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Snow business

Guest column: Forgotten history

150 years ago, president's son killed by train in Andover

By Michael Jones

On Nov. 5, 1789, George Washington passed through Andover while touring New England during his first year in office. His visit lasted no more than half a day (he was in Lexington in time for dinner and a tour of the Lexington Green), and his impression of the town demanded no more space in his journal than a single paragraph. Nevertheless, his morning in town is perhaps the most famous and oft-remembered of Andover's presidential visits. Washington's visit to town was of the same duration and depth as nearly all subsequent visits by American Presidents: another stop on a whirlwind New England tour, or an address to the commencement exercises of Phillips Academy.



Franklin Pierce

An exception to hasty presidential visits was a memorably tragic one, which occurred more than 60 years after Washington's morning ride. On Jan. 6, 1853, less than a mile from where President Washington had enjoyed breakfast at Isaac Abbot's Elm Street tavern, the only surviving child of President-elect Franklin Pierce was killed in a train accident near Shawshen Village, arguably destroying Pierce's prospects for an effective presidency. Nowhere in town is this event commemorated, or acknowledged, despite the lasting implications of Pierce's failed presidency in the decade before the Civil War.

Pierce had spent the winter holidays of 1852 with his wife, Jane Means Appleton Pierce, and 11-year-old son, Benjamin, at the home of Jane's sister at 48 Central St. in Andover. Having attended a funeral in Boston on the morning of Jan. 6, the family headed by train for Concord, N.H., where they intended to spend the months remaining before Pierce's March inauguration. Shortly after noon, as the train passed

through Andover, the train derailed and rolled down the slope of a steep embankment, killing Benjamin instantly. The wreck was blamed on a faulty axle at the front of the passenger car.

Benjamin's body was brought to the Andover Alms House, an imposing red brick structure that stood only a few hundred yards across an open field from the site of the wreck. His body was brought by carriage that afternoon to the home on Central Street where the family had earlier vacationed, and a wake was held at the home several days later. "Bennie" was buried at the Old North

Continued on page 5



PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

Andover Health Director Everett Penney is happy to report that state studies show that, overall, cancer cases in Andover are declining, and are below the state average in most categories. A few years ago, the state studied Andover because it had one of the highest breast-cancer rates in Massachusetts.

Andover cancer rates decline

But testicular, Hodgkin's, melanoma cases high

By Judy Wakefield

A state report on the number of cancer cases in Andover, used by the town's health director to diagnose trends, shows the town's numbers are going down.

Andover is below average with 717 various cancer cases reported in a four-year period from 1995 to 1999. The statewide average for Andover's population was 809 cases during that four-year period.

The current number is down from 12 years ago when Andover had 861 cancer cases reported.

The report, distributed by the state's Department of Public Health, compares the number of "expected and observed" cases of 23 different types of cancer for communities in the state.

"That expected category is based on population," explained Andover Health Director Everett Penney. "This report is not about comparing Andover to other towns and does not include death rates. Rather, it's a report on statewide averages of incidents... it helps us to notice trends."

Data collected for the report is taken from the state's cancer registry, which is a collection of information from various health agencies around the state, including hospitals, doctor offices, and

Continued on page 2

Holiday-time crime keeps police busy

Car breaks on rise

By Judy Wakefield

Car breaks have plagued Andover this holiday season, but local police said the arrest of a Westford man responsible for car breaks in another community may be the ticket to solving the crimes.

The name of the 20-something male from Westford was not available at *Townsmen* presstime but police said he was arrested at a state park in Carlisle and charged with breaking into cars. He is being questioned for similar car breaks around Harold Parker State Forest in Andover where park visitors have returned from hikes and walks to find their cars broken into. But he has not been charged with being involved in any Andover cases.

Meanwhile, another man from Lowell is also being questioned about his involvement in Andover car breaks, according to Mark Higgenbottom of the Andover Police Department. He, too, is a 20-something male whose name was not available at press time.

He turned himself into Lowell District Court on an outstanding warrant unrelated to

Continued on page 3

Officer shoots in chase with alleged drunk driver

By Ethan Forman

A Tewksbury woman fleeing police tried to run down an officer in the parking lot of the Wingate at Andover nursing home Sunday night, causing him to shoot several times at her car.

No one was injured during the wild ride, including a three-legged dog and a rabbit the woman had along for the ride, in her back seat, Sgt. Rick Edson said.

Officer Brian Blouin fired several rounds into the suspect's car in the nursing home's parking lot in a futile attempt to stop Diane Frazer, 33, of 40 Navillus Road, Tewksbury.

Frazer's ride in a 1997 Ford Explorer ended when she slammed into a tree on Moraine Street which leads to Andover High, Edson said.

She faces numerous charges, Edson said, including two counts of assault and battery on officers after she was taken into custody at the Andover Public Safety Center on North Main Street; assault and battery with intent to murder; four counts of leaving the scene of a property damage accident; and driving under the influence, third offense, Edson said.

The chase started about 10:20 p.m. after Frazer elud-

ed Tewksbury police who suspected her of drunken driving. She headed north into Andover and officers spotted her on Red Spring Road, Edson said.

She fled from them. A short time later, Officer Blouin spotted her on Andover Street heading toward him with her headlights off. He spun around and chased her SUV.

Frazer then pulled into Wingate at 80 Andover St. and smacked into three parked cars. Blouin attempted to block her in with his cruiser, but as he got out of his car, she allegedly drove at him and hit his

door, causing minimal damage, according to police. Blouin was not injured.

The woman circled the building, Edson said, and almost hit a couple of employees on a cigarette break. Meanwhile, a state police cruiser had responded to block the parking lot's entrance, Edson said.

Blouin again tried to block Frazer in with his car.

"She looked right in the eye and drove right at him," Edson said. That's when Blouin shot at Frazer's car. But the shots did not stop her and she got past the state police cruiser by driving over a curb and a snow bank and

Continued on page 3

Alleged 'Vale' gunman in custody

By Ben Hellman

Ralph Kinnear, the alleged gunman of the Sunday's General Store robbery in Ballardvale two weeks ago, was arrested last week, but is not cooperating with investigators in tracking down the other suspects, said Andover Det. Sgt. Don Pattullo.

The 33-year-old from Wilmington was arrested in Lowell last week by Andover detectives Pat Keefe and Edward Higgenbottom working in conjunction with Lowell police.

Keefe and Higgenbottom joined Lowell officers staking out a house Kinnear was believed to be staying at and arrested him at gunpoint when he arrived as a passenger in a Jeep, said police.

Kinnear was identified in a photo array by the female victim of the Sunday's robbery, said police. Kinnear was allegedly not wearing a hood or mask during the robbery and the victim was able to get a clear view of his face. She also helped an artist construct a police composite.

Kinnear remains in custody in Lowell, where he is facing outstanding warrants. "He's been around. He has a lengthy record," said Pattullo.

The Sunday's robbery occurred around 8:30 p.m., just after closing time at the store, on Tuesday, Dec. 17. Sunday's is located across from the Ballardvale train station. The victim reported that two men between the ages of 16 and 18 entered the store and one male, allegedly Kinnear, held a small black gun and demanded money, accord-

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POWER OUTAGE



PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

Downtown Andover lost power for most of Dec. 26, closing Town Offices and other businesses. Story, page 3.



Many of town's cancer rates lower than expected

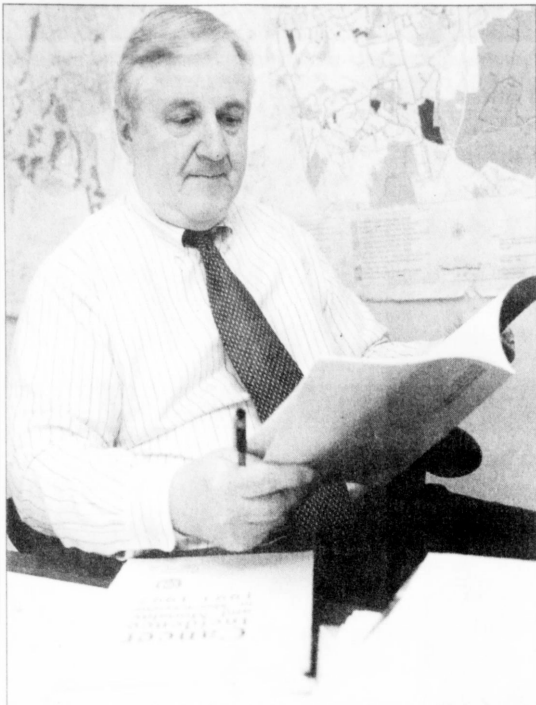


PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

Everett Penney, town health director, studies reports that show Andover rates for many types of cancer are below the rate expected by the state, according to reports from 1995 to 1999, the most recent available.

■ CANCER STUDIES

Continued from page 1
walk-in health clinics, Penney said. The data is more than two years old, but Penney said it takes that long for the state to compile the information.

Penney uses the annual report to zoom in on problem areas where Andover's cancer numbers are higher than the state numbers. That happened 12 years ago when Andover's breast cancer rate was 30 percent higher than the state average. Andover reported 166 cases of breast cancer between 1990 and 1995. The state average at that time for Andover's population would have been 128 cases.

"We got involved with pamphlets and public-service announcements encouraging women to get mammograms and reminding them of the importance of self-breast exams," Penney said.

He said he is in no way taking credit for the decrease in breast cancer cases in Andover, but believes increasing public awareness about cancer has probably helped the numbers go down.

The latest report shows

Andover's breast-cancer rates went down with 124 cases reported from 1995 to 1999, compared to an expected 132.5 during those four years.

"It's only speculation why the numbers went down, as there is no cure for breast cancer. It's more about family history and other factors. But, we are glad the numbers are going down," Penney said.

Pancreas-cancer cases are also down in Andover. There were 18 cases reported during 1990 to 1995 compared to 15 cases between 1995 and 1999.

Lung-cancer cases in Andover were the most noticeably lowest when compared to the state average. Andover had 82 cases reported between 1995 and 1999, compared to an expected 117.

Not all numbers going down

But not all cancer rates are decreasing in town. In Andover, numbers for two types of cancer - testicular and Hodgkin's disease - increased to be much higher than the state average.

