



OUR 120TH YEAR

Andover Townsman

Issue No. 24 28 pages

FEBRUARY 14, 2008

75 CENTS

FORGET CUPID, ASK THEM



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

Oscar and Shirley Rosenberg dance in their living room at the Andover Commons on Railroad Avenue. They have been married for almost 58 years and are celebrating their 57th Valentine's Day as husband and wife.

Married 58 years, Rosenbergs' advice is to stick to it and 'stay busy'

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
STAFF WRITER

"Thank goodness for her," Oscar Rosenberg says with a wink as he passes a neighbor's door in his Andover apartment building. "She's alone and still likes to make things like stew and she gives some to me."

Rosenberg, who is diabetic, is joking. The real love of his life, his wife for parts of six decades, is aware of his diet and feeds him quite well. Shirley Rosenberg is also quite used to her husband's sense of humor.

"I feel bad for married kids today. There's a lot of stress. But work it out. That's all I can say."

Oscar Rosenberg on staying married 57 years

The Rosenbergs, perhaps the first couple to move into the large Andover Commons apartment complex on Railroad Street, next to Whole Foods supermarket, will celebrate their 58th wedding anniversary on March 19. He's 88

and she is 84.

"You have to stay busy," Oscar said when asked about the key to their long marriage while Shirley nodded in agreement in their apartment, which is filled with citations from various groups they assist.

"I do my yoga at the center," Shirley said referring to the Andover Senior Center. "He goes off somewhere, too."

They catch up later and share the day's events.

Please see **CUPID**, Page 2

Town to state: Act on taxes

Officials want hotel, meals tax options on their plate

By BRIAN MESSENGER
STAFF WRITER

Most selectmen and Andover state legislators are willing to consider increasing taxes on hotels, restaurants and telecommunications companies to help the town out of its budget crunch.

The measures, all part of Gov. Deval Patrick's Municipal Partnership Act, are aimed at increasing revenues at both the state and local level. Andover is estimated to receive another \$1.4 million annually if the taxes are approved. Initially submitted over the summer, Patrick's proposal has not been voted on by the legislature.

But as the town nears decisions on cutting millions in services or approving an override, town officials say they want the state legislature to vote on the proposal.

After reviewing Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski's annual budget recommendation at a recent meeting, town officials expressed concern over state aid levels for fiscal 2009, which Stapczynski expects to be roughly \$12.3 million.

"I think we've got to get our senators and our reps in

Please see **TOWN**, Page 5

"I think the governor and the administration is doing the right thing by stepping up and proposing a number of options. We're looking for the state to step up and I think the administration has ?"

Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski

Waiting for the chips to fall

Local officials, legislators wary of governor's casino proposal

By BRIAN MESSENGER
STAFF WRITER

Five weeks before a March 20 bus trip to Foxwoods Resort Casino organized by the town, 34 people have already signed up to go, says Community Services Director Mary Donohue. She expects that trip and another, to the Mohegan Sun casino in Connecticut, to sell out easily.

"I don't see how that's going to solve the problem we're in."

Jerry Stabile

Such casino trips are among the most popular programs offered by the town. But the idea of bringing a casino to the Bay State — complete with its revenue and its problems — has little support among Andover's local and state officials.

Like most members of local governments in the Com-

Please see **CASINO**, Page 5

Less state aid for school building projects expected

By BRIAN MESSENGER
STAFF WRITER

Andover's efforts at energy efficiency and building maintenance could mean the state will cover more of the cost to replace Bancroft Elementary School than it otherwise would.

But the state will still cover a smaller percentage than it did during Andover's other recent projects.

In the recent past, the state reimbursed the town for 60 percent of previous school projects, including those at

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■ Continued from Page 1

the Andover High, Wood Hill Middle and High Plain, South and Sanborn elementary schools. However, the Massachusetts School Building Authority has changed the way it reimburses towns. For future building projects, the MSBA will award a base rate of only 31 percent to any community seeking school building assistance.

Towns can get more money based on their need and approach to running school buildings.

An independent agency responsible for allocating \$500 million annually for school building projects, the MSBA has selected Bancroft Elementary as one of 49 schools in the state eligible to receive money for replacement or major renovations.

While local school officials did not expect to boost the town's percentage of aid based on "ability to pay factors," other categories known to the MSBA as "incentive points" had them hopeful for more aid.

School Committee member Tony James said Andover can expect to receive more than the minimum 31 percent state reimbursement from the state. If Andover can capitalize on incentives for general building maintenance levels, he expects it to receive between 46 and 50 percent for its future school building projects.

"I think when we look at the numbers, we will be (receiving) something less than what we have in the past," said Superintendent Claudia Bach. "Obviously, it would be nice to have that 60 percent still, but to have some reimbursement is important."

The categories for incentive points include an additional half-percent match for every 1 percent privately raised, an additional 3 percent for developing innovative community uses for a school building, and an additional 2 percent for optimizing a building's energy efficiency.

"We certainly already have high energy efficiency in place," said Bach. "I think we can get something there."

The largest potential boost for incentive points will come in the form of a statewide building maintenance assessment, where the MSBA will review and assign ratings to all school buildings across the state, according to MSBA Press Secretary Carrie Sullivan. Cities and towns can capitalize on up to an eight percent increase in state aid

EARLY ESTIMATE SHOWS \$72 A YEAR HIKE FOR NEW SCHOOL

The average homeowner in town can expect a \$72 a year for 20 years hike in property taxes if plans proceed to replace Bancroft Elementary School, according to a recent estimate by the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

School and town officials met with the MSBA on Jan. 23 and were told that replacing Bancroft would likely cost \$24 million, roughly \$13 million of which would be paid for by Andover tax payers over a 20 year period under a debt exclusion.

"We can all take this with a grain of salt," said School Committee member Tony James. "It is a current best estimate, but it seems to be reasonable."

The MSBA also told town officials that a 75,000 square-foot facility would be necessary to replace Bancroft, which was built in 1969 using the "open concept" design where individual classrooms are broken up using partitions rather than walls.

Bancroft Elementary, currently home to 465 students, is 64,000 square-feet.

"It would allow for potential expansion there," said James.

School building costs currently run at \$325 per square foot, town officials were informed by the MSBA. The MSBA contends that repair work, rather than a building replacement, is still a possibility for Bancroft. The ultimate decision will be determined after a feasibility study is conducted jointly by the authority and the town. But both town and school officials remain optimistic that Bancroft will be replaced in the long-run.

under the review.

"Districts will be rewarded for maintaining their buildings," said Sullivan. "The new program places a strong emphasis on maintenance."

Bach, James and town Plant & Facilities Director Joe Piantedosi said the town should benefit from its strong maintenance programs in its schools.

"There's a great opportunity for the town to save money on the project," Piantedosi. "My gut feeling is I think the town will qualify for some of the bonus points and I wouldn't be surprised if we get another 10 percent on (total incentives) if we get good grades on our preventative maintenance."

An additional 4 percent may also become available to communities that hire a so-called at risk construction manager, who coordinates project subcontractors, a task that can often become problematic during public construction projects, Piantedosi said.

"The advantage to it, in a nut shell, is it creates more of a partnership with the town, the architect and the construction manager to get the job done," said Piantedosi. "It's a very common practice in the private sector."

Another benefit to the new MSBA process for communities is that the state provides reimbursement throughout a project's duration, where previously

cities and towns would have to wait years before receiving the money.

"They no longer have to front the state's share of building costs," said Sullivan. "That alone will save millions in interest."

State reimbursement was delayed on the nearly \$40 million Andover High, South Elementary and Sanborn Elementary schools project, and Andover paid millions in interest on the money it borrowed to do the job. When Wood Hill Middle and High Plain Elementary schools project was built, the entire reimbursement arrived soon after construction was over, and the town paid only \$128,000 in interest, according to the town.

Such an arrangement should make lobbying for a debt exclusion easier at Town Meeting, James said.

"We know exactly what the state will reimburse us," said James. "In the past you had to make the best guess."

With millions of dollars in interest payments avoided, Bach said Andover's reduction in school building aid becomes much less significant if the town can capitalize on the various incentives made available.

"If we get money back sooner and it's pay-as-you-go, it may not come out that different," said Bach. "That's helpful too. I think in the long-run this may not be a whole lot

CUPID: Tea for two this Valentine's Day

■ Continued from Page 1

And one thing is for sure — they have weathered every storm that attempted to rock their marriage. That is what's missing in today's marriages, say the couple.

As they prepare to celebrate their 57th Valentine's Day as husband and wife, the Rosenbergs have this tip for today's newlyweds: stick it out.

"I feel bad for married kids today. There's a lot of stress," said Oscar, a World War II veteran. "But work it out. That's all I can say."

Health issues dominate the marriage agenda these days for couples in their 80s, like the Rosenbergs, and they have lost numerous friends to illness. Oscar has bounced back from what his wife refers to as four mini-strokes. "We almost lost him," she whispered as her eyes teared a bit.

After the first incident, Oscar needed to give up driving for fear he might hurt someone else, and that was one of those storms that they have weathered. Sure, it was a loss of independence, but he learned the local bus schedule and took up his son-in-law's offer to drive the couple to the grocery store.

The Rosenbergs have two daughters, Linda Rabinovitz, who lives on Arundel Street in Andover, and Debbie Brett of Westbrook, Maine. They have two grandsons, who grew up in town, and Oscar is proud he dropped 15 pounds to look terrific in his tuxedo for a recent wedding.

Theirs is a love story that started years ago when Oscar worked for the Public Service of New Hampshire, the electric company.

Originally, the couple settled in Oscar's hometown of Berlin, N.H. and raised their family. Shirley, a Lowell native, was a homemaker who sometimes helped out at her father's grocery store in Bradford.

Oscar retired in 1982 and they moved to Andover shortly there-



JIM JEAN/Staff photo
Oscar and Shirley Rosenberg, will celebrate their 58th wedding anniversary March 19.

The Rosenbergs have two daughters, Linda Rabinovitz, who lives on Arundel Street in Andover, and Debbie Brett of Westbrook, Maine.

after to be closer to their daughter. She had clipped an advertisement for some new apartments in Andover, the Andover Commons. At the time, Shirley's parents lived in nearby Tewksbury, so the Rosenbergs decided it was a good location for their lifestyle. They were among the first residents of Andover Commons, which is the former Converse building on Railroad Street. The Rosenbergs have been living happily in their one-bedroom, third floor apartment ever since.

They don't have big plans for today's Valentine's Day and just might swing by the "Tea for Tenants" event at their apartment complex this afternoon.

They've shared 56 Valentine's Days already.

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Andover Townsman

Established 1887

ISSN 1524-1432
USPS 025-440

Publisher

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Published Thursdays by Andover Publishing Co.
33 Chestnut St., Box 1986, Andover, MA 01810
978-475-7000 Ad fax 978-475-5731; News fax 978-470-2819
E-mail townsman@andovertownsmen.com
Web www.andovertownsmen.com

Periodical postage paid at Andover, MA, and additional mailing office.
Postmaster: Send address changes to Andover Townsman,
33 Chestnut St., Andover, MA 01810
In-town subscription — One year, \$40; two years, \$68
Subscription outside Greater Lawrence — One year, \$45; two years, \$75
College subscription — One college year, \$30.

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In Brief

PAST & PRESENT



Courtesy photo

THEN: In the 19th century, 30 citizens of Andover petitioned the Massachusetts Legislature, seeking to establish a "mutual" savings institution. The first recorded meeting was held at Locke Tavern on Dec. 17, 1834, and in 1835 the Andover Institution for Savings opened for business in a second floor office of the Valpey Block. The bank moved into the Nation Bank building, above, at 23 Main St., in 1853.



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

NOW: The former location of Andover Savings Bank is now a TD BankNorth branch.

Cholesterol screening clinic

The Andover Board of Health will have a cholesterol screening clinic on Feb. 27 from 9 a.m. to noon. An appointment is necessary and the clinic is for Andover residents only. The simple fingerstick test costs \$5 and does not require fasting. This program is made possible through a grant from the Andover Home for Aged People. For an appointment, call 978-623-8295.

Fresh Air Fund

Andover area volunteers are needed to help create a fun-filled summer for children from New York City's low-income communities through the Fresh Air Fund. Each summer, close to 5,000 children, ages 6 to 18, enjoy two-week vacations with volunteer host families in suburban and small town communities across 13 northeastern states and Ontario, Canada. Local Fresh Air Fund committee members recruit host families, reach out to the community and coordinate fun activities for families and children. For more information, call The Fresh Air Fund at 800-367-0003.

Apply for grants

The Essex National Heritage Commission is accepting applications for its 2008 Partnership Grants. Open to all Essex County nonprofit organizations, cities and towns and government agencies, grants will range from \$1,000 to \$7,500 per project in four categories: Thomas M. Leonard educational grants, heritage interpretation and programming, heritage preservation and resource stewardship, and archives and historical records. The program is designed to be seed funding to foster partnerships to preserve and promote the unique resources and heritage of Essex County. Deadline for submissions is March 3 at 5 p.m. Recipients will be notified in June. For more information, call 978-740-0444.

QUOTE, UNQUOTE ...



SEEING THE BONES.
— Six-year-old Nicholas Rosen, saying his favorite part of a school field trip to Holy Family Hospital was seeing an X-ray. Story in Education, Page 13.

THE FIRST TIME WE EVER VISITED, WE JUST TOOK A HIKE UP the road to the fire tower. All the sudden it was, 'Wow, there's Boston!'

Pete Garone, who lives across the street from the Ward Reservation, on the views available to hikers, skiers and sledgers. Story in Arts, Page 15.

IT'S SOMETHING THAT AFFECTED ME personally. A couple of months ago I had to take away Tommy the Train from Ella.

— State Rep. Barry Finegold, father of two daughters, on his support for requiring toys deemed unsafe to be listed on the Department of Public Health's Web site.



NEWS CALENDAR

THURSDAY, FEB. 14

Long Range Financial Planning subcommittee, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., third-floor conference room, 7:30 a.m.

Andover Coalition for Education, Butler Bank Andover, community room, 7:30 a.m.

Council on Aging, School Administration Building, conference room A, second floor, 8 a.m.

Board of Assessors, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., assessors conference room, 9 a.m.

Triad, 36 Bartlet St., red 2, 9:30 a.m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 15

Design Review Board, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., second-floor conference room, 8 a.m.

TUESDAY, FEB. 19

Conservation Commission, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., third-floor conference room, 7:45 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 20

Town Yard Task Force, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., third-floor

conference room, 7:30 a.m.
Board of Assessors, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., assessors conference room, 9 a.m.

Long Range Financial Planning subcommittee, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., second-floor conference room, 5:30 p.m.

Finance Committee, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., second-floor conference room, 7 p.m.

Recycling Committee, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., third-floor conference room, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEB. 21

Zoning Board of Appeals public hearing and deliberation about 36 Central St., Memorial Hall Library conference room, 6 p.m.

MONDAY, FEB. 25

Cultural Council, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., second-floor conference room, 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEB. 26

Planning Board, School Administration Building, third-floor conference room, 7:30 p.m.

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■ POLICE LOG

ARRESTS

Wednesday, Feb. 6 — At 3:37 p.m. Hector Colon, 45, of 50 Juniper Road, Lawrence, was arrested and charged with larceny under \$250, distribution of a Class A substance, distribution of a Class B substance, the subsequent offense of possession of a Class A substance, the subsequent offense of possession of a Class B substance, and conspiracy to violate controlled substance laws.

At 4:01 p.m., Rachel Collins, 24, of 1421 Arboretum Way, Burlington, was arrested and charged with distribution of a Class A substance, distribution of a Class B substance, possession of a Class A substance, possession of a Class E substance, and conspiracy to violate controlled substance laws.

Thursday, Feb. 7 — At 3:33 p.m., Robert Pingaro Jr., 31, of 90 Beacon St., Lawrence, was arrested and charged with speeding and operating a motor vehicle with a revoked license.

Friday, Feb. 8 — At 11:03 a.m., Shane Ahern, 29, of 6 Village Lane, Tyngsboro, was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, a motor vehicle lights violation and an uninspected motor vehicle.

At 8:19 p.m., Luis Gonzalez, 38, of 172 North Main St., was arrested and charged with assault and battery on a household member, two counts of assault and battery on a police officer, two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon and resisting arrest.

At 11:45 p.m., Hagop Jarkian, 51, of 93 River Road, Tewksbury, was arrested and charged with a marked lanes violation, speeding in violation of a special regulation, and operating under the influence of liquor.

Saturday, Feb. 9 — At 9:34 a.m., Lisa Waxman, 27, of 17 Hidden Court, North Andover, was arrested and charged on a warrant for driving the wrong way, negligent operation and a probation violation.

At 3:00 p.m., Soteria Kareklas, 28, of 10 Buffon St., Salem, was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a sus-

pending license.

At 3:22 p.m., Longping Lei, 49, of 8 Crescent Drive, was arrested and charged with assault and battery on a household member.

