



OUR 120<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

# Andover Townsman

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MARCH 6, 2008

75 CENTS

## STUDENT ATHLETE GOES TO BAT FOR HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS



KATIE MCMAHON/Staff photo

Jake Ponti, a sophomore three-sport athlete at Andover High School, read a letter to selectmen, school and finance leaders at a budget hearing to discuss the importance of youth sports. School officials say that, without an override, the athletics budget for Andover schools could be eliminated.

## Firm: We'll build, lease new yard

BY BRIAN MESSENGER  
STAFF WRITER

The owners of a Burlington-based company have expressed interest in building and leasing a new town yard just off River Road, a project that could save the town several million dollars in construction costs.

The Gutierrez Co., which owns a 15-acre parcel on Campanelli Drive, has told members of Andover's Town Yard Task Force it would consider leasing a portion of the property to the town long-term if the town wanted to relocate its town yard there, according to task force Chairman Hooks Johnston.

Andover is looking to move its town yard out of the downtown, so the prime land it currently occupies can be developed. Located between the Public Safety Center on North Main Street and the Andover commuter rail station on Railroad Street, is where the town stores its road salt and repairs and refuels its vehicles and equipment.

The task force is still considering two sites for relocating the town yard: the land owned by the Gutierrez Co., which is adjacent to the Greater Lawrence Technical School, and town-owned land on and near the Ledge Road landfill.

But Johnston said relocating the town yard to Campanelli Drive could prove to be the less expensive option, given the significant engineering challenges of building atop capped landfills.

The task force will make a final recommendation to selectmen at the end of April, he said.

"It could be half as expensive," said Johnston. "That's multiple millions of dollars, I know that."

Johnston would not say how much relocating the town yard might cost, but did say the current town yard land could sell for between \$2 million and 3 million and bring in annual tax revenue of \$750,000.

Adjacent privately-owned property could also be developed, Johnston said, bringing in another \$500,000 in tax revenue to Andover. He also said there could be additional development within the "golden triangle," consisting of land ranging from Lupine Road, Dundee Park, Railroad Street, lower Essex Street and Shawsheen Plaza on North Main Street.

"There's no zoning changes necessary," said

*Andover is looking to move its town yard out of the downtown, so the prime land it currently occupies can be developed.*

## Superintendent: Request to look at cost of individual sports 'a diversion'

BY BRIAN MESSENGER  
STAFF WRITER

A three-sport athlete at Andover High, Jake Ponti has spent much of his youth on the playing field.

So when it came time to defend his school's athletics program from potential budget cuts, the 15-

year-old sophomore decided to get off the sidelines and take a swing in front of selectmen, school and finance officials last week. Ponti told officials at the school department's annual budget hearing that sports are "an essential ingredient in a healthy childhood," helping kids stay out of trouble, make friends and remain physically fit. "I get up in the morning at quarter to six be-

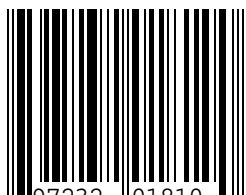
cause I know I need to be at school on time. If I'm late I can't play — simple as that. I also know that if I don't get good grades, I can't play. I hate not playing, so I go to school on time and get good grades. But most importantly, I have no idle time," he said. "Getting into trouble just doesn't fit

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## \$600,000 'surprise' found for teacher raises

BY BRIAN MESSENGER  
STAFF WRITER

School officials are standing by their decision to pay for teacher raises with an extra \$600,000 in state money that was originally intended to cover out-of-district special education costs.

But Selectmen and Finance Committee members question why they didn't hear about this surplus money sooner, considering the three boards have been

meeting for months on the budget.

The realization that the school department had \$628,084 in surplus special education aid came to light at a meeting last week between the School Department, Board of Selectmen, School Committee and Finance Committee.

"It just came as a total surprise and it raises a lot of questions," said Finance Committee Chairwoman Joanne Marden. "Where did this money come from? Why didn't any board or committee

member seem to know about it? What does this mean for the total budget this year and the request that's being made for next year?"

"I'm waiting for the School Committee to explain it," said Finance Committee member Margaret Bradshaw. "We need to get some more explanation about the school budget in general and this is a good start."

Please see **RAISES**, Page 2



Joanne Marden

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# RAISES: Officials at odds over handling of surplus

■ Continued from Page 1

While some officials called for more transparency in Andover's budget process after the meeting, Superintendent Claudia Bach and members of the School Committee defended the School Department's actions.

"There's no lack of transparency," said School Committee member Deb Silberstein. "I applaud the School Department for putting forward a budget that is probably the most transparent departmental budget in Andover."

The extra cash, which originated from the School Department's fiscal 2006 and 2007 budgets, allowed for school officials to provide "modest pay increases" to members of Andover's teachers union, according to school department Business Manager Bernie Tuttle.

Last week the teachers union and School Committee agreed to a tentative contract settlement. Andover's teachers must first review contract terms and take a vote before the pact takes effect, according to Tom Meyers, president of the Andover Education Association, which represents town teachers.

"We want to be able to get this going as quickly as possible and move this along," said Meyers of the settlement.

Every 1 percent increase in pay to school department employees equals about \$450,000 in taxpayer money. The details of the contract will not be revealed until it is approved.

"To support any kind of wage increase had to come from somewhere," said Tuttle, in defense of the department's use of surplus out-of-district special education funding, known as the state's circuit breaker account.

Tuttle said school officials became aware there would be a circuit breaker surplus after 2007 Town Meeting, during which both school and town officials told residents there was zero funding available in the budget for employee raises.

"Every year the budget shows

## Last week the teachers union and School Committee agreed to a tentative contract settlement.

some number," said Silberstein. "You don't really know what your balance for the circuit breaker is going to be until July 31, at the close of the fiscal year. I don't know why anyone is surprised."

However, the revelation about the money transfer drew a strong reaction from other town board members, some of whom have been working with members of the School Committee on long-term financial planning for the town since the summer.

"I was flabbergasted," said Selectmen Chairman Brian Major. "The entire room was flabbergasted that that type of underhandedness had taken place."

Major said using one-time money to fund employee salaries will only create a bigger problem in future years.