The state report shows nine cases of testicular cancer reported in Andover between 1995 and

1999. The state average for a town of Andover's population is 4.3 during that time. That works out to twice as many cases when comparing Andover to the state.

Andover's number for Hodgkin's disease, also called Hodgkin lymphoma, are similar. Andover had nine cases reported, compared to the state average of 5.35 from 1995 to 1999. Andover's rate is 68 percent higher than the state, according to the study.

Melanoma (skin cancer) cases in Andover are also higher than the state average. Andover had 29 reported cases between 1995 and 1999, compared to the state average of 24.7. That means Andover rates were 17 percent higher than the state average, according to the study.

Penney said pinpointing reasons for the higher numbers is pure "speculation" as there is no known cause for cancer.

While the Andover numbers are higher in these cancers, he does not think the numbers are cause for alarm. Rather, he plans to continue with "intervention strategies and programs" that remind the community about how important early diagnosis is

when it comes to cancer.
"You can't attack all these cancer numbers at once," he said. "I'm encouraged by the current report. Overall, we are not higher than we should be."

Penney's upcoming "intervention strategies" include using a state grant about melanoma awareness that his department applied for two weeks ago. He is looking to connect with local pharmacies to provide free sunscreen products at a guest speaker's lecture warning about how the sun damages skin. He hopes to host at least one lecture for kids who take part in Andover's summer-recreation program.

He also plans to continue a film series at Andover High School about breast and testicular cancer, produced by the American Cancer Society. Penney worked with the school's health department and it shows two films to juniors and seniors. Girls see the breast-cancer film while boys see the film on testicular cancer.

"Catching cancer early makes a difference. That's the message we are getting out to the kids and we plan to continue," he said.

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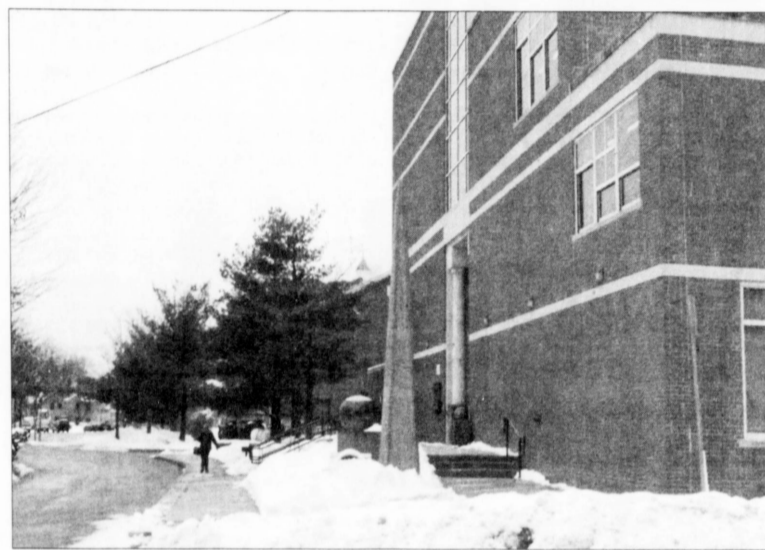
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IN BRIEF

PAST AND PRESENT



OLDER PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDOVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY. MODERN-DAY PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

The top photo is of the Colonial Theatre at 9-11 Essex St. The building began as Andover's first railroad station and was later occupied by a tin-plate and sheet worker. In 1912, the Colonial Theatre, a movie house later called the Andover Playhouse opened. The Essex Street site now is home to the back of Memorial Hall Library and the library's parking lot.

Who's running for office in 2003?

Some of Andover's elected officials are coming to the end of their terms this spring, but as of Monday, only two people - Town moderator Jim Doherty and Andover's school committee representative for the Greater Lawrence Technical School, Kenneth Hamilton - have returned papers declaring they will run in the March election.

School Committee member Gerry Gustus had taken out papers, but not yet returned them.

Selectmen Brian Major and Ted Teichert and School Committee member Skip Eccles will all need to run for reelection to keep their posts this spring.

Only two people showed up to a forum put on by the League of Women Voters for residents interested in seeking public office for the first time. Gustus and John Roberts of the Vision 21 Committee made it out to the Thursday, Dec. 5 forum. Selectmen chairman Ray Hender gave a presentation of what it was like to run for office.

- Ben Hellman

Merrimack Valley Chamber hosts networking event

The Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce will host a marketing mixer on Jan. 7, for businesses, at Red Tavern, 5 Pleasant St. Methuen. The mixer will be from 5 to 7 p.m. and is being sponsored by Red Tavern and Methuen Co-operative Bank.

Chamber Vice President Ron Carpenter comments, "The marketing mixers are a proven way for our members to meet one another and promote their products and services."

The mixer will feature hors d'oeuvres, beverages and prizes.

The cost is \$10 per person, or two for \$15 when one brings a friend.

The public is invited. Non-member price is \$20.

For information about the chamber call 978-686-0900 or visit www.merrimackvalley-chamber.com.

Stop smoking classes

VNA Care Network, a non-profit Visiting Nurse Association, will offer Last Smoke, a six-week stop smoking course in Andover. The location is to be announced, but the classes will be from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays, Jan. 16 to Feb. 20.

The cost of the course is \$120, or \$20 per week. Health insurance may cover all or part of the class fee, according to a release. Scholarship funds may be available.

Participants may purchase the book *Yes, You Can Stop Smoking Even If You Don't Want To* for \$10 as well as nicotine patches, gum and lozenges at a discount. Pre-registration required. Contact Joan Schaefer at 888-663-3688, ext. 2429 or jschaefer@vnaacarenetwork.org. More information about the course is available at www.vnaacarenetwork.org.

Quote, unquote . . .

On my way home, the car stops short, and Herman takes a nosedive off the backseat. If I ever had any doubts, I'm positive this motherhood thing is a bad idea.
- Kyra Auffermann, who, as part of a health-education project, took care of a baby doll named Herman to get an idea of what it is like to be a parent of a newborn. (Story, page 6)

News Calendar

- Thursday, Jan. 2**
Zoning Board of Appeals, Memorial Hall Library, 7 p.m.
- Friday, Jan. 3**
Zoning Board of Appeals, deliberation meeting, Memorial Hall Library, 8:45 p.m.
- Monday, Jan. 6**
Board of Health, Town Offices, second floor, 6-9 p.m.
- Tuesday, Jan. 7**
Finance Committee, sub committee, Town Offices, second floor, 7:30 a.m.
Andover Contributory Retirement Board, Town Offices, third floor, 8:30 a.m.
School Committee, School Administration Building, 7:30 p.m.
Vision 21 Committee, Town Offices, second floor, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Jan. 8**
Design Advisory Group, Town Offices, first floor, 6 p.m.
Ballardvale Historic Commission, Town Offices, second floor, 7 p.m.
Spring Grove Cemetery, Town Offices, plant & facilities conference room, 7:15 p.m.
- Thursday, Jan. 9**
Board of Assessors, Town Offices, assessor's conference room, 9 a.m.
- Monday, Jan. 13**
Housing Partnership Committee, Town Offices, second floor, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Jan. 14**
Budget forum, West Middle School Media Center, 7 p.m.
Planning Board, Town Offices, third floor, 7:30 p.m.

Hockey cars targeted

CAR BREAKS
Continued from page 1
The Andover car breaks, but is being questioned about the Andover breaks, according to Higginbottom.

In addition to Harold Parker State Forest, the Harrison ice rink at Phillips Academy has also had several car breaks. Wednesday, Dec. 18, marked the fifth time in about a month that someone reported a car break there. They have all been "smash and grab" breaks, meaning the intruder smashes a window and quickly grabs whatever he or she can take from the car. Stolen items have included laptops, cellular phones and pocketbooks.

The rink gets lots of traffic as it serves as home base for the Andover Hockey Association.

Andover High girls and boys hockey teams play games there, too. Other towns, including Masconomet Regional of Topsfield, also use the rink.

Andover police have beefed up their patrols around Phillips Academy and Harold Parker and at Boston Sports Club, which has also reported car breaks.

"We have been more visible, and the public has also helped with this," said Higginbottom, noting that people are learning not to leave valuables in their cars.

Signs were put up at the Harrison Rink telling visitors about the breaks. Other skating rinks, including the Ristuccia Rink in Wilmington, also have signs telling visitors about the breaks.

Police care for 3-legged dog, rabbit

CAR CHASE
Continued from page 1
becoming airborne.

She then headed north on Andover Street to Red Spring Road, veered left onto Moraine Street before she crashed into a tree. She was taken into custody and held overnight. Police took care of her animals.

Frazer was arraigned Monday morning in Lawrence District Court, Edson said.

Helping elders

Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley Inc. has opportunities for volunteers of all ages who want to help older people in local communities. The opportunities include flexible hours, orientation and support, organizers said. Call 1-800-892-0890, Ext. 463 for more.



Power was out for nearly 15 hours as a tree fell at the intersection of Highland Avenue and Heather Drive.

Trees cut off downtown power

By Ben Hellman
The Christmas night snowstorm transformed Andover into a winter wonderland for some, but it also closed down some downtown businesses and left more than 400 Andover residents without electricity for 13 hours last Thursday, Dec. 26, the day after Christmas.

The power outages were a nuisance to many, but a danger for some. There were so many accidents that state police requested a patrol car sit on Interstate 93 South with its lights flashing to slow down motorists.

The outages forced Andover
Continued on page 4

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Storm, outage evacuated public housing

POWERFUL STORM
Continued from page 3

Housing Authority head Christine Metzmaekers to evacuate public housing developments Memorial Drive and Frye Circle Thursday at 9 a.m. because residents hadn't had power since 7 p.m. the night before.

Between 10 a.m. and mid-afternoon there were 10 separate complaints on 10 different streets of power lines across the streets or in danger of falling because trees or heavy limbs were leaning on them (see police log, page 9).

Employees showed up to their places of business in downtown to find that heat and electricity was off and that even security systems had become inactive. Town offices and the post office at Old Town Hall were closed for the day because they didn't have power.

Mass Electric spokesman Amy Atwood said that the event was caused by a tree falling on Highland Avenue and taking down "several sections of wire."

