

OUR 117TH YEAR

Andover Townsman

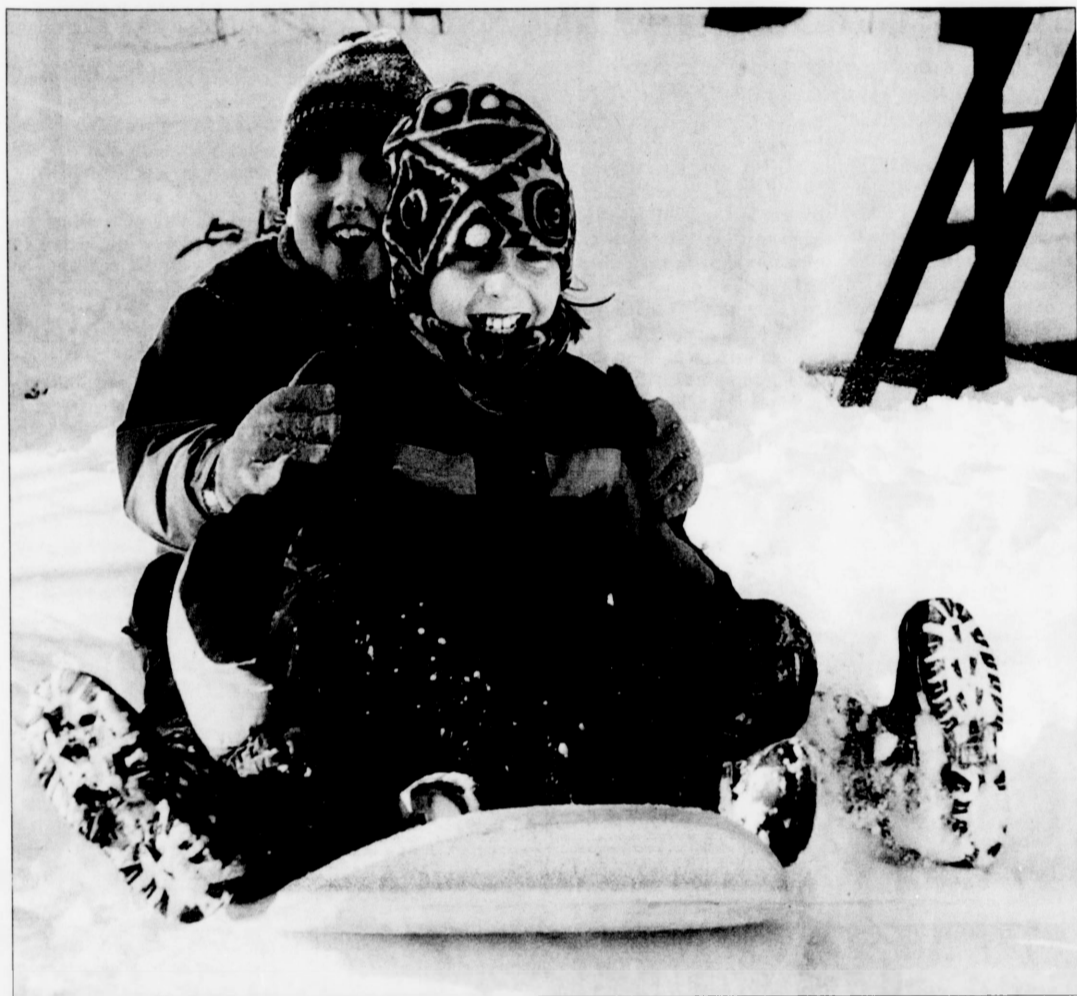
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DECEMBER 30, 2004

75 CENTS

Slipping into the new year – 2005



Abble Pustis (In front) and Andrea Pennock (In back), both 9, enjoy their first day of winter vacation as they sled in their yard on Dufton Road after this winter's first big snowstorm.

PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

5 stories to watch in '05

By Andrea Gregory

When the new year dawns, Andover will continue struggling with some of the same issues it has for years: Controlling spending, finishing projects such as the sewer expansion job without further overruns and delays, and raising money to privately build a youth center.

But there are at least five areas where Andover could see substantial changes in the new year. This handful of stories that bear watching in 2005 include:

number of the town's large decisions this year. It will be worth watching whether it affects what Andover demands from its town manager, what type of benefits town leaders agree to include in employee contracts and what type of raises employees are

3 Who will lead town?

Buzz Stapczynski – the longest sitting town manager in Andover's history – is in the last year of his third five-year contract. His contract ends June 4. Whether to offer Stapczynski another five-year contract needs to be decided by March 4.

Selectmen Chairman Brian Major said this process of evaluating the town manager will be done in open session. During their annual evaluations, selectmen have evaluated him privately and then issued a bland but public one-page joint evaluation.

Selectmen will hold a workshop on Jan. 11 at 6:30 p.m. They plan to discuss what characteristics an Andover town manager should have and the public is welcome to weigh in, said Major.



Buzz Stapczynski

Later this month, residents will have the opportunity to voice their opinions on Stapczynski's performance and whether he should return. That

meeting is tentatively scheduled for Jan. 24 and will also include a presentation by Stapczynski.

Stapczynski has not said flat out that he wants to continue serving Andover as town manager, but Major said he has no reason to believe Stapczynski would turn it down. According to Major, selectmen are considering Stapczynski the only candidate in the running for now. If they decide Stapczynski does not meet the standards of the town, they will begin to look elsewhere.

Stapczynski makes \$116,119 and was recently denied a pay raise by the selectmen. But selectmen said their decision was made because of the town's financial situation – there is no money in the budget for employee raises – and not Stapczynski's performance.

5 Facelift for downtown

Officials have been planning to beautify and improve the traffic flow on Andover's Main Street since 1998. But in February the multi-million Main Street project, which includes both state and town money, will finally go out to bid, the first major step toward construction.

Senior Planner Lisa Schwarz said construction should start between June and September.

Schwarz has worked as the liaison to the Main Street Committee for years. She has watched the committee strive to create a look that will fit with the town's character.

Upgrading the streetscape, installing street lights with an antique New England feel, adding brick crosswalks with a herringbone pattern, upgrading the curbing and putting new benches in the area is expected by those involved to make Main Street more attractive and welcoming. Schwarz said she hopes the outcome will be something that benefits the Andover business community and is enjoyed by residents and shoppers alike.

The state will award Andover \$1.5 million for the Main Street project in the spring. In summer 2006, Andover will receive another \$1.5 million towards finishing the project. Town Meeting voters appropriated a total of \$573,000 that will also be used toward the downtown renovations.

Schwarz said the town wants to receive weekly construction updates to assure the project is staying on track. If all goes well, the downtown renovations should be complete by the fall of 2006.

Of course, downtown businesses, workers and shoppers will be interested to see not only the final product, but how construction affects the downtown

4 Taxpayers' temperament

traffic during 2005.

During the past decade, Andover voters have agreed to fund many large projects – from new and expanded schools to a new downtown safety center. Several of the large projects have been completed years behind schedule and millions over-budget.

Residents made it clear they are frustrated with the town's management of its tax money at a Special Town Meeting this year. They voted against providing enough for a 1-percent raise for town employees, and heavily criticized the town's management of the overbudget and behind-schedule sewer-expansion project.

Whether this "get it together" attitude continues could affect a

2 New senior center?

The town has talked about a new senior center for years, but financial constraints have helped keep the much-anticipated facility from becoming reality.

The coming year will determine how close the town is to building a new senior center and how supportive of the project the community is.

The project will need two rounds of approval – at Town Meeting and the ballot box – to remain on track this year.

Construction for the project is estimated to cost around \$6.5 million. Plant and Facilities Director Joe Piantadosi said the cost was projected before changes to the state bidding law and a recent price hike in materials. He said the total cost of the

Continued on page 4

SECURITY VS. PRIVACY

In 2005, plans to boost security townwide

By Andrea Gregory

Andover leaders want to beef up security measures and surveillance of town property over the next few years, as laid out in the town's Capital Improvement Program.

The CIP is a five-year model of all the town's potential projects. Department heads submit requests and the town manager makes a recommendation on each proposal.

The library could soon have 28 cameras and two digital recorders intended to keep an eye on areas not constantly under staff supervision. The surveillance would watch the entrances to the building, emergency stairways, delivery areas and hall-

ways. The town manager is recommending the project be completed during the next two years, with the town spending \$25,000 per year to do so. Operating the security system is estimated to cost \$2,400 annually.

Security upgrades for water system components are also included in this year's CIP. The town plans to spend \$50,000 per year to purchase the new security measures which include "real time" monitoring and intrusion detection. The request follows a vulnerability assessment required by the Environmental Protection Agency. In a few months, Andover is obligated to report back to the EPA with its plan for

Continued on page 2



Cameras tape the movements at the Andover Safety Center. Town officials want to add cameras and other security devices to other public buildings as well.

PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

SCHOOLS AHS wants cameras

By Rita Savard

A watchful eye might be focusing in on the halls and parking lots of Andover High School next year.

School officials are pushing to raise \$235,000 in taxes for security system installations and upgrades at the high school, two middle schools and four elementary schools.

Referring to tragic news headlines such as the Russian school that was besieged by terrorists in September, the School Committee voted 4-0 in favor of supporting a warrant article that would provide funds necessary to bring all town schools up to date with

security features. Member Debbie Silberstein was absent from the meeting.

"It's a different era we're living in," said committee

Chairman Tony James.

"The time has come to bring all the town's schools up to an equal level of security without further delay."

Over the past several years the town has

phased in new, state-of-the-art security equipment in some of the schools to protect students, staff and property. But there are others that still require upgrades.

Included in the school safety and security request for the

Continued on page 2

Index

Arts & Entertainment	7
Business	16
Classified/Real Estate	20
Crossword	8
Editorial	10
Education	6
Letters	10-11
Obituaries	12
Police Log	2,5
Seniors News	15
Sports	17
Townpeople	13



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TOWNWISE MEASURES

Continued from page 1

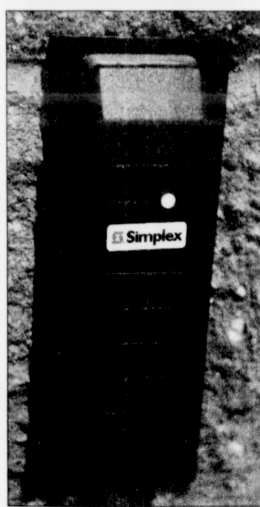
increased security. The annual expense for operating the new security measures was unknown at the time of the CIP request.

The Plant and Facilities Department plans to put \$25,000 into security and access-control systems. Plant and Facilities Director Joe Piantedosi believes expanding the town's networked keyless access system will improve building security.

Keys are becoming a thing of the past when it comes to unlocking doors and gaining access to Andover buildings, explains Piantedosi. Keys can get lost too easily and replacing locks is costly, he said.

Having town employees swipe identification cards to enter areas is the new way to go. It also allows employees to be given access to facilities as needed based on their work schedule, he said.

The way the network system works is that each card can be custom programmed for access into buildings. If an employee's card is lost or stolen, the card can be wiped out from the system, making it useless, and a new card can be issued. Keyless access cards that are not part of the network cannot be replaced so easily.



only two town buildings that are currently part of the network.

Piantedosi said it costs about \$2,800 to upgrade each door and make it part of the network. It started as a pilot program in the schools more than a year ago. To date there are 33 of these systems online throughout the Andover schools. Old Town Hall and the safety center are the

Columbine and then September 11 kicked off the enhanced security in municipalities such as Andover, said Piantedosi.

"It's a very high priority in every town I know of," he said. But taking strides to keep town-owned buildings safe and secure is nothing new.

All of Andover's buildings are equipped with intrusion alarm systems, he said. Piantedosi's department on the lower level of town offices has an extra layer of protection. A sheet of glass separates visitors from the employees in his office, and guests must be buzzed through to get any farther than the entry area.

"Technology is always moving ahead. We are always going to have to stay ahead of the curve to protect people," he said.

Officials plan to discuss town and school security measures on Jan. 3 at a joint meeting with selectmen, School Committee and Finance Committee members.



Current front doors at Andover High School, which was renovated and expanded during the late 1990s.

Schools seek safety, oversight

SCHOOL SECURITY

Continued from page 1

town's Capital Improvement Program was a closed circuit television system with remote locks for the high school and 41 keyless lock sets for Bancroft, Sanborn, South and West elementary schools, and Doherty and Wood Hill middle schools.

The School Committee and town officials declined to divulge the extent of security reinforcements in each school to avoid placing children at risk.

"If you advertise all the schools that don't have (upgraded) security systems in place, individuals of a devious nature would know exactly where the weaknesses are," said Committee member Art Barber. "We don't want to expose these places so that they become vulnerable to a bad element."

Andover's director of plant and facilities, Joe Piantedosi, confirmed that all school buildings have standard intrusion alarm systems. But lock sets in some schools, such as Doherty Middle, need to be updated, he said.

Keyless entry systems use picture ID cards with access codes, similar to a credit card, allowing only faculty and staff into the buildings during school hours. All other visitors have to ring a bell for entry, then sign in at the school's office. The coded cards also offer a list of times and names for people coming and going.