"This is where it hurts the whole idea of trying to work together to solve the problem," said Major. "Those types of actions are what turn the taxpayers off and say, 'You know, we can't really trust you.'"

Silberstein, Barber and School Committee member Dick Collins all could not recall exactly when they became aware of the surplus circuit breaker money, though Silberstein said anyone could have anticipated it by comparing line items on the fiscal year 2008 budget to the preliminary budget for upcoming fiscal year 2009, which was released earlier this year.

"If somebody asked, it would have been answered, but those questions haven't really come up in the context of those (long-term financial planning) subcommittee meetings," Silberstein said. "I think it's inappropriate for an

elected official to be using that kind of language without full information and without taking a step back."

Tuttle said the school department's transfer of circuit breaker money for teacher raises differs little from what the town does annually to fill its accumulated benefit account, which pays back retiring town employees for unused leave.

Town Meeting voters must approve the transfer of money into the account.

This year Tuttle said he expects \$500,000 be appropriated into the accumulated benefit account in anticipation of 11 town employee retirements. The money becomes available each year after the town over-budgets for its departments and the difference becomes free cash, Tuttle said.

One of Andover's largest ever such payments came last year, when former fire chief Charles Murnane was paid more than \$188,000 for unused leave time after retiring.

"In the private sector we would call those golden parachutes," said Tuttle. "It's free cash to fund those golden parachutes."

Barber also noted the accumulated benefit payments to town employees when defending using the money for teacher raises, calling the provision "no longer acceptable."

Barber also said one-time 15 percent longevity pay increases available to town employees nearing retirement are "unconscionable."

"People who live in glass houses should not throw stones," said Barber. "We have none of those perks in the School Department."

Marden said she was hoping for more explanation from the school department this week in regard to the circuit breaker allocation, which she called "totally unexpected."

"I'd like things to be more transparent," said Marden. "It would be nice to know exactly what we're dealing with. ... It makes people distrust the numbers."

# SPORTS: Officials disagree on potential program cuts

■ Continued from Page 1

into my schedule."

Officials were impressed with Ponti's poise, but the town is continuing to look at athletics as a place that could be chopped to balance the budget. At that same meeting, school officials reaffirmed their stance that the entire high school athletics program could be cut if the town fails to solve a projected multi-million operating deficit.

To salvage some of the athletics program without having to cut other services or raise property taxes, members of the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee expressed interest in examining costs and revenues associated with individual high school sports—a request initially denied by school department officials for fear of pitting one sports' athletes against another's.

Members of the two boards had submitted multiple questions in writing to the school department requesting information, including the number of participants for each sport.

The school department's written response to those questions was: "The focus of the budget discussion should be on direct educational services to students and not debate about what individual sports cost to operate."

"That's not really an answer to the questions that was asked," said Finance Committee Chairwoman Joanne Marden. "I think if we're asking detailed questions, mostly it's to see if we're dealing with the right dollar figures."

"At the end of the day I think it's important to question the budgets," said Selectman Alex Vispoli. "It is important to certainly answer the question."

Contacted this week, Superintendent Claudia Bach said the information requested by the two boards is being compiled now by Andover High Principal Peter Anderson.

Though she said the information would be made available to town officials, Bach called the strategy of examining athletic program costs and revenues on an individual-sport basis "a diversion."

"I do think it is a way of driving us and driving the public from the real issue, the real debate that needs to take place," said Bach. "If indeed we're all looking at cutting back services in town, the debate needs to be, 'Is that justified? Is that what we should be doing in the town of Andover?' I don't think it is."

School Committee Chairman Arthur Barber cautioned against examining and discussing such data.

"Those questions run the damaging risk of pitting student against student, parent against parent, sport against sport," said Barber. "That's just a horrible scenario to put people through. We just didn't feel that was appropriate at this time."

"It's not fruitful," he said. "To cause students and parents the angst, we don't want to do that right now."

School Department Business Manager Bernie Tut-

tle said eliminating or preserving certain sports based on their expense to the town could also bring up concerns over Title IX, which mandates equal educational opportunities for both male and female students.

"Athletics in this town, I think it's such a key component to Andover," said Vispoli. "I don't know how you'll make the selection, one over the other. I hope we don't come to that."

Though disagreement exists as to how officials should best examine potential cuts to the high school athletics program, members of all three boards were impressed with Ponti's address.

"As a parent, you could see your own child giving that speech," said Vispoli. "Certainly, when you hear it from a student, it has a much more dramatic impact."

"That's the kind of kid our athletic program produces," said School Committee member Dick Collins. "As a high school student, standing up in front of an adult crowd like that is not easy."

"As soon as they said the plan is to cut sports, I just felt deflated," said Ponti after the meeting. "I was nervous, but I guess everybody else liked (my letter). It was a room full of parents and important politicians. I felt out of place a bit."

Ponti, who plays football, baseball and winter track for Andover High, said he would not look forward to the elimination of some sports, or to increased athletic user fees.

"I don't want to see the whole (athletics program) go, but I also don't think it would be fair to see some sports go, because they're all good," said Ponti.

Ponti said he wrote the letter just an hour before the meeting. As budget talks began at Town Offices that evening, he said he had second thoughts about speaking.

"I think the reason I stood up is because I really believe sports are a great thing. I just wanted that position to be heard," said Ponti.

A former player in the Andover Junior Football League and Andover Little League, Ponti said he is using high school athletics as a tool to get into college.

"It's the only thing in my life that's always been a concrete place for me to develop," said Ponti of athletics. "It almost seems unfair for it to go, not just for me, but for other kids who wouldn't have it, who are still trying to figure out what their goals are."

Andover High School sports remain a vital aspect of student social life in Andover, Ponti said.

"Some kids absolutely love going to school because of the teams and the games and the fun," he said. "Kids expect it because it becomes almost a way of life."

Collins, a former Andover High football and track coach who said he will celebrate 50 years in connection with the school's athletics program next year, called elimination of the program unacceptable.

"I honestly don't think that's what anybody wants to do," said Collins. "We've got to find the funds so that we can maintain it. It's that simple."

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Advertising copy must be in the Townsman office by Monday at 5 p.m.  
Camera-ready advertising copy is due by Tuesday at noon.  
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## Budget forum tonight

There will be a public forum tonight, Thursday, March 6, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in Memorial Hall Library.

