

Auto shop upgrade \$1M transforms Gloucester High classroom

GLOUCESTER — The two-year, nearly \$1 million transformation of a run-down auto tech classroom into a state-of-the-art learning center full of auto simulators, including those for EVs, plus other improvements to the Career and Vocational Technical Education shops at Gloucester High arrived with a lot moving parts.

Those involved in upgrading the small auto shop crammed into the new space for a ribbon cutting Nov. 19.

The brightly lit space features a host of modern training simulators that will allow students the ability to hone their skills and land jobs that pay well over \$100,000 a year.

Among the EV technology simulators auto tech students can work on are a hybrid vehicle trainer and an electric vehicle charging station trainer.

There were also simulators for traditional cars. The learning center now emulates today's dealerships, officials said.

"Well, we can actually show the students what's happening," longtime Auto Tech instructor Jack Porter said. "This simple board back here, it's all GM ... But we can see how things work. We change the temperature, it changes the gasoline flow, it changes the fuel mixture, it changes an oxygen sensor."

Some of the biggest problems with cars are oxygen sensors and evaporative



KIRK R. WILLIAMSON

Gloucester High School Vocational Auto Tech students, from left, Saldana Santiago, Elijah Brooks, and Drew Rodolosi look over some of the new tools they will be using to learn how to work on electric and hybrid vehicles.

emission control systems.

"We can't see it," Porter said of the instruments inside an engine. "But now we can."

Junior Drew Rodolosi, 17, showed a simulator of how a car works with a brake ignition, throttle, temperature and air-conditioning switches.

When asked if this equipment was better than the old, he said "100%. Before got this we had an old engine that he (the instructor) would basically point inside. We had half of a front of a car. And we didn't use

much of it, we did mostly book work."

Those various moving parts to upgrade the auto shop's classroom included Auto Tech instructors Porter and Branden "Bud" Maciel and school administrators Superintendent Ben Lummis, Assistant Superintendent Amy Pasquarello, former High School Principal again turned English teacher James Cook and his successor, Principal John Perella.

Money for upgrades were made possible by nearly \$950,000 in state and

federal grants from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center with Gloucester High receiving a Climate-Critical Workforce Training, Equipment and Infrastructure Grant to train students in automotive, advanced manufacturing and construction trades, according to Waslick.

The MassCEC grant paid for new computers in the Advanced Manufacturing shop. The auto, advanced manufacturing and carpentry shops got new compressors for their pneumatic tools, with this equipment,

with clean energy incentives, by Energy Source, LLC, Waslick said.

Gienapp Architects designed the space for the small auto shop. It received new tables, chairs, teacher desks, shades, lighting and an epoxy floor, with the construction overseen by Massey Construction Corp, Waslick said. An EV Repair Safety Cabinet was purchased through Collision Tools Direct containing personal protective equipment for hybrid and EV vehicle repair.

The learning center with training simulators supports both traditional and EV automotive training, and it was installed by TechEd Products, Waslick said. Servers will be connected to the simulators so that instructors will be able to program the devices with specific repair problems (think check engine light) for students to troubleshoot. The school's electrical students are installing internet connections to link the simulators to the instructors' computers. The school's carpentry students also helped out on the project.

Mayor Greg Verga, a supporter of the Career and Vocational Technical Education program, gave some remarks.

School Committee members Kathy Clancy, Melissa Teixeira Prince and Keith Mineo were also on hand.

Representatives of area car dealerships were there, too, including Cidalia Schwartz, the marketing director for

Lyon Waugh Auto Group, long been a supporter of the auto tech shop. Lyon-Waugh, working with the Gloucester Education Foundation, has supported the auto shop financially, with programming, materials, supplies, equipment and visits with technicians in their dealerships.