Older versions of the keyless locks are not centrally wired,

making for slower reaction time in a problem situation.

"If a teacher loses their access card and a person picks it up, in order to deal with it someone would have to reprogram each door," said Piantedosi. "With the new system, you can make necessary security changes in one quick programming step."

The Board of Selectmen - having neither accepted nor rejected the committee's request yet - asked school officials to provide records of incidents that would help justify completing the entire project at a time when money for fiscal year 2006 still looks tight. School Committee member Christopher Smith said incidents have happened - including some this year - to warrant immediate action, but he did not want to specify the circumstances.

"We asked the School Committee to talk with both (fire and police) chiefs, Murnane and Pattullo, to find out if there have been incidents and if these are the right (security) systems to put into place," said Selectmen Chairman Brian Major.

Selectmen questioned the School Committee on whether the security projects can be done in addition to other building improvements.

"Maybe some things can be swapped out in order of priority," Major suggested. "We do realize that incidents don't necessarily have to occur in order to have proper security in place. The most important thing is that

we have safety in respect to our children."

Andover Police Chief Brian Pattullo, said "a lot" of town schools are lacking in security. Looking at past incidents, the chief said they were far and few between, but initiatives to increase public safety should be taken now instead of later.

"We've seen catastrophic events in other school systems," Pattullo said. "I don't think we should wait for something to happen first. I think (school security) is something the town should start implementing as soon as possible."

Cameras at a large facility like Andover High would be particularly beneficial to lower the risk of an incident, according to Pattullo.

The police chief said Tewksbury has already adopted a closed circuit system for its high school that is wired directly to the police department.

Tewksbury Police Chief Brian Donovan said his department has access to everything that happens at the high school, deterring incidents, ranging from high-risk situations to typical student pranks such as pulling a fire alarm.

"We should be prepared for prevention," Pattullo added. "I guess you have to determine just how much of a Big Brother-type system that you want to have watching over you."

Selectmen will meet on Monday, Jan. 3 to further discuss security installations and upgrades in town schools.



PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

Cameras and other security devices are in place at the new Andover Safety Center at 32 North Main Street. The town is considering boosting security at all town buildings.

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POLICE LOG

ARRESTS

Wednesday, Dec. 22 - At 11:33 p.m., Errol Murray, 30, of 6 Pintott Road, South Winbleton, London, England, was arrested and charged with assault and battery on a household member and

assault and battery with a dangerous weapon

Thursday, Dec. 23 - At 8:27 p.m., a juvenile was arrested and charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Monday, Dec. 27 - At 6:34 p.m., Damon McManus, 34, of

199 Howard St., Lawrence, was arrested and charged with possession of a class B substance with intent to distribute and possession of a class D substance.

At 7:06 p.m., Todd Corcoran, 35, of 117 Temple Road, Waltham, was arrested and charged with possession of a class B substance with intent to distribute, possession of a class A substance and two other counts of possession of a class B substance.

Continued on page 5

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Copy Deadlines
Advertising copy must be in the Townsman office by Monday at 5 p.m.
Camera-ready advertising copy is due by Tuesday at noon.
No cancellations honored after these deadlines.

IN BRIEF

Interested in running for office? Four leaders needed

Nomination papers are available at the town clerk's office for the annual Town Election to be held on Tuesday, March 22.

The offices available on the ballot this year are:

- Moderator, one position for one year;
- Selectman, one position for three years;
- School Committee, one position for three years; and
- Andover Housing Authority, one position for five years.

The last day to return nomination papers to the Andover town clerk's office for certification is Tuesday, Feb. 1 at 5 p.m.

For those thinking about run-

ning for elective office, there will be an election workshop sponsored by the Andover/North Andover League of Women Voters, "Running For Office", on Wednesday, Jan. 12 at 7 p.m. in the selectmen's meeting room, Andover Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St.

How-to seminar

The Andover and North Andover League of Women Voters will present its annual seminar on How to Run for Office on Wednesday, Jan. 12, at 7 p.m. at Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St.

Randy Hanson, Andover town clerk, and Joyce Brad-

shaw, North Andover town clerk, will be present to answer questions concerning nomination papers and general questions on running for office.

A representative from the Office of Campaign and Political Finance will also be present to discuss campaign financing and reporting, along with local elected officials who will give practical advice on how to manage a campaign for municipal office.

Call Diana Walsh of the League of Women Voters at 978-689-3740; or Randy Hanson, town clerk, at 978-623-8259.

YMCA winter hours

Winter hours at the Andover/North Andover Branch of the Merrimack Valley YMCA are Monday through Friday, 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sunday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Special holiday hours are: New Year's Eve (Dec. 31), 5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., and New Year's Day (Jan. 1), from 1 to 6 p.m.

For more information about any of the programs offered at the Andover/North Andover YMCA Branch, call 978-685-3541 or stop by 165 Haverhill St., Andover, for a tour of the facility. For up-to-date information about the YMCA, check out its Web site (www.mvymca.org).

Stargaze year-round

Families and astronomy junkies alike can get an eyeful at the Mendel Observatory at Merrimack College, open for stargazing every Wednesday night starting at dusk, weather permitting.

The observatory, located on the top floor of the Mendel Science and Engineering Center on the Merrimack College campus, is staffed by volunteers from the North Shore Amateur Astronomy Club and houses two telescopes and a number of electronic imaging systems.

Inquiries can be made by calling Merrimack College at 978-837-5195. The "weather permitting line" is 978-837-5011.

Don't drink and drive

The Andover Police Department crackdown on drunk drivers during the "You Drink & Drive. You Lose" mobilization, will continue through Jan. 3.

The Andover Police Department will be one of 264 police departments throughout the state participating in this enforcement.

Glass flowers

The Andover Garden Club's Jan. 4 public program will be "The Glass Flowers of Harvard," presented by Henry T. Callan, who will also perform a free appraisal for garden-club members who bring antiques to the meeting.

Crafted between 1886 and 1936 by a father-and-son team, the famous Harvard glass flowers are "perfect in every way," according to Callan, and are "a delight to behold."

The program will begin at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 4 at West Parish Church, near the junction of Route 133, Shawshen Road and Reservation Road. Social time and refreshments will precede the start of the formal program. Members of the public may attend for a guest fee of \$5.

Quote, unquote . . .

IT WAS KIND OF FUNNY because it was so early, yet the lights were on in the store with all these women running around half-naked. There were definitely some truck drivers doing double takes.

— Jeannie Antonioni, 58, on the photo shoot where she posed as Miss January for Wild Women Outfitters' 2005 calendar — a calendar that raises money for breast-cancer research. Antonioni is a breast-cancer survivor. (Story in **Townspiece**, page 13)

GROWING NUMBERS OF STUDENTS are coming in, while fewer students are leaving (for private school).

— School Committee member Christopher Smith. The school department plans to study projected enrollments for the next five years to see if they can ease overcrowding at Andover High School. (Story in **Education**, page 6)

PAST AND PRESENT



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

The Punchard Free School, at 36 Bartlet St., was founded in 1856 by bequest from resident Benjamin Punchard. The school became a publically funded school in 1901, and became known as Punchard High School. In 1957, a new high school building was built on Shawshen Road, and the town high school was renamed Andover High. That school building is now West Middle School.

Today, the 36 Bartlet St. building that once held Punchard High serves as the Andover Town Offices.

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AFFORDABLE HOMES

Trust considered

By Andrea Gregory

Andover could be one of many towns creating a trust to help with the town's affordable housing efforts.

Senior Planner Lisa Schwarz said the trust would work like a savings account. Appointed trustees could dip into the account to keep or create affordable units in town. Grants and gifts could be stored in the trust.

Finally, if an affordable unit does not rent or sell in a reasonable amount of time, the owner or developer would have the opportunity to drop the income eligibility criteria and try to sell it at market rate. The difference in cost would go to the town and be added to its trust. The required time the home remains on the market is still to be determined.

"We would lose the unit, but gain the difference, which could hopefully allow the town

to use the money" for other affordable housing efforts, said Schwarz.

Schwarz said there is a large demand for affordable homes currently. Many of the affordable units being created today are locked in, in perpetuity. But if there were no takers for an affordable unit, the homeowner could sell it to someone else, giving the difference in cost to the town, to be placed in a trust.

Andover and other communities are waiting for Gov. Mitt Romney to sign new legislation allowing municipalities to set up such trusts. It will be up to each municipality whether to adopt a trust. Andover plans to put it to a Town Meeting vote. As soon as town officials receive word of the governor's approval, Schwarz will begin crafting a warrant article for the annual spring Town Meeting, she said. Details are still being worked out.

Five stories to watch in 2005

TOP 5
Continued from page 1

project might not rise if the town can figure out some ways to save money during the design stage. But the town won't know exactly how much it will cost until it puts the project out to bid, which the town plans to do next fall, said Piantedosi.

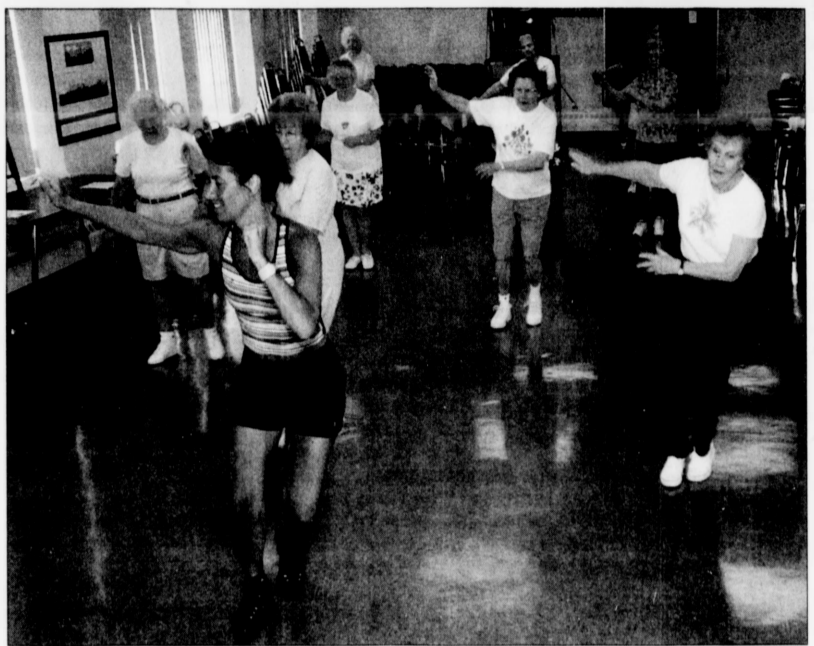
Last year, Town Meeting voters approved spending \$350,000 for design money. This brought seniors closer to seeing a two-story, 28,100 square foot building next to Doherty Middle School.

Piantedosi said this year's request will include a few thousand dollars more to complete design work.

"I think we have got the community's support," said Selectman Mary Lyman, who also serves as liaison to the Senior Center Task Force.

Lyman said Andover's seniors have stood by and watched the completion of other projects such as the new schools. She said she believes it is now their turn.

"It is really the right thing to



Seniors are hoping to have more space for their activities in a new, \$6.5 million center. Town Meeting will vote on the issue this year.

PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

Chief maintains OT may idle truck

Five months into the fiscal year the fire department had spent more than \$500,000 of its \$800,000 overtime budget, forcing Fire Chief Charles Murnane to idle a truck now, or possibly shut down one of his three stations at the end of the year, he continues to say.

The department currently fills in for sick or vacationing firefighters by paying other firefighters one and a half times their salary in overtime pay — a bonus that nearly doubles firefighters' salaries each year.

Murnane said increased sick and vacation time — seven of his 69 firefighters have taken more than two weeks of sick time apiece five months into

the year — along with ever increasing salaries, have driven up overtime costs.

Murnane said he is left deciding which cuts at the town's three stations would have the least impact on the town.

"If it's an engine out of Ballardvale, you're near Lowell Junction's industry and the senior (facility). In West Andover, there are hotel rooms. Near Central, there's Merrimack College, there's Phillips Academy. There's a lot to discuss here," Murnane said.

"But it's definitely looking like we'll take out a truck," he said.

— Dorian Block

1 New era in contracts?

do at this time," said Lyman.

The majority of Andover's approximately \$114 million budget is used to pay employees' salaries and benefits. Given the town's budgetary problems, the most significant way to control spending is to control these costs.

What kind of benefits are included or removed from employees next contracts will be an important news story in 2005 — if contracts are negotiated before the end of the year.

Town and school employees

have been working without contracts since the new fiscal year began in July. While union workers and officials would have liked to see new contracts signed by now, there is still a long way to go in the process.

"It is still very early in the ball game. I don't see even the first of the contracts coming to a close for a while," said Selectmen Chairman Brian Major.

Although Major said it does not do anyone any good to let expired contracts drag on, the town has little money to negotiate with. Officials brought a budget to Town Meeting voters last spring that did not include any money to cover the wage increases that could show up in new contracts. Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski has said lack

of available funds makes negotiating new contracts difficult.

"The only way that we could make funds available is to cut people at this point, and I don't think any of the selectmen are willing to do that," said Major.

Officials are looking at a new budget model prepared by Finance Director Tony Torrisi to help form a clearer image of the town's financial situation for fiscal year 2006 and 2007.