The event is cosponsored by the League of Women Voters and the Service Club of Andover. Panelists will include members of the Finance and School committees, selectmen, the town manager and the school's superintendent.

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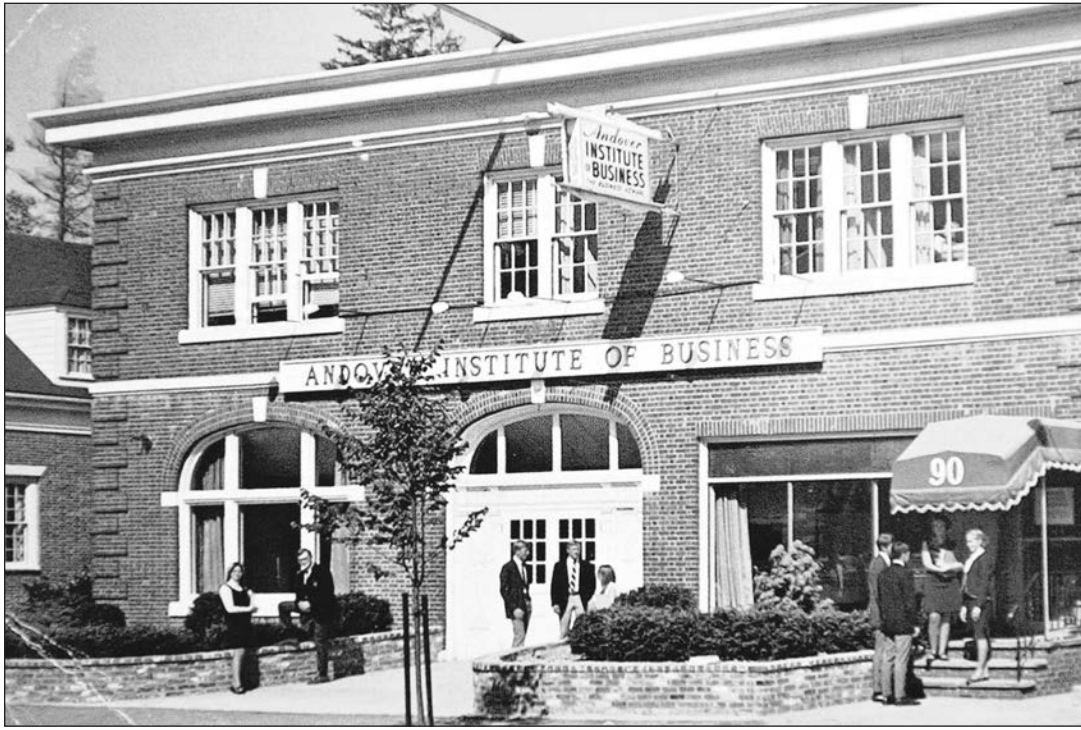
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# In Brief

## PAST & PRESENT



**THEN:** In the 1970s, 90 Main St. was home to Andover Institute of Business. When owner Charles Liponis put a gigantic IBM mainframe in the window, registration soared.



**NOW:** Ninety Main St. is now the home to Bertucci's restaurant, and Helen Thomas, a clothing and gift shop.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Video contest

Novice and expert video hobbyists of all ages are invited to create a short movie for Memorial Hall Library's first-ever video contest. The video presentations should show why you like, love, care about, appreciate, need, and/or value Memorial Hall Library. Videos must be submitted online at [www.youtube.com/group/MHLcontest](http://www.youtube.com/group/MHLcontest) or on DVD at the library by April 4. For complete rules and entry form, visit [www.mhl.org/videocontest](http://www.mhl.org/videocontest). A panel of judges will select winners at a video screening and award ceremony on April 15 as part of National Library Week. For more information, call Emily Classon at 978-623-8401 ext. 49 or e-mail [eclasson@mhl.org](mailto:eclasson@mhl.org).

#### Grant provides shingles vaccine for residents

Thanks to a grant from the Andover Home for Aged People, the Andover Health Department will allow the continued offering of the shingles vaccine, Zostavax. This vaccine, licensed in 2006 by the FDA for people 60 and older, helps to prevent shingles disease and lessen the pain and complications caused by the disease. The clinics are being offered to Andover residents 60 years of age and older, who have had chicken pox disease in the past and have never had shingles. The cost of the vaccine is \$10. All clinics are by appointment only. For more information, call 978-623-8295.

#### Life Line screenings offered at Atria

Life Line Screening will be at the Atria at Marland Place, 15 Stevens St., on March 10. Appointments will begin at 9 a.m. Screening are fast, painless and affordable. They help identify potential health problems such as blocked arteries and irregular heart rhythm, abdominal aortic aneurysms, and hardening of the arteries in the legs, which is a strong predictor of heart disease. A bone density screening to assess osteoporosis risk is also offered and is appropriate for both men and women. Register for a Wellness Package with Heart Rhythm for \$149. All five screenings take 60 to 90 minutes to complete. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 800-697-9721. Preregistration is required.

#### Weekend passes to crafts fair available

CRAFTBOSTON, an annual show of art, craft and design, is offering 10 weekend passes to Andover's Memorial Hall Library in Elm Square to provide to their patrons free of charge. The event is sponsored by the Society of Arts and Crafts and features more than 175 artists, showcasing one-of-a-kind and limited edition pieces in baskets, ceramics,

decorative fiber, wearables, furniture, glass, jewelry, leather, metal, mixed media, paper and wood

CRAFTBOSTON is at the Seaport World Trade Center in Boston on March 28 and 29 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and March 30 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The trade center is at 200 Seaport Blvd.

#### Celebration kicks off Relay for Life

American Cancer Society Relay For Life kick-off celebration will be March 12 beginning at 6 p.m. at For Winds Restaurant, Greater Lawrence Technical School, 57 River Road. Relays are 12 to 24 hours in length and go overnight. Teams of 8 to 15 people camp out and take turns walking, jogging or running around a track or path. Cancer survivors will begin the Relay by walking the first "Victory Lap" in celebration of survivorship. Teams are encouraged to camp in tents and enjoy music, food and the camaraderie of the event. Anyone interested in joining the planning committee, becoming a team captain, volunteering or finding out more about Relay For Life is encouraged to attend. For more information, to find out how to volunteer or to RSVP for the kick-off, call Randi Holland at 781-314-2643 or email [randi.holland@cancer.org](mailto:randi.holland@cancer.org).

