Mike Gore, Bob Hodnett and Greg Bendel, Gore knows that his success and the team's success would not have been possible without them.

"I have one of the best coaching staffs around. It is a total, total, team effort and this accomplishment is shared by all of us, including our book keeper Matt Bruno and out scorer Angela Cairra," Gore said. "I am very lucky to have such great people working with me. But really, without all of these kids buying in the way they did, we would not be having this conversation."

Gore especially wanted to thank Shawsheen athletic director Al Costabile for helping him in his coaching career.

"Coach C has been great. Whatever we need, he is there for us. He has been a huge mentor to me in my coaching career and my professional career," Gore said. "He creates a very supportive atmosphere and makes it very easy to do our jobs."



The group of from left, Tristan Miller, Nico Fanuele (of Wilmington), Colby Medeiros (of Wilmington) and Steven Galatis, were part of the Austin Prep fifth place 4x400 and sixth place sprint medley relay teams during this weekend's Nationals held in NYC. (courtesy photo).





## Shawsheen Valley Technical High School Announces Semester 1 Seniors of the Month

Find out which eight seniors were chosen



Shawsheen Valley Technical High School semester one seniors of the month. (Back L-R) Victor Lam, Kevin Stevens, John Zembeck, Connor Halko. (Front L-R) Kasey McFadden, Gabriela Ortiz, Lee Singer, Devin Sweeney. Photo Courtesy: Allison Cammarata

### SHAWSHEEN VALLEY TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL ANNOUNCES SEMESTER 1 SENIORS OF THE MONTH

BILLERICA – The “Senior of the Month” program at Shawsheen Valley Technical High School has resumed after being sidelined due to the pandemic. The initiative has been a tradition at Shawsheen for many years and has been a positive and rewarding program for seniors. The Senior of the Month program enables faculty a means to honor students during their senior year. From the monthly winners, one senior will be selected as the “Senior of the Year,” which includes a scholarship sponsored by The Billerica Lodge of Elks.

The Senior of the Month program selects one male and one female senior student every month based on a variety of criteria. Criteria includes evaluation of character, leadership, citizenship, service to school & community, scholastic achievement, and vocational competencies. Students are recognized for their accomplishments to their class as well as Shawsheen Tech, and are chosen with optimism that they will be outstanding alumni and members to the community after graduation.

The seniors selected during the fall semester are listed below.

Kadilak, N. (2022, March 15). Shawsheen Valley Technical High School announces semester 1 seniors of the month. Shawsheen Valley Technical High School Announces Semester 1 Seniors of the Month. Retrieved March 15, 2022, from <https://www.burlington.buzz/p/shawsheen-valley-technical-high-school?s=r>

KEVIN STEVENS is an electrical student from Wilmington and is the male senior of the month winner for October. Kevin is in Honor Society and has competed on behalf of Shawsheen in SkillsUSA competitions. He is on the soccer, swimming, and track teams. Kevin is an orientation leader at Shawsheen, a youth group leader, and is an Eagle Scout candidate. Kevin participates in the cooperative education program and is placed at Comeau Electric. Upon graduation he plans to continue his education through post-secondary programming to become a master electrician.

KASEY McFADDEN is the female student of the month winner for October. She is a Tewksbury resident and studies Medical Assisting at Shawsheen. Kasey is in Honor Society and has held class office all four years; she is currently serving as Class President. Kasey has been a 4-year varsity athlete for lacrosse, volleyball and swimming, and she is actively involved in her community. Kasey qualified for Shawsheen's cooperative education program and is placed at RIM Associates. She plans to attend college to pursue a career in nursing after graduation.

VICTOR LAM, a Burlington resident, is the male senior of the month for November. He studies Office Technology and Marketing at Shawsheen and participates in the cooperative education program with placement at Tonneson & Company. Victor is in Honor Society and runs in both cross country and track. He participates in many school activities and has worked for the Billerica Food Pantry. After graduation, Victor plans to attend college to study Data Analytics.

GABRIELA ORTIZ is the female senior of the month for November. She is a resident of Tewksbury and is in Shawsheen's Dental Assisting program. Gabriella is in Honor Society and has held class office for four years. She is a tri-sport athlete that plays soccer, volleyball, and lacrosse, and is Shawsheen's first National SkillsUSA medalist to place in Dental Assisting (2021). Gabriella works for The Perico Group as part of Shawsheen's cooperative education program, and she plans to continue her education at a university to pursue Biology of Dental Hygiene.

JOHN ZEMBECK is a culinary student from Burlington, and he is the male senior of the month for December. He is in Honor Society and has been a competitor in SkillsUSA for three years. John runs cross country, is on the swim team, and plays tennis. As a cooperative education qualifier, he continues his education bi-weekly at Benchmark Senior Living. John plans to continue to work for Benchmark after he graduates and continue in the field of Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management.

LEE SINGER is a Burlington resident in the medical assisting program at Shawsheen; she is the female senior of the month winner for December. Lee has held class office for four years, is in National Honor Society, and has volunteered for Relay for Life and Special Olympics. Lee is a tri-sport athlete who plays volleyball, swimming, and lacrosse. She currently works for Countryside Vet Hospital as part of the cooperative education program, and after graduation, Lee will attend college to pursue nursing

CONNOR HALKO is a resident of Billerica and is in the graphics communications program at Shawsheen Tech; he is the male senior of the month for January. Connor was instrumental in the graphic design work for the fall 2021 project "Fenway at Shawsheen," and was featured on Channel 10 Boston for his work. Connor is a polite, hardworking student, and is a top achiever in his vocational program. Connor plans continue in a career as a graphic designer after graduation.

DEVIN SWEENEY is a medical assisting student at Shawsheen who resides in Burlington. Devin is the female senior of the month for January. She has held class office for four years, is in Honor Society, and has volunteered for the Lowell Homeless Shelter, Relay for Life, and Baystate Marathon. Devin has competed in SkillsUSA, and is on the cross country, lacrosse, and volleyball teams. She participates in the cooperative education program with placement at RIM Associates, and plans to attend college for Exercise Science/Physical Therapy after graduation.

# WILMINGTON APPLE

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March 14, 20221 / by ROBERT HAYES

## Shawsheen Tech Announces Semester 1 Seniors Of The Month

Below is a press release from the Shawsheen Tech:

BILLERICA, MA — The “Senior of the Month” program at Shawsheen Valley Technical High School has resumed after being sidelined due to the pandemic. The initiative has been a tradition at Shawsheen for many years and has been a positive and rewarding program for seniors. The Senior of the Month program enables faculty a means to honor students during their senior year. From the monthly winners, one senior will be selected as the “Senior of the Year,” which includes a scholarship sponsored by The Billerica Lodge of Elks.

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## Shawsheen Tech Announces Semester 1 Seniors of the Month - Wilmington Apple

JOHN ZEMBECK is a culinary student from Burlington, and he is the male senior of the month for December. He is in Honor Society and has been a competitor in SkillsUSA for three years. John runs cross country, is on the swim team, and plays tennis. As a cooperative education qualifier, he continues his education bi-weekly at Benchmark Senior Living. John plans to continue to work for Benchmark after he graduates and continue in the field of Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management.