"It looks like the revenues are not a lot better, but a little better," said Major.

However, Torrisi said it is too soon to tell what might be available for contract settlements. The town manager will release his budget recommendation on the first Friday in February.

"That's when we would have some kind of direction on the whole compensation issue," said

Torrisi.

In November, Special Town Meeting voters shot down a proposal to put \$600,000 into a stabilization fund for town employee pay raises. That would have been enough for a 1-percent raise for all employees.

The heavily defeated warrant article asked voters to allow the town to tack an extra \$43 onto the average property tax bill. The money, raised through taxation, would have gone into a stabilization account. Officials claimed their intent was to produce funds that could be used for collective bargaining negotiations. But the money could have been used for other expenses as well, such as unforeseen snow-removal costs.

Major said he does not think negotiations would be any further along if the warrant article

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P.S. Unlike at-home tooth-whitening options, professional treatments are conducted and monitored by the dentist and dental assistants to ensure comfort and safety.



Teachers union members demonstrated outside the superintendent's office earlier this year.

FILE PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Farmers' Almanac: Harsh winter ahead
 Associated Press

Tune up the snowblower and get out the long johns. The newest edition of the Farmer's Almanac predicts a cold winter with plenty of snow. Beginning in February, the almanac says, storms will target much of the eastern half of the country, with no let up until early spring, and parts of New England will get snow in to late April...

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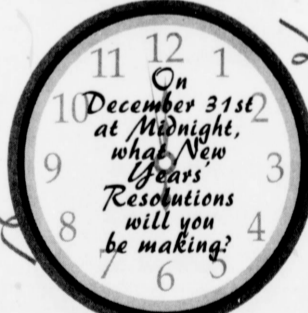
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POLICE LOG

■ THROUGH DEC. 28

Continued from page 2

THEFTS

Wednesday, Dec. 22 - At 10:24 a.m., a woman reported someone had charged \$1,000 to her credit card.

Thursday, Dec. 23 - At 10:44 a.m., it was reported that a high school student forged a \$5 gift certificate to look like a \$115 gift certificate and also had a teacher's credit card in his possession.

Monday, Dec. 27 - At 8:30 a.m., a Beacon Street resident reported the theft of Christmas decorations from her front yard. According to the police report, the culprit took off with one candy cane light.

BREAKS

Wednesday, Dec. 22 - At 1:56 p.m., a South Main Street resident reported his home had been broken into.

INCIDENTS

Wednesday, Dec. 22 - At 11:15 a.m., there was a report of a knife found at Andover High School.

Thursday, Dec. 23 - At 10:48 a.m., someone reported a German shepherd tied to the rear entrance railing of the library.

Friday, Dec. 24 - At 8:38 a.m., a resident called 911 to report a dead squirrel in front of her home and request that it be removed.

At 11 a.m., a resident reported having a property dispute with his neighbor. The neighbor was allegedly attempting to cut down a tree on the disputed property. An officer was dispatched to the scene to keep the peace.

Saturday, Dec. 25 - At 11:19 p.m., there was a report of a homeless woman in the middle of the street on High Street. Police escorted the woman with her shopping cart out of the street. According to the police report, the woman refused help finding a shelter and continued to walk through Andover.

Sunday, Dec. 26 - At 8:24 p.m., someone reported two logs in the middle of the street on Country Road. Each log was approximately two feet long and 15 inches in diameter and looked like they were placed there. Police notified the Highway Department to have the logs removed.

Monday, Dec. 27 - At 2:32 p.m. a mother reported that her daughter was missing. Just as police were about to take down information from the mother, her husband found her missing daughter asleep next to the toilet.

Tuesday, Dec. 28 - At 6:58 a.m., a driver reported he was attempting to enter the Powder Mill construction site, but was stuck in traffic that was backed up due to picketers at the Stevens Street entrance.

At 8:20 a.m., a foreman for the Powder Mill construction site reported people blocking the Stevens Street entrance and preventing four trucks from getting onto the site.

At 10:03 a.m., a Dascomb Road employer reported that his employees have been harassed at work lately.

AUTO INCIDENTS

Sunday, Dec. 26 - At 2:56 p.m., someone reported that a car drove into the Powder Mill construction site and hit a trailer. The driver of the car left the scene, but the vehicle was still there when police arrived. Police had the vehicle towed.

ACCIDENTS

Wednesday, Dec. 22 - At 9:33 a.m., a car crash with personal injuries was reported on North Main Street.

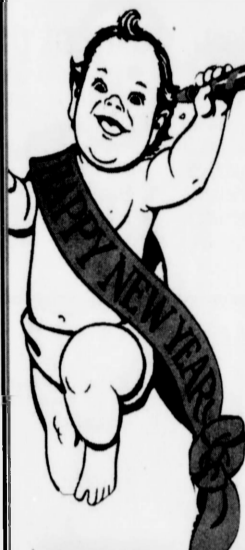
Thursday, Dec. 23 - At 7:58 p.m., it was reported that a pedestrian was hit by a motor vehicle and transported to the hospital. A minor had been driving the car without a license and was arrested.

VANDALISM

There was one report of vandalism.

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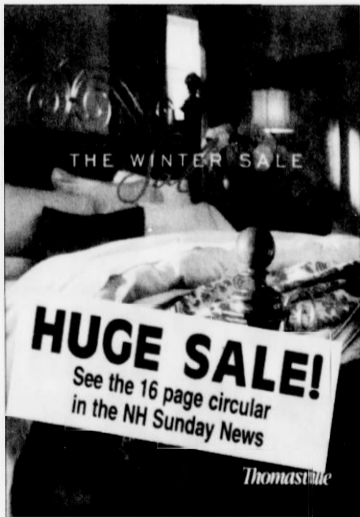
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Education

ON CAMPUS

Michael J. Reed, of Andover, a junior at Hobart College in Geneva, N.Y., is studying off-campus in Washington, D.C.

The Washington, D.C. Public Policy program grants students the opportunity to gain insight into how policy is made in the nation's capital. Students are involved through both policy-related courses and internships allowing them almost daily contact and discussion with those involved in making or influencing government policy.

In this way participants in the program experience first-hand the activities involved in Washington politics.

□□□

Moriah Heller, a graduate of Our Lady of Nazareth Academy in Wakefield, is the recipient of a Bausch & Lomb Scholarship at the University of Rochester. The scholarship is awarded for academic merit in the sciences.

Heller, an entering freshman and the daughter of Martin and Claudia Heller, is a resident of Andover. The scholarship is renewable each year of college.

□□□

Alison Catherine Caverly, **Elizabeth Anne Mancuso**, **Yasmin Zhir Mandviwala** and **Matthew Scott Hill**, all of Andover, have enrolled as members of the class of 2008 at Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H.

Caverly is the daughter of Kim Caverly.

Mancuso is the daughter of Michael and Stanice Mancuso.

Mandviwala is the daughter of Zhir S. and Fatema Z. Mandviwala.

Hill is the son of Ronald and Janis Hill.

□□□

Jeffrey Smidt, a member of the Colgate University class of 2007 in Hamilton, N.Y., has been inducted into the Colgate chapter of the national scholastic honorary society of Phi Eta Sigma, which recognizes the outstanding academic achievement of first-year students.

The 119 students who were honored at the fall banquet on Nov. 10, had earned averages of at least 3.5 during their first year at Colgate.

Smidt, currently a sophomore at Colgate, is the son of Clark F. Smidt and Maura M. Smidt of Andover. He is a graduate of Andover High School.

Phi Eta Sigma was founded in 1923 at the University of Illinois. The Colgate chapter received its charter in 1982.

□□□

Babson College in Wellesley announced the following residents qualified for the spring semester dean's list, which recognizes outstanding student scholarship:

Richard Americo Roda, class of 2005; **Jennifer M. Anese**, class of 2005; and **Michelle L. Danis**, class of 2004.

LOOKING AHEAD

Schools study increase in students

Real-estate agents commissioned for 5-year enrollment projections

By Rita Savard

Inside Andover High School, classrooms are filled to maximum capacity. During lunchtime, the cafeteria can be so packed that some students consider lunch to be a standing-room-only affair.

With space in the school already being stretched to the limits – and enrollment projections indicating greater numbers of high-schoolers are on the way – officials are scrambling now to find solutions.

School Superintendent Claudia Bach has commissioned the help of some local realtors to compile a five-year enrollment projection report for the town's schools.

"Growing numbers of students are coming in, while fewer students are leaving (for private school)," said School Committee member Christopher Smith. "We're going to be looking at all avenues to provide the most appropriate environment possible for educating our students."

In the past, said Smith, a higher percentage of students graduating from Andover's middle schools would opt for four years of private or college-preparatory educations over public high school.

"Andover is graced by having one of the most prestigious private schools in the country that impacts the enrollment for many of our top-achieving students," Smith added. "Over the past several years, we've seen a larger number continuing on from middle school to public high school."

The economy might be a factor, but so are test scores, according to one Andover realtor.

Data from the US Census shows state population steadily increasing each year since 2000 – except this year. In July, the number of Massachusetts residents dropped by approximately 4,000. But while some were seeking to leave the state this year, Andover's housing market hit a record high in sales to families and young couples for Rick Coco, real estate broker and owner of Re/Max Partners on Park Street, he said.

"There's been growth because of the school system," said Coco, who has

sold a number of houses in the neighborhood surrounding High Plain Elementary School. "I think buyers are attracted to this area because of the emphasis Andover places on education."

Last year, Coco sold 380 single-family homes and the Andover realtor said he expects to do about the same by the end of 2004. Coco, who's been selling Andover real estate for 28 years, said his firm is also selling an unprecedented number of condominiums in Andover, selling 126 units last year compared to 71 units in 2001.

"Good schools are a high priority for many clients," added Coco. "I just had a young couple in, coming from Brookline, who bought a home in Andover because it's an attractive place to raise a family."

"I don't expect sales to decline dramatically in the coming year either," Coco said. "Especially since the new school has been such a positive draw."

The growing student population at the elementary level prompted school officials to approve hiring a new full-time teacher in September, along with two instructional assistants, to help keep class sizes under control.

Although many students might choose to attend a private high school, there are currently more middle-school students in each grade than at any grade level in the high school.

Bach previously told the School Committee that she hopes a detailed enrollment projection will aid school administrators in creating alternatives for housing students.

Andover High Principal Peter Anderson, along with teen members of the Student Improvement Council, informed the School Committee last month that current space needs still

need to be met.

"Principal Anderson has tried to be very creative," said Smith. "He's found ways to use all available areas as suitable learning spaces."

Smith confirmed that Bach recently convened a meeting to further discuss enrollment projections, and her report

should contain a forecast spanning 2005 to 2010.

"We will continue to keep a close eye on this issue," said Smith, whose own daughter is in her junior year at AHS. "Maintaining the quality of education in our schools is always our highest priority."

VACATION - WEEK SNOW

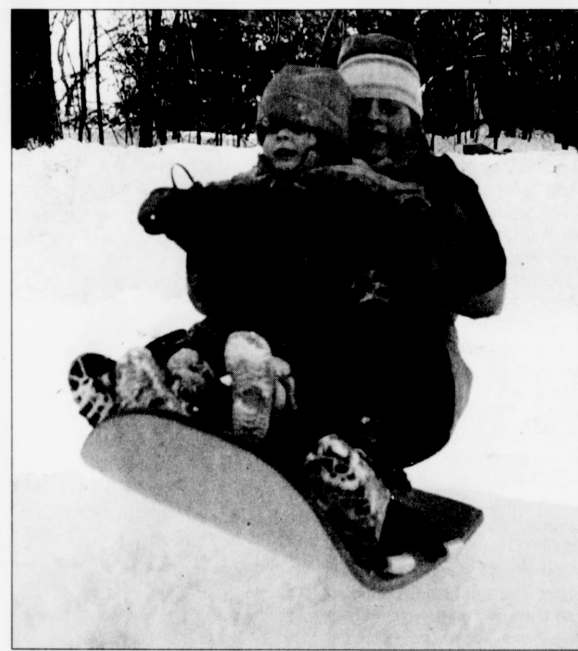


PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

Libby Pustis (in front), 3, with her sister, Shelby Pustis, 12, enjoyed their first day of winter vacation on Monday, as they sled in their yard on Dufton Road.

SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS

Here's what's for lunch in the Andover public schools next week, Jan. 3-7:

Elementary schools

Monday: Chicken McSchool, slice of pizza, chocolate chip pancakes with sausage, fruit, veggie and milk.

Tuesday: Spaghetti and meat sauce, pizza ring, baked chicken nuggets, fruit, veggie and milk.

Wednesday: Pork chops with potato and peas, personal pizza, nachos with taco meat and cheese, fruit, veggie and milk.

Thursday: Two tacos with salsa, french toast sticks with hash browns, hot dog with french fries, fruit, veggie, jello whipped topping, milk.

Friday: Corn dog with fries, slice of pizza with corn, baked chicken nuggets, fruit, veggie and milk.

Middle schools

Monday: Two hot dogs with chips, french toast with sausage, stuffed crust pizza, fruit, veggie and milk.

Tuesday: Chicken fajita with rice, chicken McSchool, bakery pizza, fruit, veggie and milk.

Wednesday: Corn dog on a stick, nachos topped with taco meat and cheese, stuffed crust pizza, fruit, veggie and milk.

