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THE RECORDER

Serving the people of Franklin County and the North Quabbin Region

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ESTABLISHED 1792

WEDNESDAY
 December 2, 2015

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Greenfield police sergeant gets support

By ANITA FRITZ
 Recorder Staff

GREENFIELD — People were on Facebook Tuesday morning, voicing support for the Greenfield police sergeant who was recently criticized for hanging a Confederate flag in his garage.
 “Good for Dan; it’s his house,” said one man.
 Another man said he was going to hang one next.
 Others seemed to bemoan the constraints of political correctness.
 “Seriously? Get over it already.

If it’s not a flag, it’s how you say ‘happy holidays.’ If it’s not that, it’s a Starbucks cup,” said one woman.
 People asked what has happened to freedom of speech and expression, and many seemed angry that a person would be questioned about what he does, or hangs, in his own home or garage.
 Greenfield Police Sgt. Daniel McCarthy, who has been a full-time officer on the local department since 1992 and is his department’s liaison on the town’s Human Rights Commission, was criticized this week after a father, who happens to be McCarthy’s neighbor, posted dismay

about the flag, saying his 10-year-old black son expressed fear after seeing it hanging in his garage.
 Rod Hart’s post was followed by more than 70 posts voicing support for him, his husband Lindel Hart and their son Hugh. All but one of those posts chastised McCarthy for his insensitivity because of the flag’s racist connotations.
 McCarthy, who posted a brief reply to initial comments on Hart’s Facebook page, has not returned emails or calls to his home and police department extension Monday or Tuesday. He was not home when a

reporter dropped by his Woodard Road home Tuesday. His Facebook comment was “Hatred is not a piece of fabric; it resides in people’s hearts. As a Catholic man, I have no hatred in my heart and try to see the face of God in everyone.”
 Those who support McCarthy posted on The Recorder’s Facebook page Tuesday in response to a front page story Tuesday. Some said everyone, including the newspaper, is making too big a deal of the whole thing.
 “Excuse me. I don’t care if he’s a cop or not. That is his right to hang (the flag) inside his house,” was

another post.
 “If he is protecting his town and doing his duty, why do we care?”
 Many said they didn’t understand why hanging a Confederate flag on the interior wall of one’s garage would ever be an issue for anyone, except the people who live there.
 “I stand behind Sgt. Dan McCarthy 100 percent. This is so ridiculous!!!”
Flag down?
 Greenfield Police Chief Robert Haigh said he planned to meet with the Harts on Tuesday or today.
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HOLIDAY TRIMMING



Customers get their hair cut at Chet’s Barber Shop on Federal Street in Greenfield, Tuesday.

Recorder Staff/Matt Burkhardt

Real Pickles lauded by jobs board

By RICHIE DAVIS
 Recorder Staff

SOUTH DEERFIELD — Worker-owned Real Pickles Cooperative was lauded Friday as a “workforce development leader,” recognizing the 14-year-old maker of organic pickles and relishes for its recognition of its own employees and for its “public spirit, being visible and active in the community.”
 The award, one of several highlights of the 50-community Franklin-Hampshire Regional Employment Board annual meeting with area legislators, was the first ever to a worker-owned cooperative.

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The company, founded in 2001 by Dan Rosenberg and Adie Holland, supports local agriculture by buying local products and lets its workers after one year buy into the company and share its profits, said award presenter John Waite, executive director of the Franklin County Community Development Corp.
 Rosenberg, who is now general manager and one of eight owners of the 20-employee Greenfield company along with Holland, his wife, said among the motivations for going through the 18-month process of creating a worker-owned cooperative in 2013 was to ensure that its social mission — buying local produce and marketing just in the Northeast, while fostering workplace democracy and retaining staff — is written into the co-op’s principles.
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US sending new special ops force to fight Islamic State

By DEB RIECHMANN
 Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military will deploy a new special operations force to Iraq to step up the fight against Islamic State militants unleashing violence in Iraq and Syria and determined to hold territory they have seized across the Middle East, Defense Secretary Ash Carter told Congress on Tuesday.
 Carter, who testified alongside Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, faced skeptical lawmakers who argued that the U.S. needs to be more forceful in countering

the threat from IS, credited with attacks in Paris and Beirut and the downing of a Russian airliner.
 Carter told the House Armed Services Committee that over time, the special operations force will be able to conduct raids, free hostages, gather intelligence and capture IS leaders. Carter said that will improve intelligence and generate more targets for attacks.
 There currently are about 3,300 U.S. troops in Iraq, and President Barack Obama had previously announced he was sending fewer than 50 special operations forces to Syria. There has been a growing call from some Republicans

for more U.S. boots on the ground and a divide among war-weary Americans about the prospect of greater military involvement.
 Carter said the number in the new expeditionary force will be “larger” than 50. He said it will be a “standing” force, meaning it will be stationed in Iraq. He said it would focus on helping Iraq defend its borders and build the Iraqi security forces, but also would be in position to conduct unilateral operations into Syria.
 “This is an important capability because it takes advantage of what we’re good at,” Carter said. “We’re good at intelligence, we’re good at
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Greenfield, Massachusetts