The 900 customers who were initially effected dropped to 400 by 8 a.m. This remaining 400 people were without power until after sunset on Thursday.

Even more residents were effected by a power outage on Christmas night. Atwood said that 1,100 were without power from 6 p.m. to midnight.



PHOTOS BY BEN HELLMAN

A pair of signs help tell the story of last week's Christmas night storm.

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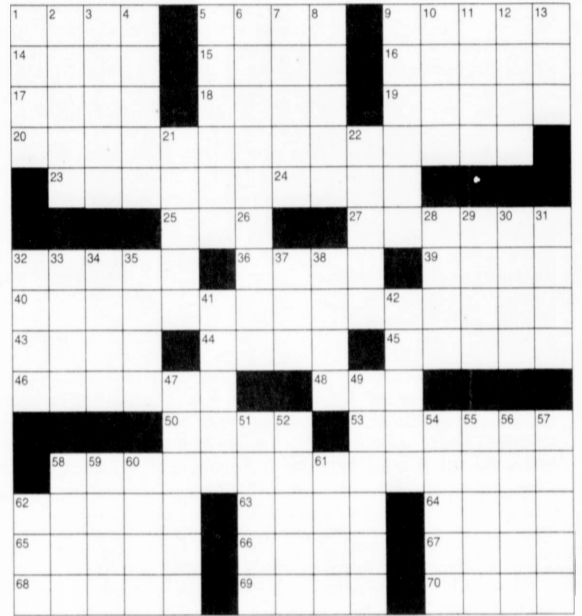
CLUES ACROSS

- Radioactivity units
- A disdained writer
- Political plot
- Double curve
- Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers
- Calculators
- Bono's ex wife
- Large genus of erect or climbing prickly shrubs
- Repaired shoe
- Keeps order in the House
- In a way, runs
- Thick piece of something
- Sino-Soviet block, abbr.
- In a way, sank
- A way to acclaim
- Native American people
- Drunk (slang)
- Accept my friends
- Assist or encourage, usually in some wrongdoing
- Swiss river
- Oil
- Champions
- Tell on
- For fear that
- A seat for the rider of a bicycle
- Roper finding
- Anwar __, of Egypt
- Volgaic
- An inflammatory disease involving the oil glands of the skin
- The Color Purple author
- South American

- armadillo with three bands of bony plates
- Remain as is
- An atom having a valence of one
- Showing sound judgment
- Sensory receptors

CLUES DOWN

- Mythological birds
- Turkish rulers
- Makes tractors
- A twilled woolen fabric
- Cause to suffer
- Egyptian sun god
- Molds
- South African village
- Having yellowish rind
- Mirish
- Used in medicines and perfumes
- 1s
- Protects from weather
- __ salts, remedy
- Armor plates
- Weapon
- Gueneviere
- Andre __, French author
- Organic compound
- Chief magistrate of Venice
- Nonsense (slang)
- Long flowing outer garment



- Allege
- Refuse to endorse
- Hill (Celtic)
- Higher than
- Tripod
- New Zealand conifer
- In a way, cleaned chemically
- Have an ambitious plan
- Languages of Sulu islands
- Small genus of Eurasian aquatic perennial herbs
- Enzyme

- Pronouncements
- Person who avoids company
- Samoyedic
- Alto, California city
- Norse god
- Burrowing rodent of South America
- Metropolis
- Adams. US president

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 7

Our Wine Buyer's Weekly Wine Pick...

**2000 DANZANTE
PINOT GRIGIO**
\$9.99

OVER 4000
Wines Tasted Annually
by Our Wine Buyer

ORIGIN: Venezia, Italy

GRAPE VARIETY: Pinot Grigio

STYLE: Smooth, Medium-Bodied White

DESCRIPTION: Danzante Pinot Grigio demonstrates flavors of Pear with a touch of Granny Smith Apple. It beautifully illustrates the uniquely smooth, silky texture of this grape variety. Its very soft finish will appeal to those of us who want an easygoing style of white. This Pinot Grigio will go well with any meal or occasion.

WINE BUYER'S NOTES: This wine is a great example of Italy's Pinot Grigio. Danzante is the product of a partnership between California's Robert Mondavi and Italy's Marchesi De' Frescobaldi. The vibrant character of Danzante Pinot Grigio is the result of a thorough search by Tim Mondavi and Lamberto Frescobaldi for quality vineyards in Veneto, Friuli Venezia Giulia and Trentino-Alto Adige.

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Guest column

President-elects' loss

PIERCE

Continued from page 1

Cemetery in Concord with brothers Franklin Jr. and Frank Robert, who preceded him in death.

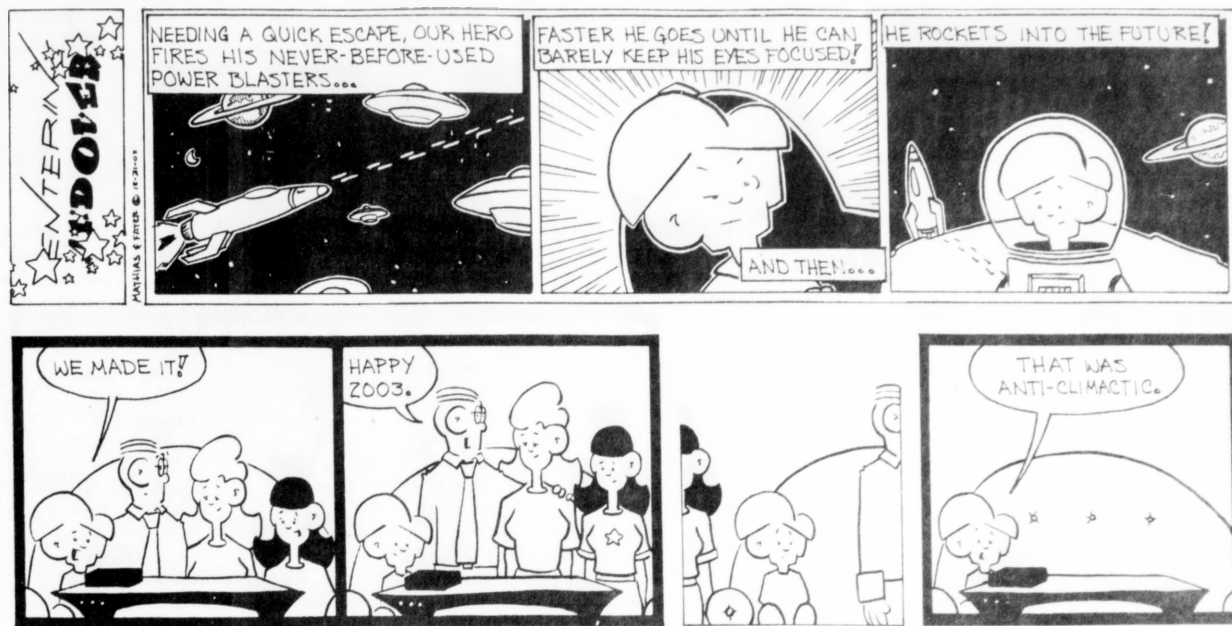
While the town of Andover has changed considerably in the century and a half since Benjamin Pierce's death, most of the landmarks of his death and final weeks in Andover still stand. The home of Pierce's sister-in-law remains nearly unchanged at 48 Central St. (a pool has been added); six years after President Pierce left office, Jane Pierce died in this home, which had become a frequent summer destination for the president during his four years in office.

The Andover Alms House survives; it stands between Argyle and Arundel streets and serves as the best landmark for locating the site of the wreck.

The actual site of the wreck today lies between Rock O'Dundee Road and Arundel Street. It is best accessed by parking at Penguin Park on Burnham Road, crossing Burnham Road to the train tracks, and walking about 100 yards to the left (northwest). Here one can still view the steep embankment that exacerbated the force of the wreck, and with effort envision the floodplain fields that once rolled to the door of the Alms House. Impossible to grasp, perhaps, are the sentiments of Franklin Pierce, who stood upon that site 150 years ago and there first acknowledged the death of his only surviving son.

ENTERING ANDOVER

By Neil Fater and Don Mathias



ALL THOSE YEARS AGO

100 YEARS AGO

Travel was good over the new Haverhill and Andover line on Sunday.

The fire which recently destroyed a hen house belonging to JH Lord of West Andover, is being investigated by the police. It is believed to have been set by somebody with malicious intentions.

Among the New Year's resolutions by some noted men, cabinet officers, military and naval men, the following two or three are pretty good: Brig. Gen. AW Greeley, chief of the signal corps and well known in Andover, said: "I have made one resolution already; not to make any good resolutions for the New Year. A man's life should be such that he does not need to change it on the first of every year."

Capt. William Cowles, US Navy, said "My resolution for the New Year is that I shall tell the truth, if possible."

Mr. William Loeb, Jr, assistant secretary to the president, said, "I shall endeavor to keep in force the good resolutions that I have adopted ever new year. The first of these is to mind my own business."

75 YEARS AGO

The Knights of Pythias held a meeting in Fraternal Hall Tuesday night.

There has been much discussion of late relative to flooding the playstead for the purpose of providing a skating rink for the children of Andover. The attendant dangers facing children who skate on large ponds and

lakes is well known and though definite statistics are not available, drowning accidents through the medium of skating must be nearly on par with those from swimming, proportionate to the number who take part in these sports.

The war memorial problem we have always with us. Andover has considered and

reconsidered the question year after year, and after all has been said, we know neither what we want or what we don't want. The trouble in Andover is that there are two conflicting theories concerning a memorial. Some want it to be useful while the rest insist that it should be only ornamental.

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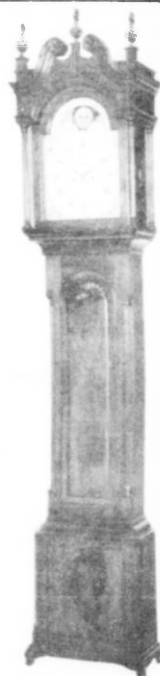


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Education

WHAT'S UP

Herman and her

Health program lets kids try being single parents

By Kyra Auffermann
What's Up intern

The health department at Andover High gives its juniors a project each year to mimic the responsibility of parenthood. This is an account of spending a night with a Ready-or-Not Tot, a life-sized, anatomically correct doll that cries at random. To satiate it, students have to try inserting different keys into its back: There are keys for giving food, attention, a diaper change, a burp — and, for moments of sheer desperation, a panic key. Herman (I didn't choose the name, it was bequeathed by my friends) possesses a certain grotesque cuteness ... but there are still circles under my eyes attesting to my experience with him.