Thursday: Barbecue chicken with corn on the cob, lasagna, bakery pizza, fruit, veggie, jello with whipped topping and milk.

Friday: Top your own tacos, meatball sub, stuffed crust pizza, fruit, veggie and milk.

Andover High School

Monday: Two hot dogs with chips, stuffed crust pizza, chicken, broccoli and ziti, fruit, veggie and milk.

Tuesday: Pork chops with mashed potato, bakery pizza, spaghetti and meat sauce, fruit, veggie and milk.

Wednesday: French toast with sausage, stuffed crust pizza, meatball sub with chips, fruit, veggie and milk.

Thursday: Pot roast with veggie, bakery pizza, lasagna, fruit, veggie, jello with whipped topping and milk.

Friday: Fish-and-chips, stuffed crust pizza, baked macaroni and cheese, fruit, veggie and milk.

□□□

Premium lunch choices are served daily at the middle schools and Andover High. AHS also offers a Courtyard Barbecue featuring grilled food; the Collins Center Café; Pastabites; and a Market Basket cart with other food choices daily.

For prices or other information about lunches, call Karen Pappa, food services director, at 978-623-8622.

GOING UP?

Students per grade in Andover*:

Grade	No. of students
3	522
4	481
5	470
6	483
7	483
8	485
9	475
10	447
11	466
12	363

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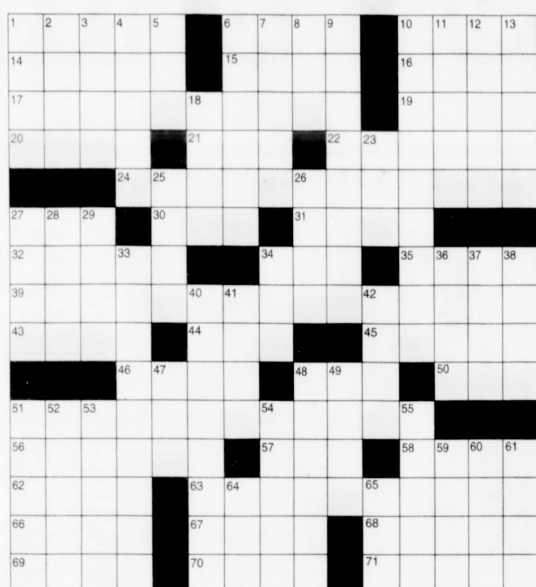
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6. Someone who copies
10. Mixed or salted
14. Jaguars
15. A way to change by heating
16. Organic compound
17. Spells out
19. Forearm bone
20. Japanese beverage
21. Similar to suffix
22. Whittling
24. Compels
27. Your general store of remembered information, abbr.
30. Federal dept.
31. Russian city
32. Highly incensed
34. Pakistani rupee
35. Take at random
39. Midwest city
43. Supplements with difficulty
44. Defensive nuclear weapon
45. Clique
46. Fastener
48. Once
50. Good judgment
51. Able to read but not to write
56. Leveled
57. American time
58. Ancient Olympic Site
62. A strong wind moving 45 to 90 knots
63. Ignorance
66. Imparts



67. 13-19
 68. Clay -, American Idol finalist
 69. Smaller quantity
 70. Past times
 71. Della __, singer
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Learns
 2. Tree toad genus
 3. Hard liquor
 4. Yitzhak __, Israel's Prime Minister
 5. Equal, prefix
 6. Humiliated
 7. Ways
 8. Supplement with difficulty
 9. Took a breath
 10. Spasmodic pain

11. Not on fire
12. Metric ton
13. Metallic wastes
18. Puerto __
23. Fed
25. German river
26. Spore-producing structures
27. Parasites
28. A way to march
29. Constructed
33. Pleasingness
34. Printing speed measurement
36. Any loose flowing garment
37. Distant
38. Bundle
40. Celerity
41. Assist
42. Robert Burns, for one
47. Brew
48. Poisonous gas
49. Trade agreement
51. George __, actor
52. Avoid
53. Coalesces
54. Leonard __, Swiss mathematician
55. Beyond what is natural
59. Powel or Mead
60. Frosts
61. Auld lang __, good old days
64. The fifth sign of the zodiac
65. Pinna

SOLUTION ON PAGE 9

EVENTS CALENDAR

THROUGH JAN. 9
Continued from page 7

Thursday, Jan. 6

Preschool open house, Andover Public Schools for September 2005 enrollment, 9:30 a.m., Shawsheen School cafeteria; Mary Kay Poe 978-623-8850.

Women returning to school, an information fair for women designed to help ease common anxieties about returning to school after being away from the classroom, hosted by Northern Essex Community College, and featuring NECC women students who have faced the challenges, as well as staff and faculty to answer questions about careers, registration, financial aid, and more, 6-8 p.m. (snow date Jan. 10), free, but registration requested, Library Conference Area on the Haverhill campus; 978-556-3722.

Boston Comedy, Beantown Comedy Vault presents Stephanie Peters, Joe List, Mike D., 9:30 p.m., \$10, Remington's, 124 Boylston St., Boston; 617-482-0110.

Friday, Jan. 7

Comedy, Dick Doherty Comedy Productions presents Greg Howell, 9 p.m., \$15, China Blossom Restaurant, Routes 125/133, North Andover; 1-800-401-2221.

Boston Comedy, Beantown Comedy Vault, Walsh Brothers, \$12, see Jan. 6 entry.

Saturday, Jan. 8

Comedy, Dick Doherty Comedy Productions presents Greg Howell, 9 p.m., \$15, China Blossom Restaurant, Routes 125/133, North

Andover; 1-800-401-2221.
Singing the Blues, "Monster" Mike Welch, 8 p.m. (doors open 7:15 p.m.), \$14, Crossroads Coffeehouse at North Parish Church, 190 Academy Road, North Andover; 978-687-7948 or www.crossroads.
School art show, "Visual Voices 2," artwork by youth of Lowell's public schools, on display Wed.-Sat. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sun. noon to 4 p.m., free, at Brush Art Gallery and Studios, 256 Market Street, Lowell; Lolita Demers 978-459-7819
Comedy, Dick Doherty Comedy Productions, see Jan. 7 entry.
Boston Comedy, Beantown Comedy Vault, Walsh Brothers, \$15, see Jan. 6 entry.

Sunday, Jan. 9

Immigration Heritage opening reception, "Lawrence Massachusetts: A First American Home," a featured exhibit at Ellis Island during 2004, opens with a reception featuring a musical performance by "Revels Circle of Song," which imagines a voyage bringing immigrants from Ireland, Italy, and Eastern Europe, 2 p.m., \$15 donation requested, Lawrence History Center (formerly Immigrant City Archives), 6 Essex St., Lawrence; Patricia Jaysane 978-686-9230.

Piano fortissimo, Fortepianist David Brietman performs Beethoven's *Appassionata* and Schubert's *Impromptu* in the first of the Jean C. Wilson Music Series, \$15, First Religious Society, 26 Pleasant St., Newburyport; Florence Mercer 978-388-3817.

Boston Comedy, Beantown Comedy Vault, Dave Greenberg, and Boston's longest running open mic night, \$10, see Jan. 6 entry.

Ongoing Art Exhibitions

Photographs of a Cloistered World, exhibit of photography entitled *Perfect Intimacy*, featuring a series of photographs taken at three Carmelite monasteries, including one in Bethlehem in Palestine, taken by Lili Almog as part of her photographic exploration of women in their private spaces; on display through Feb. 20, Tuesday through Sunday, noon-4 p.m., \$5, \$2 seniors, free to museum members and children under 18.
Continued on page 9

Vocal group sponsored by West Elementary

West Elementary School is hosting Proof of the Pudding, a female a cappella group from Yale University, on Tuesday, Jan. 4, at 7 p.m. at South Church, 41 Central St. General admission tickets are \$4, available at the door. For more information, call 978-623-8800.

NECS auditions being scheduled

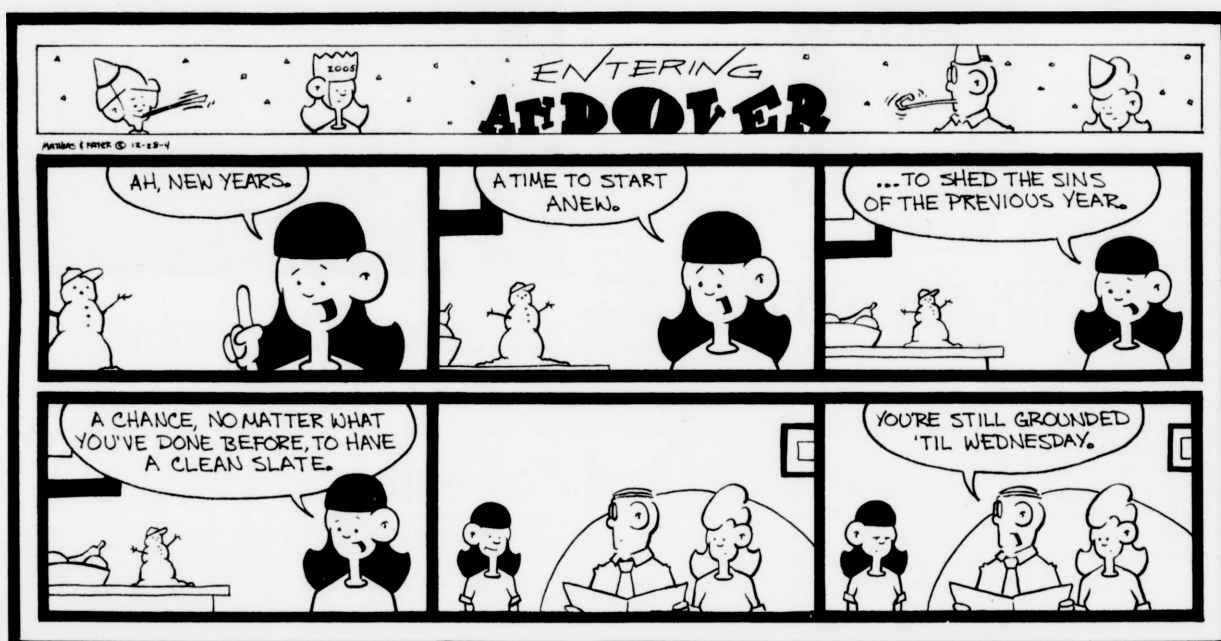
The New England Classical Singers, under the artistic direction of David Hodgkins, has openings for experienced singers in all parts for its 2005 season. The two remaining performances, including full orchestra and

Boston soloists, will be anchored with works to include Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass* and Brahms' *Neue (New) Liebeslieder-Walzer* along with other classical favorites.

Call 978-474-6090 to schedule an audition or visit the Web site at www.newenglandclassical.org and complete an audition request form.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING

Continued from page 8

12, the Emerging Artist Gallery at the Griffin Museum of Photography, 67 Shore Road, Winchester; Blake Fitch 781-729-1158 or www.griffinmuseum.org.

McQuade Gallery, located in the McQuade Library at Merrimack College, gallery hours same as library hours: Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-midnight, Friday, 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday, 11 a.m.-midnight; call to confirm, as hours may vary during holiday season, free admission, 978-837-5000.

Addison Gallery of American Art. Two new photographic exhibits inspired by the international AIDS awareness project, *A Day Without Art*, will be on display through Jan. 10. *Missing* features works of seven photographers from the Gallery's permanent collection. *Rites of Passage*, a collaborative work of Hollis Frampton and Marion Faller, explores the typical milestones of life. Also continuing are *Director's Choice: A Fresh Look at Winslow Homer*, through Jan. 2; *Getting Nasty: Politics, Patriotism, and Works on Paper*, through Jan. 2; *Terry Winters Paintings, Drawings Prints 1994-2004*, through Jan. 2; and *4 X 4: Selections from the Tyler Graphics Collection*, through Dec. 5; gallery hours Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday 1-5 p.m.,

Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy; 978-749-4015, www.addisongallery.org.

Alpers Fine Art of Andover; gallery hours Tuesday, 2-6 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday, 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 2 Main St.; 978-470-0013 or visit www.alpersfineart.com.

Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology, *Objects and their Meanings: Historical Highlights of the Peabody*, displays ethnographic objects from museum's collections of North and South America and a series of photographs that illustrate the activities of the museum's key people during the last century; Tuesday through Saturday, noon-5 p.m., by appointment only, free admission, Phillips Academy campus, 175 Main St.; 978-749-4490.

Brush Art Gallery, 256 Market St., Lowell; 978-459-7819, go.boston.com/brushartgallery; thebrush@netscape.net.

Robert Lehman Art Center at Brooks School, gallery hours Tuesday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-noon, Sunday, 2:30-5 p.m., 1160 Great Pond Road, North Andover; 978-725-6232.

Whistler House Museum of Art, Wednesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., \$4, 243 Worthen St., Lowell; 978-452-7641.

Churchill Gallery, an exhibition of landscapes by award-winning artists Robert Scott Jackson and Dennis Sheehan, gallery hours are Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday noon-5 p.m., 6 Inn St., Newburyport; 978-462-9891.