At 3:51 p.m., Jose Bolorin, 20, of 4 Wheeler St., Lawrence, was arrested and charged with possession of a Class A substance with intent to distribute, possession of a Class A substance, and possession of a Class B substance.

At 4:18 p.m., Helton Marin, 26, of 4 Willow St., Lawrence, was arrested and charged with possession of a Class A substance with intent to distribute, possession of a Class A substance, and possession of a Class B substance.

Monday, Feb. 11 — At 4:16 p.m., John Rodriguez, 21, of 4 Basswood St., Lawrence, was arrested and charged with having no inspection/sticker and operating a motor vehicle with a revoked license.

INCIDENTS

Wednesday, Feb. 6 — At 9:47 a.m., vandalism to a stone wall was reported on Hidden Road, near where the parts of a vehicle fender were left.

Thursday, Feb. 7 — At 5:45 p.m., a disorderly person was reported at Richdale's on Lupine Road.

At 6:52 p.m., a domestic dispute was reported.

Friday, Feb. 8 — At 5:05 a.m., a noise complaint was received on North Main Street.

At 8:06 a.m., a disturbed person was reported on Lowell Street.

At 7:58 p.m., a domestic dispute was reported.

At 8:47 p.m., two officers were injured in response to a domestic dispute.

At 10:28 p.m., a woman on High Plain Road reported her house was egged.

Saturday, Feb. 9 — At 10:07 a.m., fraud was reported on Elm Street.

At 2:52 p.m., a domestic dispute was reported.

At 3:45 p.m., an attempted suicide was reported.

At 10:53 p.m., a noise complaint was received on Reservation Road for loud music coming from West Parish Church.

THEFTS

Monday, Feb. 11 — At 11:14 a.m., larceny was reported on Andover Street.

BREAKS

Saturday, Feb. 9 — At 9:15 p.m., breaking and entering of a dwelling was reported on River Road.

AUTO INCIDENTS

Wednesday, Feb. 6 — At 5:20 p.m., larceny from a motor vehicle was reported on Minuteman Road.

At 5:48 p.m., larceny from a motor vehicle was reported on Campanelli Road.

Thursday, Feb. 7 — At 5:30 p.m., motor vehicle larceny was reported on Tech Drive.

Friday, Feb. 8 — At 8:52 a.m., larceny from a motor vehicle was reported on Salem Street.

At 10:16 a.m., larceny of a satellite radio from a motor vehicle was reported on Seten Circle.

At 1:31 p.m., larceny from a motor vehicle was reported on Chatham Road.

At 3:21 p.m., larceny from a motor vehicle was reported on Cheever Circle.

Saturday, Feb. 9 — At 6:40 a.m., larceny of a motor vehicle was reported on Campanelli Road.

At 6:58 a.m., larceny from a motor vehicle was reported on Tech Drive.

At 10:36 a.m., larceny from a motor vehicle was reported on Minuteman Road.

At 1 p.m., larceny from a motor vehicle was reported on Russett Lane.

AUTO ACCIDENTS

Wednesday, Feb. 6 — At 3:19 p.m., a multi-car pileup with personal injury was reported on River Road.

Friday, Feb. 8 — At 2:27 p.m., a crash with personal injury was reported on Canterbury Street.

Monday, Feb. 11 — At 8:09 a.m., a hit-and-run accident was reported on Beacon Street.

At 10:31 a.m., a crash with personal injury was reported on Main Street.

— Compiled by
Brian Messenger



CARL RUSSO/Staff photos

The Exchange Club of Lawrence honored local firefighters and EMTs at an awards banquet Thursday. Among those recognized were, from left, Andover firefighters Kyle Murphy, John McMullen, Thomas Agnew, Clifford Pattullo, Lt. Mark Conlon, Eric Teichert and Todd Richardson. Missing from the photo are Deputy Chief Albert DeDotto, Brian Landry, Scott Weightman, Lt. George Milne, Joseph Cahill, Jeffrey Condon and James Landry.

Local officer, firefighters honored

The Exchange Club of Lawrence recently presented awards to its "Police, Firefighter and EMT of the Year" for Andover, Lawrence and North Andover.

Andover police Officer Brian Blouin received an award.

The description provided by the Exchange Club of Lawrence said Blouin, "an eight-year member of the police department, is the town's first and only school resource officer and is assigned to the Greater Lawrence Technical School. Officer Blouin volunteered for this assignment and has worked diligently to make this partnership work with great success. He works with both staff and students to break down barriers, educate students, and help the school to provide a safe learning environment."

Members of the Andover Fire Department also were honored. They were, from Car 2: Deputy Chief Albert DeDotto; Engine 1: Lt. Mark Conlon and Firefighters Todd



Andover police Chief Brian Pattullo congratulates Officer Brian Blouin on his award.

Richardson and Eric Teichert; Engine 3: Lt. George Milne and Firefighters Joseph Cahill and John McMullen; Ladder 2: Firefighters Thomas Agnew and Clifford Pattullo; Ambulance 91: Firefighters Kyle Murphy and Scott Weightman; and Ambulance 92: Firefighters Jeffrey Condon and Brian Landry.

The description provided by the Exchange Club of Lawrence said,

"On Aug. 20, 2007 Andover Fire Rescue responded to a motor vehicle crash on High Plain Road. Upon arrival, they found a single vehicle had crashed into a tree with one occupant trapped inside. The impact of the crash pushed the vehicle's dashboard and steering wheel on top of the patient, pinning her lower body. Firefighters and EMTs worked feverishly to extricate the woman from the vehicle by placing jacks under the SUV and utilizing hydraulic rescue tools to remove the doors and roof from the vehicle. The overall extrication of the patient took approximately 40 minutes and crews from two of Andover's three fire stations. The patient was conscious throughout the ordeal and, once removed from the vehicle, was transported by Med-Flight to Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. The patient sustained multiple injuries including a fractured arm, femur, hand and serious injuries to her pelvic area."

Brief Monday power outage hits 3,700

By BRIAN MESSENGER
STAFF WRITER

Downtown businesses and Andover High School were among the thousands of National Grid customers left without power for about an hour on Monday, Feb. 11, after an outage was caused by maintenance work on Andover Street.

For roughly 70 minutes, more than 3,700 National Grid customers across a large stretch of town lost power around 12:17 p.m., according to company spokesman David Graves. The outage occurred as a conductor was being repaired in Ballardvale.

The power outage stretched west

from Route 28 to as far as West Parish Church, said Andover police Lt. James Hashem, affecting portions of Shawsheen Road and Lowell Street.

"Pretty much from Elm Square down, I think, the power was out until Balmoral Street," he said.

Andover police officers were forced to conduct traffic at four major intersections due to the lost power. But no police incidents resulted from the outage, Hashem said.

"We were fortunate," Hashem said. "There were a lot of businesses that were affected. I don't think any of them had to close."

Charles Eliopoulos, owner of My Brother's Pizza Place on Post Office Avenue, said his staff was able to

operate the electronic cash register manually during the power outage.

Without the use of a deep-fryer or grill, the restaurant's menu included only pizza, cold subs and wraps.

"It wasn't bad," said Eliopoulos. "We were restricted with what we could cook."

Power was eventually restored to all National Grid customers between 1:22 and 1:29 p.m., according to the company.

"It took some time to get the customers back up," said Graves.

In all, out of the 3,759 National Grid customers affected, all but three were from Andover.

The repair work has been completed and no related problems are expected, Graves said.

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TOWN: No easy solutions to raise revenue

Continued from Page 1

and explain our side of the problem to them," said Stapczynski at the joint meeting.

As constituted, the Municipal Partnership Act would allow cities and towns across the state to vote locally on whether to increase taxes on meals and hotel and motel stays. It would also close a tax exemption on machinery used by utility corporations, which could potentially bring Andover additional annual revenues of more than \$700,000, according to Stapczynski.

"I think the governor and the administration is doing the right thing by stepping up and proposing a number of options," said Stapczynski. "We're looking for the state to step up and I think the administration has."

Contacted earlier this week, State Rep. Barbara L'Italien said she understood the concern of town officials.

"If proposals haven't been acted on and a year goes by," said L'Italien, "that's where I think the frustration comes from. They want to have some forward motion."

State Rep. Barry Finegold said Andover's legislative delegation will do whatever it can to bring back as much local aid as possible — including taking votes on both Patrick's casino proposal (see related story) and Municipal Partnership Act.

"We're going to look at everything, look at the revenue numbers and see where things fall," said Finegold, a member of the House Ways and Means Committee. "Everything's on the table and we're not ruling anything out."

Selectmen Chairman Brian Major suggested at a Feb. 4 meeting that local officials from communities across the region should band together if they have common concerns, a sentiment he echoed last week.

"There are ways the state can help," said Major. "For things that we really want, we should collectively get together with the communities around us to form a larger block and have an impact on more legislators."

The town currently receives no revenue through a meals tax. The provision under Patrick's proposal would result in an estimated \$589,851 in additional revenue for Andover annually.

Hotel and meals tax

Under Patrick's Municipal Partnership Act, Town Meeting could hike Andover's hotel tax from 4 to 5 percent.

Such an increase would create between \$75,000 to \$100,000 in additional revenue annually for the town, according to Stapczynski, who supported considering the increase along with L'Italien, State Sen. Sue Tucker, and Selectmen Mary Lyman, Alex Vispoli and Jerry Stabile.

Selectman Ted Teichert did not return multiple phone calls for this article.

"I think the momentum is toward some of these provisions, rather than away from them," said Tucker of the Municipal Partnership Act's status in the legislature. "The problem with it is uneven help. Some communities benefit by the meals tax much more than other communities."

"These are local options, so I think people are warming up to this," said Tucker.

Selectmen Chairman Brian Major said he did not support the hotel tax increase or the meals tax increase, which would allow for a hike of up to 2 percent on gross receipts. A quarter of that revenue would go to the state.

"Again, we're nickled-and-dimed people to death everywhere we can, which is horrible," said Major. "(The state has) their hand out again. It makes zero sense to me."

Stabile and Stapczynski said they would consider instituting an additional meals tax.

The town currently receives no revenue through a meals tax. The provision under Patrick's proposal would result in an estimat-

ed \$589,851 in additional revenue for Andover annually, according to the Massachusetts Municipal Association.

"My heart's with the downtown people right now and I feel we'd have to take a look at how that affected them," said Lyman. "I wouldn't want to do anything that would harm the businesses downtown."

Vispoli also expressed concern over increasing taxes to solve municipal and state financial problems.

"The restaurant business is a tough business," said Vispoli. "If you put additional tax on it, I'm not sure that's going to solve your problem."

Closing telecommunications loophole

Both Stapczynski and L'Italien said closing the so-called telecommunications tax loophole, sometimes referred to as the "Verizon Bill," would bring Andover a significant revenue increase.

"That's serious money to us," said Stapczynski. "That's a very important piece of the Municipal Partnership Act."

Major and Stabile also urged the legislature to pass its closure.

"It's another opportunity for us to bring in additional revenue to the town of Andover, with limited impact to the residents," said Stabile. "I support it."

"By the legislators not even taking action on it makes no sense," said Major. "They're hiding something, is the perception."

Tucker said she was still studying the provision, which she feared would force telecommunications companies to pass the added expense on to their customers.

The tax exemption was created at the turn of the 20th century to encourage expansion of the industry, Tucker said.

"They'll just shift it to the consumers," said Tucker. "This debate needs to be out in the open."

"It sounds encouraging from the revenue perspective," said Vispoli. "On the other side I'm not sure what it would do to businesses."

CASINO: Town officials don't see gambling solution

Continued from Page 1

monwealth, Andover officials have watched with interest since Gov. Deval Patrick filed a bill that, if passed by the legislature, would allow for as many as three casinos to be built in the state.

With the promise of hundreds of thousands of new jobs and more than \$400 million in annual revenue generated from resort casino gambling in the state, Patrick has promoted his bill as a way to help relieve the annual fiscal pressures facing both state and local governments.

The issue of casino gambling in Massachusetts came up recently when Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski presented his annual budget proposal to Andover's Finance Committee, School Committee and Board of Selectmen.

Anticipating a drop in state lottery aid, members of the three boards said they were curious how the town's three state legislators — state Sen. Sue Tucker and Reps. Barbara L'Italien and Barry Finegold felt about the casino proposal. All three legislators are Democrats and Andover residents.

"It's an attractive thing in terms of generating revenue for the state," said Finance Committee Chairwoman Joanne Marden. "Every single city and town in the state has problems. For all of us, our costs are going up faster than our revenues."

Contacted earlier this week, all three local legislators said they were against Patrick's proposal to bring resort casinos to the state.

In agreement with them were Stapczynski, Marden and selectmen Brian Major, Mary Lyman and Alex Vispoli.

Selectman Ted Teichert did not return calls seeking comment for this story.

Selectman Jerry Stabile said he was not against the construction of resort casinos in Massachusetts, but he does not believe it would serve as a long-term financial solution.

"I think that it's unfortunate that (Patrick's)

trying to level-fund the lottery based on the legislature's approval of this casino bill," said Stabile. "The bottom line is, to a certain extent, he's got everybody in a corner with this one."

Stabile said legislators would possibly be better advised considering hikes to the state's gasoline and sales taxes, which could generate billions of dollars in new revenue rather than the millions proposed under Patrick's casino bill.

"I think this is a Band-aid," said Stabile. "I don't think it's going to generate enough revenue."

Patrick's revenue projections have also come under fire from legislators, including Tucker.

Tucker, who recently spoke out against Patrick's proposal at Memorial Hall Library in a League of Women Voters-sponsored event, said that with casinos also comes the "profound costs" of providing oversight to the gaming industry, public safety services to the areas where casinos are built, as well as social services related to addiction.

"These are very, very expensive situations," said Tucker. "The money that casinos get doesn't fall from the sky. It's just a couple of billion dollars that people would spend elsewhere in the community."



"Where you're getting your money from could be from the most vulnerable population."

Mary Lyman



"I'm not sure that I trust those revenue figures. I'm just not sure it's a good way to raise money."

Joanne Marden

Marden and Lyman also expressed concern over what portion of society would be providing casino revenue.

"I know that we're very hungry at the municipal level, but I don't want to take it from the vulnerable," said Lyman.

Major said the town would be better served coming up with its own avenues for creating new revenue.

"We need to reduce our dependency on state aid, not increase the dependency," said Major. "From that perspective, I don't like the idea of the casinos either."

Casinos have been conducting business for more than two decades in New Jersey, where Vispoli grew up. He said he recalls a similar debate about their benefits before their implementation there.

"It didn't really have the impact that it promised," said Vispoli. "I've seen it first hand."

Noting that there are high taxes and fiscal challenges in both Rhode Island and Connecticut despite casinos, L'Italien said she would be willing to vote on the proposal here in Massachusetts despite her personal opposition.

"It's a really regressive way of trying to raise revenues," said L'Italien. "I've seen nothing in this proposal (to indicate) that we should be gambling our way out of our economic woes."

Though the bill has the support of the state senate president and majority, L'Italien said a vote on it in the near future will be unlikely without the support of House Speaker Salvatore F. Dimasi, D—Boston. The casino bill has been sitting before the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies.



"I think it's bad for the community and bad for the regions that support the casinos."

Brian Major

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Goose with arrow in its side spotted along the Shawsheen

By BRIAN MESSENGER
STAFF WRITER

A Canada goose with an arrow stuck in its left side was spotted on the partially frozen waters of the Shawsheen River late Tuesday morning and local and state authorities were unable to assist it before Wednesday.

The goose was seen standing on the edge of the frozen portion of the river just before noon on Tuesday, after Andover police first received a report of the apparently wounded animal.

With the department's animal control officer off duty that day, the goose, which was located only a short distance from the Stevens Street post office, was reported to the state's Fish & Wildlife field headquarters in Westborough.

The call from Andover police was referred to the division's waterfall biologist, according to Lisa Capone, press secretary for the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, which oversees the state Fish & Wildlife Division.

The state biologist was unable to respond to the scene, Capone said.

"We do get calls like this occasionally," said Capone. "It is often difficult to locate an animal and respond with the resources we have."

The goose was spotted again, still with the arrow in its side, Tuesday afternoon and again the next day.

According to Sgt. Barbara Connolly, the department received reports the next morning, Feb. 13, that the goose remained on the river near the Stevens Street bridge.

Just after 10 a.m., public safety officials responded and were able to free the goose from the ice, after it became stuck, according to Connolly.

The goose was freed from the ice by a fire department employee, Connolly said, and was able to float down the river.

After speaking with public safety dispatchers, Connolly said she did not know if the arrow had been removed from the goose's side.

Calls to the fire department were not answered Wednesday morning before Townsman presstime.

The arrow protruded from the goose's body by about a foot and a half, and had yellow and orange

striping on the end.

"That happens from time to time," said Andover police Lt. James Hashem on Tuesday. "It's not the first time someone has shot at one of those."

Capone said that the state's geese hunting season ended Wednesday, Feb. 13.