### Candidates forums

The Council on Aging/Senior Center will host a forum for the candidates for Board of Selectmen and School Committee on March 7 at 9:30 a.m. at the Andover Senior Center. The public is invited. A continental breakfast will be served. All candidates will have the opportunity to share their qualifications and vision for the office, and to respond to questions from the audience. Stefani Traina Goldsheim, president of the Andover/North Andover League of Women Voters, will be the moderator.

The League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover will host a candidates forum on March 13 at 7 p.m. at Memorial Hall Library. Candidates without contested races will have the opportunity to make a statement concerning the duties of their office. Candidates with contested races will introduce themselves and respond to questions from the audience. The moderator will be Mary Jane Morrin from the LVW of Topsfield/Boxford/Middleton. The forum is free and open to the public. It will be televised and rebroadcast on cable. Following the forum, there will be an opportunity for audience members to have informal discussions with the candidates. For more information, call 978-474-0176.

### Passport Day

The Andover Post Office will hold a special "Passport Day" on March 8 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Post Office also takes passport photos for \$15. Apply for passports at least two months before departure to avoid extra costs. Requirements to apply for a passport include evidence of citizenship, two passport photos and a current photo identification. Fees can be paid by check or cash. Passports cost a total of \$100 for persons 16 years of age and older, \$85 under age 16, and \$75 for passports being renewed. For more information, call 978-475-9436.

### QUOTE, UNQUOTE ...

I MEAN, WHAT KID WILL READ A BORING BOOK? I hope my art will make kids want to read the book.  
— Andover resident Ilene Richard who illustrated the children's book "Let My People Go!" about the Exodus of Jews from Egypt. Story in Townspeople, page 9.

JUST TO SEE IT — IT'S ONE THING TO BE ACCEPTING AND IT'S ANOTHER to realize that there's not much to accept.  
— Zach, an Andover High School student and member of the Gay-Straight Alliance, on a photo exhibit coming to Andover High and showing families with gay members. Story in Education, page 15.

IT'S VERY OUT THERE AND WACKY, but it's very fun.  
— Eighth-grader Brianna Rockwell about the play "Seussical," in which she plays the iconic Cat in the Hat. Story in Arts, page 11.

### NEWS CALENDAR

THURSDAY, MARCH 6	WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12
Zoning Board of Appeals public hearings and deliberation, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., third-floor conference room, 7 p.m.	Design Review Board, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., second-floor conference room, 6 p.m.
Joint meeting of Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., third-floor conference room, 7 p.m.	THURSDAY, MARCH 13
THURSDAY, MARCH 10	Triad, Andover Senior Center, 36 Bartlet St., 9:30 a.m.
Board of Health, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., first-floor conference room, 6 to 9 p.m.	MONDAY, MARCH 17
Housing Partnership Committee, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., second-floor conference room, 7 p.m.	Board of Selectmen, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., third-floor conference room, 7:45 a.m.
Board of Selectmen, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., third-floor conference room, 7 to 8 p.m.	Recycling Committee, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., second-floor conference room, 7:30 p.m.
Cultural Council, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., second-floor conference room, 7:30 p.m.	TUESDAY, MARCH 18
TUESDAY, MARCH 11	Conservation Commission, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., third-floor conference room, 7:45 a.m.
Preservation Commission, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., second-floor conference room, 6:30 p.m.	Recycling Committee, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., second-floor conference room, 7:30 p.m.
Planning Board, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., third-floor conference room, 7:30 p.m.	WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19
	Joint meeting of Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., third-floor conference room, 7 p.m.

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## YARD: Some buildings have structural cracks

Continued from Page 1

Johnston. "There may have to be road changes. This will take time."

Such widespread development would help Andover compete with the "substantial develop-

ment" of retail businesses located just across the town's border in North Andover, North Reading and Tewksbury, Johnston said.

"Consumer money's available," said Johnston. "This is sort of a way to get a little bit of our tax dollars back."

### CURRENT FACILITY

While Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski is asking for \$15,000 in both fiscal years 2009 and 2010 for temporary repairs to current town yard buildings, Selectman Alex Vispoli has suggested the town wait to see what the future holds before investing more in the town yard.

"That would not be the smartest thing to do at all," said Vispoli. "Decide what you're going to do with it before you build new buildings."

But Town Plant and Facilities Director Joe Piantadosi has said the capital improvements would improve safety-related issues at the town yard, where several buildings are either rusted or have major structural cracks. "I'm not even sure how the guys work on the vehicles in some of those buildings," said Johnston. "They're constrained down there."

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## Main Street tree chopping begins, ongoing until March 14

Trees that are marked along Main Street between Elm Street and Punchard Avenue were expected to begin coming down yesterday, March 5, weather permitting. The chopping is expected to continue through Friday, March 14, according to town planner Lisa

Schwarz.

The trees and other work are part of the Main Street redesign project that will continue throughout the summer.

Drainage work is expected to continue from the corner of Punchard Avenue and Main Street

north to Elm Square through March 14. The work will be performed at each of the drainage catch basins.

During the week of March 17, construction of underground conduits for the traffic signal at Hard- ing and Stevens streets will begin,

Schwarz reported. This is scheduled to take at least one week.

Fire hydrants will be replaced at 150 and 116 Main St. on March 19 and March 20 in the residential area south of Punchard Avenue.

All work is dependent on appropriate weather.

### POLICE LOG

#### ARRESTS

**Tuesday, Feb. 26** - At 11:59 a.m., Michael Bakios, 25, of 51 Fulton St., Lawrence, was arrested and charged on a warrant.

**Thursday, Feb. 28** - At 12:34 a.m., Dorothy Ferguson, 47, of 26 Beacon St., Burlington, was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor.

**Saturday, March 1** - At 4:39 p.m., Eric Michaud, 19, of 104 Thornton St., Lawrence, was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a revoked license and possession of a Class D substance.

At 4:49 p.m., William Belbin, 20, of 16 East Laurel St., Lawrence,

was arrested and charged with possession of a Class B substance.