Essex Art Center and Elizabeth A. Beland Gallery: *Fool's Gold: James Kirkpatrick*, galleries are free and open to the public, Tuesday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m., Friday 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Essex Art Center, 56 Island St., Lawrence; 978-685-2343, www.essexartcenter.com.

Arthur Griffin Museum of Photography, Main Gallery: *We Skate Hardcore*, a collection of photographs and video images by Vincent Cianni capturing the lives of young inline skaters from Brooklyn, through Feb. 3; Emerging Artist Gallery: *Perfect Intimacy*, images from life in a convent by Lili Almog, through Feb. 20; Tuesday-Sunday, noon-4 p.m., \$5 admission, \$2 seniors, children under 12 free, Thursday admission is free all day, 67 Shore Road, Winchester; 781-729-1158, www.griffinmuseum.org.



Le Grand David (center in photo) and his own Spectacular Magic Company will perform several times during this holiday week at the Cabot Street Cinema Theatre (286 Cabot St.) in Beverly. The New Year's Eve show is Friday, Dec. 31 at 8 p.m.

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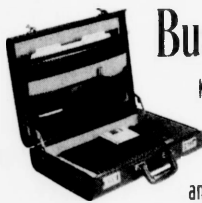
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VIEWED TO BE THE BEST.

Opinion

In new year, new contracts top concern

THE TOWNSMAN'S LIST of five stories to watch in '05 is obviously not an all-inclusive list of the important issues for the town. But it should be clear that the No. 1 issue – negotiating new contracts for all town employees – will be the most significant work that officials tackle this year.

Andover spends the bulk of its approximately \$114 million budget on the salaries and benefits for its employees. Because benefits account for more of the budget than many people realize, the Finance Committee has been correct to suggest Andover focus on the overall costs of positions, rather than just on base salaries, when making decisions. Clearly, it makes sense for this focus to continue during contract negotiations.

Town employees deserve fair contracts that protect them, but town officials must also try to rein in benefits that appear to soak the taxpayer and lead to lost services because of budgetary problems.

We wish both sides luck in the new year and hope they resolve to find a fair contract for all – workers and taxpayers alike.

Web question

Security in town buildings: Time for cameras and cards?

Last week's *Andover Townsman* Web-site question was: Should the state legislature pass the Tucker-Petersen bill, which would ban mercury-containing products from retailers store shelves?

Because the question was not posted until Monday due to a computer error, only 10 people voted.

• 6, or 60 percent, said, "If mercury is no longer allowed in fever thermometers and household thermostats, then it should definitely be outlawed in children's toys."

• 3, or 30 percent, said, "Consumers can take more responsibility for proper trash disposal. There are far more important laws that legislators could be working on instead of using scare tactics to gain public support."

• 1, or 10 percent, said, "Other."

This week's *Townsman* Web-site question: The School Committee is seek-

ing \$235,000 from taxpayers to complete modern security installations and upgrades in many Andover schools. Should taxpayers fund this high-tech equipment project now?

• Yes. Kids today are living in a different world, where terrorism and guns in schools make news headlines all too often. Schools need to be more prepared to keep students safe.

• Yes. But maybe the security features could be done in parts, rather than all at once. It would save a little money and still enforce school safety.

• No. It's a waste of money. Based on my experience at the schools, they are not properly implementing the security features they already have.

• No. Andover's schools are already secure. We need to shift the focus on restoring academic programs and faculty instead.

• Other. To vote, surf www.andovertownsman.com.

LETTERS POLICY

THE *Townsman* 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 *Townsman* by Monday at 5 p.m. for consideration in that week's paper. They may be sent by mail, fax or e-mail. Letters sent by e-mail should be sent to Neil Fater at nfater@andovertownsman.com, and included in the body of an e-mail, not as e-mail attachments.

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.

WHITE FLIGHT



PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

Richard Murphy of Washington Avenue was one of many residents cleaning up on Monday after the winter's first large snowstorm hit Andover.

LETTERS

UCC ad not meant to attack

Editor, *Townsman*:

The letter printed in the Dec. 18 edition titled "UCC ads attack other Christian congregations" misrepresents the ad itself and the spirit behind the ad. The agency which created the ad was speaking to the unchurched or "de-churched," and particularly those under 40 (note the bouncer "hook") who feel, for whatever reason, that they are not welcome in the church. The approach grew out of extensive work with focus groups around the country whose members expressed such an experience of church. The campaign is neither an attack on other churches, nor does it address marriage at all, either traditional or otherwise.

If Youell would like to view the ad, he is welcome to stop by South Church or go on line at www.stillspeaking.org. If you do come to church, welcome! You will find members of our congregation who feel that the ad is very effective and others who do not. It is helpful to be aware of the intention and purpose of the ad before judging it.

South Church seeks to be welcoming to all. We confess that we are in process about how to reflect more fully the extravagant welcome of Jesus. But we pray that we are growing in that direction and that all will feel welcome here as we reflect Christ's compassion and his delight in the variety found in all of God's creation.

Rev. Dr. Katherine Kallis
South Church in Andover
United Church of Christ

St. A's Cleary protecting flock

Editor, *Townsman*:

To link Fr. William Cleary's duty to correct those who subvert Catholic teaching with the despicable murder of Matthew Shepard is nearly too absurd to respond to ("Discrimination breeds problems," Letters, Dec. 16). No wonder few pastors within the Catholic Church demonstrate the moral courage Cleary has. He is publicly lambasted as a "homophobe," and the Church as "rich, powerful ... close-minded, self-righteous, and completely disconnected from us mere humans." If some letters to this paper are to be believed, Barbara L'Italien is a martyr for abortion rights and Cleary a demon.

Cleary is a pastor protecting the children of his flock and privately correcting a public sinner. (He discussed this in L'Italien's home, not in the papers.) When Cleary meets Jesus and he is held accountable for the souls within his care, I am one to say his actions have strengthened mine.

Denise Huntley
507 South Main St.

Reasonable request: Teach 3

Editor, *Townsman*:

Under the current block schedule, Andover High School teachers carry three courses one semester and two courses the other semester. In the negotiations now under way, the School Committee would like to change the requirement so that teachers would be expected to teach three courses both semesters.

Block scheduling is commonplace throughout Massachusetts, but there has been no suggestion, either in Andover or elsewhere, that teaching three courses in one semester constitutes an overload for a competent teacher. However, teachers bear certain responsibilities not connected to their courses – supervising students during lunchtimes or monitoring study halls for example. Andover teachers generally take on these responsibilities during that semester when they carry two courses. These responsibilities do not require the skills of a classroom teacher and can be handled by full- or part-time support staff.

I conclude that the School Committee position of expecting teachers to take on three courses both semesters is both fair and sensible, provided it is accompanied by a corresponding willingness to provide support staff to handle other non-teaching responsibilities.

From my experience as an engineer for seven years, a full-time high-school teacher for 34 years, and a member of the Andover School Committee for six years, I have enormous respect for the work of our high school teachers.

Frank Eccles
66 Brookfield Road

Darkness and light

Editor, *Townsman*:

There is, of course, as your Dec. 23 editorial states "Light at the end of the dark tunnel." We'll just stay away from politics at this optimistic time of year. The truth about sunrises and sunsets, however, is less cooperative with your metaphor. Sunsets actually start getting later about Dec. 7; whereas, sunrises do not turn the corner until about Jan. 4. So there is a period of nearly a month when days are getting longer in the afternoon and shorter in the morning. At the solstice, the former finally overcomes the latter and total daylight expands once more ... imperceptibly at first but by leaps and bounds several weeks later.

At a human scale, it is all as you say. Every year, days grow short as winter approaches. Ancient bonfires and supernatural events that signal renewal and beginning chase away the darkness. And another wonderful cycle of hope and faith begins. But once again below the natural surface, there are intriguing complexities that add dimensions, challenges, and opportunities, yes, to the expanding light.

Bruce Earmley
103 Ballardvale Road

Church has changed with the times before

Editor, *Townsman*:

Dale Gillette's letter ("Political parties need to be more tolerant, not church," Dec. 16) requires a response.

First, the First Amendment has two limbs, both as written and adjudicated. The first, which he ignores, bars laws that establish religion. The second, to which he referred, bars laws that interfere with its free enterprise. Ample historical and legal evidence suggests the original intent that church and state be separated. You could look it up.

Second, he mentions "moral relativists," presumably contrasting them with those who hold to timeless values. Perhaps the values to which he refers don't include slavery, widely embraced on Biblical grounds until the 19th century, and do

include papal infallibility when speaking ex cathedra, introduced in the 19th century. Perhaps he forgets the Borgia popes, the selling of indulgences, and the Inquisition. Perhaps he should recall the great Galileo, condemned by the Church in his time and accepted by it today. Suffice it to say that times change – a proposition basic to the warp and woof of the universe God created for us (if you believe in Him) – and the Catholic Church, to its sometime credit, has changed with them. A secular humanist might view this as evidence of human progress; a believer might see it as a deeper embrace of God's love, which can never be complete but must always be further striven for. In neither case would anyone deny that no tradition, no institution

can live without change in a changing world. To apply the label "moral relativism" to one's ideological opponents and deny the mutability of one's own traditions is to forget history and deny reality.

I can't see a failure of generosity towards those who are born the way they are as reflective of the central messages of Christianity: to love God, and to love your neighbor as yourself. Nor can I see the necessity of enforcing obedience to the extent of excluding exemplary human beings from singing in the choir and teaching the young. Is the sense of community at St. Augustine Church so shallow that a world outside the church can be recognized only at peril?

Michael Kempster
132 Holt Road

THE THURSDAY FILE

Motivation is everything. You can do the work of two people, but you can't be two people. Instead, you have to inspire the next guy down the line and get him to inspire his people.

LEE IACOCCA

I cannot even imagine where I would be today were it not for that handful of friends who have given me a heart full of joy. Let's face it, friends make life a lot more fun.

CHARLES R. SWINDOLL

If people have better information, they make better decisions – period.

SUZANNE MUCHIN
CEO, CIVITAS

It is not enough to aim, you must hit.

ITALIAN PROVERB

Best quotation sent
When I hear somebody sigh, "Life is hard," I am always tempted to ask, "Compared to what?"

SYDNEY J. HARRIS

Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Einstein quotation
The most aggravating thing about the younger generation is that I no longer belong to it.

About 'Thursday File'
Steve MacDowall's file can be found at www.hudsonvanloo.ca, and it offers quotations such as these.

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LETTERS

Holiday depression? Be aware, seek support

Editor, *Townsmen*:

The holiday season is a stressful time for families. With a war overseas and security concerns on the home front, this year's celebration may be difficult for some members of our community. It is important to be aware of the signs of increasing depression and high risk factors for suicide in order to help one another remain safe.

The following top risk factors for suicide are statistical fact for adolescents:

- drug and alcohol abuse
- prior suicide attempts
- mental illness (for example: depression, bipolar disorder)
- history of behavior and school problems

- family history of suicide
- availability of firearms (people should empty it out/lock it up), and
- issues regarding sexual orientation. (One-third of all completed suicides are related to a lack of understanding of gay and lesbian issues.)

As a community, we must continue to build relationships and a sense of belonging to help reduce these risks. To fight the "holiday blues," spend time with friends, get regular exercise, rest, and participate in good deeds. To handle a more serious case of depression, contact a professional for assistance (family medical doctor, mental health professional, clergy per-

son) and a referral. If you have immediate concerns or feel it is an emergency, call 911 or go to a local emergency room. No one person, family, school, organization, church, or temple can provide the solution. Membership in a vital community is the antidote to depression, so we must provide that for each other. Andover CARES wishes all our community a peaceful, healthy, and friendly holiday season.

Maggie Downs
46 Walnut Ave.

(Note: The letter was also signed by Andover CARES members Diane Hender, Ruby Easton, Mike Vogler, Maria Bartlett, Carole Chanler and Ellen Gutstein.)

US law should not have to gain Pope's approval

Editor, *Townsmen*:

I am impelled to write again by a letter printed immediately above mine in the Dec. 16 *Townsmen* ("Political parties need to be more tolerant, not Church"). It purports to refute the view that the Catholic Church is "violating the doctrine of separation of church and state ... overstepping its mission by censoring political views of its members ... and that this position, when taken to its logical conclusion, would exclude Catholics from public office." This letter was carefully written in good faith, but I discovered that its logic progressed in a near-perfect circle to contradict its author's intended conclusion.

The letter reads, in part, "Some Catholics argue that they are not violating Catholic doctrine as long as they agree to be guided by God's law in their own lives, even if they do not support civil laws that impose those rules on others. The Pope disagrees. And since he is the ultimate earthly authority on Catholic doctrine, they are, by definition, challenging Catholic doctrine." This quote reveals the author's unquestioning certainty that Catholic doctrine equals "God's law," not just the Catholic version of it. It then makes clear that the Pope expects Catholic lawmakers to remain in lockstep by imposing "God's law" (i.e., Catholic doctrine) on the rest of us - Christ-

ian, Jew, Muslim, atheist, et al. - to remain "good Catholics" permitted full membership, including leadership, in their Church. It is but a short step from there to the recent election dust-up concerning whether John Kerry would even be allowed to receive Communion in his own church, which resulted in the embarrassing and much-publicized "Communion watch."

