



South

UP CLOSE

# Braintree High School senior among youngest to hold auctioneer's license

By Paul E. Kandarian | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT JANUARY 14, 2016

Justin Weitbrecht of Braintree had an interesting Oct. 19 last year. The Braintree High School senior celebrated his 18th birthday that day, the same day he got his Massachusetts auctioneer's license, making him one of the youngest in the state to do so.

"My parents have done this for several years," said Weitbrecht of Thomas and Janice Weitbrecht, who run Braintree-based Strategic Auction Alliance. "I've been around it since I was 9, and thought it was interesting, so I went to school for it."

He took an intensive two-weekend course at Draper Auction Academy in Chelmsford. "Since I was in the business so long, I knew a lot of the stuff already, so it wasn't too bad," he said.



**Justin Weitbrecht, 18, is an auctioneer.**

He had long helped out at the family business's auctions, helping to check people in, assigning them bidding numbers, and checking them out after they'd purchased items, he said. Most recently, he worked at a police-ordered auction on Halloween in Milford, and later attended the Massachusetts Auctioneers Association annual convention, where he sold an item in a mock "fun" auction — his first time as a licensed auctioneer.

The job appealed to him, he said, "because it's so different from anything else. I'm not sure it's what I want to do for a living, but it's nice to have as a credential, and I'll continue to work at the family business auctions."

Long term, he said, he'd like to go to college to study business management or marketing. He has a 3.5 GPA at Braintree High, he said, and for now "I'm focusing on finishing high school."

He's also working at Dedham Savings Bank filing papers and doing other miscellaneous tasks, he said. That job came about via an auction where a bank vice president spotted the young man at work.

"She saw me checking people in and thought I was doing a good job," Weitbrecht said.

Outside of school and work, Weitbrecht's main hobby is collecting autographs, Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning's among them, but most notably from NASCAR drivers.

Asked what he thinks of the accomplishment of being one of the state's youngest certified auctioneers, the soft-spoken teen said, "Having been in

something so long and to now say I'm licensed, I guess it's kind of cool.”

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