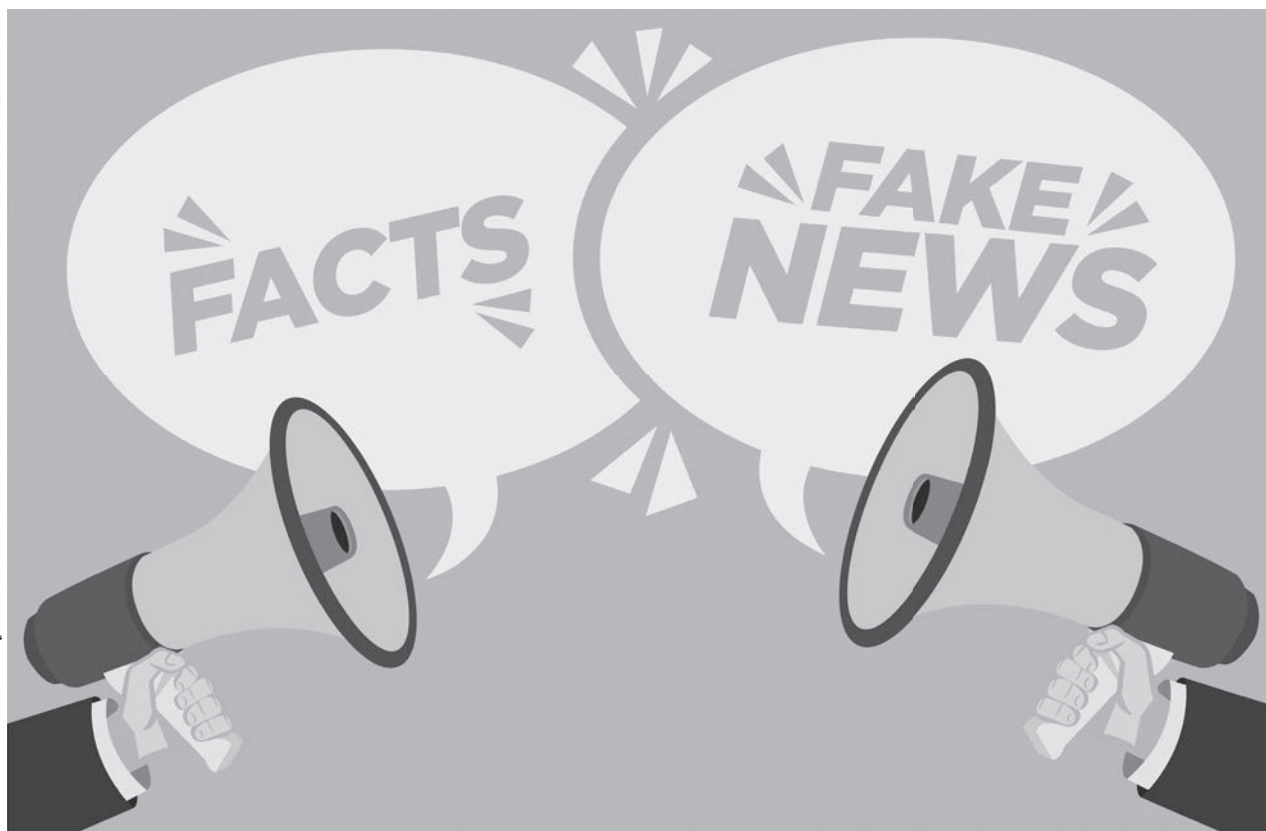
Other auto dealership representatives on hand were Service Manager Tim Sullivan of Sudbay Motors of Gloucester, Honda North Service Manager Steve Bouchie, and Gloucester resident and CEO of Kelley Automotive Group Brian Kelly.

Representatives of companies that worked on the project were on hand as were Ted Costa, an aide to state Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr, R-Gloucester, and Dru Tarr, an aide to state Rep. Ann-Margaret Ferrante, D-Gloucester.

Board members of the nonprofit Gloucester Education Foundation, and its Executive Director Emily Siegel were there, too. It was GEF that secured \$350,000 from Lyon-Waugh over seven years to help fund the auto shop's second instructor. GEF also initially funded Brenda Waslick's position as the Career/ Vocational Technical Education director.

And of course, the auto shop students who will benefit from the upgrades were present.

~ Ethan Forman



Looking to combat fake news?

