

**NEW FINANCE DIRECTOR** — Joseph Tassone, most recently the accountant for the town of Saugus, has been hired as the town's new finance director by acting Town Administrator David Hanlon. Tassone, of Woburn, replaces Thomas Tracy and will be paid \$82,000 annually, Hanlon said.

— *Caroline Louise Cole*

## READING

**SCHOOL BUDGET TRANSFER QUESTIONED** — A Town Meeting decision to transfer \$850,000 from the school system operating budget to two school construction projects is being challenged by a Town Meeting member. The decision allows school administrators to use the money received from a state grant to increase the contingency funds on two school construction jobs. School Committee member Carl McFadden said the schools had \$850,000 in surplus funds, after lower-than-expected special education costs. The plan is to use \$350,000 of that money for the Barrows School project and \$500,000 for the high school renovation project. But grant funds are supposed to be used for special education only. One critic, Linda Phillips, has asked the state's Department of Revenue to look at the legality of the Town Meeting decision.

— *Christine McConville*

**High school's softball pitcher Danielle Pandolfo is one of the best. Sports, Page 14**

## STONEHAM

**SCHOLARSHIP MONEY TO BE RETURNED** — State Treasurer Timothy Cahill is giving \$15,000 back to the Stoneham Public Schools. The money comes from an abandoned scholarship account that was set up by a Stoneham resident. After years of sitting dormant in a bank, the money was turned over to the state's aban-

and other material used to cap the Maple Meadow Landfill. Wilmington paid \$7,900 to Coler & Colantonio Inc., a Norwell engineering firm, to conduct an aerial survey of the landfill and to prepare the report. The flyover was done late last month, said Jeff Hull, assistant town manager. Wilmington hired the firm at the request of the town's lawyer. The owner and operator of the landfill has filed an appeal in Land Court on a decision by the town to enforce a bylaw restricting the amount of soil that can be used to cap the landfill.

— *Angelica Medaglia*

## WINCHESTER

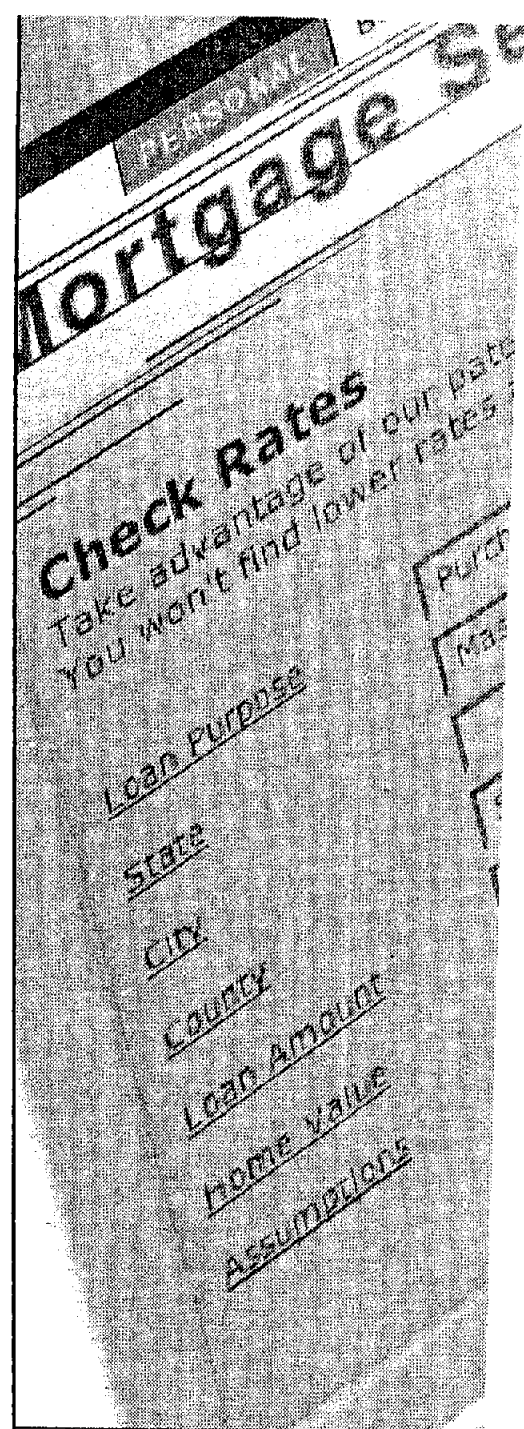
**SENIOR PROM A GO** — Winchester High School's senior prom will take place Saturday with an increased police presence as law enforcement and school officials continue to investigate a letter threatening violence at the prom and the junior class semiformal. The semiformal was held Friday after being postponed for two weeks due to lagging ticket sales. There were no problems at the dance, said high school principal Thomas Gwin. Copies of the letter were received last month by Gwin and the Daily Times Chronicle of Woburn.

— *Cynthia Cantrell*

**Town welcomes increased revenue for budget. Page 8**

## WOBURN

**MCLAUGHLIN IN MAYOR'S RACE** — Ward 7 Alderman Thomas McLaughlin will try to unseat Mayor John Curran in this year's election. The deadline for filing is Aug. 19. McLaughlin, a native of Woburn, is a retired lieutenant colonel in the Massachusetts State Police, who now works under contract with the US Department of State. A proponent of open space, McLaughlin recently voted against the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority's proposal to build a min-



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