A day with Herman

2:05 p.m. — I decide to take Herman downtown to get some food and do a little Christmas shopping. He starts crying before I even get beyond the parking lot. In an impressive feat of coordination, I manage to balance my chemistry book and purse while frantically shoving each of the keys into Herman's back. I try to look as nonchalant about it as possible.

2:30 p.m. — As common sense might suggest, it's hard to browse through a crowded store when you have a fussy 8-pound hunk of plastic tucked under your arm. To add to this inconvenience, Herman decides he needs to be fed while I'm stuck in a tight corner of Andover Gift Shop, so I abandon the candles I was looking at to go outside to take care of him. A concerned mother advises me that I should cover his head, a little girl tells me she has a baby just like mine, and a passing businessman shakes his head as he walks by.

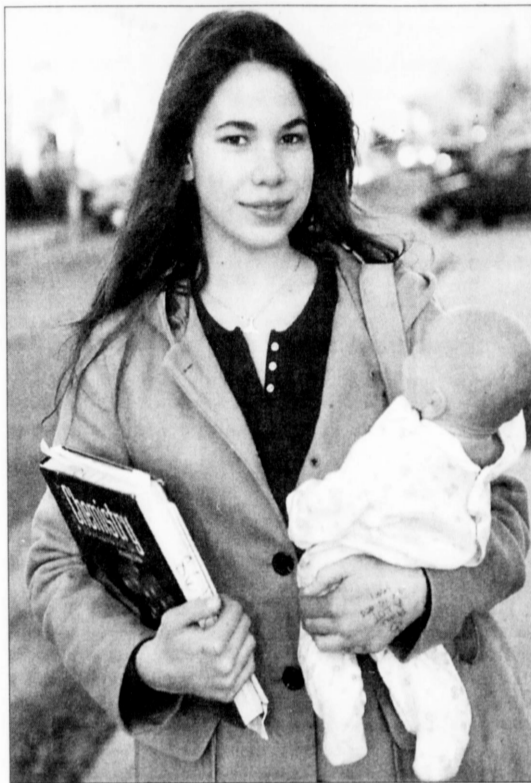
4:30 p.m. — Curled up on my couch at home, I fall asleep trying to read the aforementioned chem book ...

6 p.m. — ... and wake up to the sound of Herman wailing on the nearby coffee table ...

6:05 p.m. — ... and he's still crying ...

6:07 p.m. — oops, I dropped him ... that red "abuse" light can't be good.

6:10 p.m. — Herman does a cute little coo and is finally quiet ... lucky for him, because if he kept it up for a few more seconds, there's a definite chance he would've been drop-kicked



Townsmen intern Kyra Auffermann and "Herman," a doll that cries and demands attention, giving students who care for it a small taste of parenthood.

out the window.

7:15 p.m. — Go to the mall with my dad. He suggests carrying Herman in a shopping bag ... although I have a feeling that might defeat the purpose of the project.

7:45 p.m. — I feel like the epitome of a dork. I'm walking through the Rockingham Mall, and I'm either getting dirty looks from people who assume I'm a teenage mother at first glance, or very quizzical expressions when they realize I'm carrying a doll.



Students learn that formerly enjoyable tasks like shopping can become quite difficult if their "baby" decides to get finicky at the wrong time.

8:10 p.m. — I'm in the The Gap, which is crowded sardine-style, when Herman lets loose. How charming. I decide that I don't want a store full of already tense shoppers to attack, so I just use the panic key for instant silence. I sure hope real kids come with those.

8:15 p.m. — I'm standing in the longest line ever at The Gap. A middle-aged woman comments about the "baby," and the conversation evolves until it includes half the people there. Apparently this project is very common among high schools — one woman remembered her daughter losing the doll, only to have a nearby drugstore call to say they found the baby, and it was scaring the customers.

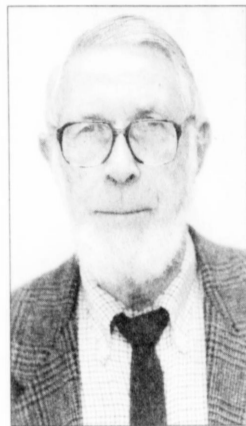
8:20 p.m. — It's officially impossible to look remotely cool while trying to balance an ugly, heavy, plastic doll on a counter while searching through your purse for change.

8:25 p.m. — "Hey, why are you carrying that baby?" "It's for a health project." "OK, so you're not just weird?"

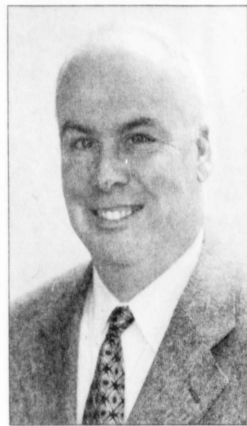
I decide that I've had enough deeply disturbed looks, so I scrawl "I'm a health project" on a napkin and tape it to the back of Herman's head.

8:35 p.m. — Waiting for my dad, I started talking to a few people outside a music store about Herman — when he starts

Continued on page 7



Frank "Skip" Eccles had not taken out papers to run for reelection as of Monday.



Fellow incumbent Gerry Gustus says he will seek reelection during a tough budgetary year.

2003 election

Who will run for School Committee?

By Ben Hellman

Gerry Gustus will make a run to keep his School Committee seat in March. The first-term School Committee member is one of two members whose term will be up this spring. Skip Eccles is the other member, but has been unavailable for comment. Eccles first joined the committee in 1997.

Gustus says he sees his primary role on the committee as "the voice of the community" and he says the community is saying to stop increasing class sizes and bring them back to levels that existed before last June's failure of the tax override.

The job could be tough with the schools facing a \$2.9 million budget deficit in the coming year, but Gustus says he will face the problems with a positive outlook.

Gustus also wants to reinstate the late bus, buses that left later in the afternoon and offered transportation to children held after school for tutoring or extracurricular activities. Gustus also wants to see Andover High School increase its number of assistant principals.

Gustus notes that increased school fees and the addition of a busing fee could help offset the deficit, but says he will listen to public feedback this month at the two budget forums for middle and elementary schools to be held on Jan. 14 and 22.

Gustus said cutting back on technology spending and delaying new text books could be other ways to save money. "Something will have to give," said Gustus.

Whatever happens, Gustus pledges not to support another Proposition 2½ override this year. Gustus says that the town effectively spoke against the measure last June when it voted against the tax override. "You absolutely have to respect it," he says.

Looking back on his term as a committee member, Gustus picked out the teachers contract and redistricting as processes he saw as successes. He called the loss of the override and preventing the grandfathering of redistricted middle-school students, disappointments.

Gustus says that despite their unpopularity with music parents, he still supports Superintendent Claudia Bach's cuts to the town's elementary instrumental music program.

Gustus says that to him, it was a money issue and had nothing to do with the state's time and learning quota.

Gustus, 47, has a son in the fourth grade and a daughter in the second grade at South Elementary. He came to Andover as a bachelor in 1986 before meeting his wife, but says he was paying attention to the political scene before he had kids in the schools. "Politics has always been an interest," he said.

A electronics sales representative at Pioneer Electronics for six months, Gustus was previously unemployed for 10 months following a lay off. "I've been through the economic downturn," says Gustus, but he remains positive that the economy will improve.

Gustus is also a soccer coach.

"Something will have to give."

GERRY GUSTUS ON POSSIBLY CUTTING TECH SPENDING TO LOWER CLASS SIZES

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Assignment is not like taking candy from baby

BABY HERMAN

Continued from page 6

to cry (which, in turn, inspires another baby — a real one, inside the store — to start wailing). But I have to admit, Herman's recorded little "coo" after he's quiet really is adorable.

8:45 p.m. — On my way home, the car stops short, and Herman takes a nosedive off the backseat. If I ever had any doubts, I'm positive this motherhood thing is a bad idea.

10:30 p.m. — I'm on the phone when Herman drowns out any conversation. (I guess needing to be fed is a legitimate enough reason.) "Hold on for a sec, the baby's crying" are

words I didn't think I'd have to say for a long time.

12:45 a.m. — I'm way too tired for this thing to be squealing in my car. It takes me a few minutes to figure out why I'm not asleep and why that obnoxious crying won't stop. Luckily, the crying stops with the third key I use.

1:20 a.m. — I swear I'm on the verge of stuffing this twit in my closet. His crying sounds that much louder and obnoxious than much later at night ... it's taking me forever to find the right key, especially with the whole being-half-asleep component.

4:20 a.m. — Will this thing

ever shut up?!

5:15 a.m. — This is like a bad joke ... I don't even try with the other keys. I just stuck in "panic", throw the doll back on the floor, roll over and go back to sleep.

5:45 a.m. — My alarm goes off. I hit it off my nightstand, and it lands upside down, on the snooze button. Ten more minutes of sleep.

5:59 a.m. — I manage to drag myself from my warm bed into the cold bathroom without opening my eyes. Very, very sleepy ...

6:45 a.m. — I get on my abysmally early bus. The driver

seems surprised by the baby. I suppose a 16-year-old girl carrying a doll is a little unexpected.

7 a.m. — In the hallway before school, half the kids want to hold Herman. The other half want to see if they can make him cry.

7:40 a.m. — Time to give Herman back to the health department before going to class.

While Herman kind of grew on me, I can't say I missed him after getting to sleep through the night. I also can't say this project taught me anything I didn't know, but it was definitely an experience.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

Here's what's for lunch in the Andover public schools this week, Jan. 2 and 3, and the following week, Jan. 6-10:

Elementary schools

Thursday, Jan. 2: Meat-filled raviolis, french toast with sausage, slice of pizza, potato puffs, peaches and milk.