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Shawsheen Valley Technical High School semester one seniors of the month. (Back L-R) Victor Lam, Kevin Stevens, John Zembeck, Connor Halko. (Front L-R) Kasey McFadden, Gabriela Ortiz, Lee Singer, Devin Sweeney. Photo Courtesy: Allison Cammarata



# WILMINGTON APPLE

March 12, 2022 / by ROBERT HAYES

## Enjoy Corned Beef And Cabbage From Shawsheen Tech Culinary Students On March 15 & 16

Below is a press release from the Shawsheen Tech:

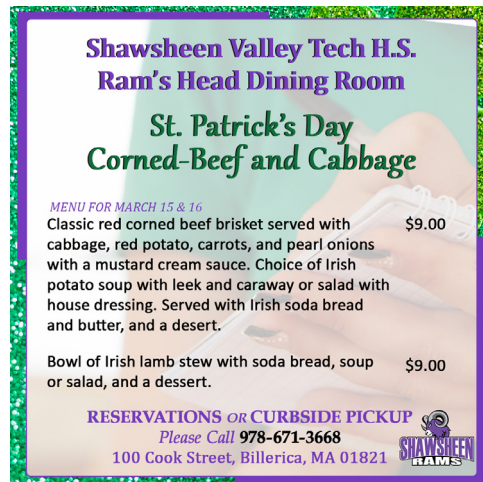
BILLERICA, MA — For the second time this month, the Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management students at Shawsheen Valley Technical High School are pushing out a creative menu in hopes of seeing new faces in their recently re-opened Rams Head Dining Room. On March 15 and 16, students will cook and serve a festive St. Patrick's Day menu that can be enjoyed in-house or picked-up curbside; pre-orders and reservations are encouraged.

The menu will offer a \$9 classic red corned beef brisket served with cabbage, red potato, carrots, and pearl onions with a mustard cream sauce. The dinner will include a choice of Irish potato soup with leek and caraway or salad with house-made dressing. Irish soda bread and a desert will complete the meal.

An alternative \$9 dinner option for St. Patrick's Day will be Irish lamb stew served with Irish soda bread and butter, with a choice of soup or salad, and a dessert.

Shawsheen Tech's dining room has been closed for two years due to the pandemic, and the students in the Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management program are eager to serve customers in a live setting. The public are encouraged to visit the restaurant for an 11:30 am or 12:00 pm seat-time, or place an order for curbside pick-up.

To make a reservation or pre-order your meal, please call the Ram's Head Dining Room at 978-671-3668 or visit [www.ShawsheenTech.org](http://www.ShawsheenTech.org).



# Grand reopening of Rams Head Dining Room at Shawsheen Tech

**BILLERICA** — The Culinary Arts/Hospitality Management program at Shawsheen Valley Technical High School invited the public to its grand reopening luncheon on Wednesday, March 9, 2022. Lunch was offered in the student-run Rams Head Dining Room.

Guests enjoyed a 3-course meal consisting of a choice of soup or salad, an entrée, and a dessert, for \$9. Students in the Culinary Arts/Hospitality Management program look forward to reopening the dining room to the public, and expect to serve a full house.

"The dining room has been closed for two years because of COVID, and our students and staff are very excited to have it open again," said lead teacher Joe Williams.

"The scope of instruction for students in this program is vast, as are the

skills needed in industry," added hospitality instructor Melissa Greene. "We teach students food preparation, food service management, dining room service, event planning, entrepreneurship and much more. The dining room helps pull many aspects of our curriculum together in real-time for our students."

In addition to the dining room, Shawsheen has a student-run automotive shop, printing center, and salon open to the public. Guests are encouraged to visit the campus during the school day to utilize these services, as they provide authentic learning experiences for students.

For more information about the Rams Head Dining Room or any other student-run service at Shawsheen, please visit [www.ShawsheenTech.org](http://www.ShawsheenTech.org).

**About Shawsheen Valley**

## Regional Vocational School District

Established in 1965, Shawsheen Valley Regional Vocational Technical School District (SVRVTS) is a student-centered public institution serving the five member towns of Billerica, Bedford, Burlington, Tewksbury, and Wilmington.

Shawsheen Valley Technical High School serves more than 1,300 students in grades 9-12 and is "Dedicated to Excellence in Education," integrating academics with more than 20-vocational-technical career pathways.

Shawsheen is located in Billerica on a sprawling 100-acre campus. The school building features state-of-the-art facilities and athletic fields, 24 varsity sports, and dozens of extra-curricular clubs and activities. All of Shawsheen's faculty and staff are committed to the mis-

sion "to provide a positive learning experience in a safe educational environment that encourages all students to reach their full potential, emphasizes the value of a strong work ethic, and prepares them for adult life in a competitive world."

Shawsheen Valley Regional Vocational Technical School District also provides high-quality educational programming for youths and adults through Adult Education, After-school Exploratory Programs, Community Events, and Summer Camps and Enrichment Programs. Shawsheen is consistently working to increase its rich and varied programming opportunities for the community, which supports its mission that education is a lifelong, continuous process with many paths to living a successful and fulfilling life.

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## Wild, back-and-forth game with W/E Bridgewater

# Darcey lifts Rams to dramatic overtime first round state tournament victory

By MIKE IPPOLITO  
Sports Correspondent

sports@yourtowncrier.com  
BILLERICA - After a year's absence, high school tournament hockey has returned to Massachusetts, and last Thursday night at the Hallenborg Pavilion, tournament starved hockey fans got a reminder of just what they had been missing when Shawsheen Tech and West/East Bridgewater squared off in an instant classic in the first round of the MIAA Division 4 State Tournament.

In a game that featured four lead changes, Shawsheen took the only lead that truly mattered when sophomore forward Chase Darcey scored his second goal of the game 1:07 into overtime to give the Rams a thrilling 5-4 victory that propelled them into the round of 16 where they squared off with Winthrop on Wednesday night.

The No. 12 Rams trailed the No. 21 Vikings 4-3 with time winding down in the third period when Darcey scored his first goal of the game, knotting the score at 4-4 with 1:47 left in regulation. In the 4-on-4 eight minute overtime session, Darcey wasted little time in sending the Hallenborg crowd (or most of it, anyway), home happy.

With Shawsheen applying pressure early in the extra session, Darcey's older brother, junior forward Brady Darcey dropped a nice backhand pass back to the left point where freshman defenseman Larry Cullity alertly passed it behind the net where it came to Chase Darcey behind the right side of the net. Darcey then scored on a wraparound from behind the left side of the net, just barely managing to tuck the puck in between the goalie's pads and the post, setting off a wild celebration.

"He tried that same move that he scored on three times, so the third time was the charm," Shawsheen coach Chuck Baker said. "He's got great hands and he's got a great imagination with the puck. I don't know how he squeezed that in, but it squeezed in so we will take it."

Thursday night was one of those games where the cliché that "it's a shame somebody had to lose" really held true, as both teams battled from the opening puck drop with to the final whistle of the overtime period. The game featured everything you would want in a

tournament game, from great goals, to great saves to tempers flaring and then finally a dramatic finish. Baker and his players were obviously ecstatic to get the win, but for Baker, just being back on the ice for a post season game was very rewarding as well.