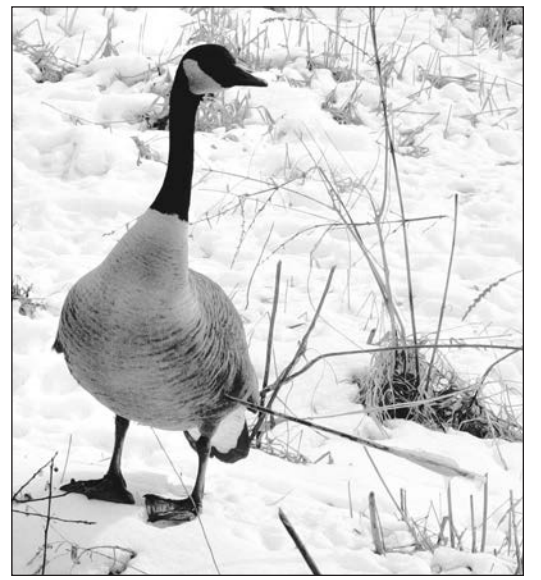
Typically, Hashem said Andover's animal control officer would have responded to the incident, although the ice over the river may have presented a challenge in trying to restrain and capture the goose.

"Normally, animal control would attempt to capture the animal for proper treatment," said Hashem. "But obviously, you have to weigh the risks yourself. We'd try to get the bird some treatment."

Postal employee Sam Santiago said he hadn't heard anything about the goose on Feb. 12.

"Probably a kid," he said. "I don't believe any responsible hunter would do it."

"I don't like the idea of people shooting bows and arrows," said Andover resident Deb King. "I wish it were neither."



ANGIE BEAULIEU/Staff photo

A Canada goose waddles around with an arrow stuck in its side under the bridge on Stevens

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Two NEPA awards for Townsman

The Andover Townsman collected two awards from the New England Press Association Saturday night for being among the best weekly newspapers in New England.

The Townsman won its awards for its transportation/commuter reporting and for its history reporting. More than 350 newspapers submitted more than 5,500 entries to the contest.

The paper's staff received a third place in New England award in the transportation category for a series of stories written by Brian Messenger, Judy Wakefield and Neil Fater about the town's use of bumpouts on Chestnut Street.

Reporter Brian Messenger received another third place award in the history reporting category for a look at African-American history in Andover dating back to the 1700s.

The awards were given at a banquet celebrating the winners of the New England Press Association Better Newspaper Contest.

Blood drive next Wednesday

Andover Community Blood Drive sponsored by the Andover Knights of Columbus will be held Wednesday, Feb. 20 from 2 to 7 p.m. at the Andover Knights of Columbus Gym, 10 Brook St. Parking is available at St. Augustine Church parking lot. Donors must be at least 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds, be in good general health and bring a valid ID. Donors are asked to drink plenty of fluids before donating.

Budget forum planned by private groups

Andover is facing an estimated \$3 million budget deficit. In an effort to provide information to help voters make these important decisions, the League of Women Voters of Andover and North Andover has teamed up with the Service Club of Andover to co-sponsor a public forum.

Called "Town Budget: Tough Times, Tough Choices," the forum will be March 6 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Memorial Hall Library.

The forum will include members of the Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen, and School Committee, plus Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski and School Superintendent Claudia Bach. It will be moderated by Joan Duff from the League of Women Voters.

Those who cannot attend but have a question they would like to ask, can send it by e-mail to league@lwv-andovers.org.

The forum will be televised live and taped for rebroadcast over the community channel, said organizers.

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Opinion

New approach on school money makes sense

Massachusetts and Andover officials know the Bancroft Elementary School must be replaced or substantially renovated soon. While that means taxpayers will face another large bill in the near future, the state's new approach toward such projects should mean residents' money is spent more wisely than it was more than a decade ago.

While the town received 60 percent reimbursement for its approximately \$40 million expansion and renovation project on Andover High, South Elementary and Sanborn Elementary schools, this reimbursement did not come until years after the project was approved in 1994. As a result, taxpayers picked up the tab for \$19 million in interest, town accountant Rod Smith told reporter Brian Messenger. However, because the state reimbursed the town in a timely fashion when Andover built the Wood Hill Middle and High Plain Elementary complex, Andover paid only \$128,000 in interest.

The former state school building assistance program has been replaced by the Massachusetts School Building Authority, which looks to tackle annually \$500 million in school building projects. It has indicated it will not bite off more than this, so that communities know their reimbursement will arrive as planned. Yes, communities may wait longer, but taxpayers' money should be better spent. The MSBA also reviews project scopes, designs and costs. It provides incentives for communities to maintain their buildings. It provides more money to those who run their building efficiently.

All of these approaches make sense not only for Andover taxpayers, but all state taxpayers. It's better to spend money on actual construction, rather than on interest payments.

Outdoor fun only steps away

When most of us were kids, if it snowed, we didn't need anyone to tell us what to do. We charged outside to sled on the nearest hill, build forts or become "king of the mountain." Today, with less open space and greater fears, it seems some kids are doing less of this. Certainly, as adults we find less time to enjoy the outdoors during the winter. Shoveling driveways doesn't count.

So the recent Winter Fun Day, organized by volunteers from local trails groups to show off the Ward Reservation, serves as a pleasant reminder of all the conservation land, reservations and other open space available to Andover residents. People can cross-country ski, sled or snowshoe across these lands, or simply take a nice walk in the woods.

Given the financial strain many people are under this year, some free, fun outdoor entertainment may be just what the doctor — and the accountant — ordered.

WEB QUESTION

Does Valentine's Day excite you?

Last week's *Andover Townsman* Web-site question was, "What do you think of the idea of leasing Old Town Hall space to businesses?"

As of Wednesday morning, 39 people had voted.

The majority of people, nearly 53.9 percent, said, "Great idea. The space is underused."

Nearly 7.7 percent said, "Good idea temporarily. We need the cash."

No one said, "In favor for another reason."

More than 17.9 percent said, "I need more information."

Nearly 15.4 percent said, "Bad

idea. Keep public buildings public."

More than 5.1 percent said, "Bad idea, for another reason."

This week's *Townsman* Web-site question is, "How do you feel about Valentine's Day?"

♥ Love it. I'm in a relationship.

♥ Love it. I'm single.

♥ Don't care.

♥ Hate it. I'm in a relationship.

♥ Hate it. I'm single.

♥ Other.

To vote, visit andovertownsman.com and scroll down to the bottom of the home page.

HOODIES IN THE 'HOOD



ANGIE BEAULIEU/Staff photo

Greater Lawrence Technical School students Angie-Ara Rodriguz, left, and Brendan O'Neil performed in "Lawtown Fairytales: Little Red Ridin' in Da Hood," a performance at the school last week.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Long odds with parking increase

Editor, Townsman:

Congratulations to the selectmen for impeccable timing. The increase in parking fees will certainly be a boon to downtown. Of course, the country appears headed for a recession and the businesses in the central district shouldn't feel it at all!

Then there is the reconstruction project for Main Street, being done by the state, of course. State efficiency should result in no inconvenience to anyone, even though the project will make the Taj Mahal look like a prefab job.

But there is a solution. Why not combine the casino with the parking ticket machine? They are happy bandits already, so why not add an arm and some whirling wheels with pictures on them? The new one-armed bandit parking machines could bring in new revenue galore. If you hit it big, the town would let you park for a week. If you missed, then you have to put in another quarter. Combining a game of chance with the town's need for cash could get interesting. If you get four selectmen in a row, bam! Park free.

Thanks again, guys.
Larry Larsen
Bryan Lane

CPA is a fiscally prudent endeavor

Editor, Townsman:

As a taxpayer I am convinced the Community Preservation Act makes fine sense from a financial point of view. It should be passed as a 1-percent surcharge on the tax rate and with exemptions for the low-income homeowners and for the first \$100,000 of the assessment of our homes, at the town election on March 25.

We have the opportunity to secure a way to fund many projects that we badly need to do and some that enhance our community's quality of life — both using a match from the state.

There are major projects before us. Many deal with repairing historic school and town buildings, purchasing and building playing fields, securing open space and strengthening affordable housing. It is fiscally prudent and forward-thinking to pass the CPA now and accept matching funds from the state to help pay for these projects.

In addition, we can bank some CPA funds, awaiting the optimum timing for appropriate projects. This will enhance the town's fiscal

underpinnings and keep our bond rating strong. And we can leverage funds, too. Some neighboring communities have used their CPA funds to match federal funds and to secure grants from foundations to do necessary projects. Bedford leveraged its CPA money to secure a 1:10 match from state and private foundations to do a vital historic preservation job.

For each dollar of CPA funds raised by the town, 30 cents comes from Andover commercial and industrial property and 70 cents from residential property. The state match in October 2009 is not set yet, but may increase the funds available for Andover CPA projects by 50 percent to 75 percent.

For years, some have worried that the matching state funds will not come to us because they might be entangled in the Massachusetts budget system. But the CPA matching funds are collected by fees paid at the Registry when properties are bought and sold, and are dispersed outside of the state budget process. We, in Andover, have been paying these fees for years and deserve to get the benefit, rather than allowing other communities that have passed the CPA to use our money.

Alix Driscoll
11 Forbes Lane

No handouts; let's invest in America

Editor, Townsman:

With a sustained housing-market slump underway and fear and uncertainty impacting consumer spending, a growing economic malaise is gripping the country. The Congress recently passed, with strong bipartisan support, legislation that is intended to provide an economic jolt that will put

us back on a track toward prosperity. A major part of the plan is to provide \$145 billion in direct, one-time payments to millions of Americans and businesses.

So just how can a check ranging from \$300 to \$1,200 or more bring about economic stimulus? Would it help a family avoid foreclosure? Would it encourage the formation of new businesses and create new jobs for Americans? In my view, the likelihood of sustained economic improvement resulting from the proposed one-time payments is very low.

The Congress, Senate and president should forgo the easy and popular stimulant of fast cash and, instead, direct the appropriated monies for projects that will improve the country's infrastructure. Such a plan as promoted by Sens. Chris Dodd of Connecticut and Chuck Hagel from Nebraska, and more recently promoted by Mayor Michael Bloomberg of New York City, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger of California, and Gov. Edward Rendell of Pennsylvania, would leverage the value of federal funds by creating many new jobs, putting money to work by replacing worn-out roads, bridges and water and sewer lines, improving the national electrical grid, and updating telecommunications systems that will meet the needs of America in the 21st century. Would not clean drinking water, safe roads and bridges, and a world-class Internet system be a benefit for all Americans now and in the future?

With a renewed confidence in sustained employment, the wages paid to workers would be used to purchase food, clothing, appliances, a new home or a new car. Renewed confidence in the economy would then enable businesses to hire new employees, create new businesses and buy new equipment. These actions are the basis for a sustained economic revival.

Let's really jump-start the economy; let's invest in America. No handouts — just put Americans back to work.

John F. Zipeto
14 Canterbury St.

Make your case; I'll only vote for one tax hike

Editor, Townsman:

Residents of Andover are going to be asked to vote to increase their property taxes twice in the space of only one month this spring: first, when we vote on the Community Preservation Act on March 25; and second, when we

consider whether to approve a Proposition 2 1/2 override at Town Meeting on April 30.

Both measures would advance worthy goals. The Community Preservation Act would raise property taxes to increase spending (and hopefully obtain funding from the state) for open space, affordable housing and historical preservation. The Proposition 2 1/2 override would raise property taxes to provide additional funding for our excellent public schools. At this time of financial uncertainty, however, residents should insist that the town prioritize its spending.

I am not convinced that now is the time to increase spending on open space, affordable housing and historical preservation. I also am not convinced that our leaders have done everything they can to streamline the school or town budget. Proponents of the Community Preservation Act and the Proposition 2 1/2 override need to explain why their measure should take priority. Perhaps I am in the minority, but I intend to vote "yes" for only one of these measures.

Brandon Bigelow
21 Pine St.

Teacher explains vote to delay open house

Editor, Townsman:

Regarding the high school teachers' vote: As the maker of the original motion ("...to have an Open House on February 14th"), I feel the need to explain what happened.

In accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, it was necessary to have a motion (and a second) in order to debate the issues. After a lengthy debate, we were almost ready for a vote. I accepted a "friendly amendment" to change the wording to "postpone" the open house until we have a contract. A solid majority of the membership voted in favor of postponement. Our lack of a contract, including pay increases, seems to have fueled much of the discontent. If inflation (more than 3 percent, according to the U.S. government figures) is factored in, Andover teachers are making less than we were last year.

I'm sure that we teachers would not do anything to negatively impact our students. I can't express the same confidence in town leaders, sorry.

Tim Van Wey
Salem, Mass.
Andover High School teacher

THURSDAY FILE

The Thursday File is available online and contains quotations such as these:

The one function TV news performs very well is that when there is no news, we give it to you with the same emphasis as if there were.
- David Brinkley

When a goal matters enough to a person, that person will find a way to accomplish what at first seemed impossible.
- Nido Qubein

There isn't a ruler, a yard stick or a measuring tape in the entire world long enough to compute the strength and capabilities inside you.
- Paul J. Meyer

We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day.
- Edith Lovejoy Pierce

Don't mistake movement for achievement. It's easy to get faked out by being busy. The question is: Busy doing what?
- Jim Rohn

I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat.
- Winston Churchill

Andover Townsman

Established 1887

Publisher
Ellen K. Zappala

Editor
Neil Fater

Group Publisher
Al Getler

Published Thursdays by Andover Publishing Co.
33 Chestnut St., Box 1986, Andover, MA 01810
978-475-7000 • Ad fax: 978-475-5731 • News fax: 978-470-2819
E-mail nfater@andovertownsman.com
www.andovertownsman.com

New Year arrives for Chinese-Americans

Cultural superstitions, arts shared with seniors, youth

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
STAFF WRITER

Like the 18-foot dragon constructed at the Kid's Club before- and after-school program in celebration of the Chinese New Year, Andover's Chinese community is easy to spot this time of year, sharing its heritage.

Andover Chinese Cultural Exchange has been busy with the Chinese New Year. The big event for Chinese families officially began Wednesday, Feb. 6, and lasts 15 days, said Shuyee Huang.

"I would say the Chinese population is definitely growing in town," said Huang of Andover, a member of the exchange. "Chinese families come for the schools and the chance to be involved in education."

The most recent Census data in 2000 put Andover's Asian population at just about 6 percent of the town's total. Residents of Chinese descent are included in that 1,791-person total. But the number is expected to grow significantly when the next round of Census data come out in two years.

Huang said the Chinese cultural organization was founded more than 25 years ago by a former Sanborn Elementary School teacher as a social group for new Chinese families in town. It has evolved into a more community-conscious group that works to introduce Chinese culture to residents, Huang said. One example happened last week, when the group hosted an event for seniors.

On Friday, Feb. 8, Andover seniors were treated to a Chinese New Year celebration at the senior center. There was Taiwanese drumming, a Kung-Fu demonstration, dancing and musical performances by local children. It's an annual event, Huang said, and always well-attended. Some 35 se-



Andrew Wang, 16, of Andover plays an erhu, a traditional string instrument, for the audience.



Emily Hsieh, 17, of Andover entertains with traditional Taiwanese drumming.

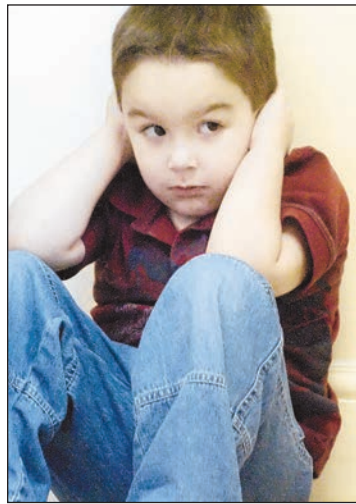
niors braved the snow to attend. "A few less than usual, but that's probably because of the weather," Huang said of the crowd. "Every seat is usually filled."

Between performances, Huang took the microphone and shared some Chinese superstitions and traditions with the crowd. Here's a sampling:

■ **RED AND GOLD** are the most popular colors for the Chinese New Year. Why?

Huang said it's a superstition dating to ancient times. Chinese villagers once believed there was a dangerous man-eating monster lurking on New Year's Eve. Villagers were locked in their homes, afraid to go out until a Chinese sorcerer told them that the monster was afraid of the color red and loud noises. The loud and red New Year's Eve party theme was launched. Some listeners may have covered their ears during the drumming performed by Emily Hsieh on Friday, but they clearly enjoyed the show.

■ **RED ENVELOPES** are still



Thomas Grenier, 5, finds the Taiwanese drumming a little too loud. Thomas attended the celebration with his grandmother, Jeanne Doucette, who works at the senior center.

passed between family elders and children at family reunions held in honor of the New Year. The Chinese still believe the color red scares away evil spirits



CARL RUSSO/Staff photos

Jonathan Chang, 20, of Andover, a student at Yang's Martial Arts in Andover, demonstrates the art of Kung-Fu. Members of the Andover Chinese Cultural Exchange staged a Chinese New Year celebration at the Andover Senior Center last week.

and brings a family good luck, Huang said.