Friday, Jan. 3: Toasted cheese sandwich with soup, baked chicken nuggets, mozzarella sticks with marinara sauce, carrots, pears and milk.

Monday, Jan. 6: Baked meatloaf with gravy, hot dog on a roll, pizza stick with soft pretzel, mashed potato, blueberries and milk.

Tuesday, Jan. 7: Two taco Tuesday, nachos with cheese sauce, pancakes with sliced ham, peas, fruit and milk. Lucky tray day.

Wednesday, Jan. 8: Fish and chips, crispy tenders, pizza ring with sauce, french fries, apple crisp, milk, and chocolate cake with frosting.

Thursday, Jan. 9: Spaghetti and meatballs, french toast with sausage, slice of pizza, green beans, apple and milk.

Friday, Jan. 10: Hot turkey sandwich with fries, baked chicken nuggets, mozzarella sticks with marinara sauce, peas, orange and milk.

Doherty Middle School

Thursday, Jan. 2: Meat-filled raviolis, chicken McSchool, mozzarella sticks with marinara sauce, potato puffs, peaches and milk.

Friday, Jan. 3: Two toasted cheese sandwiches with chips, stuffed crust pizza, baked chicken nuggets, carrots, pears and milk.

Monday, Jan. 6: Baked meatloaf with gravy, pizza stick with two soft pretzels, two hot dogs on a roll, mashed potato, blueberries and milk.

Tuesday, Jan. 7: Two taco Tuesday, stuffed crust pizza, nachos with cheese sauce, peas, fruit and milk.

Wednesday, Jan. 8: Fish and chips, bakery pizza, crispy tenders, french fries, apple crisp, milk, and chocolate cake with frosting.

Thursday, Jan. 9: Spaghetti

and meatballs, chicken McSchool, mozzarella sticks with marinara sauce, green beans, apple and milk.

Friday, Jan. 10: Hot turkey sandwich with fries, stuffed crust pizza, baked chicken nuggets, peas, orange and milk.

Secondary schools

Thursday, Jan. 2: Meat-filled raviolis, bakery pizza, American chop suey, fruit, veggies and milk.

Friday, Jan. 3: Two toasted cheese sandwiches, stuffed crust pizza, spaghetti and meatballs, fruit, veggies and milk.

Monday, Jan. 6: Baked

meatloaf with gravy, stuffed crust pizza, chicken, broccoli and ziti, fruit, veggies and milk.

Tuesday, Jan. 7: Two taco Tuesday, bakery pizza, rotini with meat sauce, fruit, veggies and milk.

Wednesday, Jan. 8: Fish and chips, stuffed crust pizza, spaghetti ilio olio, fruit, veggies, milk and chocolate cake with frosting.

Thursday, Jan. 9: Spaghetti and meatballs, bakery pizza, American chop suey, fruit, veggies and milk.

Friday, Jan. 10: Hot turkey sandwich with fries, stuffed crust pizza, spaghetti and meatballs, fruit, veggie and milk.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | A | D | S | | H | A | C | K | | C | A | B | A | L | |
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| S | A | R | G | E | A | N | T | A | T | A | R | M | S | | |
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| L | O | V | E | M | E | L | O | V | E | M | Y | D | O | G | |
| A | B | E | T | | A | A | R | E | | A | N | E | L | E | |
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For many, bruxism isn't just a nightmare habit. Some people continue grinding their teeth during the day, causing even more wear and tear on their teeth and jaws. If you're a teeth grasher, your dentist will see the evidence of it during a checkup. This is a good time to find out about night guards and other remedies to save yourself from this problem. New patients are always welcome here at **296 Lowell Street (Rt 133)**, where we have easy access off Rt. 93. Call us at 978-475-2431 for an appointment.
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Opinion

The year ahead

Much to be done in the everyday jobs

WITH ALL THE DIRE PREDICTIONS about this year's state and town budgets, it seems as if Andover won't make a lot of progress in the year ahead. But that is not the case.

Yes, programs will be cut, some with painful effects to some residents. Fewer new projects will begin, as selectmen are requiring both a Town Meeting and a ballot-box vote on any large capital project. This means there will be fewer flashy new programs or construction projects approved by the town than in the heady days of the late 1990s.

But the town will continue the largest sewer expansion in its more than 355 years, taking hundreds of homes off septic systems. A new fire station will be added to the new police station on Main Street. A private group will continue raising money for, and expects to begin building, a youth center that it will give to the town. Meanwhile, work continues toward creating a larger senior center.

This time of year, individuals often make outlandish New Year's resolutions. They swear they'll accomplish impressive projects, or make great changes in their lives. But real change is rarely created in an instant, thanks to one big decision. It takes months of hard work, for instance, to learn a new language, lose weight or quit smoking.

It's the same for the town. It takes months, or years, for workers to complete Andover's most significant jobs, the projects that will improve the lives of Andover residents for decades to come. Make no mistake: This year, Andover will continue important work, building the needed projects to which residents have already committed.

Web question

Good news: Andover cancer rates are going down. Why is this?

Last week's *Townsmen* Web-site question was:

How will you spend New Year's Eve?
Of the 25 people who responded:

- 4, or 16 percent, said "Going to a party."
- 10, or 40 percent, said "Staying in with family."
- 1, or 4 percent, said "Renting a movie."
- 2, or 8 percent, said "First Night in Boston."
- 3, or 12 percent, said "On vacation elsewhere."
- 5, or 20 percent, said "Other."

This week's Web question is:

To what do you attribute Andover's lowering cancer rates?

- Greater public awareness to risk factors, such as smoking.
- The town-wide smoking ban.
- The clean up of polluted industrial areas like Reichhold.
- Normal fluctuations in such statistics with time.
- Other.

To cast a vote, surf to www.andovertownsmen.com.

LETTERS POLICY

THE *Townsmen* accepts letters to the editor from the community. Letters must be typed and no longer than two, double-spaced pages. All letter writers must include addresses and phone numbers with their letters. The phone numbers will not be published.

The paper reserves the right to edit letters at its discretion. Reasons for editing include editing for length, clarity and style.

Letters should be received by the *Townsmen* by Monday at 5 p.m. for consideration in that week's paper. They may be sent by mail, fax or e-mail. As a general rule, the paper does not publish anonymous letters or thank-you letters.

It also does not publish letters for candidates in the issue prior to an election.

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DOG SLEDDING



PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

Rebecca and Melanie Long went sledding Monday with their dog Patches and friend Molly Machain.

LETTERS

'Insensitive' police log entries must be avoided

Editor, *Townsmen*:

I noticed in the police log that the *Townsmen* published a Dec. 26 incident of a "black" female hitchhiking in Elm Square. I did not notice any other report leading with: a "white" resident, or an "Asian" resident.

Were others as deeply embarrassed as I was? Does the editorial staff of the paper blindly print whatever insensitivity the police blotter serves up?

Dave DeInnocentis
5 Random Lane

Environmentally friendly ways to better lawns

Editor, *Townsmen*:

Following the League of Women Voters forum "Healthy Lawns and Landscapes" on pesticide reduction and water conservation last January, we received numerous homeowner requests for referrals to organically-trained landscapers and lawn-care professionals. We encouraged homeowners to request organic and non-toxic lawn-care and landscaping services from their current providers, as well as to seek alternative firms that may already be using these approaches.

Now there is an opportunity for local lawn-care professionals to avail themselves of the training and education they may need to offer organic and non-toxic lawn care to their customers, and to meet the local demand for these services.

Registration is now open for the second-annual organic land-care training course, offered by Northeast Organic Farming Association/Mass. This five-day course runs from Jan. 21 to 23 and 28 and 29 (snow day Jan. 30) and will be held at Tower Hill Botanical Garden in Boylston, just west of Interstate 495 near Worcester. Completing the course leads to accreditation in NOFA stan-

dards organic land care.

This is the only training in organic land care in our area geared to the professional landscaper. Last year's course was over-subscribed, which has led NOFA to open this year's training to 90 participants.

We encourage all local landscapers to register early and avail themselves of this training. Becoming NOFA-certified in organic land care will put a landscaping business at the cutting edge of the changing lawn and land-care industry. Our community will benefit greatly when more professionals are available to provide the services in organic land care that local residents are looking for in ever-increasing numbers.

For more information and to register, contact: Marilyn Castriotta, NOFA/Mass organic land-care program coordinator on 617-576-0810; or castriotta@aol.com, or www.massorganic.org.

Cynthia Barakatt, 315 River Road
Maria Bartlett, 20 Bateson Drive
Co-chairwomen

League of Women Voters of Andover/
North Andover Sustainability Committee

School leader says recap of budget year leaves inaccurate impression

Editor, *Townsmen*:

I'd like to respond to the *Townsmen* issue of Dec. 26. The coverage "Year In Review 2002" included comments about the failed override vote last June that sought additional support for the school budget.

A portion reads: "School administrators immediately began planning which school employees would be laid off and which budget items would be cut. No school employees were laid off, despite the administration's dire predictions. Personnel were reassigned to different positions, sometimes at other schools."

I'd like to keep the record straight about what really did happen.

The administration had a well publicized list of positions that would be cut and expenses that would be cut. This list was discussed and shared at many meetings, printed in a newsletter that was mailed to every household, and reviewed in the *Townsmen*.

When the override failed, the administration acted on every item on that list. Positions were cut and expenses were cut. Because we opened two new

schools that needed additional staff, no existing staff member lost a job. They were reassigned. But the positions were lost. Class sizes have indeed increased due to the loss of six teaching positions, for just one example. If we had not had two new schools opening, existing staff members would have lost their jobs.

Has the *Townsmen* accurately reported the facts? Sort of. No school employees were laid off. Has the paper left the impression that the schools have managed just fine without the override? Sounds that way to me. I think the *Townsmen* should be more accurate in its reporting. The paper does a disservice to their readers when they are not careful with the words they use

and the impressions they give.

Hopefully *Townsmen* readers made their way to page 14 of the Dec. 26 paper for the article on school improvement councils, where they would learn more about the cuts made to our middle schools. They'll also see the chart that shows 35 positions cut in all three school levels. Perhaps the reader is wondering how our schools are managing without these positions.