**Sunday, March 2** - At 12:43 p.m., Bruce Marquis, 46, of 117 Cottage St., Woonsocket, R.I., was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct, threatening to commit a crime and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

At 10:03 p.m., Timothy Sullivan, 41, of 20 Post Office Ave., was arrested and charged with assault and battery on a household member.

**Monday, March 3** - At 4:59 p.m., Dana Tate, 36, of 81 Draper St., Dorchester, was arrested and charged with assault and battery on a household member.

breaking and entering to a dwelling was reported on North Street.

#### AUTO INCIDENTS

**Thursday, Feb. 28** - At 3:19 p.m., larceny of an iPod connector from a motor vehicle was reported on Keystone Way. The incident occurred about a week and a half ago.

**Thursday, Feb. 28** - At 2:02 p.m., cruiser damage was reported on North Main Street.

**Saturday, March 1** - At 11:48 a.m., cruiser damage was reported on North Main Street.

#### INCIDENTS

**Tuesday, Feb. 26** - At 10:13 a.m., a resident reported someone had taken funds out of his bank account.

At 2:15 p.m., a disturbed person was reported on Farwood Drive.

At 6:24 p.m., a female reported threatening messages had been left on her cell phone.

At 7:06 p.m., vandalism was reported on Ballardvale Road.

At 9:50 p.m., a disturbed person

came into the Public Safety Center with her dog.

**Wednesday, Feb. 27** - At 6:52 p.m., annoying phone calls were reported on Andover Street.

**Thursday, Feb. 28** - At 10:32 a.m., an officer was injured on Union Street.

At 3:04 p.m., a domestic dispute was reported.

**Saturday, March 1** - At 1:34 p.m., a camp counselor on Abbot Street reported a camper with drugs.

At 2:42 p.m., a domestic dispute was reported.

At 8:05 p.m., littering was reported on Main Street.

**Sunday, March 2** - At 10:15 a.m., an unattended death was reported on Rattlesnake Hill Road.

At 5:19 p.m., a domestic dispute was reported.

**Monday, March 3** - At 6:23 a.m., illegal dumping was reported on Haverhill Street.

At 1:36 p.m., attempted suicide was reported.

At 4:20 p.m., a domestic dispute was reported.

At 6:12 p.m., fraud was reported on Lowell Street.

—Compiled by Brian Messenger

#### THEFTS

**Tuesday, Feb. 26** - At 1:12 a.m., a Wyndham Hotel employee reported that vending machines had been broken into and money was stolen.

**Friday, Feb. 29** - At 10:13 a.m., larceny from a vending machine was reported on River Road.

#### BREAKS

**Thursday, Feb. 28** - At 10:02 a.m.,

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# Most candidates hesitate to tap reserves

By BRIAN MESSENGER  
STAFF WRITER

When asked if town and school department contracts were either too generous, about right or not generous enough, the candidates running for open seats on the Board of Selectmen and School Committee expressed differing opinions.

Andover employee salaries and benefits made up just over 70 percent of the town's \$124.7 million operating budget in fiscal 2008, according to town Finance Director Tony Torissi. Salaries accounted for \$70.6 million and health insurance \$10.4 million. An additional \$6.7 million was allocated this year for town and school employee pensions.

The four candidates were each asked three questions this week, which they responded to in writing.

The town election is scheduled for March 25.

**Selectmen were asked:**

1) *Andover recently had its Aaa bond rating downgraded in part because it does not have enough in reserves. However, there is a multi-million dollar budget gap. Should Andover tap into its reserve accounts this year? Explain.*

2) *Town and school employee salaries and benefits make up more than 70 percent of Andover's operating budget. Do you think Andover employees' contracts are too generous, about right, or not generous enough? (Or is this an unfair question?) Why?*

3) *Town Meeting voters will be asked to appropriate \$7.4 million this spring to complete the Ledge Road landfill recapping project. What do you believe is the best use of the landfill property after the project is completed?*

**Mary Lyman**

1) Andover cannot afford to tap into its reserves at this time. Moody's cautioned us about using the reserves for paying ongoing expenses and it resulted in this downgrade of our bond rating. Further use of the reserves for things that are NOT one time expenses could result in a further downgrade. Basically, it will compound the problem for future years.



Mary Lyman

2) It is fair to ask the question about employees' contracts as they are such a large part of the budget.

A. Employee salaries, on the whole, are fair as compared with other municipalities.

B. The health insurance benefits have grown to be a huge expense to both the town and to the employees. The town's Insurance Advisory Group has been reviewing costs and looking at alternative plans. This is a critical step in ensuring that we keep the increases to a minimum.

C. Pension benefits. The town does not set the formula for the benefit; that is done at the state level. However, the Andover Retirement Board is responsible for investments. They worked with a member of the Finance Committee to review options and decided to transfer the money to the state where they have had a higher rate of return thus helping reduce the town's burden in funding the benefit.

3) A combination of open space and athletic fields would be the best use of this land once the work is completed. While this is very expensive work to be done, it is important for the environment and mandated by the state. This has been done in many other communities and it has been a great success.

**Peter Cotch**

1) No. Cash reserve accounts should not be used as slush funds. Cash reserves are intended to cover emergencies. The projected budget gap is not an emergency. It is the result of

habitual overspending. If anything, we should be adding to, not withdrawing from, cash reserves. Otherwise, we will never regain our Aaa bond rating. That is not my assessment alone. It is the harsh reality delivered Feb. 20, by Moody's Investor Service, in a conference call with Andover's Tri-Board long range financial planning subcommittee. We would do well to follow that advice.



Peter Cotch

2) You can't blame the bargaining units that represent town and school employees for the contracts they negotiate. It's like criticizing opposing counsel for outmaneuvering you in the courtroom. That's what the collective bargaining process is about. I'd say the town hasn't negotiated effectively enough on behalf of Andover's taxpayers.

3) Andover's options are limited. Relocating the town yard to the Ledge Road site would be expensive, mainly because the town would have to pay prevailing wages for construction. It abuts residential property, so aesthetic impact could be an issue. The property may not be suitable for developing athletic fields, either. Any excavation or drilling for installation of subsurface utilities, and anchoring light poles, backstops, or goalposts, could be problematic. The geotechnical membrane that makes up part of the cap might be punctured...[defeating] the essential purpose of the project, which is to keep water from infiltrating the former landfill and leaching out contaminants. The best use may simply be passive recreation.