Pickles: Company ensures social mission isn’t lost

From Page A1

Its worker-owners “get a chance to really guide the business and the vision for Real Pickles,” with ongoing training about finance, governance and social mission, and sharing in company profits, said Rosenberg. “It’s pretty exciting to see these staff members who are now owners really thinking big picture.”
 Tuesday’s event also helped call attention to the breadth of initiatives of and programs supported by the employment board, such as the Middle Skills Initiative, which helped 20-year former Gill-Montague teacher Catherine LaFleur find a new career as quality-control inspector at Kennametal, or the Disability Employment Initiative, through which Elizabeth Quilty could retrain after losing her supermarket jobs to train as a certified nurse assistant for a job at the Arbors.
 “When you lose your job, you need to change the whole perspective on who you are. You want to go back and do that job, and you can’t,” Quilty told the more than 75 people gathered at Chandler’s Restaurant breakfast meeting. “You have to change the whole perspective on what you’ll do with your life.”
 Board Executive Director Patricia Crosby pointed to the addition of about 70 jobs with Kennametal’s expansion in Greenfield over roughly the past year, along with more than 20 new jobs planned at VSS and about 20 additional jobs



Real Pickles in Greenfield is a worker-owned cooperative.

Contributed photo

at Bayer in South Deerfield, but also noted the phase-out of 200 jobs at Rodney Hunt Co. in Orange.
 But 12 employers have signed up for a state Rapid Response Team job fair planned for today in Orange, she said.
 “There will be people who’ll find employment immediately, there will be people who will decide they’re going to do

something totally different, maybe go into business for themselves. ... There will also be people who take advantage of the opportunity to up-skill or retrain in a different area. We’ve got a lot of people working on their behalf.”
 Yet Rep. Susannah Whipps Lee, R-Athol, who attended the meeting, voiced concern for the larger impact of the Rodney Hunt layoffs in her district,

already hurting economically.
 “We also have to keep in mind the ripple effect of this closing: the children whose parents might be in situations where they may have fear about feeding them, housing them, and those other ripple effects that come with large scale unemployment, like we’re experiencing in the area. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, and on behalf of

all the people in the area, for taking this seriously and coming out right away” to help the affected workers.
 Crosby called at Tuesday’s meeting for continued state funding for its “school-to-career,” jobs center and “workforce competitiveness” funding.
 Sen. Benjamin Downing, D-Pittsfield, who also attended, along with Rep. John Scibek, D-South Hadley, and as aides for other legislators, said the state’s workforce development services “aren’t just a safety net” but are there for many people around the state, and especially for workers “who fall on hard times briefly.”
 Downing added, “There’s so much more that we can do on the vocational education side. We have an honorable tradition of leaving education to local control, but we need to do a better job of blending the state-wide role ... and try to recognize where there are gaps in vocational education,” to provide access to training and skills for the future jobs that are needed in this economy.
 Fixing those vocational education gaps, he said, will be “a crucial part of any economic development bill” that the Legislature plans to produce in the coming year.
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Bill Cosby’s ex-attorney seeks to remove judge in defamation suit

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — Bill Cosby’s former attorney wants to bar a Los Angeles County Superior Court judge from hearing a case in which model Janice Dickinson says the lawyer defamed her when he defended Cosby against allegations of rape.
 On Monday, attorney Martin Singer filed court papers seeking to remove Judge Debra Katz Weintraub from the civil suit, which accuses both Singer and Cosby of defamation.
 Singer did not state a reason in court papers as to why the judge should be removed. As a named defendant in the lawsuit, he can exercise the right to disqualify the jurist. If the petition is granted, the presiding judge will assign someone else to the case.
 Cosby, who owns a home in Shelburne, Mass., and Singer had been scheduled to answer questions about the case in November, but the Los Angeles-based 2nd District Court of Appeal ordered those depositions delayed after Cosby challenged the ruling.