■ **IT'S THE YEAR OF THE RAT**, as it is once every dozen years. Twelve

animals play roles in the Chinese calendar, which dates back to the early days of farming. Certain personality traits are ascribed to each of the animals. Those born during

the year of the Rat are said to be smart, magnetic, well-liked, quick-witted, protective and calculating. It is the first sign in the 12-year cycle.

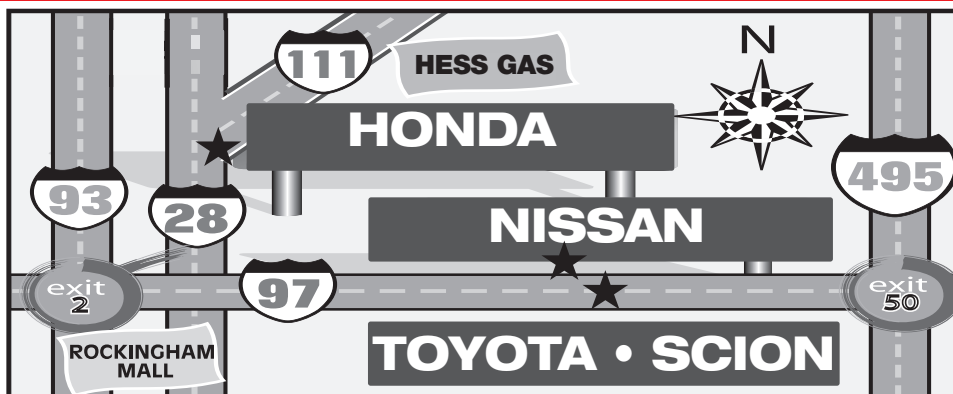
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Townspeople

For Synchers, it's all for one

BY BETHANY BRAY
STAFF WRITER

Twice a week, dozens of girls dive into the Andover/North Andover YMCA pool, sporting matching bathing suits and rubber swim caps. They spend hours training to make every movement, every gesture — many of them underwater — match one another in their swim routines.

The girls, members of the Andover/North Andover Synchers, an Andover-based regional synchronized swim team, practice four days a week, splitting their time between the Lawrence and Andover/North Andover YMCA pools. The Synchers have made a name for themselves in the synchronized swim community during the last several years, taking top marks in some competitions.

"Andover is on the synchronized swimming map, at a national level," said Eugenia Gillan, who coaches the Synchers with Svetlana Malinovskaya. "We have a saying, 'Team as one.'"

The Synchers have 65 swimmers broken into several levels, from age 6 to 19. Their junior and senior levels took home 10 gold medals at the New England Synchronized Swimming Association junior/senior meet and age group invitational, held in Worcester last month. Emily Stone of Andover was one of three team members to earn three gold medals at the invitational.

"This team is like a family," said Syncher Amber Blum, 16, of North Andover.

"It's a lot of time to put in, but it's so worth it to have that gold medal on your neck," she said with a smile.

In the junior division, the ANA Synchers, including Sheila Cremin, Emily Stone and Candace Ju of Andover, took the first place finish for their team routine. Stone and Cremin also took gold and Ju a silver for separate trio routines. Stone also received a gold medal for a duet routine and a bronze in junior figures.

In the senior division, a gold medal was awarded to Kelly Mahoney and Er-



ANA Synchers, a regional synchronized swim team based at the Andover/ North Andover YMCA, travels the country to compete. Svetlana Malinovskaya, head coach, talks to some of the team members about their routine during practice.

CARL RUSSO/Staff photos



Meaghan Arsenault, 17, of Methuen, left, and Jessie Mancini, 15, of Andover perfect their moves in the pool.



Laina Gray, 13, of Andover, left, and Caitlyn McGregor, 15, of North Andover practice their routine on dry land.

ica Potts of Andover for a trio routine. Andover resident Jessica Mancini took home a silver for a duet routine.

In the 13 to 15 age group category, Marian Crockett and Christine Wu of

Andover received gold for a trio performance.

Beginners join the team with basic swim skills and "we teach them the rest, what they need to know," said

Gillan. Most of the senior level Synchers have grown up together the program; some have and been swimming

Please see **SYNCHERS**, Page 10

LOWELL DEVILS

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TOWN TALK



Valentine's tradition

Love is in the air and nothing says it better in Andover than the usual — long-stemmed red roses and heart-shaped chocolates with something gooey in the middle.

But truffle lollipops are gaining. That's what some merchants said when asked about Valentine's Day sales, which were in full swing when the *Townsman* went to press this week.

"Chocolate hearts with caramel and cashews in the center are my best-seller," said Mimi Queen, who owns Sweet Mimi's candy store on Main Street. "I've got truffle lollipops for the first time and they're moving, too."

Down the street at Paradise Flower & Gifts at 185 North Main St., assistant manager Becky (who did not want to give her last name) had "thousands" of roses ready to go. They remain the top seller.

Calls to downtown florists showed people could expect to pay between \$40 and \$75 for a dozen long-stemmed roses.

— Judy Wakefield

Cupid weighs in on fiscal planning

With February school vacation serving as a scheduling obstacle for the 19 members of the Board of Selectmen, School Committee and Finance Committee, School Committee member Tony James suggested the three boards meet tonight, Thursday, Feb. 14, St. Valentine's Day, to continue budget planning.

But with three consecutive nights of meetings already planned for this week, Selectmen Chairman Brian Major said the idea might cause some unintended consequences on the home front.

"With meetings Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, if we do that, we may have plenty of time," said Major jokingly.

"I think you might be right," said Selectman Mary Lyman.

The three boards instead agreed to meet Thursday morning from 7:30 to 9 a.m., leaving Valentine's Day evening open.

— Brian Messenger

No additional talk on parking hike

Several downtown business owners felt blindsided when parking rates were hiked by a quarter recently from 25 to 50 cents, so Selectmen Chairman Brian Major wanted to make amends.

"The process was very bad," said Major. "Ordinarily we hear a proposal, take it under consideration, and then we vote at a future meeting. We didn't do that. As chair, that's my fault."

On Feb. 4, Major motioned for the Board of Selectmen to readress the parking fee increase and inspection fees collected by the Fire Department.

The effort to reconsider the issues was defeated, 3-2, with Major and Selectman Mary Lyman voting in favor of new discussion.

— Brian Messenger

Posh book club

An Andover book club of seven women recently ventured to Boston's Saks Fifth Avenue to check out a new line of jeans by Victoria Beckham, also known as Mrs. David Beckham and Posh Spice. Victoria Beckham had been touring with the Spice Girls and had a Boston show last month.

The Andover women, who admitted they felt a bit "old," reported that Victoria, a mom of three young boys, is "soooooo petite" (the jeans must be skinny jeans) and also very nice. The private meet and greet was on Jan. 30.

Book group members, all from Andover, include Cheryl Eckel, Lisa McDonald, Marybeth Finn, Lisa Drew, Maryann Manozzi, Jane Caveney and Lauren Frei.

— Judy Wakefield

AN ELEGANT NIGHT WITH THE KNIGHTS

Fresh off a large donation to the Professional Center for Child Development of Andover, the Andover Knights of Columbus No. 1078 hosted a social event Saturday night, Feb. 9.

Organizers said about 75 guests attended the "Elegant Valentine's Evening" at Andover Country Club. Pianist John D'Ambrosio performed during the social hour while Ski and the 99ers handled the music for dancing. Raffle prizes were numerous.

Andover's Knights of Columbus helps several groups including Special Olympics and the Professional Center for Child Development. The Andover center received a grant from the state's KOC charity fund last fall for \$48,300, according to Past Grand Knight Chuck Lane of Andover. The money will help pay for a new playground accessible to children with disabilities at the Osgood Road school.

— Judy Wakefield



Ellen Whitiker and Kate Lane check out items in the silent auction.

JIM VAIKNORAS/Staff photos



From left, Greg Rigby, Alex Vispoli and Jim Houer talk at the Valentine's dinner dance.



Octavio and Jeanne Hurtado dance at the "Elegant Valentine's Evening" event for the Andover Knights of Columbus at Andover Country Club Saturday night, Feb. 9.

SYNCHERS: Team is said to be largest synchronized group in country

■ Continued from Page 9

together for as many as eight years. Members agree that the demanding commitment – almost 20 hours both in and out of the pool each week – is worth it.

“We all get along really well,” said 14-year old Alice Rodgers, looking over at her teammates with a smile.

“It’s great to have a team, you’re not alone out there, working by yourself,” said North Andover swimmer Becca Ely, 16.

“I can’t imagine life without synchro, and seeing these girls,” agreed Alison Ziel, 14.

Malinovskaya joined the Synchers as a full-time coach last June.

Her first impression of the ANA Synchers, she said, was that the girls are “extremely close together, very good at listening to the coaching staff, very organized and have a good attitude, a very good spirit.”

Prior to the Synchers, Malinovskaya was a synchronized swim coach in Connecticut, and a professional synchronized swimmer herself before coaching.

Gillan said the ANA Synchers are the largest synchronized swim group in the country. Members come from all over the Merrimack Valley and New Hampshire; two sisters travel all the way from Rhode Island to swim with the team.

Three former members of the Synchers currently swim with varsity synchronized teams in college, said Gillan.

Precision in the pool

In competition, synchronized swimmers perform a four-minute routine to music. Once they’re in the water, they

CURIOS?

Each spring, the ANA Synchers perform a show for the community. This year their show, “We Were Born to Shine,” will be held April 26 and 27 at the Andover/North Andover YMCA. More than 25 routines will be performed by Synchers of all age levels in the show. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for children and seniors.

Eugenia Gillan, Synchers coach, said the group is always looking for more swimmers and coaches. For more information on the ANA Synchers, visit www.anasynchers.org.

are not allowed to touch the floor or the sides of the pool and are judged for both artistry and technical execution.

Each move the Synchers make is intentional, and they use their hands, arms and legs in different ways to propel themselves through the water, gliding, flipping and twisting, often upside down.

“Everything has to be synchronized, every look, every finger,” said Gillan.

Because about half of every routine is spent underwater, the Synchers train to be able to hold their breath for lengths of time. At the senior level, the girls are able to swim two full lengths of the YMCA pool — 50 meters — in one breath.

Besides time in the pool, the team also has “dry” practices, where they talk through routines, and do weight training, running and other cross-training exercises. Malinovskaya has started to teach them some ballet moves, said Synchers Alice and Amber.

Synchronized swimmers have to be all-around athletes, said Gillan, with



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

A group of Synchers practice for their next competition.

strength, endurance and flexibility. The girls also learn goal setting, leadership, discipline and teamwork skills through synchronized swimming and traveling together to meets throughout the Northeast.

“Synchronized swimming teaches you skills for life,” she said. “They get up early in the morning, they give up birthday parties for this.”

THE ANA SYNCHERS CLEAR UP SOME STEREOTYPES

Question: What do you wish people knew about synchronized swimming?

Answers:

“It’s not as easy as it looks,” Laina Gray, 13.
“It’s a contact sport. We get bruises and scratches,” Caitlyn MacGregor, 15.

“It is not what most people think, the bathing cap with flowers,” Amber Blum, 16.

“It’s not water ballet! It’s a completely different thing,” Becca Ely, 16.

ENGAGEMENTS



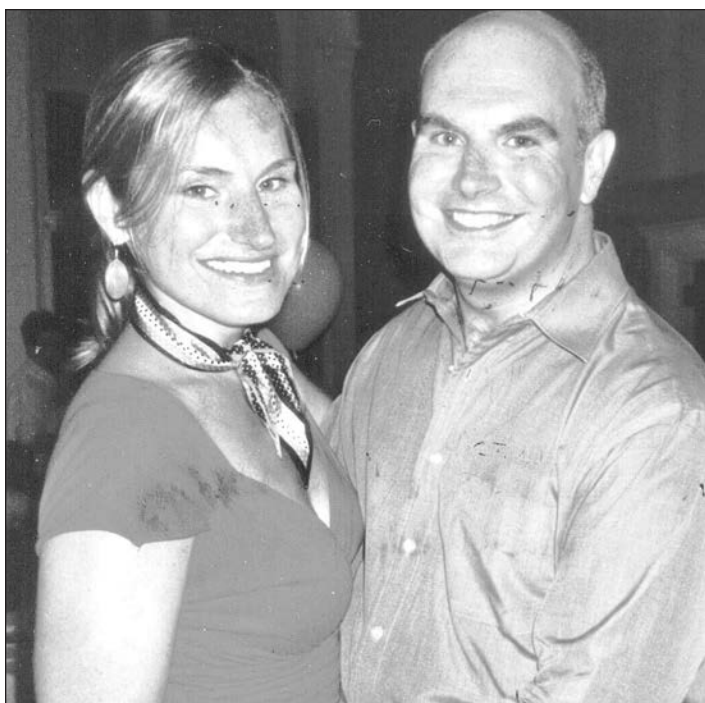
Fantini-Cullinan

George and Carolyn Fantini of Andover announce the engagement of their daughter, Ellen M. Fantini of Boston, to Brian Cullinan of Boston, son of Thomas and Donna Cullinan of Wellesley.

Miss Fantini is a graduate of Andover High School and Providence College and is a senior adviser at Grabb & Ellis Commercial Real Estate in Boston.

Mr. Cullinan graduated from Noble & Greenough in Dedham and the College of the Holy Cross and is employed in institutional equity sales at Pacific Crest Securities in Boston.

The couple plan an October wedding.



Fantini-Deschodt

George and Carolyn Fantini of Andover announce the engagement of their daughter, Amy M. Fantini of Brooklyn, N.Y., to Michel Deschodt, also of Brooklyn.

Miss Fantini is a graduate of the Andover Public Schools, College of the Holy Cross and London School of Economics. She is a public relations manager at Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton Law Firm in New York City.

Mr. Deschodt is a graduate of the American University and Stockholm School of Economics. He is a business consultant at Natixis Praxem North America in New York City.

The couple plan a May wedding.



Rosensweig-Dallon

Donn and Ruth Rosensweig of Andover announce the engagement of their son, Matthew Rosensweig, to Melissa Dallon, daughter of Lynette Damore of North Andover and Philip Dallon of Rumney, N.H.

Melissa and Matthew are both graduates of Andover High School and 2005 magna cum laude graduates of Plymouth State University in Plymouth, N.H., majoring in theater with a concentration in design and technology.

They are currently working in theatrical productions in Las Vegas. They plan to be married in April in Las Vegas.

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SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2008

ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL, the world's premier pediatric cancer research center, will celebrate its second annual Fitness for a Cure Gala on Saturday, March 1, 2008 at the Andover Country Club in Andover, MA.

The event will consist of two shows. The afternoon show, which begins at 1 p.m. is a family oriented event consisting of kid activities, great raffle items, a fitness show by our young performers as well as a testimonial by a St. Jude patient survivor. The evening festivities begin at 6 p.m. featuring a cocktail reception and elegant dinner, high energy choreographed Fitness show, fabulous live and silent auction items, testimonial by a St. Jude patient as well as dancing.

To purchase tickets, become a sponsor or donate an item for the auctions, please call Cara Campolo at (800) 341-5800 or visit www.stjude.org/fitnessforcure.

Event Chair and North Andover resident, Sherri Sarrouf, founded this event nine years ago in Nashua, NH and has a strong passion for fitness and giving back to the sick and less fortunate. In 2007, she decided to bring this event to the Andover community with a very successful first year raising over \$87,000 for St. Jude. Since inception, Fitness for a Cure has raised over \$700,000 for the organization. “The mission of St. Jude resonated with me and I wanted to be able to give back. As a parent nothing is greater than helping children, especially children fighting deadly illnesses”, says Sarrouf.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is internationally recognized for its pioneering work in finding cures and saving children with cancer and other catastrophic diseases. Founded by late entertainer Danny Thomas and based in Memphis, Tennessee, St. Jude freely shares its discoveries with scientific and medical communities around the world. No family ever pays for treatments not covered by insurance, and families without insurance are never asked to pay. St. Jude is financially supported by ALSAC, its fundraising organization. For more information, please visit www.stjude.org.

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BOOMERVENTURE

Activities run at the Andover Senior Center building include:
Energize with Exercise: Energizing workout regimen, focused on building flexibility and strength with a buffet of exercise options on Thursdays from now through Feb. 28 from 6 to 7:15 p.m. Cost is \$45 for 8 weeks. No prior exercise experience required.
Serenity Yoga: Gentle yoga practice, featuring postures that emphasize strength, balance, flexibility and serenity of mind and body on Thursdays from now through Feb. 28 from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Cost is \$45 for 8 weeks. Suitable for all levels. Partici-

pants should bring a yoga mat, towel and pillow.
BoomerVenture Book Club will be held every second and fourth Thursday night, with rotating leadership, from 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. Free.
 BoomerVenture Campus is located at 30 Whittier Court, on the ground floor.
 For more information, call 978 823-8381 or visit www.boomerventure.com. BoomerVenture staff are always looking for ideas and involvement. Send checks payable to the Town of Andover, 36 Bartlett St., Andover, 01810, c/o BoomerVenture.