"It's awesome to have the tournament back, and then on top of it, basically having the last two years without it, it was definitely a different feel," Baker said. "The kids were probably a little more nervous than usual, but they were really excited. The student body was excited, and they were great tonight. They have been great all season long, but tonight was even more special than that. It was great to be back playing some tournament hockey."

In addition to Darcey's two goals, the Rams also got individual tallies from sophomore forward Kyle Gray of Wilmington, as well freshman forward Dylan Higson and sophomore forward Liam Milne of Wilmington. Shawsheen also got a pair of assists from Tom Sampson as well as two each from Cullity and Brady Darcey. Junior goalie Aiden MacLeod made 17 saves in net to pick up the win.

The Rams trailed 2-1 at the end of two periods, setting up a wild final 15 minutes of regulation and overtime, with two lead changes in the third period alone. The Rams tied it up early in the final frame when Higson scored with 12:12 left in the game, barely keeping the puck in at the blue line before going into the Vikings zone on a 1-on-2 and splitting the Viking defenders and then beating the goalie low to the stick side.

Shortly thereafter, Milne would give the Rams the lead. After a faceoff win in the Shawsheen end by Higson, Milne, pounced on the loose puck and raced up the left side of the ice, beating Vikings goalie Brayden Bates with a shot from the left faceoff circle that eluded the eighth grade netminder low to the glove side.

West/East Bridgewater was not deterred, however, as they came right back to take the lead with two goals in a nine second span. Sophomore defenseman Sam Hall got things started with his second goal of the game with exactly eight minutes left in the game. Moments later, off the ensuing faceoff, junior forward Brett Peterson

scored at the 7:51 mark to give the Vikings the lead.

If the quick strike offense of the Vikings had discouraged the Rams, you never would have known it. In fact, the Rams seemed to respond with some of their best hockey of the night, controlling play for most of the rest of regulation. Both Gray and junior forward Nick Calouro of Tewksbury each had chances in the final five minutes to tie the game, but Bates was equal to the task until Darcey finally tied things up with 1:47 left.

Sampson made a great play to set up the game tying goal, keeping the puck in the zone and skating into the slot, putting a tough backhand shot on net. Bates would make the save, but Darcey was there to pounce on the rebound and tuck the puck in low to the glove side to knot things up at 4-4.

With the win, the No. 12 Rams (15-5-1) advanced to the round of 16, where they squared off against No. 5 Winthrop on Wednesday night at Larsen Rink. Results of the game were not known as of the Town Crier's press time, but Baker knew his team would need to be even better against Winthrop than they were against West/East Bridgewater.

"I don't think we played particularly well in the second period. I told them we have to put three periods together in the tournament. We have kind of had that problem all season where we had one period where we didn't play well and we did it again tonight," Baker said. "I think they like to keep it interesting. This is our third OT win of the season, so we seem to have the luck of that, but that won't last as we start to face the iron of the tournament."

At the same time, however, Baker was very proud of how his team of mostly inexperienced players responded to their first taste of post season play.

"We weathered the storm in the second period, and we came back gritty and I told them, that is how we are going to have to win," Baker said. "We are so young still, and a little inexperienced. These kids had never played in a state tournament game. We don't have many kids that have had any state tournament experience in that room, so they are enjoying this and we will move on to next week, and see what happens."



Shawsheen Tech forward Liam Milne chases down a loose puck during last Thursday's exciting overtime win over West/East Bridgewater in the first round of the Division 4 state hockey tournament. (photo by JoeBrownphotos.com).

## Sophomore grateful for tournament experience

# Milne scores big goal, eyes second round match-up

By MIKE IPPOLITO  
Sports Correspondent

sports@yourtowncrier.com  
BILLERICA - Last season as a freshman, Liam Milne had helped the Shawsheen Tech Boys Hockey team to a very successful season, as the Rams won the Commonwealth Athletic Conference title in the COVID-19 shortened season. He and the Rams however, like every other team in the state, did not get to compete in the post season, as the state tournament was canceled due to the pandemic.

But this season was different, as the Rams opened post season play last Thursday night at the Hallenborg Pavilion against West/East Bridgewater in the first round of the Division 4 State Tournament, and the Wilmington native made the most of his opportunity scoring a big third period goal for the Rams to help lead them to a dramatic 5-4 overtime victory.

Milne was thrilled to take to the Hallenborg ice for a tournament game in

front of a raucous crowd, and was even more thrilled to help his team to a victory with his first ever post season goal.

"Seeing all those fans was incredible. I was on varsity my freshman year, but the season got cut short, and we didn't have any playoffs, so to have it this year and seeing all those fans was awesome," Milne said. "And then to score in front of them was even better."

Milne's goal was a huge one at the time for the Rams, who had entered the third period trailing West/East Bridgewater 2-1. An early third period goal by Milne's linemate Dylan Higson had drawn the Rams even at 2-2, but Shawsheen was looking for more. And that was exactly what Milne gave them.

After a faceoff win in the Shawsheen end by Higson, Milne pounced on the loose puck and raced up the left side of the ice, streaking past a Vikings defender who had tried to break up the play, and beating goalie Brayden Bates with a shot from the left faceoff circle that eluded the eighth grade netminder low to the glove side with 9:34 left in the game to give the Rams a 3-2 lead. His goal occurred right in front of the Shawsheen student section and set off an eruption in the crowd, as well as on the ice with his teammates.

"I was shocked that the puck went in. I had to rub my eyes to make sure it actually went in, but when I saw all the fans going crazy, I knew that it had," Milne said. "That was my first playoff goal, and there is nothing like that."

Shawsheen coach Chuck Baker was glad to see Milne rewarded with a playoff goal, as once again this season, the sophomore has played a huge role in the Rams success.

"Liam is a hard working forward on and off the ice," Baker said. "He brings hard work, physical play and a great shot. Liam is a great team guy, and we are excited to have him around for another two years."

The Rams job wasn't

done after Milne's goal, however, as West/East Bridgewater came back shortly thereafter to score a pair of goals in a nine second span to take the lead with 7:51 left in the game. Shawsheen didn't panic however. Despite having a young roster filled with players lacking playoff experience, they held firm and then came back to win on a pair of goals by star sophomore Chase Darcey, the first coming with 1:47 left in regulation, and the second coming 1:07 into overtime.

"A lot of our top lines are freshman and sophomores and some juniors, so really a lot of us had no experience coming into it," Milne said. "But it shows you what kind of heart we have there, battling back at the end."

While the Rams don't have a lot of experienced players on their team, Milne credited the few they do have, like senior captains Ryan Dusablon and Aydan Churchill, both of Wilmington, along with fellow senior captain Tom Sampson, among others, for helping the team stay focused despite the change in momentum.

"A lot of our players on the bench, especially our senior players, this could have been their last game, so seeing the heart that we had and just battling back to tie the game and eventually win it in overtime was just crazy," Milne said. "We wanted to get it done for them."

It only gets harder from here of course for the No. 12 seeded Rams, who moved on to face No. 5 Winthrop in the round of 16 Wednesday night. Milne knew it would not be easy for the Rams to pull the upset on the road, but he also felt confident that his team would be well prepared to do just that.