**School Committee candidates were asked:**

1) *Andover recently had its Aaa bond rating downgraded in part because it does not have enough in reserves. However, there is a multi-million dollar budget gap. Should Andover tap into its reserve accounts this year? Explain.*

2) *Town and school employee salaries and benefits make up more than 70 percent of Andover's operating budget. Do you think Andover employees' contracts are too generous, about right, or not generous enough? (Or is this an unfair question?) Why?*

3) *Strictly from an educational standpoint, what is the biggest problem or issue facing Andover's public schools?*

**Dennis Forgue**

1) Yes, but not the stabilization fund. Further, the Tri-Board should acknowledge that the goal of establishing a 3- to 5-year strategic plan prior to this year's Town Meeting is not going to be met. They should reaffirm their earlier sound opinion that all of the stabilization fund to close a single year budget gap is an unsound fiscal policy. The Tri-Board should recognize that additional time and a different approach is necessary.

To close the FY09 budget gap there first should be additional scrutiny of all budgets and a one-year significant reduction in capital improvement projects. In addition, with the exception of the proposed money-saving special education program, eliminate the school department's request for additional programs and positions under its "needs" budget. Finally, utilize the funds from the "Phillips Academy" contributions to close the one-year gap.

Going forward, appoint an independent moderator to lead all related Tri-Board strategic planning meetings. Establish clear goals

and timelines to finalize a strategic plan by Dec. 1, 2008. Combine the town and school department financial organizations and appoint a chief financial officer for the entire town.

2) I believe that the town employees enjoy competitive salaries and I support current salary levels. However, I strongly support scrutiny of the working conditions identified in all bargaining agreements. To be responsible to the townspeople, the Board of Selectman, School & Finance Committees, and all departments should review current ways of providing services and pursue any and all opportunities to combine services, reduce expenses, and the number of full time equivalent employees wherever possible.

3) In the short term, Andover needs to replace three retiring principals. Despite the current economic challenges, I believe Andover has a very strong school system and will be able to attract well-qualified candidates. Beyond that I think most of Andover's current educational challenges originate from a budgeting standpoint. Maintaining the average classroom size at or below the midpoint of School Committee policy is a critical challenge.

**Greg Rigby**

1) No. We did this four years ago for \$1.1 million and that began the trend that caused the downgraded bond rating. Weaning the town from this mistake has been difficult with using reserves of about \$850,000, \$750,000 and \$600,000 in subsequent years. Using reserves to fund operating costs is like using a home equity line to pay for the gasoline to drive your car each day. Reserves are there for extraordinary one-time costs like the recent May floods or other disasters. The town needs to get its financial house in order by matching expenses and expense growth with revenue growth. Funding operating expenses with reserves establishes a new expense level... [that] will force us back to the reserve accounts again and again.



Gregory Rigby

2) In short, too generous... Publicly, new contracts usually address only the cost of living adjustment, for example 6 percent over three years. However, just "showing up" also entitles employees to step increases each year ranging from 2.4 to 6.4 percent in the case of the 2004 teacher's contract. Add a 2 percent yearly COLA and you have pay increases that well exceed those seen by most taxpayers. Vacation buybacks at retirement are a windfall for town employees; add to these a health insurance plan that exceeds that of most taxpayers; for teachers, track increases of 2.3 to 7.9 percent for taking additional courses; and longevity increases in all contracts, and we can see how these costs compound over time. Future contracts need to balance fairness with affordability and... revenue growth.

3) The challenge is to implement a comprehensive vision for a curriculum that in the elementary schools teaches life and learning skills as a foundation to meet the challenges of the new world curriculum taught in the middle schools and the high school in math, science, the social sciences and the arts... The current process has us teaching too much to the MCAS test since that is how we evaluate schools and not enough attention is paid to the "whole" student. The process is further hampered by the unfunded legislative mandates given to the schools by the legislature that steal resources from education to support entitlements... Schools are required to make decisions that may not meet the educational needs of the majority of students in general.



Dennis Forgue

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In 2001 Rev. Nieuwejaar was certified in Spiritual Formation from Boston College and enjoys leading spiritual retreats. She has led numerous conferences at Ferry Beach Park Retreat Center and elsewhere.

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# Opinion

## Budget 'surprise' should lead to skepticism

This was the year Andover officials were going to work together. They were going to dig into the budget earlier than ever to solve their problems. They were going to have a unified front. So much for all that.

Members of the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen learned last week that the schools have been carrying a surplus \$628,084 in special education money. While Superintendent Claudia Bach has said that — barring a Proposition 2½ override or cuts to other town departments — she must eliminate the entire athletic program to save \$500,000, she never mentioned that she *could* also use some of this surplus. Apparently, that tidbit just never came up during months of budget discussions between finance, school and town leaders meant to address the town's budget shortfall.

The money comes from special "circuit-breaker" funding provided by the state to help with high-cost special education students who must be placed in programs outside the district. The state allows school systems to carry over the money year-to-year to use as each system sees fit.

The School Committee has a tentative agreement with the teachers union on a new contract. It is unclear how much of the salary increase the surplus will cover, since neither the committee nor the union has released details of the contract.

School leaders have commented that their approach was nothing unusual and that someone watching the budget process could see the money was available. Such claims ring hollow.

The news shocked Joanne Marden, longtime Finance Committee chairwoman, who has as deep a knowledge of town and school budgets as anyone. And she's certainly no enemy of the schools. Marden called the revelation the schools have an extra \$628,084 available "a total surprise."

Facing criticism, School Business Manager Bernie Tuttle compared the schools' handling of the surplus to the way the town tucks away money each year to boost its accumulated benefit account. This account gives retiring employees "golden parachutes," extra money for things such as sick days they did not use. One of Andover's largest ever such payments came last year, when former fire Chief Charles Murnane was paid more than \$188,000 for unused leave after retiring. Meanwhile, School Committee Chairman Arthur Barber criticized the 15 percent bump town employees can get during their last year if they tell the town they plan to retire.