SENIOR NOTES

Book Club will meet on Thursday, Feb. 14 to discuss "Crossing To Safety" by Wallace Stegner. On Thursday, Feb. 28 the group will discuss "The Five People You Meet In Heaven" by Mitch Albom. Copies of the books are available for check-out at the center and all are welcome. Group will be led by Evelyn Retelle.
Men's breakfast on Friday, Feb. 15 at 8:30 a.m. Cost is \$3. Preregistration is required. Topic will be "Sunny Spain: The Florida Of Europe." Travel with Willard Robinson as he shows his slides from his extensive trip to Spain as well as side visits to Tangier, Morocco and the Rock of Gibraltar.
"Armchair Travel" on Thursday, Feb. 21 as part of our Soup's On

series. Cost is \$2. Preregistration is required. Soup served at 12:30 p.m., followed by the presentation at 1 p.m. Join the Retelles as they take us on some armchair travel to Maine, Nova Scotia and the Maritime Provinces.
Parkinson's support group on Thursday, Feb. 14 at 1:30 p.m. This month's speaker will be Dr. Shabbir Abbasi, movement disorder specialist with New England Neurological Associates. Abbasi will speak on the topic, "An Overview of Deep Brain Stimulation and Recent Research in Parkinson's Disease." This is an open meeting and all are welcome to attend. For further information, call Kristine Arakelian at the senior center.

ALL THOSE YEARS AGO

100 Years Ago

A fine line of cobs, also feather-weight hair, wavers, and pearl bone collar supporters, will be for sale at Mrs. Leighton's hairdressing parlors. Special attention given to facial work.

Dr. Hiland F. Holt was pleasantly surprised at his home in Elm Block on Monday evening when about 25 of his friends gathered to celebrate his 34th birthday.

An interesting meeting of Andover Grange was held in their hall last Tuesday evening. Mrs. Milo H. Gould read a paper on, "Which is the greater curse to man, strong drink or poor cooking," and in as much as the latter caused the former often times one was as responsible as the other.

The Punchard High School ice hockey team defeated Johnson High on Rabbit's Pond Tuesday afternoon 2 to 0 in a Triangular league match. Dole made both goals for Punchard.

An extremely valuable and interesting set of books has just been added to the Memorial Hall Library; the "Library of Home Economics," a complete course in the "profession of home-making."

75 Years Ago

Twenty fewer arrests were made in 1932 than in 1931, according to the annual report of Chief of Police George A. Dane just submitted to the selectmen.

Despite the Depression Andover's taxes were paid up in 1932 slightly better than in 1931. Last year 78.8 percent of the taxes was collected, while the figure for 1931 was 78.5 percent.

An exhibit interesting in its somberness, has just been put on display at the Addison Gallery. It comprises 25 water colors by members of the Royal Society of British Arts selected by a special committee of the society.

Georges Enesco, Roumanian violinist and composer, will appear at George Washington hall on Tuesday evening, Feb. 7. Mr. Enesco's second orchestral suite, lost for eight years, recently was found. Thereby hangs an engaging tale.

During the World War, a box containing Mr. Enesco's manuscripts was sent with the Roumanian crown jewels to Russia for safekeeping. In transit the box was lost and only recently turned up in Moscow. M. Herbette, French ambassador to Moscow, was instru-

mental in restoring the box to its owner.

50 Years Ago

Sixteen Andover High students took high honors in the marking period just past and 46 others are listed on the honor roll for the period.

Shawsheen boys, with the help of their sisters and interested parents, staged a paper drive Saturday to raise funds for the Cub Scouts.

Only two more opportunities are available to register to vote in the March election.

25 Years Ago

One week before beginning to tackle the 1983-84 school budget in earnest, the school committee is considering implementing in Andover public schools a computer literacy program that many feel is sorely needed if the town is to prepare its youngsters for the future.

The town manager has presented a Fiscal 1984 budget to the Board of Selectmen totaling \$32,571,600, reflecting an overall increase of 6.4 percent over the current year's budget — and a whole

new approach to sharing revenues and expenses between the town and schools.

The Appalachian Mountain Club accorded high honors to Louise VanEvert for her efforts in behalf of conservation and preservation.

10 Years Ago

Andover residents planning to take the Presidential Polar Plunge into Boston Harbor to benefit the Massachusetts Foundation for Children geared up with a practice gathering at Poms Pond.

The first stage in a state study into why Andover's breast cancer rate is so high will not be complete until the end of February, but the study has already drawn a good deal of attention to the issue around town. Dr. Howard Koh, the new commissioner of the state Department of Public Health, called for the study when he learned that the Andover breast cancer rate was the third-highest in the state. The department is currently mapping Andover to see if "clusters" of cancers can be found. This mapping is the first stage of the study.

—Compiled by Michelle Wiener

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Mediators recognized in Massachusetts, and he has specialized in divorce mediation since 1992. This certification requires extensive psychological, legal, and financial training. Mr. Zagaja is also a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. He is also Board Certified in the field of clinical social work, a member of the Association for Conflict Resolution, the Massachusetts Council on Family Mediation, and the Academy of Certified Social Workers. Ronald Zagaja's office is located in the Andover Counseling Center at Chestnut Green, Building 565, Suite 81, on Rte. 114 in North Andover. He can be reached at (978) 682-1579. His web site is:
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Education

YOUTH BOOK REVIEW

Reading 'Twelfth Night' rates a 10

BY MARI MIYACHI
WHAT'S UP CONTRIBUTOR

In the 21st century, the theater becomes a relic of the past. While Broadway still claims praise and success, few go to the theater for a lazy Sunday afternoon performance. Instead, we have blockbuster films, full of special effects and wild stunts, and the ability to watch movies in the comfort of our own home.

Still, plays remain one of my favorite overlooked genres. Lovely to see performed, plays provide equal amusement in reading. In fact, plays, with their constant dialogue and many characters, are almost always fast-paced and exciting.

This brings me to the classic play "Twelfth Night" by William Shakespeare. The story takes place in Illyria, where the reader finds the wealthy noble Orsino madly in love with the mourning Lady Olivia. After a disastrous shipwreck, Viola, who believes her twin brother Sebastian is dead, enters the scene. Looking for employment, Viola pretends to be a man, calling herself Cesario, and becoming the page of Orsino. A twisted love triangle is formed between the three: Orsino loves Olivia, Olivia loves "Cesario," and Viola loves Orsino. Throw in Olivia's crazy uncle, Sir Toby, her pretentious butler, Malvolio, and Viola's twin brother, Sebastian (who is actually alive), and "Twelfth Night" turns into something of a modern-style soap opera.

Because "Twelfth Night" is more light-hearted than some of Shakespeare's other works, I would recommend it for preteens and older.

The plot is intriguing and original, with endless twists and turns. And Shakespeare's brilliance cannot be denied: His wordplay and rhythm are flawless. "Twelfth Night" is extremely comical with all the mixed up identities of the characters, and is fast-paced and light-hearted. Shakespeare, known for his dramas, also excels at comedy. In fact, it is the fun and excitement of "Twelfth Night," so full of silly confusion and melodramatic love, that first made this play so popular during its debut in the 17th century, and keeps the story fresh, even centuries later.

The plot of "Twelfth Night," and even the names, may be familiar to some readers. Modern interpretations of Shakespeare's classic works are common, and the plot of "Twelfth Night" is easily adaptable. The movie "She's the Man" draws direct inspiration from "Twelfth Night," with the main characters even sharing the same names. While not as timeless as the play itself, "She's the Man" is a fun, enjoyable comedy flick, particularly after reading "Twelfth Night" and seeing the direct correlations between the movie and play.

Shakespeare is certainly a writer who can be enjoyed by all generations. Because "Twelfth Night" is more light-hearted than some of his other works, I would recommend it for preteens and older. Though Shakespeare does require a bit more maturity and reading experience, many of his plays can be enjoyed by middle-school students. I would highly recommend the comedies "Much Ado About Nothing," "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "As You Like It" to that younger audience. Even some of Shakespeare's dramas, like "Romeo and Juliet," can be enjoyed by the middle-school crowd.

If a reader doesn't want to dive into Shakespeare headfirst, his many sonnets are a great starting point. Shakespeare goes down in history as one of the most prolific writers of all, and his works deserve to be enjoyed for ages and ages to come.

Mari Miyachi is an Andover resident and student at Phillips Academy.

The field trip also coincides with a kindergarten unit called "the great body shop," where the youngsters study health, medicine and health professions.



ANGIE BEAULIEU/Staff photos

Kindergartners from Bancroft Elementary in Andover visited an operating room at Caritas Holy Family Hospital on Tuesday morning. Dr. Liam Hurley and Nurse Manager Bill Corey show the kindergartners how to prepare someone for surgery by using Sam Brosnan as a volunteer patient.

HOW DO YOU SPELL O.R.?

Bancroft kindergartners learn about the operating room

BY BETHANY BRAY
STAFF WRITER

Bancroft Elementary kindergartner Rachel Souza knows exactly what she wants to be when she grows up: a doctor. The future Dr. Souza and her 19 classmates was quite excited on Tuesday, Feb. 5, as Debra Nichols' kindergarten class took a field trip to Caritas Holy Family Hospital in Methuen.

Rachel's favorite part? "Looking at the operating room, and getting on the (operating) table," said Rachel, who is "5 and three-quarters" years old.

Her classmates erupted into giggles as Dr. Liam Hurley, a urologist at Holy Family, lifted Rachel onto the operating table in one of the facility's operating rooms. Hurley, the father of Declan Hurley, a kindergartner in Nichols' class, explained what would happen if one of the students came in for surgery, showing the students X-rays and other equipment.

"OK, you're cured," joked Hurley as he lifted Souza off the table. "We can fix a lot of things here at the hospital, it's pretty cool," said Hurley as he taught the children about the different types of doctors, from pediatricians to anesthesiologists.

Six-year-old Nicholas Rosen said his favorite part of the field trip was "seeing the bones" in the X-rays.

The field trip was organized by Hurley and nurse Gail Spinale, director of surgical services at Holy Family, as a way for the students to familiarize themselves with what goes on in a hospital, and make them less afraid if they are ever patients themselves.



From left, Mark Bentley, Caroline Curtin, Mary Bashar, Sam Brosnan and Addy Fenton watch as a doctor pretends to operate on one of their classmates.

"We think it's a great thing when kids come to the hospital when they don't have to be here (as patients)," said Spinale. Holy Family welcomes school groups, community volunteers, student job-shadows, interns and other programs as community outreach, she said.

The field trip also coincides with a kindergarten unit called "the great body shop," where the youngsters study health, medicine and health professions, said Nichols.

Nichols said her class will do reading and writing follow-up exercises after the field trip, to reiterate what they learned at the hospital.

They also will turn the classroom's dramatic play area into a hospital, she said.

This year, her class has had a natural interest in medicine and doctors, said Nichols.

For the tour of the operating room,

students and chaperones were each given a surgeon's cap and special clothing to keep the sanitized operating room as clean as possible.

"Guess how clean this room is? As clean as a room can be. Why do operating rooms need to be so clean?" Hurley asked the students.

"So the patients don't get sick," replied one little girl. Hurley rewarded the correct answer with a high-five.

One little boy, looking at the doctor's cap, raised his hand to point out that "Dr. Hurley's hair is sticking out."

The 20 kindergartners were an unusual sight — their adult-sized blue scrub shirts came down to their knees — as they were led through hospital hallways. Patients passing by on gurneys or wheelchairs perked up and smiled as the children waved to them.

The children also checked their blood pressure and watched a video about what a child can expect during a visit to the hospital. They learned about hygiene and the importance of cleanliness, especially in a hospital.

The kindergartners were fascinated by the automatic hand sanitizer machines the hospital had installed on the walls in every room. At each room they visited, the students would line up and wait their turn to put their hand under the automatic sensor, and a dollop of foam would squirt out, to their delight.

After the morning tour, the students ate lunch with Hurley, dining on pizza from the hospital cafeteria. They were also given a bag with a hospital-themed activity book and a surgeon's hat, mask and shoe covers as a souvenir.

Please see TRIP, Page 14

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Sam Kefferstan, Audrey Khint-Tin, Kaitlyn Kiernan, Hyun Hee Kim, Ashley Lamontagne, Mary Lennon, Sarah Lerner, David Levenson, Dennis Lindblad, Christopher Mara, Ronan Maye, Emily McKeon, Andrew Meshnick, Bridget Morris, Miki Nagahara, Thomas Norton, Deborah Noymer, Nicole Pelletier, Shane Pouliot, Marina Renton, Harrison Roche, Samantha Rooks, Erich Rothmann, Kayla Saras, Carmen Scarpa III, Samantha Sheppard, Abigail Smith, David Stein, Kelsey Stevens, Abigail Taylor, Rossanna Wang, Marielle Waters, Eric Zhao

HONORS

Michaela Beucler, Michael Brandon, Diandra Chamberlain, John Cirbee, Michael Cirbee, Matthew Conlin, Allison Conway, Madeleine Curley, Joseph Danish, Adra Davenport, Jordan Day, Rebecca Doolan, Stephan Duncan, William Durland, Christine Farzan, Madeleine Flynn, Kathleen Galvin, Alexandra Gaspar, Lauren Grams, Charles Hestline, Kara Hudson, Dustin Hunt, Emily Hunt, Georgina Indaco, David Johnian, Cassandra Kobelski, Tyler LaCroix, Melissa Lee, Yujin Lee, Gracia Lei, Max Li, Emily Lowenstein, Ryan MacRae, Brian Manning, Caroline Marcus, John McKeon, Stephanie Miller, Christian Nowicki, Spenser Ogden, Alyssa Otolo, Philip Paik, Courtney Papa, Sunghun Park, Marcel Pawlowski, Andrea Pennock, Abigail Pustis, Martin Quinlan, William Rand, Cody Rivard, Jesslyn Sargent, Briana Schumacher, Geoffrey Segal, Gregory Segal, Evan Singleton, Elizabeth Sleeper, Katya Sorterup-Kamin-

sky, Nathaniel Spellacy, Tyler Stahle, Bryan Sutherland, Ryan Tjalsma, Connor Twiss, Montanna Valler, Peter Vargas, Samuel Vecchi, Zachary Vieira, Brian Wivell, Kevin Yazhari, George Zhou

GRADE 8

HIGH HONORS

Anastasia Agoulnik, Molly Awiszus, Anna Barr, Tara Benson, Jillian Beucler, Gregory Calabro, Enzoah Chen, Joshua Chevalier, Jaymi Cohen, Thomas Cooper, Marian Crockett, Jeremiah Cronin, Lily Daigle, Chuyu Deng, Jacquelyne DiTroia, Haley Duncan, Samuel Fenstermacher, Lauren Feele, Sarah Freedman, Carolyn Goldstein, Michelle Gordon, Flora Han, Christopher Hartnett, Marianna Heckendorf, Sarah Hill, Jun Ishihara, Andrew Johnian, Elise Krekorian, Anne Kuan, Alexis Latsey, Amanda MacDonald, Molly Machain, Emmy Mai, Rachel Marget, Samantha Martelon, Kathleen McGinty, Ruby Mercure, Minali Mohindra, Shan-non Murphy, Demosthenis Papatodopolos, Brendan Paquette, Justin Partyka, Christina Pellegrino, Elizabeth Pellegrino, Taylor Perkins, Alexandra Puccia, Kaley Ricciardelli, Anna Ryan, John Scarborough, Samantha Stettner, Courtney Stone, Linda Wang, Connor Wilson

HONORS

Jessica Adam, Margaret Berthiaume, Matthew Broderick, Gregory Brown, Eric Buck, Sara Bustos, Shannon Callahan, Liam Centrella, Henry Chuang, Sarah Creese, Matthew Crush, Alexander Davidson, Elizabeth Donohue, Connor Drooff, Lindsey Dunlevy, Justin Edelman, Noah Epstein, Anne Farnham, Kate Farnham, Alyson Fazio, Timothy Gibson, Rose Goodwin, Robert Hawes, Gregory Howard, Carissa Johnson, Anthony Kim, Henry Kloss, Alexander Krieger, Timothy LaBrie, Laura Lilley, Michelle Lin, Matthew Milver, Matthew Minigell, Joshua Mintz, Benjamin Murphy, Mohana Nagda, Garrett Owen, Sarah Papa, Peter Rizzo, Douglas Simons, Erika Spinale, Juliana Tran, Shannon Tully, Kimberly Uggerholt, Lindsey Vivian, Elsie Washburn, Ian Whitney, Zoe Zimmerman

ON CAMPUS

Andrea Elizabeth Boshar and Danielle Margaret Giguere, both of Andover, were named to the Keene State College dean's list for the fall 2007 semester. To receive this honor, students must be enrolled in a degree program; have completed a minimum of six credit hours in the semester; receiving no failing or incomplete grades; and must achieve a 3.5 or higher grade point average.