"I think we just have to stay positive, and look at it as just another game. We can't look at the seedings," Milne said. "I think Winthrop is number five, but we can't look at that. We just have to approach them like any other team in another round. That's just how we have to go into it."



Shawsheen Tech's Dylan Higson looks to stuff one home against W/E Bridgewater goalie Brayden Bates during last Thursday's state tournament win played at the Hallenborg Arena in Billerica. (photo by JoeBrownphotos.com).



## Sophomore grateful for tournament experience: Milne scores big goal, eyes second round match-up

By MIKE IPPOLITO Sports Correspondent | Mar 12, 2022



Shawsheen Tech forward Liam Milne chases down a loose puck during last Thursday's exciting overtime win over West/East Bridgewater in the first round of the Division 4 state hockey tournament. (photo by JoeBrownphotos.com)

BILLERICA – Last season as a freshman, Liam Milne had helped the Shawsheen Tech Boys Hockey team to a very successful season, as the Rams won the Commonwealth Athletic Conference title in the COVID-19 shortened season. He and the Rams however, like every other team in the state, did not get to compete in the post season, as the state tournament was canceled due to the pandemic.

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Ippolito, M. (2022, March 12). Sophomore grateful for tournament experience: Milne scores big goal, eyes second round match-up. Homenewshere.com. Retrieved March 12, 2022, from [http://homenewshere.com/tewksbury\\_town\\_crier/sports/article\\_75fb77e4-a008-11ec-b529-3b6c31cc5682.html](http://homenewshere.com/tewksbury_town_crier/sports/article_75fb77e4-a008-11ec-b529-3b6c31cc5682.html)

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# Boys Hoop team's successful season comes to an end

By MIKE IPPOLITO  
Sports Correspondent

sports@yourtowncrier.com

DOVER - After a season filled with countless great moments for the Shawsheen Tech Boys Basketball team, the Rams saw their season come to an end last Friday night in somewhat disappointing fashion with a 71-56 loss to Dover Sherborn in the first round of the MIAA Division 3 State Tournament.

Disappointing in terms of results anyway, but not disappointing in effort, as the No. 25 Rams gave the No. 8 Raiders all they had to give, but it simply wasn't enough against a Raiders roster loaded with talent. Dover Sherborn has a fine basketball tradition, including winning the Division 3 state championship back in 2019. And while most of the players from that team have moved on, many outstanding players have replaced them, and they were simply too much for the Rams to handle.

"It's tough, because we didn't get a chance to see them in person, and film really doesn't do a good job of showing size and length and speed, and they had plenty of that," Shawsheen coach Joe Gore said. "We played hard, which I was very proud of, but it was just not our night. We knew if we didn't have one of our better shooting nights, we would have a tough time and unfortunately that was the case."

The Rams did play the Raiders to a 10-10 stalemate at the end of one quarter, but a second quarter blitz by D-S put Shawsheen in a 34-22 hole at the break, and at the end of three quarters they trailed 51-30 on their way to the 15-point defeat.

Shawsheen got a team high 15 points from junior guard and captain Mavrick Bourdeau, and 14 from senior captain Jeremy Perez of Tewksbury in the final game of his brilliant career, but in reality, the entire team struggled with their offense throughout the game, due mainly to the Raiders great defense.

"We fought very hard, but even with that, our ten points in the first half



Shawsheen Tech's Mavrick Bourdeau drives to the basket during the Rams' first round state tournament win over Madison Park held last week. (photo by Bob DeChiara).

were very tough to come by, and we knew we needed our defense to play as well as it had all season," Gore said. "Part of the problem is that with their length and speed, it was very hard to get our offense going."

"When we played Blackstone (in the vocational championship game), they had that length, but not the speed and athleticism that Dover Sherborn had. We just could not get anything going in the paint. We couldn't take the ball to the hoop."

Dover Sherborn was led by the three headed scoring attack of Luke Rinaldi (21), Zach Spellman (16), and Brian Olson (10), putting the game away with a pair of big scoring runs, the first being a 12-2 run to start the second quarter to make the score 22-12 with just over four minutes left in the half.

With the Rams trailing by 12 at the half, they still had a chance to get back in the game, but a 15-3 run to start the third quarter by the Raiders made the score 49-25 with three minutes left in the frame and for all intents and purposes put the game away.

While the season ended



Jeremy Perez handles the ball while trying to get past a Madison Park player during last week's first round state tournament win. (photo by Bob DeChiara).

in disappointment for the Rams, it could not diminish what they accomplished this season, including a 17-7 overall record (11-1 in the CAC), giving them their first outright league title since 2008. They also captured their first State Vocational title since 2008 with a win over Blackstone Valley, as well as a state tournament victory over Madison Park in the preliminary round last week.

"We set high standards for ourselves this season, and give our players all the credit. We set our goals for this group and they went out and achieved them," Gore said. "We never really had a point in the season where these guys were pointing fingers at each other or anything, and that is a credit to our leadership."

That leadership was largely a result of the efforts of the Rams five seniors, particularly captains Jeremy Perez, Jeff Kelly, and Austin Quattrocchi, along with Nic Noe, Cam Pontes and Tim Sweeney.

"Those seniors changed our culture and this is the standard we want to set with our program," Gore said. "They have set a standard for our future and our younger guys will try to live up to that."

While the seniors will certainly be very hard to replace, the Rams do return what could be a strong nucleus next season, with leading scorer Bourdeau leading the way, along with sophomore guard Ryan Copson and senior center Aiden MacCleod, both of Wilmington. That trio, along with freshman Franck Moron, all saw significant minutes this season and Gore is hoping they will benefit from that experience.

"We are excited to see what we can do next season," Gore said. "If these players put in the work this off season, in the weight room and in the gym, we have very good chance of achieving similar goals next season. It is a great group of kids and they realize the commitment that we need if we want to be successful."

# WICKEDLOCAL.com

## BILLERICA MINUTEMAN

# Shawsheen school committee votes for new superintendent

Joy M. Hosford WickedLocal

Published 6:15 p.m. ET March 8, 2022

Two years after the first search for Shawsheen Valley Regional Vocational Technical superintendent resulted in the hiring of current Superintendent/Director Dr. Brad Jackson, School Committee members voted 8-2 to start the hiring process for the district's newest leader.

The decision to hire Director of Career and Technical Education at Keefe Regional Technical School Anthony McIntosh came two years after Jackson was hired with the caveat his contract would be shorter than most as he headed towards retirement.

"We had two great candidates and I am looking forward to completing the process," Jackson said.



Shawsheen Valley Technical High School Superintendent-Director  
Brad Jackson *Wicked Local File Photo*

Committee Chairperson Patricia W. Meuse of Tewksbury was one of the eight who voted in favor of McIntosh during the Thursday, March 3, meeting.

Contract negotiations will be held during the hiring subcommittee's executive session on Monday, March 21, and the final announcement will be made the following day.

"I am looking forward to working with Tony McIntosh," said Committee Treasurer Taryn Gillis of Billerica, who also voted for McIntosh. "I think he will contribute to the great culture we have at Shawsheen and help us continue to be the great school that we are."