On page 8 is the editorial "Communication the key for 2003." We are advised that what we need is to communicate, to take to heart the hard lessons learned this year from the failed override. In the meantime — communicate, please.

I agree, the school administration and the School Commit-

tee must continue to communicate, using as many vehicles as possible. I want the people in Andover to know what is going on in our schools, and what they will look like if more positions are cut and more textbooks are not purchased. There will be meetings regarding the school budget on Jan. 14 at 7 pm. at West Middle School and Jan. 22 at 7 pm. at West Elementary School.

I hope the *Townsmen* will help by doing their part to communicate accurately. This can be our wish for 2003 — please!

Tina Girdwood
15 Tucker Road

(Tina Girdwood is chairwoman of the Andover School Committee.)

THE THURSDAY FILE

I was wise enough to never grow up while fooling most people into believing I had.

MARGARET MEAD

Make the most of yourself, for that is all there is of you.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

Because things are the way they are, things will not stay the way they are.

BERTOLT BRECHT

Expect the best, plan for the worst, and prepare to be surprised.

DENIS WAITLEY

He wrapped himself in quotations — as a beggar would enfold himself in the purple of Emperors.

RUDYARD KIPLING

First, have a definite, clear practical ideal; a goal, an objective. Second, have the necessary means to achieve your ends; wisdom, money, materials, and methods. Third, adjust all your means to that end.

ARISTOTLE

Follow the good and learn their ways.

CHINESE PROVERB

All I needed was a steady table and a typewriter...a marble-topped bedroom washstand table made a good place; the dining-room table between meals was also suitable.

AGATHA CHRISTIE

If you want happiness for a hour — take a nap. If you want happiness for a day — go fishing. If you want happiness for a month — get married. If you want happiness for a year — inherit a fortune. If you want happiness for a lifetime — help others.

CHINESE PROVERB

The Eleanor Roosevelt quotation:

Happiness is not a goal; it is a by-product.

Best quotation sent:

The trick in life is to be able to distinguish the difference between what we wish was happening and what really is.

RHONA BARRETT
ADVICE COLUMNIST

POLICE LOG

ARRESTS

Saturday, Dec. 28 - At 8:58 p.m., Robert Leighton, 38, of 59 Raven Road, Lowell, was arrested and charged with driving under the influence of alcohol on Chandler Road.

Sunday, Dec. 29 - At 10:51 p.m., Diane Frazer, 33, of 4 Angela Lane, Billerica, was arrested and charged with assault and battery on a police officer and assault with a dangerous weapon on Moraine Street.

INCIDENTS

Wednesday, Dec. 25 - At 11:25 a.m., a Lupine Road resident reported seeing a woman who looked like a bag lady who stopped at G. Henderson Construction. She was afraid the woman might go onto the property looking for a place to stay during the storm. An officer reported that she was a homeless woman, and she was OK.

At 10:37 p.m., a caller reported a person driving a snowblower down Lowell Street without headlights.

Thursday, Dec. 26 - At 8:51 a.m., Christine Metzemaekers reported that she was evacuating Memorial Circle and Stowe

Court because they were without power since 7 p.m. the night before.

At 10:03 a.m., state police reported numerous accidents on Interstate 93 between Dascomb Road and Route 125. They requested a cruiser in the area with lights on to slow down motorists.

At 10:54 a.m., a passerby reported a wire down across the road on Lowell Street.

At 11:03 Mass Electric requested an officer on North Main Street for 10 minutes.

At 11:19 a.m., someone reported a wire down on Elm Street.

At 11:34 a.m. a caller reported a tree on Rocky Hill Road leaning against a power line.

At 12:01 p.m., a caller reported a cable line down on Maple Avenue.

At 12:04 p.m. a caller reported a phone wire down on Sandy Brook Circle.

At 12:56 p.m. a caller reported a large tree limb caught in the wires on Rivanna Road.

At 4:37 p.m., a River Road resident reported a vehicle

parked in her driveway for 15 minutes. She was nervous because there were four people inside. The vehicle belonged to her next door neighbor, whose driveway hadn't been plowed.

Friday, Dec. 27 - At 6:21 p.m., a Tiffany Lane resident reported that some type of animal was behind his couch. He thought it was rabid. It ran out of the house when he opened a door.

At 8:11 p.m., a Brown Street resident reported that someone had smashed her windshield the night before and that she just received a call from a glass company asking if she needed her windshield replaced.

Saturday, Dec. 28 - At 10:28 a.m., an Abbot Bridge Road resident called 911 to report that his or her dog had escaped from the house and the caller wanted some help retrieving it. An officer advised the person not to call 911 unless there was an emergency.

At 9:11 p.m. an officer transported a female to Dunkin Donuts. A criminal complaint was made against her for driving

without a license, failing to stay in marked lanes and driving with an obstructed view. The car was released into the custody of the driver's sister.

Sunday, Dec. 29 - At 9:57 a.m., a Lovejoy Road resident reported that his niece changed the amount on a check from \$50 to \$950.

AUTO INCIDENTS

Tuesday, Dec. 24 - At 1:13 a.m., a security officer reported that a silver car struck another car in the Brickstone Square

At 10:37 p.m., an officer found a car parked with its emergency brake on, in front of CVS that was moving forward slightly. The officer paged the owner in CVS who came out and corrected the problem.

Wednesday, Dec. 25 - At 5:06 p.m., two vehicles went off River Road. Injuries were reported.

At 5:41 p.m., an officer reported being flagged down by a woman on Main Street whose car was stuck in the Banknorth parking lot.

Saturday, Dec. 28 - At 9:45 p.m., a car was being towed by Elm Street Auto when it came off the wrecker and hit a tree on Beacon Street.

At 11:05 p.m., a woman reported that an intoxicated male kept calling her. An officer reported that he gave the caller the word and the woman advice.

Snap decision:

Why police push seat-belt use

According to police:

- Safety belts reduce the risk of death or serious injury in a motor vehicle crash by half. Yet a statewide survey conducted by the Governor's Highway Safety Bureau found only 56 percent of front-seat occupants wear safety belts in Massachusetts - compared to 75 percent belt use nationwide. The lowest usage rate was among teens 16 to 19 years old, at 50 percent.

- Massachusetts law requires all drivers and passengers to be properly restrained in a safety belt, booster seat or child-safety seat. A driver may be stopped if a child 12 years of age or younger is improperly

restrained (\$25 fine per child).

- Children 12 years of age and under, especially those riding in a rear-facing child safety seat, should always ride properly restrained in the back seat away from an air bag.

- Children under five and weighing less than 40 pounds must ride in a child-safety seat. Children five and older and weighing more than 40 pounds must wear a safety belt; though for maximum safety, children 40 to 80 pounds should ride in a booster seat. Children who weigh more than 80 pounds and are taller than 4 foot 9 inches tall are ready for an adult safety belt.

Cops have suspect in Vale holdup

■ SUNDAY'S ROBBERY

Continued from page 1

ing to police.

Here's what police say happened: The victim handed over approximately \$100 in cash. The men then fled the store and ran to an older model brown or black pickup truck on Tewksbury Street, where another male was waiting. The truck's tailgate was open and pieces of wood hung out the back. The truck drove north towards Tewksbury Street.

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Townspeople/Arts

TOWN TALK

Ambush on tour

Andover native Raymond Potvin, historian, archaeologist, and now author will be doing slide lectures and book signings for his book *The Scalp Hunters: Abenaki Ambush at Lovewell Pond - 1725* which he co-authored with Alfred E. Kayworth of Derry, N.H.

Events include slide lecture and book signing on:

- Jan. 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Dracut Historical Society, 1660 Lakeview Ave., Dracut;
- Jan. 16 at 7 p.m. at the Haverhill Historical Society, the Buttonwoods Museum, 240 Water St., Haverhill;
- Jan. 22 at 7:30 p.m. at the East Boxford public library, 10 Elm St., Boxford;
- Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. at Borders Books at the Loop, 90 Pleasant Valley St., Methuen (phone: 978-689-1999; and
- Jan. 29 at 7 p.m. at the Hampstead, N. H. public library, Route 121 at the corner of Route 111 (phone: 603-329-6411).

24 hours of rock – in a chair

The Merrimack Valley YMCA's Earth Service Corps is holding a 24-hour rock-a-thon fundraiser beginning at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 4.

Students are raising pledges to support their efforts to rock-around-the-clock in rocking chairs located in the YMCA's lobby with the dollars raised going to the Earth Service Corps Environmental Summit. The summit brings together a panel of leaders in the area of conservation, recycling, pollution and ecology, and offers a hands-on recycling project that the participants may take home.

This environmental summit is scheduled for May 11, and will be open to the public. Panelists and keynote speaker will be announced in February.

The Earth Service Corps is a national YMCA program designed to give youth an opportunity to learn more about the environment and to work on various volunteer projects in their community. Meetings are held weekly on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the YMCA. For more information contact Robert Benedict or Danyelle Dutton, YMCA Earth Service Corps advisors at 978-685-3541.

Chariot to sweeten Andover

Gospel singers the Bullock Brothers and Sons will sing in concert on Sunday, Jan. 5 at 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. at Free Christian Church, 31 Elm St., Andover.

The Bullock Brothers and Sons have sung and ministered to thousands throughout New England and beyond. They perform a variety of gospel songs meant to draw an enthusiastic response from all ages. Old-time favorites often sung include *Go Down, Moses*, or *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*.

The group, which was formed in 1950, consisted of six brothers, of which Richard and George, ordained ministers, are still singing.

The Bullock Brothers and Sons are continuing a gospel tradition passed to them by a performer known as "Singing Walter." Walter traveled the revival circle singing in their home state of North Carolina. He was the father of the original six Bullock Brothers gospel singers.

Student magazine

Elsie Wu's class at High Plain Elementary School, including Rachel Ochs and Bridget Aumais, has produced *The RB Magazine* and is busy working on a second edition. The magazine includes such information as how a classmate broke his foot.

REIN AND SNOW



TOP PHOTO BY TIM JEAN; BOTTOM PHOTO BY BEN HELLMAN

Above: Jessica Zucchino enjoys a quick trip down an icy pass near Andover High School.