Middlesex Community College student Raysa Mateo, a resident of Andover, received an MCC Foundation Merit Award by the Middlesex Community College Foundation for the 2007-2008 academic year. A native of the Dominican Republic, Mateo is enrolled in MCC's liberal arts & sciences program with a concentration in psychology. The MCC Foundation Merit Award was established by the Foundation to recognize students who demonstrate academic excellence and exceptional promise.

Laylah Mohammed, a 2005 Phillips Academy graduate, will go to the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, for a study abroad program. She is currently on the president's list at Pratt Institute in New York. Her study abroad program is in interior architecture with a focus on sustainable design.

Stephen Stone graduated from San Diego State University in December with a Bachelor of Science degree in Recreation Administration and Outdoor Resource Management, which focuses on work in the natural sciences such as geology, biology and geography. The recreation portion stresses specific knowledge and skills important to pre-

serving natural resources and minimizing human consumption. As part of his internship, Stephen spent 45 days in New Zealand last summer studying their recreation facilities. New Zealand is on the forefront of environmental conservation and sustainability. Stephen is now attending graduate school at SDSU to obtain his teaching credentials. While at SDSU, he works as the Team Challenge Lead Supervisor for the SDSU Aztec Recreation Center. He is the son of Allen and Sheila Stone of Clark Road.

Christian Stone, of Andover, has been named to the Dean's List at Northern Essex Community College for the third consecutive semester. Christian is studying Broadcasting and Journalism at the Haverhill campus. He is the son of Allen and Sheila Stone of Clark Road.

Andrea Ruth Coravos, an economics and Russian major and daughter of Evan and Dee Dee Coravos, was named to the Duke University dean's list for the fall 2007 semester. To make the dean's list, a student must rank in the top third of their college.

Laura Totten graduated from Fitchburg State College with a bachelor of science degree in communications media.

The following students were named to the Fitchburg State College dean's list for the fall 2007 semester — Joseph J. DeFabrizio, Felipe D. Machado, Joseph S. Tornatore and April Totten. To receive this honor, a full-time student must achieve a 3.20 or higher grade point average for the semester.

TRIP: Students visit hospital

Continued from Page 13

"It was wicked cool. I liked seeing the operating room," said Chloe Hanrahan, 6, of the field trip.

Her classmate Mark Bentley, 6, agreed, describing the day as "awesome."

The Bancroft PTO covered the cost of school bus transportation to the hospital.

"This has been a tremendous

field trip," said Nichols. "This is the first time I've ever brought a class here, but I hope to be able to come again. The kids can see first-hand workers in their community, and it will alleviate a great deal of fear for them.

There's really a big interest level in this class (about medicine). We have two students that were born here (in this hospital) ... just the bus ride was a big hit. They've all been very excited about this trip."

Phillips Academy Skating Club. 2007 - 2008 Memberships Are Now Available. Open Skating Monday - Friday Lunchtime Saturday evenings (winter only) Sunday afternoons. Freestyles Now seven (7) days per week! For information 978-684-7200 www.andover.edu/ice

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Valentine 2008 LOVE LINES. A large graphic with a heart border containing numerous handwritten-style love messages from students.

Arts & Entertainment

EVENTS CALENDAR

THURSDAY, FEB. 14

Exhibit opening: "Toys and Games: More Than Amusement" opening celebration from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Revolving Museum, 22 Shattuck St., Lowell. This exhibition explores the art of toys and games while presenting provocative commentaries on American popular culture. Tickets are \$15, \$10 for members. Tickets are available online at www.revolvingmuseum.org or at the door.

Valentine's Day singles event at 7 p.m. at the Andover Bookstore, 89R Main St. There will be wine and cheese around the fireplace with a short program about some of the staff's favorite books. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 978-475-0143 or visit www.andoverbookstore.com.

FRIDAY, FEB. 15

Presentation and Tour: "What's New at the Phillips Library?" 2:30 p.m., Phillips Library Plummer Hall and Reading Room, Peabody Essex Museum, East India Square, Salem. A reception will follow. Made possible by the Lowell Institute. Free. Reservations by Feb. 13. To make a reservation, call 978-745-9500 ext. 3011. For more information, call 866-745-1876 or visit www.pem.org.

The Kuumba Singers of Harvard College will perform at 7:30 p.m. in the Cochran Chapel, Phillips Academy, 180 Main St., Andover. This event is free and open to the public. It is presented by the Phillips Academy music department. For more information, call 978-749-4263 or e-mail music@andover.edu.

"Hide and Seek" will be performed at 8 p.m. by the Quannapowitt Players, 55 Hopkins St., Reading. This suspense-filled psychological thriller is written by Lezley Havard and directed by J. Mark Baumhardt. Tickets are \$18, \$16 seniors and students. For tickets, call 781-942-2212 or visit www.qptheater.com.

SATURDAY, FEB. 16

Merrimack River Eagle Festival from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, 6 Plum Island Turnpike, Newburyport. Guided eagle tours, a live eagle show at city hall, kids activities and more. Free. Registration not required. For the full schedule, visit www.massaudubon.org/eaglefestival. For more information, visit www.parkerriver.fws.gov.

The Andover Historical Society will host and open house from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for Andover residents, past and present, to bring in objects, photos and stories of Main Street. Objects will be considered for a new exhibit focusing on the history of Main Street, opening in late March. For more information, e-mail curator@andoverhistorical.org.

Adult workshop: Paste Paper, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Phillips Library Auditorium, Peabody Essex Museum, East India Square, Salem. Wear clothes and shoes that can get splattered. Box lunch included. Cost is \$35 members, \$45 nonmembers. Reservations by Feb. 13. To make a reservation, call 978-745-9500 ext. 3011. For more information, call 866-745-1876 or visit www.pem.org.

Storytelling group, 7:30 p.m., Cornerstone Books, 45 Lafayette St., Salem, with Jim and Maggi Dalton. Participants are encouraged to bring a story or poem to share with the group. Suggested theme is love. For more information, call 978-744-4833.

"Hide and Seek" will be performed at 8 p.m. by the Quannapowitt Players, 55 Hopkins St., Reading. This suspense-filled psychological thriller is written by Lezley Havard and directed by J. Mark Baumhardt. Tickets are \$18, \$16 seniors and students. For tickets, call 781-942-2212 or visit www.qptheater.com.

Folk music concert: Carol Noonan with guitarists Duke Levine and Kevin Barry will perform at 8 p.m. at the New Moon Coffeehouse, Universalist Unitarian Church, 16 Ashland St., Haverhill. Lisa Bastoni will open the show. Coffee and dessert refreshments will be on sale. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased in advance by calling 978-459-5134 or visiting www.newmooncoffeehouse.org, or at the door beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Peabody Essex Museum celebrates the Lunar New Year with a variety of programs highlighting art and culture from China, in partnership with the Greater Boston Chinese Cultural Association. All programs are included with museum admission and are made possible by the Lowell Institute. **Schedule of events:** Performance: The GBCCA will perform the Lion Dance from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the atrium to mark the beginning of the New Year; family art activities: Participants of all ages will learn about the 12 animals of the Chinese zodiac and celebrate the New Year with art projects from noon to 4 p.m. in the art studios; demonstration and workshop: Experienced players from the GBCCA share their skills and enthusiasm for Mah-jongg, a traditional Chinese game with 144 colorful tiles, from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Bartlett Gallery; performance: Melody Dance Troupe will perform at 1:30 p.m. in the atrium; film: "Mah-Jongg: The Tiles That Bind" will be shown at 4:15 p.m. in the Morse Auditorium. PEM is located at East India Square in Salem. Admission is \$15 adults, \$13 seniors, \$11 students. For more information on any program above, call 866-745-1876 or visit www.pem.org.

Please see **EVENTS**, Page 16



PLAYING IN THE SNOW

ROGER DARRIGRAND/Staff photos

Surrounded by furry friends, Pete Garone of Andover starts off into the woods on his cross-country skis at Ward Reservation in Andover for the Winter Fun Day on Saturday afternoon, Feb. 9. The day highlighted the uses of the town's open space.



Anisha Rao, 6, sleds down the hill with her father, Girish Rao.



Chris Ward leads a group on a trek through the woods in the Ward Reservation.



Sam Wright, 6, of North Andover enjoys a marshmallow roasted over the fire.

Winter Fun Day highlights seasonal opportunities

BY BETHANY BRAY
STAFF WRITER

Outdoor adventurers — on two and four legs — gathered at Ward Reservation Saturday, Feb. 9, for Winter Fun Day, as volunteers from local trails groups led hikes, cross-country ski trips and snowshoe treks through the property.

Many family pets joined residents as they went sledding and munched on snacks around a warming fire. Andover resident Pete Garone, who lives across the street from the reservation, brought his cross-country skis and his dog to the event. He joined with some other folks who brought skis, and had an enjoyable tour of the reservation, he said. Afterward, he stopped for a hot chocolate.

"One of the great things about living in Andover is just being able to go for a hike without having to drive anywhere," said Garone. "The first time we ever visited (Ward Reservation), we just took a hike up the road to the fire tower. All the sudden it was, 'Wow there's Boston! That's amazing.'"

Garone has lived in Andover since 1992 with his wife, Debbie, and has three grown children. He visits the reservation almost every day to walk his dog, he said.

Ward Reservation has the highest point in Essex County, the 420-foot Holt Hill, and you can see the Boston skyline from the top. Several young children and families learned this point on Saturday, and had a great time sledding down the hill.

Winter Fun Day was planned and sponsored by the Andover Trails Committee, the Friends of North Andover Trails, Moor & Mountain outdoor supply store and the Trustees of Reservations.

Ward Reservation is a 695-acre conservation property with 13 miles of trails that lies in both Andover and North Andover. It is free and open to the public, maintained year-round by the Trustees of Reservations.

Assuming you didn't give up snacking for Lent ... Church provides popcorn, Save Our Planet Film Festival

BY BETHANY BRAY
STAFF WRITER

Meet friends, eat some popcorn and learn a little more about environmental awareness at West Church's film festival, running now through Easter.

Every Friday during the season of Lent, West Parish Church will be showing, for free, a popular film with an environmental theme as part of its Save Our Planet Film Festival.

"We hope folks from the community will stop in, it's open to anyone — and the popcorn's really good," said Tom McMillan, senior pastor at West Church, with a laugh.

The first film in the series, Al Gore's documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth," was shown on Friday, Feb. 8. It was a social, relaxed atmosphere as a good crowd of people chatted and munched on popcorn, said McMillan, and he received positive feedback from folks the following Sunday.

Gore's movie was "a good bell-ringer to lead the series off," he said.

The movies are free and open to the public and start at 7 p.m. every Friday through March 14. Keeping with the environmental theme, organizers will collect a free will offering for the World Wildlife Fund at each showing.

All the films in the festival's lineup are

family-friendly movies that did well at the box office.

McMillan, who has been pastor at West Parish Church for four years, said his congregation and Sunday school classes have been focused on environmental issues during the past year. This year's Sunday school lessons all have the theme "God Meets Us in Our World," said McMillan.

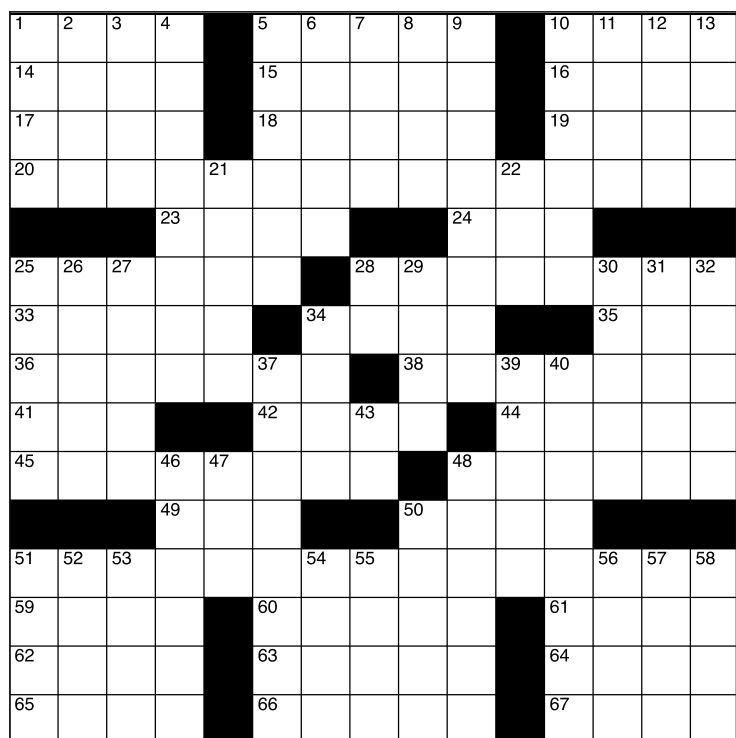
Earlier this year, a group of church members came forward looking to plan an environmental event, said McMillan, and member Marie Lucca also suggested the idea of a film festival.

FILM LINEUP

- **Feb. 15:** "Whale Rider" (PG-13). This is the story of a Maori girl's relationship with a whale. Suitable for middle school students through adult.
- **Feb. 22:** "Fern Gully" (G). The animated tale of a rain forest that is threatened by logging and pollution. For all ages.
- **Feb. 29:** "Brother Bear" (G). A young Inuit hunter seeks vengeance against a bear, only to be magically transformed into a bear himself. Animated. For all ages.
- **March 7:** A PG-rated movie (title withheld due to copyright issues).
- **March 14:** "March of the Penguins" (G). A look at the annual journey of Emperor penguins as they march to their breeding ground. All ages.

Please see **FILMS**, Page 16

Crossword puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. In bed
- 5. In a way, assists
- 10. Wild leek
- 14. 87732
- 15. Reactivating button
- 16. Assoc. of Licensed Aircraft Engineers (abbr.)
- 17. 5 high Afghan lakes: Band-e ____
- 18. Slang for backward
- 19. Disposed
- 20. Twain hero
- 23. Came up
- 24. Japanese apricot
- 25. Elephant driver
- 28. Physically disturbed
- 33. Margarines
- 34. Synagogue
- 35. Before
- 36. Least bright
- 38. Middle ears
- 41. The smallest whole number
- 42. Foot digits
- 44. Tripod
- 45. Aquatic mammal order
- 48. The lowest form
- 49. Young canine
- 50. Football kick
- 51. Long time soap opera
- 59. ____fication: cleansing
- 60. Homer epic
- 61. Tear down
- 62. Breezed through
- 63. From a time
- 64. Fencing sword
- 65. "Match Point" actor Jonathan ____ Meyers
- 66. Brought to a conclusion
- 67. Grocery bag

Solution

K	O	V	S		D	E	O	N	E		S	A	H	R	
E	E	D	E		E	O	N	I	S		D	E	O	V	
E	S	V	H		D	V	I	L	I		I	B	N	S	
S	N	H	L		O	T	H	O	M		E	H	L	S	
					L	N	P								
L	S	E	S		V	B		N	V		O	V	L	E	O
T	E	S	V		E	S	E	O	L		E	W	N	O	
V	N	V			M	A	L	L			E	W	W	I	O
E	H	E			T	N	H	S			S	O	E	T	O
D	E	L	V		L	I	G	V			L	N	O	H	W
					I	E	W				E	S	O	R	
N	N	I			A	B	B	E			T	K	O	N	H
N	I	V			O	R	L	E			H	I	W	V	
E	V	T			L	E	S	E			V	A	O	W	
M	A	V			S	T	E	B			D	E	B	V	

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Far East female domestic
- 2. Central Africa river

- 3. ____ Clapton, musician
- 4. A room in which photographs are developed
- 5. Take a criminal into custody
- 6. Charles William ____ Am. naturalist
- 7. This (Spanish)
- 8. ____itory: region
- 9. In an inclement way
- 10. Palm tree leaf fibers
- 11. Jai ____ sport
- 12. A very large body of water
- 13. Sean ____ actor
- 21. Unethical & undeserving person
- 22. Thus far
- 25. NE corner CA county
- 26. Arrange to be straight
- 27. 92543 - 92546
- 28. Exclamation of surprise
- 29. No glory without it
- 30. Annoy persistently
- 31. Sea eagles
- 32. Apportioned cards
- 34. Greek porch
- 37. Proceeding in small stages
- 39. Implied
- 40. Grazing areas
- 43. 1x2 the width of an em
- 46. Plant louses
- 47. Prompting signal
- 48. In a way, developed
- 50. Topographic point
- 51. Three-banded armadillo
- 52. Extreme in degree or quality
- 53. Card in a deck having three spots
- 54. C. ____ Ball: canning scientist
- 55. Hard outer food layer
- 56. ____ Nui, Easter Island
- 57. One billionth of a second (abbr.)
- 58. Try to locate

FILMS: Study guides available for each selection



Alexandra Gaspar, 13, refills her popcorn while watching Al Gore's documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth," at West Parish Church as a part of the church's weekly movie night during Lent for its Save Our Planet Film Festival.