Keefe Tech Vocational Director Tony McIntosh [Courtesy Photo]

She said of nine original applicants the pool was whittled down to two, McIntosh and Brad Morgan, superintendent for North Middlesex Regional School District.

“Both candidates were excellent,” Meuse said. “It was a very good process.”

She added her personal reason for choosing McIntosh, an Athol native, and resident, was, in part that he is a graduate of a vocational school, and has worked his way up from teaching, to administration.

“I am looking forward to working in a distinguished district like Shawsheen,” said McIntosh who will receive guidance from Jackson in the weeks prior to July 1, when he will officially take on the position.

# WILMINGTON APPLE

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March 5, 2022 / by ROBERT HAYES

## Shawsheen Tech To Reopen Rams Head Dining Room On March 9; Enjoy 3-Course Meals Prepared By Students

BILLERICA, MA — The Culinary Arts/Hospitality Management program at Shawsheen Valley Technical High School invites the public to its Grand Re-Opening luncheon on Wednesday March 9, 2022. Lunch will be offered in the student-run Rams Head Dining Room and will offer two seat times, 11:30 am and 12:00 pm. Guests will enjoy a 3-course meal consisting of a choice of soup or salad, an entrée, and a dessert, for \$9.00.

To make a reservation, please call 978-671-3668; reservations are required. Students in the Culinary Arts/Hospitality Management program look forward to re-opening the dining room to the public, and expect to serve a full house.

“The dining room has been closed for two years because of COVID, and our students and staff are very excited to have it open again,” said lead teacher Joe Williams.

“The scope of instruction for students in this program is vast, as are the skills needed in industry,” added hospitality instructor Melissa Greene. “We teach students food preparation, food service management, dining room service, event planning, entrepreneurship and much more. The dining room helps pull many aspects of our curriculum together in real-time for our students.”

In addition to the dining room, Shawsheen has a student-run automotive shop, printing center, and salon open to the public. Guests are encouraged to visit the campus during the school day to utilize these services, as they provide authentic learning experiences for students.

For more information about the Rams Head Dining Room or any other student-run service at Shawsheen, please visit [www.ShawsheenTech.org](http://www.ShawsheenTech.org).

### About Shawsheen Valley Regional Vocational School District

Established in 1965, Shawsheen Valley Regional Vocational Technical School District (SVRVTS) is a student-centered public institution serving the five member towns of Billerica, Bedford, Burlington, Tewksbury, and Wilmington. Shawsheen Valley Technical High School serves more than 1,300 students in grades 9-12 and is “Dedicated to Excellence in Education”, integrating academics with more than 20-vocational-technical career pathways.

Shawsheen is located in Billerica, MA on a sprawling 100-acre campus. The school building features state-of-the-art facilities and athletic fields, twenty-four varsity sports, and dozens of extra-curricular clubs and activities. All of Shawsheen’s faculty and staff are committed to the mission “to provide a positive learning experience in a safe educational environment that encourages all students to reach their full potential, emphasizes the value of a strong work ethic, and prepares them for adult life in a competitive world.”

Shawsheen Valley Regional Vocational Technical School District also provides high-quality educational programming for youths and adults through Adult Education, Afterschool Exploratory Programs, Community Events, and Summer Camps and Enrichment Programs. Shawsheen is consistently working to increase its rich and varied programming opportunities for the community, which supports its mission that education is a lifelong, continuous process with many paths to living a successful and fulfilling life.



NEWS > EDUCATION

## Tony McIntosh selected as next Shawsheen Tech superintendent



Tony McIntosh, Keefe Regional Technical School

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By **TREA LAVERY** | [tlavery@lowellsun.com](mailto:tlavery@lowellsun.com)  
March 14, 2022 at 6:19 p.m.

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**BILLERICA** — Tony McIntosh has been selected as the next superintendent-director of Shawsheen Valley Technical High School.

Contingent upon a successful contract negotiation, McIntosh will succeed current Superintendent-Director Brad Jackson, who plans to retire at the end of June. McIntosh received a vote of 8-2 at a meeting of the Shawsheen Tech School Committee Thursday night immediately following his interview with the committee.

"I'm not drawn to the superintendent-director role for (the) title. I don't want to be a social media celebrity or star," McIntosh said in his interview. "I'm a hardworking, dedicated vocational educator that wants to work with a strong team of education professionals with the focus on improving outcomes at a regional vocational school."

McIntosh currently serves as the director of career and technical education at Keefe Regional Technical School in Framingham. He previously served as the construction academy supervisor at Greater Lawrence Technical Institute after teaching welding and metal fabrication at Franklin County Technical School in Turners Falls, his alma mater.

He said his experience in many different roles in the field of technical education made him the perfect candidate for the role.

Lavery, T. (2022, March 4). Tony McIntosh selected as Next Shawsheen Tech superintendent. Lowell Sun. Retrieved March 4, 2022, from <https://www.lowellsun.com/2022/03/04/tony-mcintosh-selected-as-next-Shawsheen-tech-superintendent/>



"I've taken on numerous stakeholders during my lifelong journey through technical education, being a student, being a teacher, being a union officer, being a parent, being a professional advocate, community member and also an administrator," he said. "You'd be hard-pressed to find another candidate that brings the same combination of education and experience to this role that I do."

McIntosh was selected over fellow finalist Brad Morgan, the current superintendent of North Middlesex Regional School District and former principal of Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical High School.

Members of the School Committee praised both candidates on their credentials, with some saying they had gone back and forth on which finalist they would support. Some expressed concern over McIntosh's admitted lack of experience in the financial side of running the district, including setting the annual operating budget.

"The financial piece concerns me. That's a huge part of the school and I think you need a background in that," said committee member Kent Moffatt, who voted against McIntosh's appointment. "I think we need somebody now with superintendent experience."

Vice Chair Ronald Fusco also voted against McIntosh's appointment, but did not specify a reason.

Those who supported McIntosh said they could overlook his lack of experience, either because of the strength of other portions of his resume or because he had demonstrated a willingness to learn. He said in his interview that in addition to the 300 hours of mentoring he went through to receive his superintendent license, he has on multiple occasions sought out further education in order to improve his performance, including recently taking courses toward a certificate in school leadership and management at Harvard Business School.

"The two superintendents I have worked under that did the best job, one was a teacher before he walked in the door and the other was a special education director," said Chair Patricia Meuse. "I don't have a problem with his inexperience. He's a learner. He constantly is going out and learning things."

McIntosh said his top priorities in the first days of his role will be to familiarize himself and meet with the key members of the school community; to rework the school schedule to allow for more specialized instruction and help for special needs students, something that teachers have said is an issue at Shawsheen Tech; and to meet with the town managers, select boards and financial boards of the sending communities whose students attend the school.

He stressed as well that he did not see the position as a stepping stone to another, but instead intended to remain in the role for the remaining 10 to 15 years of his career.

"I want to be that person that people look at and say, 'Here's a positive role model,'" he said. "If you're a vocational school student and you believe you may one day want to be in that role, here's the guy that made it happen. Here's the guy that did it."