Here are some resources to help you determine if what you've read is true:

» **Politifact** is the Pulitzer Prize-winning fact checking operation run by the nonprofit Poynter Institute. The site fact-checks statements by politicians and debunks myriad Facebook hoaxes.

<https://www.politifact.com/>

» **FactCheck.org**, run by Annenberg Public Policy Center, performs much of the same tasks, and also let's you ask questions of the fact checkers. An example question: Did the Supreme Court rule that it is illegal to take the oath of office with anything but the Bible? (The answer is no.)

<https://www.factcheck.org/>

» **Snopes** is the original fact-checking website. Use the site's search bar to get to the bottom of political statements, viral videos and urban myths.

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» **A Google reverse image search** is the best way to find out if that photo you saw making the rounds on Twitter or Facebook is real. This story from PC Magazine walks you through how to do it on your desktop or your phone.

<https://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2492468,00.asp>

» **Still need help?** Contact us at the Gloucester Daily Times or Salem News, and we'll get the answer for you, no matter the topic. Email Gloucester editor Andrea Holbrook at aholbrook@gloucestertimes.com, or Salem editor John Castelluccio at jcastelluccio@salemnews.com



REAL NEWS IN SCHOOLS

How the program works

Your school can have access to local, trusted journalism from The Salem News and Gloucester Daily Times on a daily basis. We report on news throughout the North Shore and Cape Ann, covering all things local — from schools, to sports, to government, people profiles, business, entertainment and more. You get the facts — the real news — from experienced reporters, photographers and editors you can count on at no cost to your school.

Here are the basics of the program:

What is it? The Salem News and Gloucester Daily Times partner with local businesses to provide free digital access to our newspapers to anyone within a school in our coverage area at no cost to the school. This access encourages students to value the vital news coverage being produced by The Salem News and Gloucester Daily Times. They will build awareness and gain critical thinking skills in the process.

Who can participate? This program will benefit teachers, students, and others in the school community.

Where does it take place? You can access our newspaper online. Teachers can incorporate the program into their curriculums, even having reporters, photographers and editors visit your class.

When can we start benefiting? As soon as we have your commitment to participate in Real News in Schools we will go to work to find a local business who wants to sponsor you. Once we have one, we will work with your IT Department to get the program up and running.

Why is this valuable? There's a lot of fake news out there on social media and elsewhere. The Salem News, founded in 1880 as The Salem Evening News, and the Gloucester Daily Times, founded in 1888, both award-winning publications, have long track records of fair and accurate reporting that cuts through the misinformation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
SALEMNEWS.COM/REALNEWS
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O'Maley's Science Center takes centerstage