Continued from Page 15

"It was an absolute serendipitous occasion," said McMillan. Lucca, who has been attending for one year, has "brought tons of creative ideas," said McMillan. Lucca has put together a study guide for each film. The church went through the proper steps to get a license to show the movies to the public, said McMillan, and the cost of the film festival is being absorbed by the church, as part of its outreach to the community.

WEST PARISH CHURCH SAVE OUR PLANET FILM FESTIVAL

- Friday evenings, 7 p.m., through Lent
- Sponsored by the Christian Education Ministry of West Parish Church, 129 Reservation Road (the junction of Route 133)
- Free will offering collected to help the World Wildlife Fund
- Call the church, 978-475-3528, or visit www.westparishchurch.org

EVENTS

Continued from Page 15

The North Parish of North Andover Unitarian Universalist Church is inviting area residents to "An Evening of Musical Indulgences: From West Side Story to La Boheme," a concert filled with beloved operatic arias and Broadway love songs, at 8 p.m. A complimentary dessert reception will follow. The concert is a fundraiser for restoration of the church's historic pipe organ and a free will dona-

tion of \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors is requested.

SUNDAY, FEB. 17

"Everything You Need to Know About Book Collecting," 1 to 4 p.m., Phillips Library Auditorium, Peabody Essex Museum, East India Square, Salem. Topics include what to collect, buy or sell; how to evaluate, care for and repair books; personal cataloging, storage, shelving and more. Cost is \$20 members, \$25 nonmembers, fee includes museum admission. Reservations by Feb. 14. To

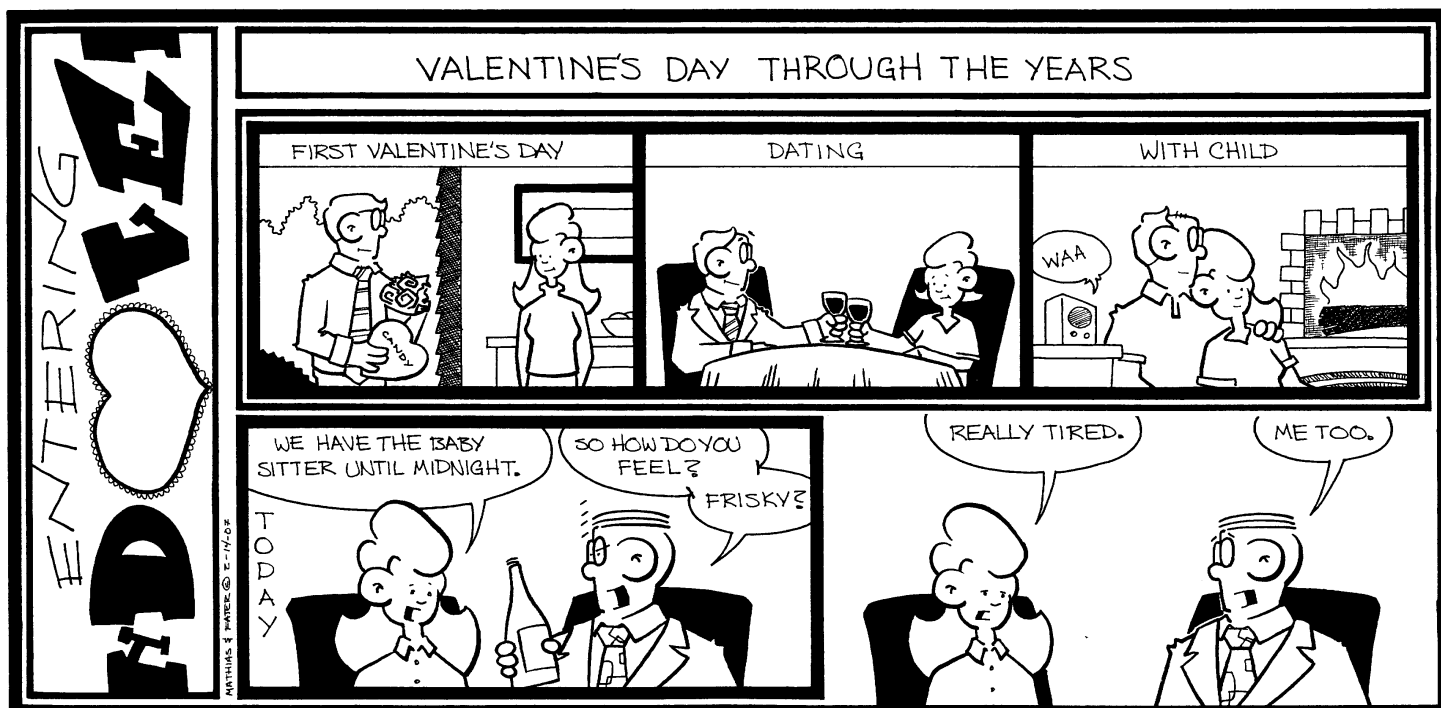
make a reservation, call 978-745-9500 ext. 3011. For more information, call 866-745-1876 or visit www.pem.org.

Auditions: Quannapowitt Players will hold open auditions for "True West" from 1 to 6 p.m. at the Quannapowitt Playhouse, 55 Hopkins St., Reading. Audition monologues will be from the script and available for review a half-hour before auditions begins or by contacting the director, Nancy Curran Willis, at imadirektor@rcn.com. Interested parties should plan to stay at least two hours. The following roles are looking to be filled:

Austin, mid-20s to mid-30s; Lee, Austin's older brother; Saul Kimmer, late 30s to 50s; and Mom, 50 to 60, depending on age of actors playing Austin and Lee. For more information, e-mail imadirektor@rcn.com. **Full Motion Super Hoopers Hula-Hoop workshop** from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at the Revolving Museum, 22 Shattuck St., Lowell. Learn a fun new skill and get moving creatively. This program is designed for girls ages 8 through 12; parents and guardians are welcome. Class size is limited.

Please see EVENTS, Page 17

Entering Andover: By Don Mathias



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Michael Rogers
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Methuen, MA 01844
Time: 8:30 - 10:00 AM

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Business

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

Andover resident moves business in Wilmington

White's Physical Therapy LLC has moved with the gym RMA Fitness to 1 Burlington Ave. in Wilmington, a new facility, after five years at 355 Middlesex Ave. in that town.

Doug White "I am excited about the new place. It will be larger and built to my specifications," said Doug White in a release.

White spent two years with USA Bobsled and Skeleton and says he watched three of the five athletes he worked with clinch one silver and take two gold medals at the Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City.

He says he has been establishing a family physical therapy practice for over five years as well as a strength and conditioning program inside RMA Fitness in Wilmington.

Pastor joins staff of Fred C. Church Insurance

Carlos Pastor, a resident of Methuen, is a licensed property and casualty insurance producer with five years of insurance experience. He is a recent graduate of Southern New Hampshire University with the distinction of magna cum laude, majoring in business administration. He will be working in the Fred C. Church Insurance agency's Andover office as a personal insurance account representative.

Fred C. Church is one of the largest privately owned, independent insurance agencies in New England. The company is headquartered in Lowell, with an office in Andover.

Gagnon advances at DCU Realty

DCU Realty property specialist Roland Gagnon achieved the Certified Buyer Representative advanced designation in the professional representation of home purchasers.

The CBR designation course included training in negotiation, risk education and due diligence in the representation of buyer clients.

Additionally, the course satisfied the quadrennial Code of Ethics requirement for continued membership in the National Association of Realtors.

Gagnon is a full-time property specialist with the DCU Realty's Andover office. He is also a member of the Northeast Association of Realtors and the Multiple Listing Service. Gagnon has been a real estate licensee since 1997, and has helped more than 500 buyers and sellers since that time.

Vitali promoted at EXIT Group One

Brian Emmons, broker owner of EXIT Group One Real Estate at 28 Andover St., has announced Kevin Vitali was recently promoted to designated Realtor.

Vitali has received his brokers license and his auctioneers license in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Passing of the plate

Vincenzo's restaurant to close after 15 years

By BRIAN MESSENGER
STAFF WRITER

The memories are many for Vincent Cicerchia, owner of Vincenzo's Ristorante on Main Street.

There was the time, back in 1993, when he met his future wife at the restaurant.

"She came in to apply for a position," recalled Cicerchia. "I just happened to be walking by when she was walking in."

And the time Andover native and late-night television joker Jay Leno stopped in for dinner.

"I remember sending him up a special appetizer, unannounced," said Cicerchia. "It was all seafood."

As it would turn out, the joke was on Cicerchia — Leno wasn't much of a seafood fan after all.

After 15 years of doing business in Andover, Cicerchia will sell Vincenzo's this month to Chestnut Street resident Sally Fabian. Fabian's Serene, serving Italian-American fare, will open in Vincenzo's place on March 8 after a brief renovation.

"Emotionally, it's a tough decision that I've made," said Cicerchia, who owns other Vincenzo's locations in Chelmsford and Concord. "It's kind of a tough thing to walk away from, but the opportunity was there for a buyer. In business, when the opportunity comes you've got to heed the call. That's what I've done."

In the restaurant business since 1981, Cicerchia said he has developed strong bonds with other downtown business owners and longtime customers.

Vincenzo's last night in Andover is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 16, so Cicerchia said he'll get the opportunity to say his good-byes. The two other locations will remain open, he said, leaving him more time to be with his family.

"I'm just downsizing a little bit," said Cicerchia.

"It's a great downtown," Cicerchia said of Andover, noting the proximity to Interstates 93 and 495 and Phillips Academy. "Parking is a little tough, especially at lunch time. But it's been very conducive to do business there. More than anything there is great access there."

Cicerchia said Vincenzo's most popular entrees have also been staples on the menu for all 15 years of business — veal saltimbocca and linguini di Mare, or "linguini of the sea," have always been customer favorites.

Contacted last week, Fabian said she will retain Vincenzo's staff of roughly 20 employees, including the chef.

"It's going to be more of a transition than an abrupt stop," said Cicerchia of the change in ownership.

Cicerchia was also confident that Fabian would be a dedicated owner once Serene opens next month.

"I'm sure she's going to be fully committed and visible there," said Cicerchia. "I think she's going to bring a level of commitment and passion, which is needed in any successful restaurant."

New name, new owner

Fabian said she is finalizing a new menu, which will offer a mix of Italian and American styles.

"It's my dream come true," said Fabian. "I will be there all the time; my home away from home. I didn't buy a vacation home, I bought a restaurant."

An Andover resident of 10 years, Fabian said the renovation will begin



File photo

Vincent Cicerchia, owner of Vincenzo's Restaurant, is selling his Main Street, Andover, restaurant after 15 years. "It's kind of a tough thing to walk away from, but the opportunity was there for a buyer. In business, when the opportunity comes you've got to heed the call," he said.

"It's my dream come true. I will be there all the time; my home away from home. I didn't buy a vacation home, I bought a restaurant."

Sally Fabian, right, who will open Serene

shortly after Vincenzo's closes and will include changes to the bar, interior color scheme and the installation of water fountains.

"We really want to provide a relaxing dining experience," said Fabian. "It's good food at a good price. Bring your kids. It's a family restaurant. Go for your anniversary; we'll take care of that too."

A variety of live music is planned at Serene for weekend evenings, as well as a Sunday morning jazz brunch and Sunday afternoon cooking classes. Lighter fare will be available until 11:30 p.m. on

Friday and Saturday nights, Fabian said.

"So people can enjoy us after the movies," said Fabian. "There aren't too many places to go, but you can come to us."

Fabian's daughter, 17-year-old Ashley Saffer, will also get involved at Serene as a hostess and marketing manager.

Saffer, a senior at Andover High School, will study restaurant management at Johnson & Wales University in Rhode Island next fall.

"I'm very excited," said Fabian. "It's definitely a mother-daughter venture."



KATIE MCMAHON/Staff photo

Sally Fabian, left, and her daughter Ashley, 17, will open Serene on March 8.

Class Schedule

Weekend Classes NOW Available

1st class: Saturday & Sunday, 8:00a-2:30p March 1 st , 2 nd , 8 th , 9 th , and 15 th	2nd class: Saturday & Sunday, 8:00a-2:30p May 10 th , 11 th , 17 th , 18 th , and 24 th
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March 24 - April 4	Monday - Friday	2 weeks	2:30p-5:45p
April 21 - April 25 Vacation Week	Monday - Friday	1 week	8:00a-2:30p
May 5 - May 16	Monday - Friday	2 weeks	5:30p-8:45p

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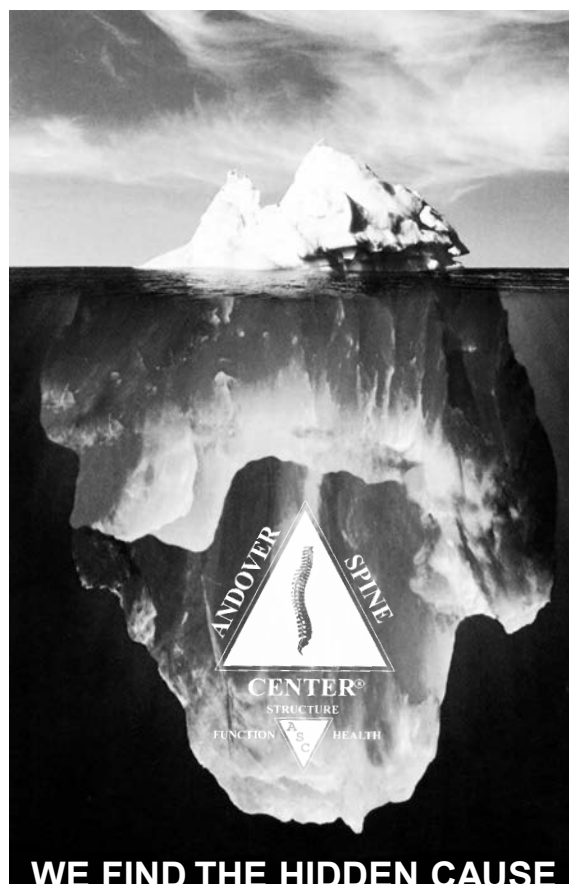
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Sports

Siblings in the crease Pettorutos excel in net for Prep, Andover

By DAVID WILLIS
STAFF WRITER

Siblings Kyle and Megan Pettoruto admit that they don't talk about playing goalie too much anymore.

"I used to try to give her advice," said Kyle. "But she thinks I'm too harsh on her, so I had to lay off."

Retorted sister Megan with a laugh. "He would be mentioning every little thing I did wrong and I just had to say, 'That's enough.' I had to ask him to stop."

Sibling difference aside, big-time goaltending runs in the Pettoruto family.

Kyle, a senior, is the starting netminder and backbone of the St. John's Prep hockey team that appears headed for its second straight Super 8 appearance.

Meanwhile Megan, a junior, had stood out in net for the Andover High girls hockey team, leading the Warriors to their sixth straight appearance in the state tournament.

"(As a goalie) every game is a big game," said Kyle. "You have to play your best because if the goalie isn't playing well, then the team probably won't win."

Flying high

For Kyle, motivation comes from one tough memory.

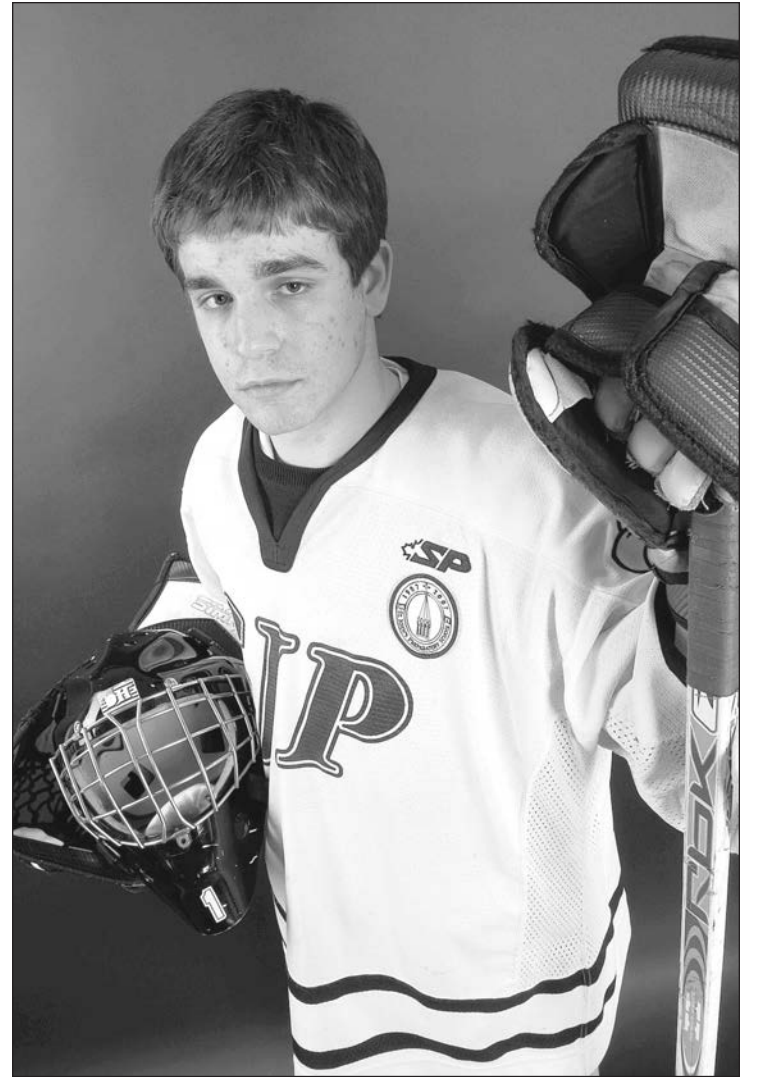
It was the third round of the Super 8 tournament last season and Pettoruto had held superpower Boston College High to one goal for the better part of two periods.