# Huge week for Rams Boys Hoop Team

Shawsheen takes State Voc Title; Also defeats Madison Park in tournament opener

## Overcome early deficit to take Voc Crown

By MIKE IPPOLITO  
Sports Correspondent

sports@yourtowncrier.com  
BILLERICA - Trailing 16-4 at the end of the first quarter of their Large School State Vocational championship game was certainly not the game plan that head coach Joe Gore and his coaching staff had drawn up for the Shawsheen Tech Boys Basketball team when they squared off against Blackstone Valley Tech on Sunday night at Mark Donovan Gymnasium.

But game plan or not, that is exactly where the Rams found themselves against the Colonial Athletic League champions after the first eight minutes of play. Facing a center who stood 6'8 and guards who had shown not only the ability to knock down three point shots, but also to take the ball the length of the court for a dunk shot, things did not look promising for the Rams.

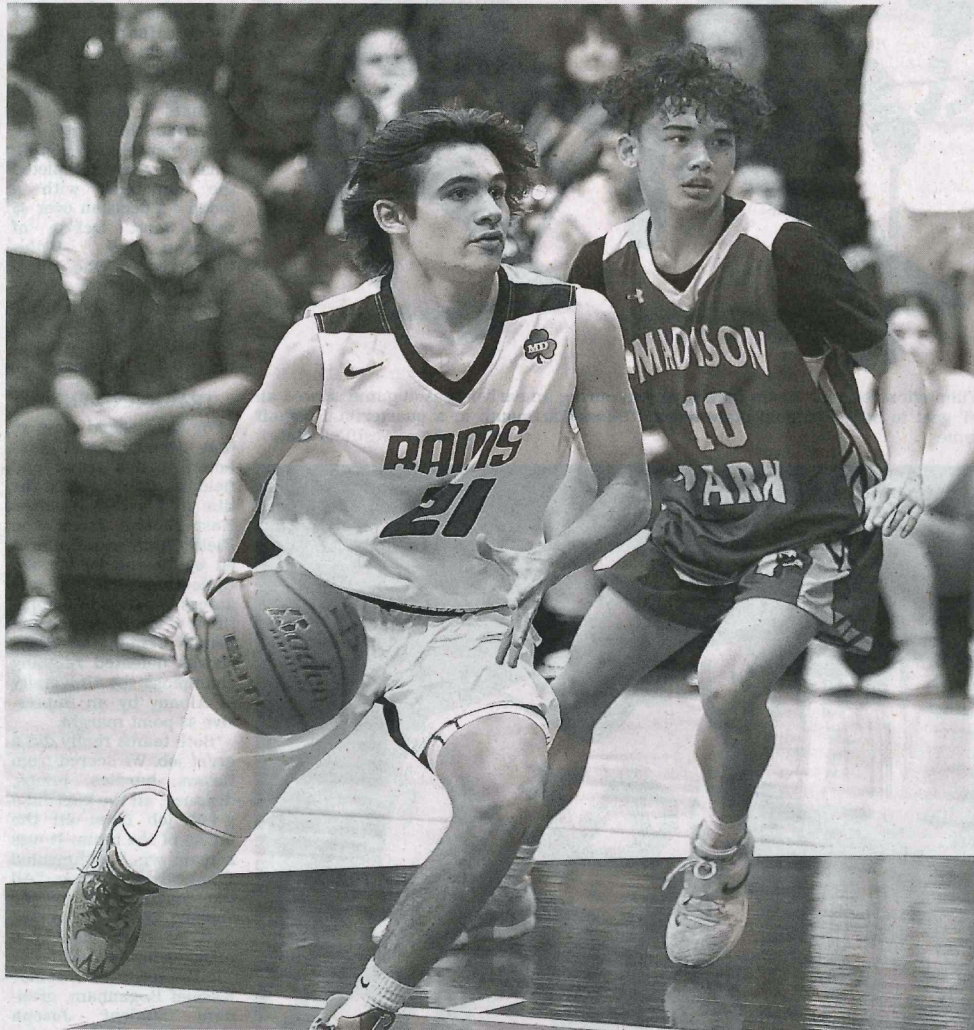
But one thing that was definitely in the Rams game plan was to not panic. And despite their somewhat dire situation they most certainly did not, cutting the Beavers lead to five by halftime before eventually winning going away by a score of 73-58 to win their first state vocational title since the 2008 season.

"Hats off to Blackstone. They are a very good team. They are a very good team and they are very well coached. But you know what, we just never quit," Gore said. "We just told our guys to be patient, and that we are going to get our shots to fall."

"We shoot here every day. Really, it was just a matter of being patient and relying on our leadership. We have some really good captains and senior leadership that helped get us through that initial drought."

The Rams were led by a tremendous performance from junior guard and captain Mavrick Bourdeau, who had a game high 36 points, including 20 in the third quarter alone, while senior guard and captain Jeff Kelly had 15 points.

After that initial drought, the Rams outscored the Beavers by 27 points, 69-42 the rest of the way. But this was not



Ryan Copson drives to the net for the Shawsheen Tech Boys Hoop team in their state tournament win over Madison Park held Tuesday night at the Donovan Gymnasium. (photo by Bob DeChiara).

quite the blowout that the final score would indicate. Shawsheen still trailed 29-24 at the half, and did not take their first lead until midway through the third quarter. But after that, it was all Shawsheen.

Gore was thrilled with the way his team responded to adversity and with the way they stepped up in a big game.

"That's what you hope for. Every team hopes that at the end of the season that you are playing impactful and important playoff type games," Gore said. "You have to earn those opportunities. We preached that all year long. You earn those kinds of opportunities in practice, and we were happy we were able to host on our home court in front of our fans. It was just a ton of fun and I couldn't be any prouder of our team."

Facing that 16-point deficit entering the second quarter, the Rams actually went down 18-4



The 2021-'22 State Voc Boys Basketball Champion Shawsheen Tech Boys Basketball team. (courtesy photo).

when Blackstone got an early basket, but then they began to claw their way back into the game. It was hardly noticeable at first, as they scored six straight points to cut the lead to 18-10 when junior center Aiden Macleod of Wilmington scored with 6:42 left in the half.

Blackstone once again extended their lead to 12

points at 26-14 with five minutes left in the half, but Shawsheen responded with a 7-0 run capped off by a three-pointer from the corner by freshman Franck Moron with 3:45 left in the half to make the score 26-21. Another three-pointer by Moron with 12 seconds left in the half sent the teams to their locker rooms with

Shawsheen trailing by only five point at 29-24.

The third quarter was a tremendous battle for most of the way, with Blackstone at first extending their lead to seven points at 36-29 before Bourdeau scored eight straight points of his own to give the Rams their first lead of the when he nailed a short jumper

from the free throw line to make the score 37-36 with 4:22 left in the quarter.

The teams continued to trade baskets throughout the next few minutes, with Shawsheen holding a slim 48-46 lead after a Blackstone basket with 1:15 left. But the Rams scored the final seven points of the quarter behind Kelly and Bourdeau to give themselves a comfortable 55-46 lead heading into the fourth quarter.

Bourdeau had 20 points in the quarter, continuing a run of great play down the stretch for the Rams.