Gloucester school gets spotlight

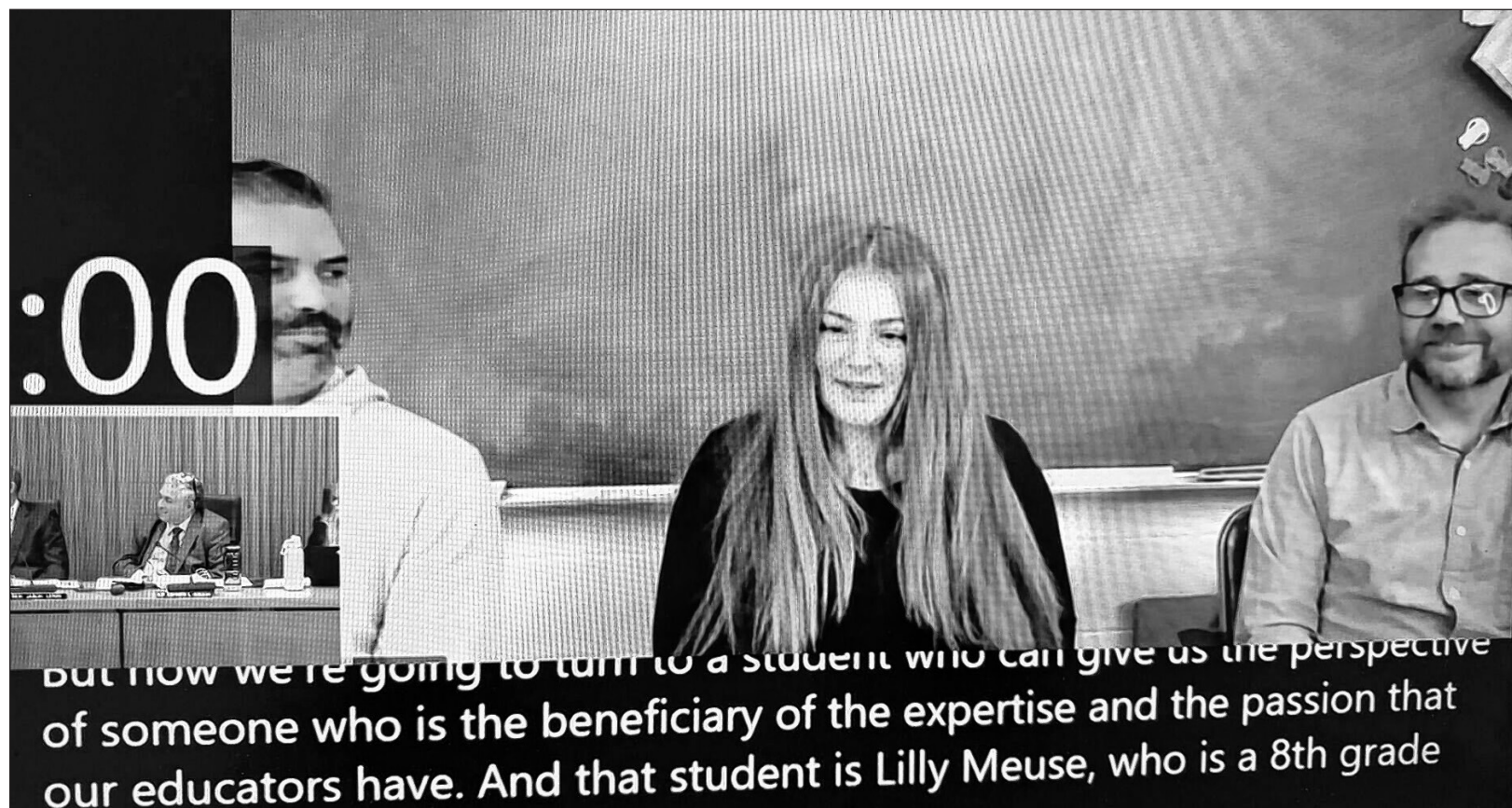
Gloucester educators and an eighth-grade student testified before a committee of state lawmakers Nov. 12 on a bill meant to spread statewide the kind of hands-on STEM learning going on at O'Maley Innovation Middle School's Science Center.

With O'Maley's program serving as a model, the bill, S.457, to create a statewide Middle School Innovation Fund advanced to a Joint Committee on Education public hearing. It is being championed on Beacon Hill by state Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr, R-Gloucester, and co-sponsored by state Rep. Ann Margaret Ferrante, D-Gloucester, and state Sen. Michael O. Moore, D-Millbury.

The fund would support hands-on, interdisciplinary programs in grades 5-8, provide sustained grant funding for curriculum development and classroom resources, and establish an advisory council to ensure transparency, equity, and accountability through public meetings and annual reporting, according to Tarr's office.

Superintendent Ben Lummis, K-8 Science Coordinator Amy Donnelly, and Tarr testified in Gardner Auditorium at the Statehouse, while Engineering Specialist Dave Brown, O'Maley eighth-grade civics teacher Jeff Destino, sixth-grade math and science teacher Dan Thomases and eighth-grader Lily Muise testified live from the middle school.

Muise said one of the favorite things she's done at the Science Center was dissecting frogs, and as she was partnered with another student, she said it would have been



O'Maley Innovation Middle School eighth-grade civics teacher Jeff Destino, left, eighth-grade student Lily Muise, and sixth-grade math and science teacher Dan Thomases testify Wednesday before the Joint Committee on Education on Beacon Hill, advocating for the creation of a Middle School Innovation Fund to spread the kind of STEM learning now going on at O'Maley statewide.