Toward the letter's end the author writes, "The most absurd charge of all is that this doctrine would prevent faithful Catholics from serving in elected office. The Church has no quarrel with them, so long as they use their position of influence to fight for what is right." The author blandly implies that "what is right" is Catholic doctrine as handed down by the Pope and nothing else. Only a "faithful Catholic" who can't see that other Christian religions (never mind non-Christian religions) have different ideas from the Pope's would dream of suggesting that US public policy should properly be dictated by a foreign religious leader. However, that is the conclusion forced upon us by this writer's "logic." Ipso facto, Catholic politicians who want to

be elected will again be forced by a diverse electorate, as John F. Kennedy was in 1960, to pledge that they will follow their consciences and not the dictates of the Roman Catholic Pope in formulating public policy for all Americans. (What if a candidate were a devout American-born Muslim? Would anyone accept that US laws should withstand scrutiny by, say, an Iranian imam?)

Finally, the author grossly insults the millions of moral persons, religious and otherwise, who hold any view different from the Pope's by referring to us as "moral relativists" who "fear the prospect of public policy being guided by religious values." The naked arrogance of this quote is starkly clear, particularly in light of the countless cover-ups of priestly pedophilia over the years. Those horrific crimes went unreported on the specific orders of the Pope, who had perpetrators transferred from parish to parish while the lives of thousands of innocent children were destroyed by what I call "soul-murder."

Sadly, the letter quoted above underscores my view that many good Catholic people have been so relentlessly indoctrinated in the Church's rigidity that they judge any thinking other than the Pope's "immoral." To me, that amounts to intolerance.

Phyllis A. Zimmerman
9 Carisbrooke St.

What to do with
holiday trash?

See page 19

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Holiday Tour is almost over

Our Holiday World Tour lands in Italy today. Find Italy on your map.
Italian kids might receive gifts from Babbo Natale on Christmas morning. Babbo Natale is like our Santa Claus.
However their traditional gift giving is 12 days later on January 6, (called Epiphany on the Christian church calendar). This is when families celebrate the journey of the Three Wise men to Bethlehem to present gifts to the Bambino Gesù (Baby Jesus).
According to Italian legend, the three kings rested at the home of an old woman while traveling to Bethlehem. She was invited to join them in bringing gifts to the Bambino Gesù. She told them she was too busy sweeping her house. After thinking about it, she decided to go but got lost.
The legend says she is still looking for the Christ Child. Her name is La Befana, which comes from Epiphania. This kind old woman travels with her broom through windows and down chimneys. She puts toys and candy in the shoes of good children; bad children get pieces of coal.

Italian families fast from sunset on Dec. 23 to sunset on Dec. 24. The traditional Christmas Eve dinner is fish or baked eel. On Christmas Day, the meal might include roast turkey, pasta, veal, fish, cheeses, vegetables and pastries.
The hostess gets a gift of a Christmas cake, called panettone. It is shaped like a loaf and made with raisins and citron. The cake is similar to fruitcake in America.
Feliz Navidad! Our last stop is Mexico. Find Mexico on your map.
The nine days before Christmas are called Las Posadas. Beginning on Dec. 16, processions walk through village streets each evening to reenact the journey of Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem.
A girl and a boy carrying figures of Joseph and Mary lead the procession. The travelers go from house to house looking for posada, or shelter each night until Christmas Eve.
After each posada, feast is held at a participant's home. The children try to break a paper-mache piñata. The piñata is filled with candy.
The flor de la noche buena (the flower of the holy night) is the poinsettia. Dr. Joel Roberts Poinsettia was the American ambassador to Mexico from 1825 to 1829. He introduced the plant to the United States.
The plant may have red, pink, yellowish, or white petals. The petals are really leaves that surround the actual tiny little flowers. If eaten, the leaves and stem of the poinsettia can make you sick with a severe stomachache. The sap can irritate the skin and eyes.
What holidays do you celebrate?
Ask your family about what country your ancestors came from. Do you carry on any holiday traditions from those countries?

Activities

1. Make a decorated broom like La Befana's broom.
Take a sheet of newspaper. Fold it in half, then roll it up tightly. Fasten the roll with rubber bands, tape, string or red ribbon about a third of the way in from each end. Cut one end in narrow strips.
Use ribbon to decorate the broom with a bow.
2. Make a holiday piñata from paper mache.
Blow up a large balloon. Tear strips of newspaper and coat them with premixed wall-paper paste. Layer the paper onto the balloon and let it dry.
For a colorful piñata, use colored comic pages, a colorful advertising insert from the newspaper, or colored paper for the outer layer. Or, when the paper mache has dried, use paint, crayons or markers to decorate the piñata like a large Christmas ornament.
Cut a small hole near the top and fill the piñata with treats.

Want to know more about holidays around the world? Some of the information for this series comes from "December: A Month of Ideas at Your Fingertips" from The Education Center, Inc.

Townspeople

TOWN TALK

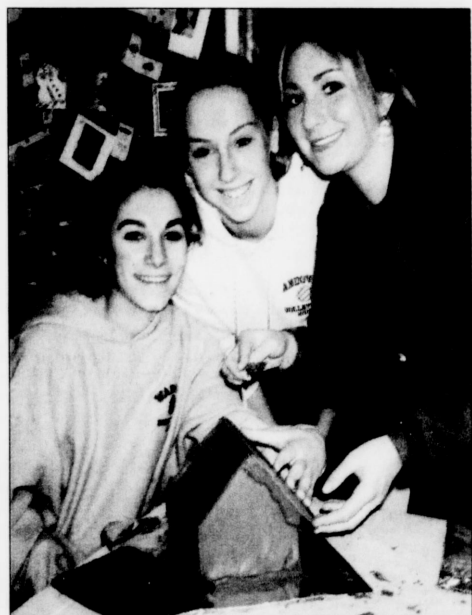
Basketball team's home run

For the past two holiday seasons, Arianna Miliotis and some of her friends have constructed 20 gingerbread houses to bring to the oncology unit at Children's Hospital in Boston. The houses are then decorated by those children, who happen to have the unfortunate fate of needing to be there for the holidays. This was a tradition started by Arianna Miliotis when her own sister, Alexandra, was diagnosed and treated for leukemia in 2001-02.

This year however, Arianna had to remain at Amherst College to finish exams. The Miliotis family was looking for some elves to help in the "construction" of the houses. As original members of Alex's Team – the former junior varsity girls basketball team Alex would have been a part of, which dedicated its season to her and went undefeated 2001-2002 – Jackie Powers and Brittany Moriarty, co-captains of this year's AHS varsity basketball team, and Jessie Koffman, thought it would be a great idea for the entire team to assist with the project. Although these players had not had a day off from either a practice, scrimmage or game in 15 days, the AHS varsity basketball squad gathered at Jackie Powers' home after their game against Gardner on Dec. 19. Members constructed 20 gingerbread houses. Patti Miliotis provided pizza for the girls, who got right down to work. Often covered with bright green frosting, the girls soon became competitive as to who would build the best house. It also was a great opportunity for this young squad (with four new freshman) to get to know one another off the court. Parents Linda Hughes, Dee Dee Powers, Maripat Moriarty and Patti Miliotis, along with Mimo Rae, Alex's grandmother up from Florida for the holidays, assisted in setting up the project and mixing the bowls of green frosting.

These houses were shipped off to Children's Hospital on Dec. 21 in Debi Hopkins' "sleigh," her van. Hopkins' son, Tyler, Arianna Miliotis and some other friends planned to be at the hospital this week to help children with decorating.

Submitted by Dee Dee Powers



COURTESY PHOTO

Laura Renfro, Jen Merinder and Sydney Lane were among the Andover High School students who helped make gingerbread houses for young cancer patients.

Manilow lovers tune to charity

Stars in the Night is a non-profit charitable organization with an Andover address, founded in 2004 by a group of local women, including co-director Kathie Duffy of North Andover. The charity is one of two Massachusetts chapters of the Barry Manilow International Fan Club. Barry Manilow works closely with his many charitable organizations including Manilow Fund for Health and Hope, AIDS Assistance Program, Friends of Sheba, Foundation Fighting Blindness and many more.

"Stars in the Night started out when six Massachusetts residents became fast friends. We had three things in common, the love of Barry's music, the respect for his commitment to helping those less fortunate and our own desires to help others," said Duffy. Only a few months after meeting each other, Duffy and friends created Stars in the Night, a new local club that was ready to make a difference. The charity is currently working with Germaine Lawrence Inc. as its project for this year. Germaine Lawrence is a private agency located in Arlington. It is noted for its residential program that provides specialized treatment and education for girls ages 10 to 19, who have been abused or have emotional or behavioral problems that have pulled them from their homes.

Through the course of the year, Duffy and many other volunteer coordinators have organized fundraising projects and events such as yard sales, candle sales, chef parties, mystery games and more. All proceeds from these events went directly towards purchasing gifts for the girls for the coming holiday season. The charity prepared 175 gift bags and stockings to distribute this month to each of the girls in the Germaine Lawrence program. The gift bags have included items the girls had put on each of their wish lists.

To fill the bags, Stars in the Night wrote over three hundred letters to corporations soliciting merchandise or monetary donations. Duffy has been working on the project since January, and all of the gift bags and stockings were being stored in her home before Christmas. "It's been a lot of work and planning, and we're so excited the holiday is finally here. We all wanted to do something special for these girls," she said recently. "There sure are a lot of gift bags here. I haven't seen my living room floor for a month!" Stars in the Night raised approximately \$4,000 through its fundraising efforts for the Germaine Lawrence Holiday Gift project. "It has been wonderful contributing to a home like Germaine Lawrence because it is sometimes forgotten how much these girls need our help."

To find out more information about Stars in the Night visit www.starsinthenight.com, or visit www.germainelawrence.org.

— Noelle Petrillo, *What's Up* contributor

Miss January

Breast cancer survivor poses for a cure in 2005 benefit calendar

By Rita Savard

Jeannie Antonioni would never describe herself as an exhibitionist, yet the 58-year-old Andover resident will appear nearly naked inside many homes and businesses next year.

Standing topless behind the cover of just five Gatorade bottles, Antonioni poses as Miss January for Wild Women Outfitters' 2005 calendar – a calendar that raises money for breast-cancer research.

Her decision to disrobe for a cause has some personal meaning.

Three years ago, in 2001, Antonioni went to her doctor for a routine mammogram and was diagnosed with breast cancer.

"It was ironic," recalls Antonioni. "I was waiting to participate in a walk for breast cancer that year, and then I found out I had it."

Antonioni was able to avoid chemotherapy due to early detection. She underwent a series of radiation treatments and made a commitment to walk for a cure the following year.

"You meet so many people during the walks who tell their stories as they walk with you," Antonioni says. "Last year, a woman on my team took her last Tamoxifen tablet, and another took her wig off for the first time in public. You see that people do survive and they go on. It gives you more hope."

Antonioni's story – of struggle, hope and survival – is featured in the 12-month calendar, along with the stories and photos of other cancer survivors.

"These women aren't centerfold models," confirms the calendar pin up. "They're all just ordinary people who have fought to overcome an extraordinary obstacle."

On the more modest side, Antonioni maintains that she did not want to go completely nude for the photo session. However, the photo implies that she could be.

Gatorade is a staple drink on most breast cancer walks, says Antonioni. The bottles spread out in front of her provide a convincing visual illusion, she chuckles.

"Sure, I would do it again," says Antonioni, recalling the 5:30 a.m. shoot at Wild Women Outfitters' Arlington store. "It was kind of funny because it was so early, yet the lights were on in the store with all these women running around half-naked. There were definitely some truck drivers doing double takes."

About 1,000 calendars were printed and are priced at \$20 each, available online at www.wildwomenoutfitters.com. All proceeds from the calendar will be donated to



PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

Jeannie Antonioni poses with the Wild Women Outfitters' 2005 calendar, which is meant to raise money to find a cure for breast cancer.

the Avon and Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Walks.

In July 2005, Antonioni will travel to Seattle, where she is already signed up for a three-day cancer walk. The trek will mark her fourth annual walk. Doctors say if Antonioni makes it five years without a recurrence, she will be considered cured.

Last year, she helped her Wild Women team raise \$309,000 toward the ongoing fight to find a cure for breast cancer.

To purchase a calendar from Antonioni, or to make a donation benefiting breast cancer research, call 978-470-2884 or email jpantonioni@yahoo.com. Checks can be made out to Breast Cancer 3-Day.

Escaping to Andover

New work captures immigrants' stories – including flight from genocide

By Rita Savard

Each year like clockwork, Eva Loosigian tucks \$35 into an envelope and mails it to New York City.

The money is a donation to help maintain the American Immigrant Wall of Honor on Ellis Island, where her name is engraved in granite with more than 500,000 others.

"I owe Ellis Island a lot because my mother and I got so much help when we came through there," says Loosigian.

Now 90, Loosigian was just 4 years old when she embarked on a month-long sea voyage to escape the Armenian genocide sweeping through her homeland of Istanbul, Turkey. Her journey from a war-torn country to the United States is one of many stories told by a diverse immigrant population here in Andover.

Now Loosigian's personal account, along with those of eight other residents originally from various nations, will be told in a documentary film by the TV crew of the cable show *There's Something About Andover*.