"I just can't say enough good things about him. He is one of the hardest working athletes in our school, so it is no surprise what he can do," Gore said. "The kid is just so determined and confident and he is a leader. And when he plays like that, he makes everyone around him better. He is just a fun player to watch."

Another fun player to watch for the Rams on Sunday night was senior captain Austin Quattrocchi, who was handed the extremely difficult task of defending Blackstone's outstanding 6'8 center Ryan Flauto. Not only did Quattrocchi limit Flauto to 12 points on the night, he scored eight of his own, frustrating his much bigger opponent throughout the game.

"This was Austin's best game of the season. He was competing against a kid who had eight inches

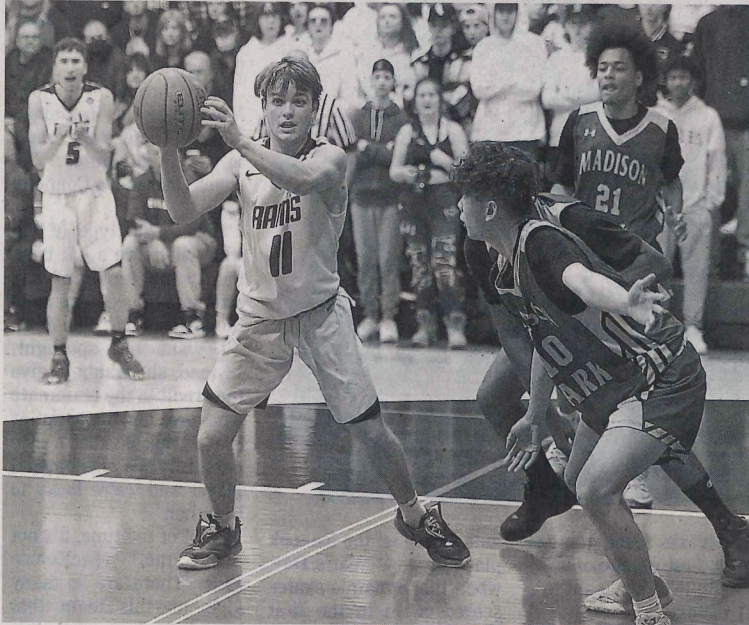
on him, but just the toughness and resilience that Austin has is incredible," Gore said. "We are so proud of him. He is such a tough kid and he works so hard, so we are happy to see him play the way he did today."

# Bourdeau has another big game as Rams cruise past MP

By **MIKE IPPOLITO**  
Sports Correspondent

sports@yourtowncrier.com  
**BILLERICA** - Coming off an emotional win over Blackstone Valley Tech just two nights earlier in the State Vocational Championship game, it might have been natural for the Shawsheen Tech Boys Basketball team to have a bit of a letdown in their MIAA Division 3 preliminary round matchup with Madison Park on Tuesday night at Mark Donovan Gymnasium.

But as it turned out, it was just the opposite for the 25th seeded Rams, who played one of their best games of the season on their way to a 72-49 win over No. 40 Madison Park. As good as the Rams (17-6) have been all season, one of their weaknesses has been getting off to slow starts in several of their games. That was certainly not the case on Tuesday night, as Shawsheen raced out to a 23-8 lead after the first quarter and extended their cushion to 44-23 at the half, before coasting to victory in the second



Jeff Kelly catches a pass during Tuesday night's win over Madison Park.  
(photo by Bob DeChiara).

half.

"We did not know much about Madison Park coming into the game, so we just wanted to get off to a fast start and play team first basketball and we did that right from the start," Shawsheen coach Joe

Gore said. "I thought our ball movement was as good as it has been all season and that certainly helped us."

Junior captain Mavrck Bourdeau had 26 points to once again lead the Rams in scoring, but he was not

alone, as senior Cam Pontes had a fine all-around game with 13 points and 12 rebounds, while senior captains Jeremy Perez of Tewksbury and Jeff Kelly

each had ten points. "We are at our best when

our scoring is spread out the way it was tonight", Gore said. "We always tell our guys that if you aren't having a good night scoring, you can contribute in other ways, whether it is rebounding or defense, but when we are getting the balanced scoring like we did tonight, that is exactly what we are looking for."

In addition to their balanced scoring, another thing that helped the Rams on Tuesday night was playing in front of their home crowd at Mark Donovan Gymnasium. The gym was packed to the gills with Rams supporters, providing a great atmosphere for a high school tournament game.

"It was our best crowd all year. Our fans really showed out tonight and the kids just feed off that energy," Gore said. "One of the best things about this team is the energy they play with, and when they can feed off the crowd like they did tonight, it just makes them even better. We are a tough team to beat when we are clicking on all

cylinders.

The Rams will definitely need to be clicking on Friday night when they hit the road for their first round game against No.8 Dover Sherborn at 7:00 pm. The Raiders, who finished second in the Tri-Valley League Small School Division with a 16-4 overall record (12-4 in TVL) will certainly give the Rams their toughest challenge of the season.

"They are a very good team. They play in a very tough league and they have two Tri-Valley All-Stars on their team," Gore said. "We are going to have to play our best game of the season. They are the number eight seed, and with home court you know they are going to want to do the same thing that we did tonight in front of their fans."

"But if we play our best, I am confident we can play with anybody. We need to have two good days of practice and then just go down there and give it our best."

# Rams send five to All-States and two come away with championship titles

By MIKE IPPOLITO  
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FITCHBURG - Every week of the wrestling post season, the tournaments get bigger and bigger, and the competition gets tougher and tougher. But regardless of what they have been up against, the Shawsheen Tech Wrestling team has been the model of consistency this post season.

Three weeks ago, the Rams had four wrestlers advance from the Division 1 North Sectional Tournament to the MIAA Division 1 State Tournament. Two weeks ago, those same four wrestlers all finished in the top six of their weight class to advance to the MIAA All-State Tournament.

This past weekend, at the All-State Tournament at Game On in Fitchburg, the Rams continued their impressive march through the post season, as once again all four of their wrestlers placed high enough in their weight class to advance to the All-New England Tournament, which will be held this Friday and Saturday in Providence, Rhode Island.

The Rams had one champion on the weekend, freshman sensation Sid Tildsley at 132 pounds, as well as a fifth, sixth and seventh place finisher, finishing with 67 points as a team, placing them ninth in the 75-team field. At

"To bring four to both the Division One Tournament and the All-States and to have them all advance is pretty impressive," Shawsheen coach Doug Pratt said. "It's also pretty impressive to finish in ninth place at All-States. To be in the top ten at that meet with all of those teams, especially with having such a young team is pretty good."

Along with Tildsley's first place finish, the Rams also got a fifth place finish from fellow

freshman Brayton Carbone at 106 pounds, while senior Lucien Tremblay earned a sixth place finish at 120 pounds and sophomore Caleb Caceres was seventh at 138 pounds.

Tildsley's championship run at 132 pounds kept him undefeated on the season, as he won his first two matches by pin, defeating Jack Kelleher of Hingham in 1:51 in the round of 16 before taking out Nick Mandracchia of Essex Tech/Masco in the quarterfinals in 3:30. Tildsley would go on to win a 4-1 decision over Ben Davoli of Haverhill in the semi-finals, setting up an epic finals showdown with last year's defending state champion Adam Schaeublin of St. John's Prep.