Below: Tony Ruiz, Celeste Santos, Marlene Santos and Idaliza Gutierrez dig out from the Christmas storm on Bartlett Street, downtown. Gutierrez was visiting Andover from the Dominican Republic.



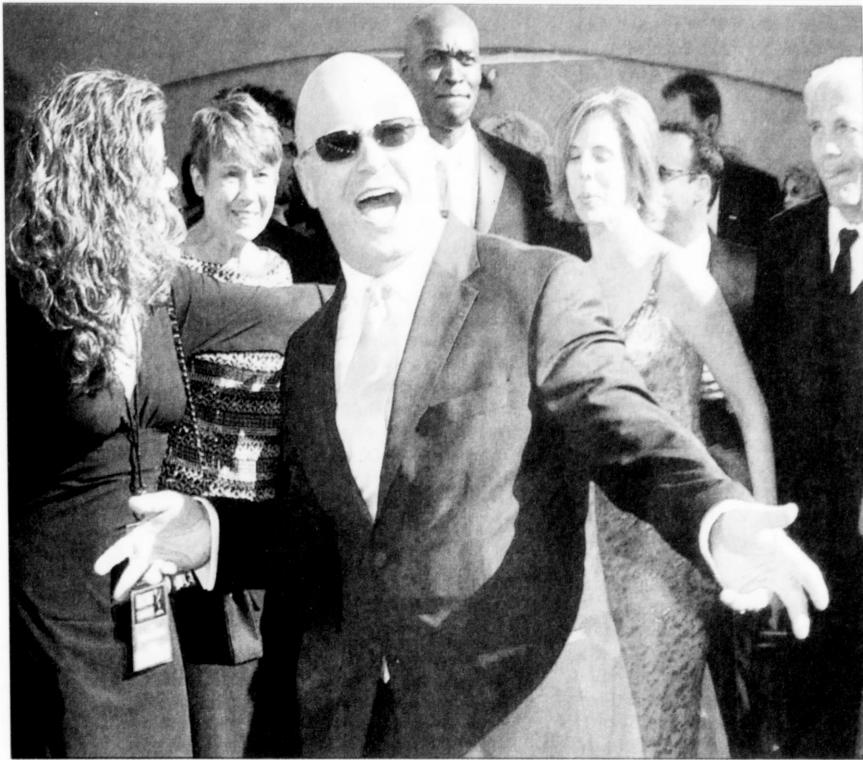
Second season on tap for Emmy winner

Andover grad Michael Chiklis' *The Shield* begins new season Jan. 7

Following a first season that earned him an Emmy Award for Best Actor, Andover's Michael Chiklis will soon be seen in the second season of the gritty cop drama *The Shield*.

Season two of *The Shield* begins Tuesday, Jan. 7 at 10 p.m. on cable station FX (Ch. 30 on Andover cable). Episodes from Season 1 will be aired again on FX beginning New Year's Day.

After several years of having trouble finding work he desired, Chiklis committed himself to getting in shape and earned the lead role in the fledgling TV drama. For days after he received the Emmy Award he became emotional when talking about it. "What was wonderful was to realize that the place was shocked, and then to realize that they were delighted. It's such an out-of-body experience," he told the *Townsmen* shortly after winning the award. Then he chuckled crazily. "I'm sorry. Sometimes I just burst into spontaneous, hysterical laughter – it's just so unbelievable," he said.



Actor Michael Chiklis, who would win outstanding lead actor in a drama series for his work in *The Shield*, gestures to photographers as he arrives for the 54th annual Primetime Emmy Awards.

Before color TV ... there was 'The Shadow'

By Ben Hellman

Mel Simons knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men.

At least he knows all about the mysterious music, thunderous gust of wind and that low, demonic laughter that are all stamps of the signature opening of *The Shadow* radio program. On Sunday, Jan. 12, at 2 p.m. at Memorial Hall Library, radio personality and old-time radio show aficionado Simons will make a presentation of old-time radio highlights.

A self-described "child of the '50s," Simons says he caught the tail end of radio in an era when television was taking over the American consciousness. While other kids were turning to the tube, Simons says that radio had an allure for him that television couldn't topple. "What I pictured in my mind was better than anything I could see on the screen," says Simons.

Simons says he sat down to laugh at shows like *Amos and Andy* and shiver through horror serials and varieties like *Inner Sanctum*. When *Inner Sanctum's* signature creaking door opened the program, "It would scare the hell out of you," says Simons.

Simons began to make tapes of radio programs and then began copying and trading tapes with other radio junkies. The result is a basement filled with 165,000 tapes, many of which he hasn't listened to – "I haven't even made a dent in them," he admits.

Comedian and violinist Jack Benny became Simons' hero. "He was my idol," says Simons. But Simons says that his becoming a

stand-up comedian and accordionist was coincidental to his love of Benny and his act. "I was always getting thrown out of class for horsing around," says Simons.

Horsing around and his passion for radio seem to have paid off. Simons has been a guest on WBZ Boston radio for 23 years, appearing on *The Larry Glick Show*, *The Bob Raleigh Show*, and now regularly on *The Steve LeVeille Show*. Simons also works as an emcee in

the Catskills nightclub circuit, introducing comics and music acts.

At his Jan. 12 show, Simons will

set up each of the radio highlights in its historical context and will answer questions at the end.

SOME OLD-TIME RADIO FACTS

- Orson Welles was radio's first Shadow.
- *Inner Sanctum's* opening door creak was copyrighted so no one else could use it.
- The Green Hornet's sidekick Kato's nationality changed from Japanese to Filipino immediately and without explanation after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.
- Jack Benny holds the record for the longest laugh in radio history. In a sketch Benny was held up by a robber who threatened "Your money or your life!" Goodman got a 45-second laugh when he didn't respond. When the robber repeated the threat Benny responded "I'm trying to decide," which sent the audience into hysterics for another 40 to 45 seconds.



Mel Simons knows what lurks in the hearts of old radio programs, and enjoys sharing the experience.

Andover Historical Society

Three programs take new look at town's history

By Elaine Clements Zopes

Executive Director
Andover Historical Society

The Andover Historical Society will kick off 2003 with three new program series.

"History & Crafts," after-school workshops, is designed for children ages 8 through 12. The popular Noontime Lecture Series will continue into 2003; a new topic will be introduced in April. The Andover Historical Society is also launching a new Sunday afternoon survey course on Andover history.

History & Crafts

Following the success of the Fall History & Crafts workshop series, the Historical Society is offering a new series to run January through May 2003. History & Crafts introduces children to history creatively through contemporary interpretation of traditional crafts and activities. On Thursday, Jan. 30, children can explore the craft of paper marbelizing and create covers for journals and scrapbooks, or design personal stationery. Feb. 6 is an opportunity to learn about the art and craft of Valentine making, past and present. On March 13 children can discover one way people preserved

images of their loved ones before the invention of the camera. Thursday, April 10, is a special intergenerational program on the golden days of radio. Children will be encouraged to bring a grandparent or friend and learn all about radio comedies and dramas and the art of creating sound effects. On May 15, children can stencil folk designs and create an original work of art. All History & Craft workshops are pre-registered and limited to 15 participants. The cost is \$15; \$10 for Historical Society members.

There will also be a special art workshop for children ages 10 to 14 on Thursday, Jan. 16 from 3 to 5 p.m., when local artist Emily Trespas will teach print-making. Participants will learn about this traditional art form, and put their own contemporary spin on their designs. The cost is \$15; \$10 for Historical Society members.

Noontime lectures

The popular Noontime Lecture Series will continue through June 2003. The current series on transportation runs Jan. 22 with "Canals As Early Transportation"; a February lecture on the impact of the automobile; and March 12 with

"The Streetcar Comes to Massachusetts." Noontime lectures in April, May and June will explore a different side on Andover's past and present and will include a presentation by Julie Bernson from the Addison Gallery of American Art at Phillips Academy, and more. All noontime lectures are brown bag programs and start at noon. Admission is \$5; \$3 for Historical Society members.

Sunday series

Still in the planning stages is a survey course on Andover history that will run one Sunday afternoon every month, covering Native American history through 21st-century historic preservation activities. On Sunday, Feb. 9, Eugene Winters of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology will talk about the pre-settlement Native American presence in Andover. On Sunday, March 2, Carol Majahad, Director of the North Andover Historical Society, will discuss the early European settlements in Andover. On Sunday, April 6, Andover Historical Society's Director of Education and Research Juliet Mofford will speak about the Andover witch trials of 1692. The series will con-

tinue into May and June with lectures covering Andover in the Revolutionary War and "The Hill," Andover's educational institutions. The series will resume in the fall of 2003 with lectures covering the Industrial Revolution through today. All Andover history survey lectures start at 2 p.m. and will be held at the Historical Society, 97 Main St. in Andover. The cost will be \$10 per lecture; \$5 for Historical Society members.

The Andover Historical Society and Amos Blanchard House and Barn Museum, 97 Main St. in Andover, celebrate the rich history of Andover and the greater Merrimack Valley. The Amos Blanchard House and Barn Museum recreates the life and times of a typical middle class New England family in the early 19th century. The Society offers a variety of educational programs to individuals and groups of all ages. Membership in the Andover Historical Society costs as little as \$20 and provides a range of benefits including reduced program admission and special member events.

For further information, call 978-475-2236, or visit the Web site at www.andhists.org.

Business

BRIEFS

Siller to Taiwan for honor

Curtis A. Siller Jr. of Wintergreen Circle, Andover has been selected to receive the IEEE Communications Society award for exemplary service to its publications initiatives. Siller will be recognized later this month in Taipei, Taiwan, in conjunction with the 2002 IEEE Global Communications Conference. The 70,000-member society is the world's largest professional group committed to advancing the science of communications, and is headquartered in New York City. More than half its membership is drawn from outside the United States. Its five sole-sponsored journals and magazines are independently ranked by the Institute of Scientific Information Journal Study as the world's top five publications in the area of telecommunications, assessed on the basis of scientific and engineering impact. Dr. Siller has served on the editorial board of four scientific publications, including as editor-in-chief of IEEE Communications Magazine and currently as steering committee chairman of the IEEE transactions on multimedia.



Curtis A. Siller Jr.