It's true both situations are unfair to taxpayers footing the bill and take money from other services. But none of this is likely to make residents any more interested in paying for an override. To do so, residents need to have great trust that even more of their hard-earned money is needed to avoid dire consequences.

You can't blame residents who believe there are still perks to be eliminated and surpluses to be found. It's reasonable for homeowners to be skeptical before they shovel more of their money into a growing town budget.

## WEB QUESTION

### What is your reaction to news of an extra \$628,084 in the school budget?

#### Leap Year, Schmeap Year

Last week's Andover Townsman Web question was, "What will you be doing Feb. 29, Leap Friday?"

People gave only two responses, with 93.75 percent saying, "No big deal, it's just like any other day."

The other 6.25 percent said, "Spending the day deciding if March will come in like a lion or a lamb."

#### Money? What money?

This week's question is, "What is your reaction to news of an extra \$628,084 in the school budget?"

■ I support the schools with-

out restriction.

■ People are overreacting. The schools did nothing unusual.

■ Surprised, but it doesn't change that Andover needs an override.

■ Same old tricks by town leaders.

■ Shocked. It has affected my trust in the town's statements.

■ Other.

Visit [www.andovertownsman.com](http://www.andovertownsman.com) and scroll to the bottom of the home page to cast your vote. Those interested in offering longer comments can send them to [nfater@andovertownsman.com](mailto:nfater@andovertownsman.com).

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DR. SUESS



ANGIE BEAULIEU/Staff photo

Doherty Middle School seventh-graders, Emma Lamareaux, left, and Lynzie Luschenat present an award to Sam Tweedle, center, a first-grader at the Shawsheen School during an assembly in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Why class size matters

#### Editor, Townsman:

Like a great number of other parents who value education as a top priority, I chose to move to Andover in 1994 largely based on what I knew about its school system. Having worked for several years in education and completed my graduate work in the field, I was aware of Andover's history as an innovator in reading instruction and school design. I understood the community to be committed to excellence and to remaining competitive with the host of private school options locally available — all seemingly worth the additional cost of owning a home here.

What has emerged now, after nearly six years of involvement in the schools (14 years, collectively for my three children), is a somewhat different, and troubling picture. I see my daughter's very talented and hard working fourth-grade teacher saddled with 27 students of widely varying learning needs, and I watch my son's fifth-grade teacher working to prepare another 25 for middle school. What's more, I hear my School Committee telling parents that class size will rise to 30 next year without additional revenue to cover the cost of teaching personnel. Are these the circumstances that arise out of a commitment to excellence in education?

In my job as educational consultant and program evaluator to schools, districts and state boards of education in the Northeast and parts of the South, I have the unique advantage of being on the front lines of change and innovation in K-12 education. A sure way to drag down the quality of education is to burden teachers with as many students as I see crammed into the classrooms at West Elementary this year. As Susan Nicholson so clearly illustrated at a recent tri-board meeting through her stories about North Andover High School's troubles with class size, creativity and innovation just can't happen effectively in the conditions we have this year at West, and are promised townwide next year. With numbers this high, we not only fail to create an environment that allows our teachers to effectively engage a wide variety of learners, but we fail to distinguish ourselves as a district committed to excellence in education — and that affects everyone.

In the meeting last week, a local real estate agent shared a heartening story about his son who has chosen to move back to Andover to send his children to school here. I will say that until the son's decision was revealed in this man's story, I wasn't at all sure what the outcome was going to be. As I travel to many comparable towns in Massachusetts and beyond, I see far greater opportunities for creative use of technology and I see teachers engaging and exciting students with strategies that can only be implemented effectively with manageable class sizes.

Repeatedly since the budget forums held several years ago to gauge interest in various aspects of edu-

### LETTERS POLICY

The Townsman accepts letters to the editor from the community. Letters should be typed, no longer than 350 words and must include writer's name, address and phone number (numbers will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters for length, clarity and style. Deadline is Monday at 9 a.m. for the next edition.

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**NOTE:** It is the Townsman's longstanding policy not to print letters about candidates in the paper prior to an election. That means next week's paper is the last for letters about candidates in the March 25 town election.

tion, the town has heard overwhelmingly that class size matters most to parents. Although addressing class size is critical and immediately necessary, I have tried to illustrate here that it is not simply the student-teacher ratio affecting students in classrooms today that is at issue in these budget negotiations. Innovation and commitment to quality are what earned us our place on the map; what we need now is to restore class size to workable levels to enable our talented and creative teachers to distinguish us once again as a town worth investing in. Ignore it as "not my problem" or recognize it as an issue — the issue — determining the appeal and viability of the Andover as a home to future families.

Jeanne Clark

57 Cheever Circle

### Lyman has experience, perspective on her side

#### Editor, Townsman:

We support Mary Lyman in her campaign for re-election to the Board of Selectmen, and ask our fellow residents to support her also on March 25.

Once again, the town of Andover, like many throughout the Commonwealth, faces financial choices that perplex us all. A "structural deficit" exists in our budget. It has been growing in the past several years, and in each of these years, the process has been cumulative. We now have to make difficult decisions. This is a time for steady and reasoned leadership, the kind that has been demonstrated over the past seven years by Lyman on the Board of Selectmen. Lyman has also served on the School Committee, and was, at one time, the town's personnel director. All of this experience has given her a unique perspective on town finances and the relationship between all departments.

In the recent past, Lyman has been a beacon regarding town spending in the areas of personnel appointments and the town vehicle

policy. Her work on the vehicle policy subcommittee has resulted in a new policy adopted by selectmen that could result in significant savings to Andover. At the same time, she has been consistently speaking up regarding the need to scrutinize all new appointments, believing that leaving some positions open in these difficult budget times may, in fact, be preferable to filling positions that may have to be eliminated after a budget is adopted.

Lyman recognizes the difficulties faced by many residents in our "affluent" town. Some parents have chosen Andover to provide their children with a superior education, and they are sacrificing to afford that opportunity. Many seniors in town are struggling to stay, paying high taxes on properties worth much more than their original investments, but from which they can draw no financial support, and living on fixed incomes that are not keeping up with the rising costs of day-to-day living. Lyman's background and her long involvement in town affairs give her a perspective that is sorely needed as we try to work our way through these painful decisions.