"Everyone has a dramatic and poignant story to tell," says Judy Trerotola, videographer. "We've been speaking with people who came to Andover from different parts of the world for various reasons."

The film's premiere is expected to air this spring. Trerotola announced, adding that the video diaries help save valuable bits of information that would otherwise be lost.

For Loosigian, reliving her own memoir in front of the camera presented a unique opportunity to preserve a piece of family history.

Born in 1914, Loosigian



PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

Eva Loosigian has framed the passport she used to travel to America from Armenia. She and other Andover immigrants will be part of a new local film about their experiences.

never had the chance to know her father. He was beheaded by Turkish militants in the streets of Istanbul when Loosigian was only 4.

While she was too young to remember all the horrors of Turkey's civil war, smiling faces from yellowed photographs serve as powerful images.

Recalling past memories in a voice overlaid with a soft Armenian accent, Loosigian proudly looks over a faded picture of herself and her mother taken shortly after they arrived in the U.S.

"The Armenians and the Turks were very good with each other until the government decided to intervene," Loosigian says.

Between 1915 and 1918, Turkish rulers organized the deportation, torture, starvation and massacre of an estimated

one and a half million Armenians. Two million Armenians were reported to have been living in the Ottoman Empire prior to the attacks.

"My father was killed in public," Loosigian whispers. "I had an uncle who came to Istanbul to find us, and he did. I just feel as though God was looking after me."

Even though her trip to America happened 86 years ago, Loosigian vividly remembers eating three meals a day that consisted of one slice of bread with jelly on it.

"To this day, I don't like jelly at all," she laughs.

Loosigian said life in the "new world" was very different. She went to work at a young age and saved enough wages to purchase a piano and take lessons.

Her passion for music paved the way for many years of per-

forming in church and at weddings. Then she had a wedding of her own.

It was Loosigian's husband, Suren, who brought the family to Andover, where farmers prospered.

"I said I would never marry a farmer, and then I ended up marrying the biggest farmer in Andover," she jokes.

Spending more than five decades in town, Loosigian raised two children, acquired grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and saw many changes take place along the way.

Rural farmland was replaced with housing, industrial giants like Raytheon, and a busy downtown that attracts shoppers from other cities.

But the addition of a major thoroughway was something she never thought she'd see in her quiet country setting.

"When I-93 was put in, people came around asking if it was all right," Loosigian says. "We had family in Salem, N.H. and my husband said we wouldn't have to go through Lawrence and Methuen to get there anymore. (Suren) said it was like they made a direct route to my family's house just for me."

Many Andover farms might be a distant memory, and Loosigian's husband has passed away, but the Armenian immigrant clearly states that she is rooted in Andover, where the West Parish Church and good friends complete her life now.

"My son says 'Come and live with us', and my daughter says 'Come and live with me', but I will always stay in Andover," Loosigian says proudly. "My church means a lot to me and so does Andover. The people are so wonderful here."

HOLIDAY HELPERS



COURTESY PHOTO

The Andover High Girls Ice Hockey team took part in Holiday Happenings, a community event at Old Town Hall on Saturday, Dec. 4. The Andover Business Center Association was promoting goodwill and holiday cheer for local residents, especially children, and the team sponsored the Breakfast with Santa portion of the program. While it was a profitable fundraising activity for the team, it also served for members to interact with the young children in the community. "It was a real coming together of a cross-section of residents and our team was inspired by the joyous enthusiasm of all those who were there that morning," organizers said. At the Breakfast with Santa event were (top row): Tricia Martin, Heather Paonessa, Danielle Paonessa, Sam Collins, Christina Cahill, Maria Nasta, Ally Brown, Jeanette Doucett, Kristen Costagliola and Becky Cairns; (bottom row) Caroline Dwyer, Sarah Ostrofsky, Rebecca Lindmark, Jacqui Munro, Liz Roda and Amy Marlow. Not in the photo: Kim Chandler, Becky Johnson, Liz Sambuco, Sam Monson, Allison Burns and Rachel Bergan.



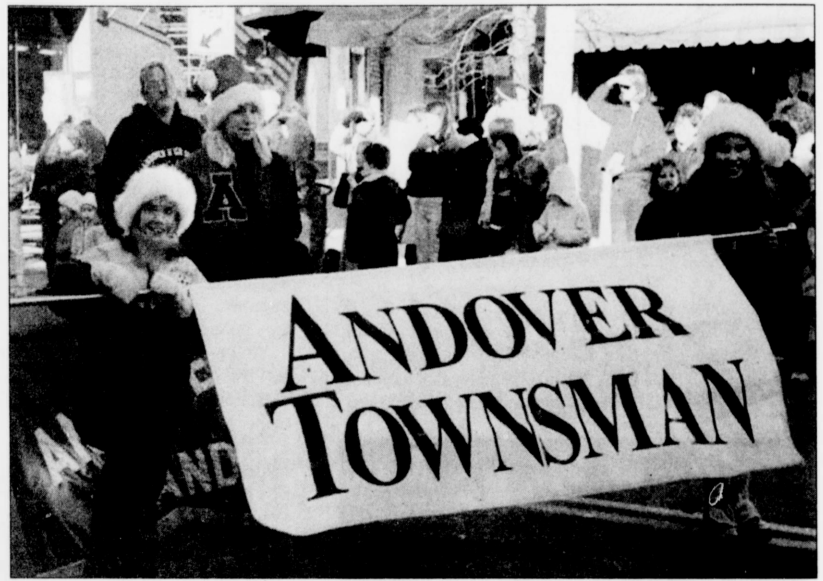
COURTESY PHOTO

Girl Scout Troop 643 collected "things to hug" for the children of Lazarus House. The was their fifth annual stuffed animal and doll drive at Bancroft School. In the spirit of the holiday season, contributors gathered their "gently loved" (or new), stuffed animals or dolls, and brought them in to school. The troop collected them and delivered them to Lazarus House on Dec. 15.



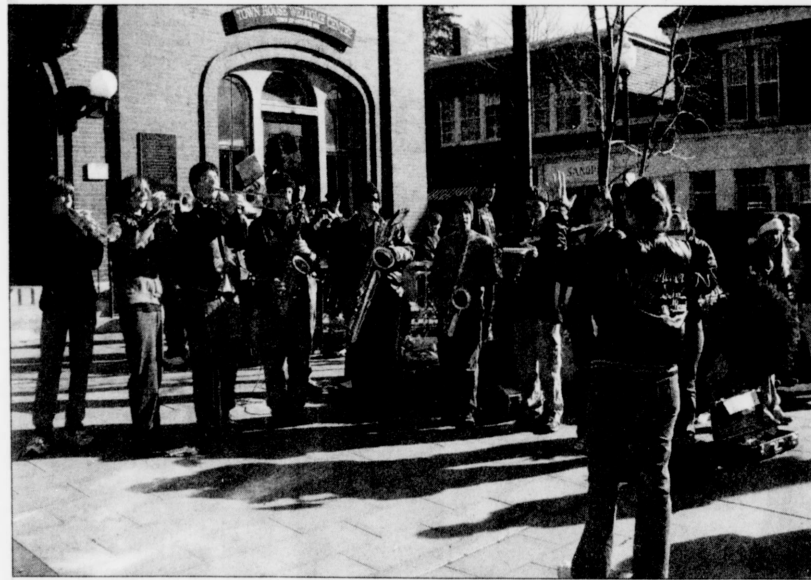
COURTESY PHOTO

Andrew Meshnick and Max Novick, both of Andover, are shown here presenting Sisterhood of Temple Emanuel representative Nancy Kannell with gently worn jackets, during the Sisterhood and Merrimack Valley Chapter of Hadassah community coat drive. The two organizations received more than 1,000 coats and jackets during the event that will be donated to local non-profit organizations such as Lawrence General Hospital, the Women's Resource Center, the Weed and Feed program, the Pregnancy Support Center, Bread and Roses, and Lazarus House.



COURTESY PHOTO

Ken Schumacher (behind the banner), of 16 Stafford Lane, marches in the AHS marching band. His sister, Briana Schumacher (at right), and friend Jackie Drew (left), of 1 Warwick Circle, were asked to carry the *Andover Townsman* banner for the band in the Andover Firefighters Santa Parade earlier this month. They reportedly had a great time and "were honored to represent the AHS band and (the) newspaper," they said.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Andover High School Marching Band held a wreath sale in front of Old Town Hall last month to help raise funds for their new uniforms. Townspeople shopping downtown enjoyed their music for four hours. The band also marched in the Andover Firefighters Santa Parade.



COURTESY PHOTO

Junior Girl Scout Troop 854 put some muscle into packing food for Thanksgiving dinners at the Neighbors in Need Food Pantry in Andover. The girls packed 150 bags of food that had been donated by schools and other organizations. Altogether, the dinners packed by the troop weighed more than 1,000 pounds - and that was without the turkeys. Each bag (contained potatoes, stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, a vegetable, gravy, rice and dessert) was accompanied by a frozen turkey when families in Lawrence received them. According to Linda Zimmerman, who coordinated the efforts at Neighbors in Need, in addition to the 150 bags packed by the troop, 300 more dinners were packed by local organizations for Neighbors in Need to distribute. Pictured above with some of the packed food bags are Elise Krekorian, Hannah Osborne, Melissa Damphousse, Kara Krekorian, Danielle Stevens, Maria Tornatore, Rachel Margolese, Courtney Benjamin, Maggie Mullins and Haley Jordan.

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Business

BRIEFS

Marland Place welcomes new director of social services

Jolyn Ek of Woburn has joined the management team at Marland Place, an independent and assisted living community at 15 Stevens St. in Andover.

The community, a historic preservation of the Marland Mill, has 127 private apartments.

Ek has more than 25 years experience in the health-care field and has served the senior population directly in her roles. Most recently she was the Pathways Program Director at Traditions in Dedham, another Newton Senior Living community.

Ek also has held positions in the social services department in the Reading Elder Services Program and as a state home-care case manager for 13 years. "We're pleased to have Jolyn on our team," said Marland's Executive Director Marilyn Stasonis. "With Jolyn's background, and her strong connections in the health care field, she is a great asset for Marland Place."



Jolyn Ek

Gladstone is hospital trustee

Andover businessman Karl Gladstone has been elected to the board of trustees of Saints Memorial Medical Center. "Karl's experience and reputation in Greater Lowell is an excellent addition to our board," said Jack O'Connor, chairman of the board of trustees.

Gladstone and his wife, Joyce, reside in North Andover. He is the owner of KG Associates, LLC, a construction and management company located at 1 Elm St. in Andover.

Gladstone has served on the boards of trustees for Merrimack College and Holy Family Hospital and been president of the Men of Merrimack College. He has been a member of the Circle of Friends at Northern Essex Community College, the Community Boating Program and the Gridiron Club of Greater Boston and has served the Lawrence Boys and Girls Club. In addition, Gladstone has been a Shriner for 35 years and a member of the Elks for 50 years.

Gladstone will continue his philanthropic efforts by assisting the Saints Memorial Foundation in its activities. "Karl's addition to the board builds on the strong leadership which has been the tradition of the Saints Memorial Board. His entrepreneurial experience will blend perfectly with the strong leadership of our trustees," said Thom Clark, president and CEO of Saints Memorial Medical Center.

New real estate agents

Dona Marie Kwolyk and John Taxiarchos have joined Prudential Howe & Doherty Realtors in Andover as real estate professionals. "We're thrilled to welcome Dona and John to the Prudential Howe & Doherty family, and are certain they will be real assets to our firm," said Chris Doherty, broker-owner.

Kwolyk has been a resident of the Andovers for more than 11 years, and is an active member of the community, volunteering to bring fine arts presentations to town schools. Kwolyk also owned her own residential decorating business, and brings four years of real-estate-administration experience to her new career.

Taxiarchos is a resident of Andover, and brings more than eight years of sales experience to Prudential from his previous positions in the insurance and finance industries in the Boston area. He speaks fluent Greek, and spent several years working in Athens, Greece.

Both new employees will be working from Prudential Howe & Doherty's office at 12 Bartlet St.

MV Chamber Business planning for 2005

The Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce's Women's Business Network will present "Tax and financial planning for you and your business," next Thursday, Jan. 6 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Holiday Inn on the Tewksbury/Andover line.

The cost is \$10 for members and \$20 for others. For a full refund, people must cancel 48 hours before the event.

Business calling was at end of her fingertips

Once too poor for polish, immigrant opens nail salon

By Andrea Gregory

Lily Bui remembers her first manicure. She describes it as a life-altering experience. It's also an experience that had led her to open Andover Nail Spa at 166 North Main St.

"I love my life right now," she says.

When Bui first arrived in America from Vietnam 18 years ago, she was not sure what she would do with her life.

She said when she was growing up in Vietnam there were women who wore luscious colors on their nails. But she said she grew up poor and was more worried about food than manicures.

Once in America, she learned the English language. It was not until she graduated from Chelsea High School that she considered a career in the beauty industry. She had never even had so much as polish on her own nails before.

But one day, she visited a friend who had a job as a manicurist.

"She gave me the full manicure, and I loved it," Bui says, remembering the "holiday red" color painted on her nails. "My whole life changed."

Bui had found her calling.