Siller is Chief Technology Officer with Cetacean Networks Inc., www.cetacean.com, located in Portsmouth, NH. He is responsible for providing the company's scientific vision, as well as overseeing its day-to-day technology activities.

Prior to joining the company soon after its founding, Siller was with Bell Laboratories for more than 30 years. His activities at Bell Labs led to more than 50 refereed publications, a book on optical networks, eight patents, contributions to other reference texts, and numerous corporate and professional awards. A highlight of his career was working with Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson, 1974 Nobel Prize recipients, in the area of experimental apparatus for cosmological investigations, according to a release. He is both an IEEE and Bell Laboratories Fellow.

Gracy is new team leader

Mark Gracy, agent/partner, is a new team leader at Keller Williams Realty in downtown Andover, at 63 Park St. He is a member of the Agent Leadership Council at the Andover office. He has recently attended the Mega Agent Boot Camp in Austin, Texas.

Prior to his joining Keller Williams, he was a residential sales consultant for Re/Max where he earned membership in the 100% Club, one of the highest honors for annual sales production.

He owned and managed a Re/Max office in Ipswich, where he managed a team of buyer assistants and administrative staff. As team leader, he was responsible for excess of \$15 million in annual real-estate sales.

Keller Williams grows, learns

Three others are also working with Keller Williams.

John Ostochule, who recently moved to Andover, says he hopes to build new relationships with clients. He is currently employed as an ophthalmic medical tech where he assists with eye surgery and performs eye exams. He says he's eager to start his real-estate career.

Mike Cuscia was born in Lawrence and has lived in Methuen for the past 33 years. He joined his father in the family plumbing business in 1963 and has been involved in commercial, industrial and institutional contracting in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine. He lives with his wife of 36 years, Sharon, and their two children, Mike Jr. and LeeAnn. He enjoys golf, and spending time with his family.

Rosemary Holmes-Draper has completed the specialized real estate business course entitled "Business Development for the Residential Specialist" conducted by the Council of Residential Specialists of the National Association of Realtors.

The course was conducted in Rockland, Maine and is one of the required classes that must be taken by real-estate agents and brokers who will eventually qualify for the coveted Certified Residential Specialist (CRS) designation. The two-day course covered the preparation for business plans, marketing programs and operations budgets.

Laughs running out at Grill 93

Italian-American restaurant, The Chateau, to replace Grill 93's food, comedy

By Ben Hellman

Grill 93 could be trading in its comic stage for oil paintings and Italian-American cuisine. A Grill 93 manager who declined to give his name said this week that when the final sale goes through in February, Grill 93 will become The Chateau Restaurant of Andover, which despite the French name, is a restaurant that serves primarily Italian and American food.

The restaurant, bar and comedy show place located on River Road and visible from Interstate 93, tipped its hand this month when it asked selectmen to transfer its liquor license to The Chateau Restaurant of Andover and announced John Nocera as manager. Nocera owns Chateau Restaurants in Waltham and Norwood as well as Nocera's in Stoughton.

Grill 93 owner Robert Soho was not available for comment on the impending sale.

But past manager Ronald Sava was a vocal opponent of Andover's smoking ban, saying that it would have financial effects on the restaurant, which he called an entertainment complex.

"Every comedy club in the country has smoking," said Sava in January 2001.

Over the years, residents driving I-93 have become accustomed to seeing signs in front of Grill 93 announcing twin lobster specials. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) criticized the restaurant for its lobster quest game, which allowed patrons to operate a mechanical claw to pluck lobsters from a tank. PETA called the game cruel.

Last summer stand-up comedian Paul D'Angelo filmed his situation comedy pilot *A Fine Mess* in the restaurant. A special showing of the pilot later aired for an invited audience, and a laugh track was taped.

The Nocera family has owned and operated The Chateau Restaurant of Waltham since 1933.

Dinner specials run between \$10 and \$15. Pasta, chicken, steak and seafood are on the menu, as well as a range of sandwiches from \$5 to \$10. Dress is casual. The restaurant also rents function rooms for events.



PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

The Grill 93 building on River Road, visible from Interstate 93 and known for its comedy and lobster specials, is expected to become The Chateau Restaurant of Andover, an Italian-American restaurant.



WINTER WONDERS



The Merrimack Valley branches of Banknorth Massachusetts, including those in Andover, concluded a two-week Toys for Tots collection on Saturday, Dec. 21. Local child Nikelle Petrillo, with Banknorth Senior Vice President Jo-Anne Giuffrida, presented the US Marines Sgt. Brad Sidlau (at left) and LCPL Joseph Fitzsimons with all the toys collected for this drive. Bank customers and employees responded with donations of hundreds of toys to needy children during the holiday season.



Employees at Andover's Putnam Investments made Christmas special for 90 local children last week. Armed with a child's first name, clothing size and special interests, workers such as Thomas Firth (far left, above), and Jessica Wachsmann (with husband Adam at right), filled a room with wrapped gifts. The gifts were delivered to children at the Lawrence YMCA, according to Frank Kenneally (second from left above), YMCA branch executive director.

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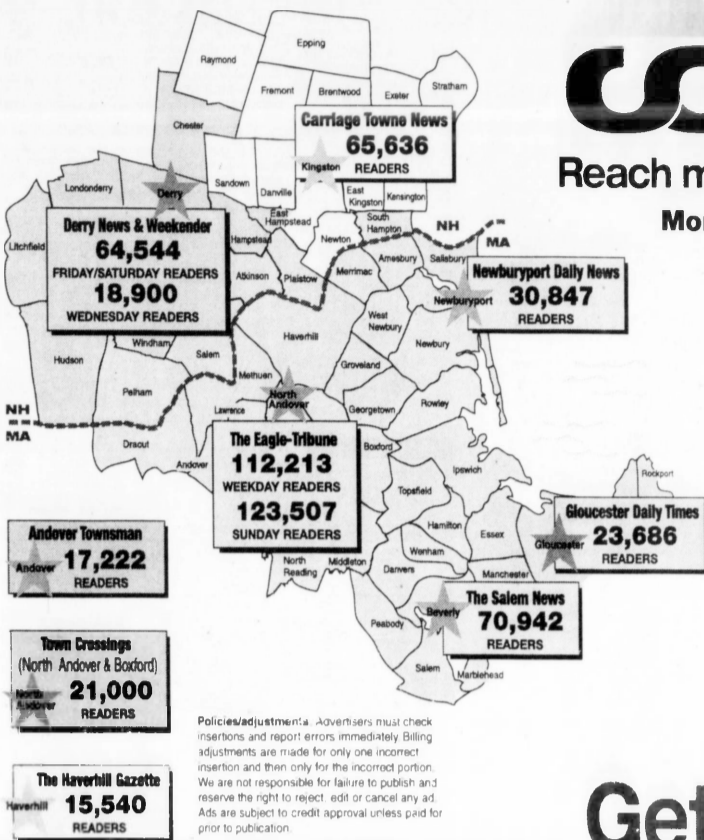
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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Superior Court
County of Essex
CIVIL DOCKET #
ESCV2002-02399
RE: Andover Development Trust v Andover Realty Trust
ORDER OF NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
TO Andover Realty Trust and Jaishri Singh, Trustee, Andover, in the County of Essex; all in said Commonwealth;
AND TO ALL PERSONS ENTITLED TO THE BENEFIT OF THE SOLDIERS AND SAILORS CIVIL RELIEF ACT OF 1940 AS AMENDED:
 Andover Development Trust, a Massachusetts Realty Trust with a usual place of business in Andover, claiming to be the holder of a mortgage covering property situated in Andover, Essex County, Ma, known and numbered as land off Jenkins Road, and more fully described in said mortgage given by Andover Realty Trust and Jaishri Singh, Trustee, dated April

11, 2002 recorded in Essex County Northern District Registry of Deeds, Book 6776, Page 102 has filed with said court a Complaint for authority to foreclose said mortgage in the manner following by entry on and possession of the premises therein described and by exercise of the power of sale contained in said mortgage.
 If you are entitled to the benefits of the Soldiers and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940 as amended, and you object to such foreclosure you or your attorney should file a written appearance and answer in said court at Lawrence in said County on or before 01/27/2003 or you may be forever barred from claiming that such foreclosure is invalid under said Act.
WITNESS, Suzanne V. DelVecchio, Esquire, Chief Justice of the Superior Court, at Lawrence Massachusetts this 18th day of December, 2002.
 Thomas H. Driscoll, Jr.,
 Clerk of the Courts
 January 2, 2003

PUBLIC NOTICE
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
METROPOLITAN BOSTON/NORTHEAST REGION
BUREAU OF RESOURCE PROTECTION
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL
205A Lowell Street
WILMINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01887
TEL (978) 661-7600

Pursuant to Chapter 21, Section 43 of the General Laws, and Regulations 314 CMR 7 and 2.06, notice is given of the following application for sewer connection permit and the action the Department proposes to take:
 CITY/TOWN OF: Andover
 PROJECT NAME: Coachman's Ridge at Andover
 APPLICANT: Reid Blute - Coachman's Development, LLC
 LOCATION: Haverhill St. at YMCA Drive
 PURPOSE: Sewer Extension for (80) residences
 TRANSMITTAL NO: W032986
 DATE OF PRINTING: January 2, 2003
 PROPOSED ACTION: TENTATIVE DETERMINATION TO ISSUE
 The above application, along with applicable laws, regulations and procedures are available for inspection at the above address. Comments on the proposed action or a request for a public hearing on the proposed action must be received at the above address within 30 days of this notice.
 John Zajac,
 Bureau of Resource Protection
 January 2, 2003

TOWN OF ANDOVER PLANNING BOARD
 Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be convened on Tuesday, January 14, 2003, at 7:30 p.m., in the Third Floor Conference Room, Town Office Building, Bartlett Street, on an application made by Brienneck Realty Trust for a 2-lot Definitive Subdivision Plan entitled "Mariano Street Extension" on property owned by Mary Branco located off Mariano Street, more specifically identified as "Assessors' Map 15B, Parcel 2. The application may be examined in the Planning Department between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
THE ANDOVER PLANNING BOARD
 Paul J. Salafia,
 Chairman
 December 26, 2002
 January 2, 2003

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