But then disaster struck. "The puck took a crazy bounce off the glass," he remembered. "And it went in the net."

The goal propelled BC High to a 3-1 victory, and the Eaglets went



ANGIE BEAULIEU/Staff photo



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

With his 1.88 goals-against average, Andover's Kyle Pettoruto, right, is the backbone of the St. John's Prep team that is headed for its second straight appearance in the Super 8 tournament, while sister Megan Pettoruto has recorded five shutouts for the Andover High team that has clinched its sixth straight state tourney appearance.

on to win their second straight Division 1A title, while the Prep was eliminated from the tourney.

"I really wanted to get BC High back for last season," said Pettoruto. "I knew that we could hang with them and beat them."

This season, Pettoruto has delivered on his promise.

BC High, the No. 2-ranked team in Eastern Mass., has only three losses this season, and Pettoruto has been in the opposing net for two of them.

Prep head coach Kristian Hanson said. "He has really stood out in both. He has made key saves to

hold them off."

In his first game against the Eaglets on Jan. 9, Pettoruto made 22 saves in a 3-1 win. On Jan. 26 he made 27 stops in a 3-2 victory.

"It was so great to get them back," he said. "Beating the defending state champions twice is amazing."

But that success is nothing new to Pettoruto this season. In nine starts, the 17-year-old has posted a dazzling 1.88 goals-against average and shutouts over St. John's of Shrewsbury and Essex High (Vt.).

He turned in another big-time performance on Saturday when

he made 17 saves to give the Eaglets a 3-1 win over Arlington Catholic, the No. 16 team in Eastern Mass.

Pettoruto is 6-2-1 for the 9-5-3 Eagles, who are ranked No. 6 in Eastern Mass. That record would put them in line for a return trip to the Super 8 tourney. They have already qualified for the state tourney.

"The Super 8 means everything to us," he said.

Hanson feels good knowing his veteran backstop is there for him.

Please see **SIBLINGS**, Page 21

MEET THE PETTORUTOS

Name: Kyle and Megan Pettoruto

Sport: Hockey

Position: Goalie

About Kyle: 17-year-old in second year as starting goalie for St. John's Prep, the No. 6 team in Eastern Mass. Led the Eagles to the Super 8 a year ago. Sports a 1.88 goals-against average and two shutouts. Beat two-time defending Super 8 champ BC High, the No. 2 team in Eastern Mass., twice this season.

About Megan: 16-year old in her first year as full-time starting goalie for Andover High. Split time last year and earned 5-3-2 record. Is 8-4-2 this season with a 1.79 goals-against average and five shutouts this season. Led Warriors to sixth straight state tourney berth.

Parents: Maria and Guy Pettoruto

Pierce named to elite team

He's an Eagle-Tribune All-Star, an Eastern Mass. All-Scholastic and a Massachusetts All-Stater, and now Andover High quarterback Mike Pierce is a member of an even more prestigious team.

He was one of 50 players nationally selected to the Old Spice Red Zone team. He was chosen from a pool of 5,000 nominees. The winners were recognized in USA Today.

"Mike is a great guy who can at any time break the game open," said Golden Warrior coach Ken Maglio. "He is a good teammate who stays positive and helps those who need to be inspired."

Pierce rewrote the Andover record books highlighted by a brilliant senior season in which he threw for 2,127 yards and 20 touchdowns, scored 13 TDs and booted seven field goals.



Mike Pierce: National recognition



KATIE MCMAHON/Staff photo

Andover's Meghan Thomann (10) rejects Pentucket's Andrea Attenasio. The Golden Warriors' intense defensive pressure led to their 44-27 win over the Sachems.

Hughes, defense propel Andover

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Andover High coach Jim Tildsley knew where credit was deserved.

"We played great defense," said Tildsley. "To hold a team to 16 points through three quarters is pretty impressive. And they scored eight points right away."

Behind that stifling defense, the Golden Warriors, the No. 3 team in Eastern Mass., downed then-No. 15-ranked Pentucket, 44-27, on Sunday, Feb. 10.

"This was a very good win for us," said Tildsley. "The seniors really stepped up."

Locked in a defensive struggle through two quarters, Bentley-bound Meghan Thomann (team-high 17 points) gave her Golden Warriors the lead with seconds left in the half when she knocked down a 3-pointer to make the score 17-14.

Riding the momentum of Thomann's shot, Andover was ferocious at both ends of the court the rest of the way.

The defense was paced by 5-foot-9 center Lauren Hughes (10 points), who held 6-foot-3 center Kirsten Daamen to only six points for the game. Laura Renfro also stood out, limiting Erin McNamara to nine points.

Camille Fantini excelled on the low

post, and the Golden Warriors were helped by the return of her twin sister, Amanda Fantini, who was playing her first game since tearing her ACL during the Hoops for Hope summer league.

Ilana Cohen scored 12 points, but Andover fell to Archbishop William, 62-55, on Friday, Feb. 8. Lauren Hughes also had 12 points while Meghan Thomann scored a game-high 16 points.

Behind the stellar defense of Laura Renfro, who shut down 1,000-point scorer Ashley Rivera, Andover edged Lowell, 35-33, on Wednesday, Feb. 6. It with the Warriors' second win over the Red Raiders, the No. 3 team in Eastern Mass., in three tries this season. Meghan Thomann had 12 points and Ilana Cohen had seven for the winners.

GIRLS TRACK

Knapp, Warriors earn victory

Christina Muccio won the 55 (7.34), Melissa Knapp took the 300 (42.0) and they teamed with Malloy Cayon and Emily Shields to win the 4x200 relay and lead Andover to victory at the Merrimack Valley track meet on Fri-

day, Feb. 8, with 97 points. Haverhill was second with 76.

Andover also took first in the 4x400 relay with the team of Laura Cody, Colleen Shannon, Vanessa Singleton and Kayley Pettoruto and Shannon won the 1,000. Jess Forster added a win in the high jump, Casey Harrison was second in the mile and Singleton had seconds in the 300 and long jump.

BOYS TRACK

McConnell keeps shining, Andover takes fifth

"(Andover coach Peter) Comeau tries to get me to do spring (track)," said star sprinter Chris McConnell. "I don't think it's going to happen."

Despite baseball being a few months in his future, the sophomore continued to torch the area track scene by taking first in the 55 at the Merrimack Valley Conference meet on Friday, Feb. 8, in 6.47. Andover finished fifth as a team.

Also recording wins for the Golden Warriors were Santi Costello (long jump) and the 4x200 relay team of Brendan Crawford, P.J. Farnham, McConnell and Kerrick Stevens. Rob Martin also chipped in a fifth in the 600 and

Please see **ROUNDUP**, Page 20

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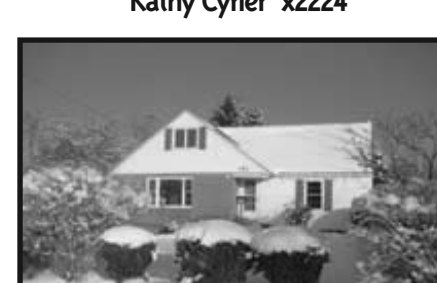




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"There was an instant flash of light and pain as I heard my head hit the pavement; I was knocked out cold."

A painful memory: grinding to a halt while sledding

The Back Page

Bill Dalton



Mike Connolly wrote to me about how the town used to close streets in the late 1940s after snowstorms to allow kids to sled safely. He grew up on Chestnut Street, and, near where he lived, both Chestnut and Morton

streets' hills were designated as sledding areas.

Mike wrote, "Sledders could zoom down Chestnut hill and continue their run by steering onto Upland Road, which was also shut off. The 'bad kids' would continue straight on past the Chestnut Street barricade out onto the traffic-permissible section. There were few homes on Chestnut Hill or Upland Road with the north side of Chestnut and Upland consisting of apple orchards. Mr. Crowley's house was at the south side of Chestnut at the intersection with Upland. He had a large hen house with hundreds of chickens, which provided him with the eggs that he sold." Philip Crowley lived at 141 Chestnut St.

Mike has a clear memory of sledding on Morton Street hill when he was 4 and his sister Joyce was 5. A small, overnight snowstorm left them hoping to sled on Morton Street. Mike said, "Since we lived on Chestnut, we could stand in our front window and watch for the DPW to barricade the street. After waiting for hours and seeing no barricades, my mother called the Police Department and requested to have Morton Street Hill blocked. The person on the other end of the call was reluctant to comply but my mother insisted. A half-hour later a town truck arrived with the sawhorse barricades. My sister and I headed up Morton Hill pulling our sled. On our left, Morton was bordered by woods that, combined with the bird sanctuary, were a half-mile to a mile deep. On our right, occupying all of the space between the homes on Chestnut and the homes on

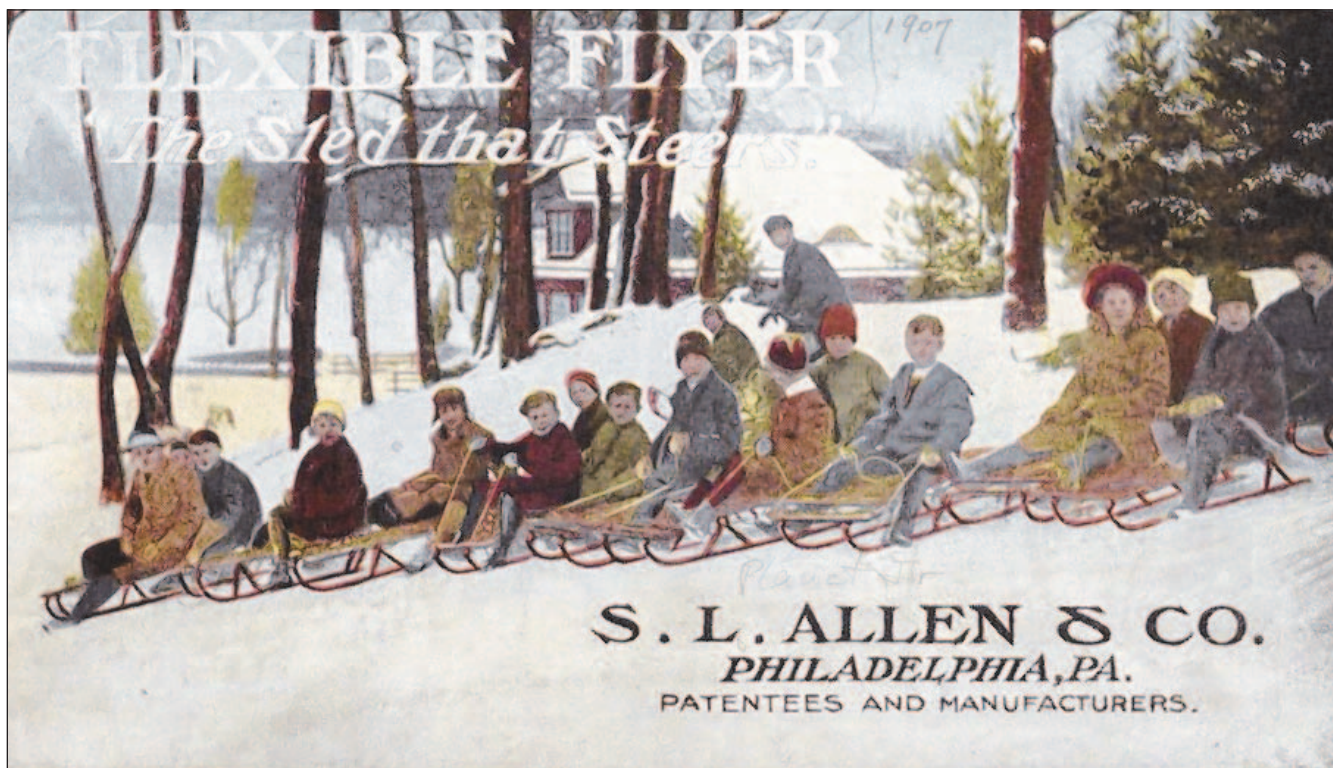
Morton, were three or four hay fields which extended to the Basso Farm cabbage fields that bordered the Playstead's baseball diamond. In the big hay field to our right was an ugly, black, dead tree which stood strangely alone. I could clearly see this leafless tree from my bedroom window and it always filled me with a sense of dread."

Mike continued, "A third of the way up the hill we saw the blacktop was exposed and the town plows had already sanded. (Perhaps this was the reason for the person's reluctance on the other end of my mother's phone call.) The exposed blacktop didn't extend all the way across the roadway so we figured we'd be able to steer our sled around this bare spot. The sand presented a more difficult challenge for which we didn't have a plan. We shrugged it off and trudged on up to the barricade at the top of the hill where we both got on the sled and pushed off. The sticky, sand-covered snow didn't allow for much speed, which turned out to be a good thing as we were unable to avoid the section of exposed blacktop. We screeched to a stop and tumbled off the sled onto the bare pavement. That was it! Enough sledding for now. We'd return another day when conditions were better.

"That day never came. We'd had the last snowfall of the season and when spring arrived so also did the heavy equipment for the construction of Memorial Circle. That dreadful tree quickly disappeared but unfortunately so did the designation of Morton Hill as a 'sledding street,'" said Mike.

The town had been good about closing streets, but as the town grew and families acquired more than one automobile, fewer and fewer streets were closed for sledding. By the mid 1950s, I think the practice had been eliminated or at least reduced substantially. About this same time I had my worst sledding experience, but it was totally unrelated to street closings. It was very much related to my being an awkward 13-year-old.

After school one day, I wandered to Cheever Circle looking for my friends, who I knew were sledding. There is a little place on the top of the circle we kids called



A 1907 advertisement for the popular Flexible Flyer sleds.

Courtesy photo

Pingree Hill, which was named after an older kid who lived somewhere nearby. Earlier in the day some snow had fallen, but the skies had cleared and the temperature was in the upper 30s. The streets hadn't been sanded. The people who decided whether to spend money on sanding had decided the streets would clear themselves since the temperature was high. I was feeling lazy and bored and felt like I was too old to be dragging a sled behind me so I didn't bring it. Besides, I didn't think the conditions would be very good. At the hill, I found Gary Dockray, Andy Blake and V.J. Mill. They had their sleds and the sledding was better than I thought, because the hill was shaded. I walked up the hill and stayed on top watching the others and talking with whomever was near. We likely talked about sports and girls, because we didn't talk about anything else unless there'd been a good fight in the schoolyard that day.

Pretty soon it started to get dark, and I borrowed a sled from one of them. My friends seemed as bored as I did. With the sled in my hands, I ran toward the top of the slope and began the process of flopping onto the sled. My initial flopping move was to place the sled on the ground with my hands near the front of it. As I did this, there was an instant when all my weight was on my hands while I dropped the rest of my body toward the sled. In that instant, the weight on my hands transferred down to where the runners met the road, and the runners found a patch of pavement. The sled ground to a stop, but my body didn't. With my hands still on the sled, I rotated heels over head, and my face crashed into the road. There was an instant flash of light and pain as I heard my head hit the pavement; I was knocked out cold.

Seconds later I awoke on my side. My friends were staring down at me. My head

hurt like the dickens, and I could taste plenty of blood and feel it running from my nose. Such an awkward event normally would cause laughter from my friends, but my friends weren't laughing. They asked if I was OK, and I said I was OK, but they said I didn't look OK. My nose was bleeding, my lip was cut, and my forehead scraped. I stuffed snow up my nose to stop the bleeding, which was a trick all boys knew. Then I walked home.

My parents didn't make a big deal of the way I looked. My nose had stopped bleeding and I'd cleaned the blood of my face with snow. In those days, kids often came home from play with blood, bumps, and bruises. I still looked bad the next day, but at school my friends finally got their laugh.

Bill Dalton is a former town moderator and selectman. He invites your stories and comments and can be reached at billdalton@andovertownie.com.

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