The two had met four previous times this season, with Tildsley winning all four matches, including a 6-4 decision in last week's Division 1 Tournament. It took until triple overtime this time around, but once again Tildsley prevailed, breaking a 5-5-tie with a win in the third extra session, holding his opponent down for the 30-second ultimate tie breaker.

"The St. John's Prep kid is just a great kid, and it is tough on him as a senior to keep getting beat by Sid as a freshman," Pratt said. "Sid has his number a little bit, but he keeps getting closer. This time Sid just outlasted him. He held him down in the sudden victory period and after seven or eight minutes of wrestling, that is hard to do. That's where being in great shape comes in."

Carbone's excellent conditioning certainly helped him in his earning his fifth place finish. After losing in the quarterfinals to Sid's younger brother James Tildsley of Billerica, Carbone bounced back to win three of his next four matches to take fifth place with a win over Cale Wood of Haverhill in his final match of the day

to secure that fifth place finish. The younger Tildsley would go on to advance all the way to the finals before finally being eliminated.

"It was tough for him to lose to Tildsley, because that is his best friend, but we talked before the tournament about how win, lose or draw in that match, you have to bounce right back," Pratt said. "And he did a great job of staying mentally strong and bouncing back nicely."

Caceres battled his way to a 3-2 record over the two day tournament, facing some very tough competition along the way. After defeating Zach Robinson of Holliston, who had finished third in the Division 1 state meet, Caceres lost to eventual champion Ty Stewart of Tyngsboro/Dracut in the quarterfinals. He would bounce back, however, with a 4-3 decision over Division 1 South champion Timothy O'Leary of Franklin in the consolation round as well as a win in his seventh place match over Brendan Dalton of Salem.

"Caleb is another guy, who even though he is a sophomore, this is really his first year of wrestling because he played lacrosse last year," Pratt said. "He went a full year without even being on the mat, so to place at the All-State meet is pretty impressive. What a great two days it was for him. And then he stepped up big time in the seventh place match. We told him going in, you have to give it all you've got if you want to get to New England's and he stepped up and got it done."

Tremblay went 3-3 on his way to his sixth place finish at 120 pounds. As a sixth place finisher in the state meet, he had the misfortune of running into Division 3 state champion Jack Callahan of Tewksbury in the first round, where he suffered a loss by pin at the 5:46

mark.

He bounced back however, to win three straight matches after that, including a sudden victory 9-7 win over Dylan Kadish of Newton South as well as a win over Eilas Hajadi of Saint John's Prep in the consolation bracket by a score of 4-3. Unfortunately for Tremblay waiting for him in the consolation semifinals was once again Callahan, who this time pinned him in 55 seconds. Tremblay would also lose in his fifth place match, having to settle for a sixth place finish, but given where he started the tournament, that was an outstanding finish.

"Lucien is a pretty resilient, tough kid," Pratt said. "He was down 3-2 late to the St. John's Prep kid, but he took a shot and got the points and got the win. And he had lost to the Kadish kid the week before, but this time he came back to beat him."

Pratt knows it will be tough to have all four wrestlers place once again at this weekend's All-New England Tournament at the Providence Career and Technical Academy in Providence, Rhode Island, starting on Friday, but he is confident in their ability to compete with anyone.

"I think when they see their teammates doing so well, they want to match that," Pratt said. "It makes them step up their game a little bit. The four of them were all rooting for each other to make it to New England's and they all did it. They all made it. We will just go out there and compete the best we can this weekend."

## Tayla Tildsley wins Girls All-State Championship

Shawsheen's Tayla Tildsley added to the great weekend for the Tildsley family, taking home the Girls All-State title at 147 pounds.



Shawsheen Tech senior Taylor Tildsley, of Billerica and the daughter of former WHS star wrestler Brian Tildsley, was crowned an All-State Champion in the 147-pound division during this weekend's All-Girl Wrestling Tournament.

(courtesy photo.)

Tildsley started her weekend with a pin in just 15 seconds over Joanna Gary of Nashoba Tech in the quarterfinals before earning a pin over Sofia Vraka of Billerica in the semi-finals. Tildsley continued her dominance in the finals, pinning Ella Agudeio of Agawam in a time of 1:01 to take home not only the All-State title, but also the Outstanding Wrestler

award for the tournament.

"The Billerica girl gave her a little bit of fits, but other than that, she just really dominated," Pratt said. "She wrestled great. She had a great tournament. She wrestles against boys all year, so when she gets to the tournament and faces the girls, she is very well prepared. She did a great job."

# On the ice, Rams will host East Bridgewater in first round

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**BILLERICA** - Every year at state tournament time, high school teams are tasked with preparing for opponents that they are less familiar with than their regular season opponents. But in years past, at least in the early rounds of the sectional tournament the teams were at least somewhat familiar with each other, either through common opponents, or perhaps even having played each other at some point.

With the new statewide tournament format this season, that is definitely not the case for most teams. That is especially true in the case of the Shawsheen Tech Boys Hockey team as they prepare for the first round of the Division 4 state tournament where the No. 12 Rams (14-5-1) will host No. 21 East Bridgewater (10-8-3) at the Hallenborg Pavilion at 7:00 pm.

The Rams and the Vikings, of the South Shore League, have never faced each other in hockey, and there is not a common opponent to be found on their schedules, but Shawsheen Tech coach Chuck Baker is not concerned about the lack of familiarity with their opponent. He just wants to see his team play well.

"It definitely becomes a bit more challenging. I have been checking out

some film online here and there," Baker said. "The game is pretty simple though. Each player needs to know their role and needs to perform that role at the highest possible level at this point of the season. It is win or go home. We need to bring the 'A' game from this point forward and see how it plays out."

Two players that Baker knows he and his team must be aware of for East Bridgewater are junior forward Anthony Palete, who leads the Vikings with 21 goals and 16 assists for 37 points, while senior forward Sean Noonan has 12-11-23 totals on the season.

"I really do not know much about them beyond seeing the numbers they have put up," Baker said. "With that being said, I do not know too much about their opponents all season long and the talent level of them. We are going into the game pretty blind, but we will obviously be aware of when those two guys are on the ice."

For the Rams, while they must prepare for what East Bridgewater has to offer, they also must prepare themselves for playoff hockey. Many of their best young players, like Chase and Brady Darcey, Kyl Gray, Mike DeRose and several others have never played a high school tournament game, with last year's tournament having been



Aydan Churchill skates ahead with the puck during an earlier season Shawsheen Tech Boys Hockey game. (photo by Bob DeChiara).

canceled due to COVID. Nevertheless, Baker says his team will be prepared to step up the intensity come Thursday night.

"Most of our guys have never played in the tournament and a small number have participated in

one tournament, but I think we are in pretty good shape," Baker said. "At this point we are very healthy and are excited. We are looking forward to puck drop Thursday night. It should be a lot of fun."

Baker and the Rams are also looking forward to the home ice advantage they will have in playing in their home rink at the Hallenborg.

"It is awesome and playing on our typical home game night in our

home rink," Baker said. "The team is excited and the student body seems to be buzzing about attending the game on Thursday. It should be a great atmosphere."