ETHAN FORMAN/Screenshot

beneficial to let each student do their own dissection. And while seventh-grade classes 3-D print at least one thing throughout the year, "I don't necessarily find that to be enough."

"Considering that we have roughly 180 days to do things in the Science Center, I feel as though we should take advantage of the opportunities, and this grant would help fund those activities and ensure that future generations will be able to have the same experience I've had if not a better one," Muise said.

"At the O'Maley Innovation Middle School, students aren't just learning science, they are doing science, engineering and design," Lummis said. "In our Science Center they raise trout to reintroduce them to local rivers, build 6-foot bridges from their

own designs, and use computer-aided design and 3-D printers to turn imagination into reality."

Students are absorbed in building sail-powered cars big enough to ride in and learn that science, art, math and history are connected. They are engaged in rigorous, standards-based learning they remember for life and that is changing how they see themselves and their futures, he said.

This is what the Middle School Innovation Fund is about, Lummis said.

"It's not another commission or task force, it's about saying 'yes,' yes we believe middle-school students can do real-world, rigorous, meaningful work," he said.

"In our Science Center," Donnelly said, "students are presented with hands-on opportunities that require

them to apply knowledge from multiple disciplines in order to be successful."

For example, the six-week aquaponics program requires teams of eighth graders to build and manage a functional aquaponics system, she said.

Tarr, a Gloucester native, provided testimony for the bipartisan legislation supported by lawmakers in both houses that would support local educators at middle schools in developing project-centered and interdisciplinary learning programs tailored to their schools.

"I would say to you that Representative Ferrante and I have been consistently impressed when we go to the O'Maley Middle School ... at the work that's being done by Amy and her colleagues with regard to educating and exciting students about

science and math education and doing it in so many innovative ways," Tarr said.

"Being able to interest them and excite them about science and technology and math at that age level is critical."

The bill embraces the concept of group, project-based learning. Tarr invited lawmakers to visit O'Maley.

Joint Committee on Education Chair Sen. Jason Lewis, D-Winchester, asked that if Gloucester has been able to accomplish all this within existing school budgets, "what is the purpose of establishing this fund?"

Lummis said it has required quite a bit of private funding to get the Science Center off the ground.

"Over 12 or more years, it hasn't just been in our operating budget, to be frank, and that has allowed for

equipment, that has allowed for some interns and some staff, but it's the type of thing that there is some seed money to get things rolling," he said.

Money comes from a variety of sources.

"One key way has been through Gloucester Education Foundation, which is our local education fund, but there are other private grants as well," Lummis said.

Donnelly said most of the Science Center's equipment has been paid for by grants written to local partners, including New England Biolabs, Cell Signaling Technology, and the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center. Brown, the school's engineering specialist, has hand built most of the equipment down to the tables, wave tanks, stream tables and sail cars, she said.

~ Ethan Forman



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Great day to be a Witch

Salem High Athletic Hall of Fame welcomes in 14 new inductees

SALEM — The smiles and the laughter came easily, good friends catching up and reliving athletic feats of yesteryear while wondering where their time as Witches had gone.

The 21st annual Salem High School Athletic Hall of Fame banquet took place Nov. 18 at Veterans Memorial Fieldhouse, where 14 former greats were inducted and at least 10 times as many stories shared.

Paul Tucker, the former Chief of Police in Salem and now the District Attorney for Essex County, is one of the Witches' all-time great runners. He joked with his wife Ann that not only was he the oldest inductee that night, but probably the only one eligible for retirement benefits.

Sisters Sarah and Hannah Mullarkey, legendary players from the Salem High volleyball program, fondly recalled the one season how they got to play together and helping the Witches claim their first-ever playoff berth.

Edwin Demoya, a two-year soccer captain from the Class of 2011, has spent almost six years in the U.S. Navy, with time spent on both the Dwight D. Eisenhower and the USS Gerald R. Ford aircraft carriers. He was back in his hometown getting his haircut when he received the Hall call, he said, bringing back a flood of good memories for the now 33-year-old.