After earning her license to work in the industry, she gained experience from a handful of salons in the Boston and Framingham areas. She says she loves to be able to offer her clients great service and friendly conversation. It's a job that never gets boring, according to Bui.

The proud new business owner anxiously points out the details and unique touches of her nail shop in the Nathan Frye House mall, located near Wild Oats. Bui is happy to announce she picked the light, mint-green wall color and the comfortable leather chairs set up at each station. Customers will not find files, buffers or related paraphernalia at the manicure tables. Those materials are all filed away for each client in a personal drawer. There are hundreds of these little drawers and room for more as needed, she says. Bui says it's an extra sanitary measure and makes customers feel more comfortable knowing such devices will only be used on their hands and feet.

Bui has spent more than a decade as a licensed manicurist. She studied the industry in Quincy, but says she learned the most simply by doing the job.

"I love the town, and I got a good location,"



PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

Lily Bui, owner of Andover Nail and Spa shows one of her nail kits. She keeps one kit for each individual client.



PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

Megan Tan has her nails done by Dan Ha, a nail technician at Andover Nail and Spa.

she says about the newly renovated space that opened as Andover Nail Spa on Dec. 8.

Bui lives in Lowell with her husband and two children. She says she is familiar with Andover and setting up shop for herself in this town is a "dream come true."

Bui does have a business partner, Tommy Njuyen, who also runs a nail shop in Connecticut. But the day-to-day business is handled by her and her two full-time employees.

"I'm glad to be here. It's totally different than in Boston. Here it's a very nice and relaxed town," she says.

Andover is a town with dozens of beauty outlets for hair, nail and makeup. Bui says she believes there are enough customers in the area for all the shops. She believes having a space so close to downtown helps her store gain visibility and hopes it will intrigue people enough that they give her a try.

She says the store stays on top of the latest nail trends, such as UV gel tips that "won't kill your nails" and silk tips that provide a natural look. There are also more than 500 colors to choose from and high-speed dryers that work in less than three minutes.

Andover Nail Spa is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sundays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome, or people can call 978-470-0545 for an appointment.

New president for Holy Family

Peter Holden has been appointed president of Caritas Holy Family Hospital and Medical Center in Methuen.

President of Caritas Good Samaritan Medical Center in Brockton since 1999, Holden was appointed interim president of Caritas Holy Family in September, while he maintained his responsibilities as president of Caritas Good Samaritan.

"Peter is a talented and seasoned hospital administrator who exhibits a strong commitment to quality and clinical excellence in all his interactions and decisions," said Robert Haddad, president of Caritas Christi Health Care. "His ability to forge important physician relationships and implement strategic goals around the themes of clinical integration and regionalization will be of great benefit to Caritas Holy Family."

Holy Family Hospital and Medical Center is a 271-bed acute care hospital serving Greater Lawrence and the Merrimack Valley.



Peter Holden

ROTARY ANSWERS CALL



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Staff at the Adelante Youth Center transfer gifts donated by the Andover Rotary Club. The presents are for children, grades 1-6, who attend Adelante, and will be presented at the center's Three Kings Day Celebration on Thursday, Jan. 6.

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Sports

AHS ROUNDUP

Title chasers: Teams start winter season aglow

By Rick Harrison

Three Andover High varsity sports teams were successful in their opening Christmas Tournament games this week, and two were poised to shoot for championships as the Townsman went to press.

Sophomore forward Tucker Mullin and junior forward Mike LaMagna scored two goals each as the Golden Warrior boys hockey team toppled Winthrop, 6-3, in the semifinal round of the annual Haverhill Christmas Tournament.

Meghan Thomann and Maggie Cosgrove pumped in 18 points each, while Jackie Powers passed out a career-high nine assists as the undefeated Lady Warrior girls basketball team buried 13 three-pointers to highlight a 62-48 victory over Salem, N.H. in the semifinal round of the Greater Lawrence Holiday Tournament at AHS's Dunn Gym.

The Andover boys basketball squad was also successful in its Greater Lawrence Holiday Tournament opener, moving to the semifinals following a 60-47 first-round triumph over North Andover, fueled by Greg Vetrano's 31-point explosion.

Hockey and girls basketball were chasing titles Wednesday night in their respective finals, the ice-men facing Danvers at Veterans Memorial Rink in Haverhill and the roundballers tapping off at home against North Andover.

The boys hoop squad had a rugged semifinal assignment as they battled likewise-unbeaten Lawrence High on Tuesday night. Despite a strong 27-point performance by Greg Vetrano, Andover was beaten 74-54.

The Golden Warriors will face Greater Lawrence Tech tonight (Thursday) at 6 p.m. in the third-place consolation game at North Andover High School.

In the girls gymnastics opener Tuesday night, Andover won its 47th straight dual meet as Libby Fortier, Becky Robichaud, Katie Infantine and Carly Verrette sparked a lopsided 134.35 to 119.00 victory over Billerica at the Dunn Gym with an individual first-place finish each.

Detailed reports on both competitions will run in next week's Townsman.

INDOOR TRACK

There was excitement and drama in the Merrimack Valley Conference Division I dual track meets between the Andover and Chelmsford High boys and girls - as both competitions at the AHS Field House came down to the wire.

The Golden Warrior boys needed a victory in the final 4x400 relay to avoid finishing in a 43-43 tie, and the locals got it from a team comprised of Jason Sheldon, Robert Kaufman, Pierre Hage and Jeff Belardo.

That four-some completed the race in 3:48.4, with anchor man Belardo gutting it out down the final stretch to win by two strides and secure a 48-38 triumph.

On the girls side, as usual, the annual showdown between these longtime archrivals also came down to the relay. This time the visiting Lions prevailed to clinch a 47-39 victory.

Those results left the Andover boys at 2-0 and the girls 0-2.

Schedule

Both Andover varsity teams return to the oval next Wednesday afternoon (Jan. 5) at home against Haverhill (3:30 p.m.).

Andover boys 48 Chelmsford 38

Hage put AHS in front on the third leg and Belardo, who normally competes in the sprints,

brought the win home.

Andover head coach Peter Comeau noted that each member of the relay had competed and scored in an individual event earlier, so all four were also battling through a fatigue factor.

Hage won the 300 dash in a personal-best 35.2, Sheldon was second in the 50 dash (5.7), Kaufman third in the 300 (35.9) and Belardo third in the 50 (5.7).

Both teams won five events, with other AHS victories by hurdler Adam Cuomo (6.7), junior high jumper T.J. Moore (personal-best 5'9") and shot putter Kyle MacKenzie (46'6").

Also placing second were Garrett Raynor in the 600 run (1:25.4), Ben Ossoff in the 1000 run (2:31.8), two-miler James Primes (10:28.3), high jumper Matt Reidy (5'3") and shot putter John Kim (44'4").

Joining Kaufman and Belardo with vital third places were hurdler James MacDonald (7.1), Andy Boudreau (600 run, 1:25.6) and two-miler Peter Brown (10:42.6).

The one unexpected development - which kept Andover from clinching earlier - was Chelmsford sweeping the mile.

Chelmsford 47 Andover girls 39

These two MVC I powerhouse usually collide in a title-deciding showdown at the end of the season, but a schedule change put the meet much earlier this winter.

As usual it was a barnburner that could have gone either way, and for the eighth time in the last 10 years the meet was decided in the final 4x400 relay.

The difference in many past Andover/Chelmsford relays has been measured in split seconds and half strides, but this time around the Lions were clear-cut winners by almost 10 seconds (4:21.4 to 4:31.0).

Had the Lady Warriors won the relay they would have taken the meet by a 44-42 score.

Although the locals had middle-distance standout Michelle Pirro back from a stress fracture that kept her sidelined several weeks, AHS was still less than 100 percent healthy because middle distance/relay standout Emily Korba was shelved with a leg injury suffered during a recent practice.

Pirro's remarkable return featured a first-place finish in the 1000 run, with a 3:00.0 clocking, after she had been unable to train since the end of the soccer season.

Other Andover winners were sprinter Caroline Pierce in the 50 dash (6.5), sophomore standout Rachel Fox with a 1:32.4 in the 600 that ranks among the top 10 times in the state this season, and shot putter Felicia Thompson with a 33'9 1/2" toss. The Lady Warriors swept the shot with Sarah Thompson second (29'2") and Alyssa Lau third (26'8 1/2").

Also runners-up were hurdler Meaghan Keefe (7.3), sprinter Jen Hagopian (50 dash, 6.6), fresh-



Rachel Fox (in front) and Emily Korba compete in the 600-yard dash at the boys and girls indoor track meet.

man two-miler Mary Burke (12:58.6) and high jumper Corinne Welch (4'8").

Contributing thirds were hurdler Brittany Pierce (7.4), Kate Nichols (300 dash, 42.9) and high jumper Kerry Hill (4'4").

Besides the relay, events that hurt Andover most were the mile (Chelmsford sweep) and the 300 where the Lions finished 1-2. AHS was outscored 22-1 in those three races.

Earlier Meet

Tewksbury 52 1/2

Andover girls 33 1/2

It was a tough opening meet for the Lady Warriors, who managed three individual wins, four second places and seven thirds.

Placing first for the locals were junior sprinter Caroline Pierce in the 50 dash (6.6), sophomore Rachel Fox in the 600 run (1:34.0) and senior Felicia Thompson in the shot put (34'1 1/2").

Runners-up were senior hurdler Meaghan Keefe (7.5), senior Emily Korba who at 1:35.1 was a stride behind Fox in the 600, senior miler Leslie Willey (5:59.8) and Jen Quinlan in the high jump (4'4").

Completing the AHS pointscorers in third were hurdler Brittany Pierce (7.5), junior sprinter Jen Hagopian (50 dash, 6.8), senior Kate Nichols (300 dash, 43.0), junior miler Kara Busta (6:14.7), junior two-miler Christy Nigh (13:31.7) and shot putter Sarah Thompson (28'5 1/2").

Kerry Hill captured the Lady Warriors' half-point by clearing 4 feet to tie for third in the high jump.

BOYS ICE HOCKEY

Schedule

Next up is a New Year's Day game on Saturday at 1 p.m. against Westford Academy, the holiday MV/DCL crossover contest also serving as the home opener for AHS at the Merrimack Valley Forum in Lawrence.

Next Wednesday the Golden Warriors have another game against a Division 1 foe, as they travel to face perennial league and state power Billerica at the Hallenborg Pavilion (7 p.m.).

The Indians are off to an uncharacteristically slow 0-3 start.

Christmas Tournament

Semifinal

Andover 6

Winthrop 3

The locals jumped off to a quick 2-0 lead on an unassisted Tucker Mullin goal at 2:07 of the first period, and a tally by junior forward Phil Kim assisted by Mike LaMagna at 7:40 of the stanza.

ROUNDUP continued on page 18



Lauren Hughes drives around Salem defender. Hughes and her Andover High girls basketball teammates were looking to capture their sixth-straight Christmas Tournament title after the Townsman went to press on Wednesday. For more on girls basketball, look inside to page 18.

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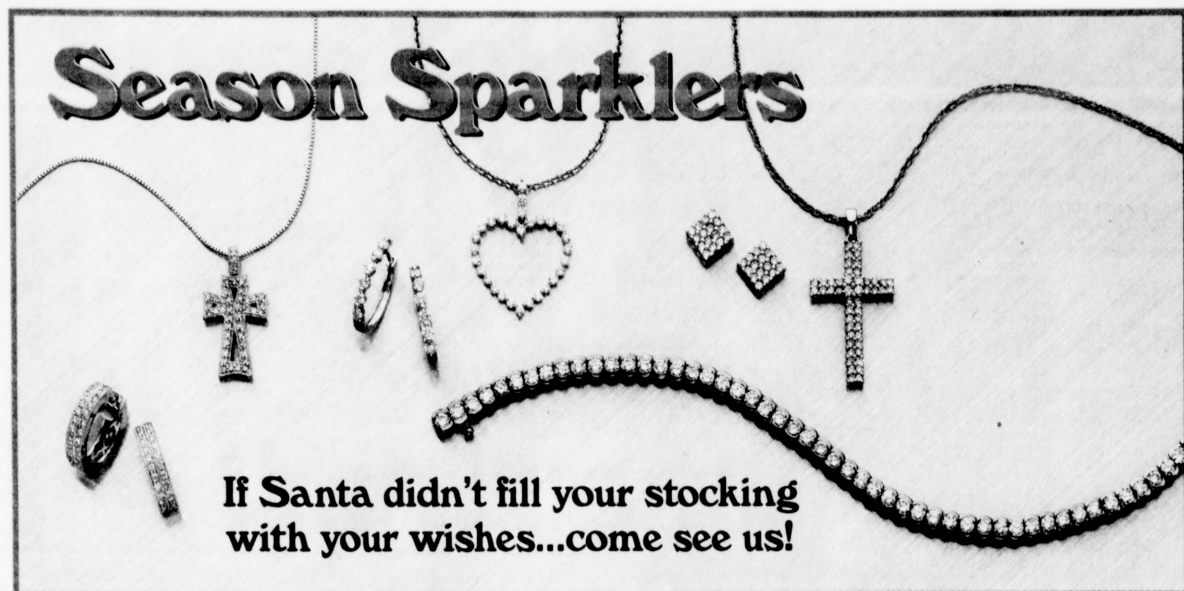
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