Alix Bryant spoke passionately about her freshman year playing basketball for the Witches, a team filled with talent but that began their season 0-7 before righting the ship, ripping off 12 wins over their last 15 regular season games to qualify for the postseason. Salem then upset fourth ranked



JARED CHARNEY PHOTOS

The newest Salem High Athletic Hall of Fame inductees who were honored at a ceremony were (from left) Hannah Mullarkey, Jessica Corneau, Beau Theriault, Melikke Van Alstyne, Joseph Freeman, Jamal Mercado, Joseph Fabiano, Edwin Demoya, Rick O'Leary, Jared Louf Woods, Paul Tucker, Brian Lockard, Sarah Mullarkey, and Alix Bryant.



Former Salem High superstar running back Melikke Van Alstyne Jr. (Class of 2009) was inducted into his alma mater's Athletic Hall of Fame. He poses here with (from left) Terressa, Alicia, Tishayla Van Alstyne and kids Bryce and Via.

Danvers in the first round of the Division 2 North state tournament before bowing out in the next round.

These were just some of the compelling stories shared by this year's Hall of Fame class, which included former track and field star Brian Lockard (Class of 1978), preeminent

football and baseball player Rick O'Leary (1988), three-sport superstar Joe Fabiano (1994), football and track standouts Joe Freeman and Jamal Mercado, both from the Class of 1995; one of the school's all-time great gymnasts, Jessica Corneau (2007), terrific golfer, basketball and baseball player



Salem High three-sport standout Alix Bryant (with flowers) smiles along with (from left) her sister Jasmine, mother Joy and father Nate Bryant. She was one of 14 new inductees into the Salem High Athletic Hall of Fame.

Beau Theriault (2008), legendary football player and trackster Melikke Van Alstyne (2009), and football, basketball, and spring track mainstay Jared Louf Woods (2013).

'Joy and happiness'

When Fabiano hung up his football jersey, he was the Witches' all-time leader in career touchdowns with 30. Now has the pleasure of watching his two sons,

Jack and Jett, play at Masconomet Regional — with Jack, a running back like his father, having scored 37 times this season alone.

SEE WITCHES, PAGE 7



The Danvers Youth Football 'B' team finished off a perfect 9-0 season by defeating Ipswich-Triton in the Cape Ann Youth Football League title game.

COURTESY PHOTOS



A dominant Danvers Youth Football C team capped off a perfect season with a Super Bowl triumph over Ipswich-Triton on Sunday.

Danvers Youth Football B, C teams win Super Bowl titles

Both the Danvers Youth Football 'B' and 'C' teams won their respective Cape Ann Youth Football League (CAYFL) Super Bowl titles in early November to finish their seasons with perfect records.

The B team won its second straight Super Bowl by taking down Ipswich-Triton, 24-14. Finishing unbeaten for the second straight

season, they scored 274 points and allowed just 46 and repeated as titlists after doing the same thing as C-teammates in 2024.

Members of the championship Danvers B team, which was coached by Lito Gonzalez, are Raymond (Jack) Bigelow, Kenny Blake, Nate Brandenburg, Jaxton Burrell, Ryan Drozdowicz, Owen Espinola, Adam Gagnon,

Ty Gonzalez, Thomas Goudreau, Ethan Graham, Griffin Guerrette, Jack Litalien, Jayden Maurice, Colby McLaughlin, Luke Nadworny, Parker Parente, Garvin Pascal, Joseph Pescione, Matthew Pescione, Alexandros Polyhronakos, Theritchnider Roc, Aaron Rogers, Jake Romsavich, Benjamin Smith, Mark Smith, Michael Valley, Jackson Weeks, Hunter Weir

and Blake Willis.

The Danvers C team was just as impressive, also finishing with a spotless 9-0 record after taking down Ipswich-Triton, 22-8. The Blue-and-White put up 234 points in their nine victories while allowing a scant 34.

This title-winning squad, coached by Pat Kelleher, is comprised of players Blake Boudreau, Zachary Brown,

Jace Cobb, Andrew Dabbs, Levi De Lima, Colton Ferris, Brayden Fultz, Jack Gilman, Myles Gonzalez, William Holm, Jackson Keohane, Camden Kyroutz, Logan McCullough, Xander Nikitas, Timothy O'Keefe, Liam Patrican, Joseph Phelan, Jack Sheehan, Luca Silvestri, Nico Silvestri, Colton Sokol, Liam Tainsh, Austin Taylor and Davi Velasco.

» Witches

Continued from Page 6

"It's been so fun watching them play," said Fabiano, who not only played football (and college baseball at Salem State) for Ken Perrone, but also hockey for Bob Sweezy and on the diamond for Al Giardi. "The old (Salem High) record had been 21 career touchdowns, and I was fortunate to be on some great teams to get the chances that I did."

Fabiano had never played organized hockey before going out for, and making, the Salem High varsity as a freshman. By the time he was a senior, he led the Witches in scoring.

Louf Woods, who was part of some NEC championship basketball teams at Salem High in addition to his exploits in football and

spring track, went on to UMass Dartmouth, where he met his wife, got a job with the UMass Dartmouth police force and settled in the area. He and his family now call Fairhaven home.

"It seemed like whatever season it was, the teams all supported each other," Louf Woods remembered. "It was a really supportive community, especially the sports teams. To see a whole team from another sport show up to cheer you on, that was pretty cool."

"We had a really good student section, too. They got a little too rowdy at times," he chuckled, "but it was all good intentions."

Bryant, a 2014 graduate, also played soccer and spring track in addition to starring on the hardcourt at SHS. Some of her closest friends to this day, she said with a wide smile, are her

former teammates.

"I look back at my time here with a lot of joy and happiness," said Bryant, who as a freshman played with her older sister Jasmine on the basketball team under head coach John Fortunato. "I loved it here; I had phenomenal relationships with my teachers, my coaches and teammates. There was never a need for me to leave and go anywhere else."

Special times

Demoya, a striker and midfielder who graduated with 89 goals and 38 assists for a school record 127 points, echoed Bryant's sentiments, pointing out that many of the values he learned suiting up for the Witches have paid off for him in adulthood.

"Camaraderie, teamwork, building trust, problem solving ... you get thrown

together with a bunch of guys on the sea, and you depend on and lean on them to get you through the hard times," he said. "Working towards the same goal is what we did when I was here (at Salem High), and looking back on it now it's one of the better times in my life."

The Mullarkey sisters grew up playing volleyball before Salem High even offered the sport and still making it a big part of their lives. Their favorite memories from playing for the Witches both revolve around team success.

"Senior Night against Beverly," Sarah Mullarkey said. "We beat them to help secure a share of the (NEC) title and go on to the playoffs in just our fourth year as a program. That was special."

Hannah, who as a defensive player at libero

specialized in getting to ball to her older sister, is now the assistant director at a volleyball club in Danvers.

"My own senior year, we went 13-7 and hosted a play-off game for the first, and only time, in school history," she said proudly.

Tucker still runs when he can; he and his then-9-year-old granddaughter completed a 5K in Boston last year as part of a program called Girls on the Run. His own favorite memories running for Salem High are as clear to him now as they were when they took place in his senior year of 1975-76.

"We had a dual meet against Beverly that fall where we were both 8-0; Beverly was a powerhouse under (coach) Fred Hammond and hadn't lost in 40-something meets. We were coached by Dave Dunksky; it was two giants of

cross country," Tucker, who went on to win the 800 title in spring track," he recalled.

"We got first, second and fourth place to win at Gallows Hill, and I finished fourth. My brand new girlfriend came to support me that day ... and now we've been married 44 years."

Much like the legendary parquet floor at the old Boston Garden, Tucker and his cross country teammates reveled in their 'secret weapon' on their home course at Gallows Hill.

"We called it a toboggan slide," he recalled with fondness. "It was a thin strip of hot top that was about a foot-and-a-half thick that went straight uphill. We drilled on that all year, and in meets we'd zoom to the top and our opponents would be hurting. It demoralized them."

~ Phil Stacey

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