She asks for our support, and we need her continued service.

Jo-Ann and Tom Deso  
81 High St.

### Selectman spoke truth to power on contracts

#### Editor, Townsman:

It was refreshing and courageous to hear Selectmen Chairman Brian Major speak truth to power, as the expression goes, in this case, speaking truth to the entrenched special interest groups regarding their posturing over the past several months to promote a Proposition 2½ override ("Selectman: Conservative contracts will spare services," Townsman, Feb. 28).

This entire run-up over the past two or three months for this supposed need for a Prop. 2½ override has been a very calculated campaign by the folks who have a vested financial interest in these contracts and who have sought to camouflage self interest in terms of dire consequences for the town if an override is not passed. Thank you, Selectman Major, for speaking out and bringing some desperately needed honesty into the budget process as we approach annual Town Meeting.

Bob Pokress  
3 Cherrywood Circle

### Leadership marked by common sense

#### Editor, Townsman:

At a time when the town's financial situation demands leadership marked by dedication and common sense, we are fortunate to have Mary Lyman as a candidate for selectman.

Her experience in town government over the years gives her an excellent understanding of the complex problems that face our community today. She is one of the

few people who deeply and equally appreciate the needs of both the schools and the other town departments. Moreover, she is fiercely independent, and beholden to no special interests. Her judgments, therefore, reflect what she sincerely feels serve the overall needs of the entire town.

Lyman has a reputation for listening to her constituents. She may not always agree, but she certainly takes into consideration the comments and suggestions she hears. Her positions are based on reason, are well thought out, and are always openly arrived at.

I respectfully urge the voters of Andover to return Mary Lyman to the Board of Selectmen.

Don Robb  
York Street

### Aerial mapping? Banners? Let's pay workers

#### Editor, Townsman:

It is Andover's budget season once again and the reports are confusing at best. For the past several years, members of the Finance Committee have warned against adding employees and excessive borrowing due to gloomy forecasts and sustained affordability. However, over the past several weeks, the local papers have reported on possible spending at Town Meeting to include \$200,000 for aerial mapping and lesser amounts like \$45,000 for poles to hang banners across Main Street. These items don't appear to me to be high priorities. Has the Board of Selectmen solved the issue of huge increases in health insurance or the high cost of utilities? I have seen no reports of that. What about the lack of funding for federal and state mandates — have those issues been resolved as well?

This past week in the Townsman, Selectmen Chairman Brian Major stated the budget could be balanced if the town settles "affordable contracts." What exactly does that mean? Major cites the percentage of salary increase for teachers due to step and track (years of service and educational advancement). On the school's Web site I found the most recent contract (that expired August 2007) and I believe his calculation is too high. Why didn't Major quote increases in the police and fire contracts which the town manager negotiates and he, as a selectman, approves? Those have step and track increases and also include costly buy-outs for accumulated sick time. And, why are Andover police and fire contracts not posted on the town's Web page for all to see? I find Major's comments inflammatory and perhaps that is why his minority opinion made headlines. I want teachers in our classrooms, and a public safety staffing level that adequately protects our town. Reasonable, affordable contracts, yes; aerial mapping and banners over Main Street, no.

Kristin Wise  
8 Inwood Lane

### THURSDAY FILE

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

Look, I don't want to wax philosophic, but I will say that if you're alive you've got to flap your arms and legs, you've got to jump around a lot, for life is the very opposite of death, and therefore you must at very least think noisy

and colorfully, or you're not alive.  
- Mel Brooks

Choosing a goal and sticking to it changes everything.  
- Scott Reed

Little drops of water,

Little grains of sand,  
Make the mighty ocean  
And the pleasant land.

Thus the little minutes,  
Humble though they be,  
Make the mighty ages  
Of eternity.

- Julia A. Fletcher

## Andover Townsman

Established 1887

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# Townspeople

## Book illustrator taps into new genre

### Richard hangs on to 'not boring' approach

By JUDY WAKEFIELD  
STAFF WRITER

Moses and the Pharaoh might be the lead characters, but bright colors dominate a new book illustrated by Andover resident Ilene Richard.

"Let My People Go!" is the serious story of the Ten Plagues and Exodus of Jews from Egypt. But it is illustrated so colorfully that young readers looking to learn more about this biblical tale in time for the upcoming holidays — Easter on March 23 and Passover on April 20 — should have fun learning.

This short, light-hearted, rhyming book, with illustrations by Richard, was released on Feb. 1. Richard has stuck to her "not boring" approach to illustration, saying she is a firm believer in using lots of color to keep kids interested. For example, the burning bush is brightly colored in orange, yellow and red on the first page.

Richard received the book's content about seven months before the deadline from author Tilda Balsley and publisher Kar-Ben Publishing. Richard researched the topic and then went to town, designing colorful and believable biblical characters. For example, buck-toothed cows and scared dogs and cats are covered with gnats, while a purple-clad warrior Pharaoh shouts "No! No! No!" when colorfully tunic-clad Moses cries, "Let my people go!"

"That's what I wanted. I wanted kids to have some fun reading this serious story. So, I had fun coming up with these colorful characters," said Richard, who has lived in Andover for 26 years.

Now an empty-nester with her husband, Lawrence, this mom and artist remembers her family's reading styles when coming up with illustrations. Her own kids, Jodi and Corey, who are away at college, never liked a dull book and neither does she. She could have illustrated this book more traditionally with less color, but she chose not to, she said.

"I mean, what kid will read a boring book? It's fun and I hope my art will make kids want to read the book," she said.

Even with a religious theme, a children's book can be fun, Richard said. But it has to be believable, too, she said, especially in a religious book category.

"It's a new market for me and is the first religious book for me," she said. "But I think it works."

Please see **BOOK**, Page 10



*"I wanted kids to have some fun reading this serious story. So, I had fun coming up with these colorful characters."*

Ilene Richard

Andover artist Ilene Richard loves working with color and it shows in a just-published children's book, "Let My People Go!"

ROGER DARRIGRAND/Staff photo

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## Well-named bridges and a manor, in name only

Bill Dalton



I never heard the name "Buttys Bridge" until this month, even though I grew up about 100 yards from it. I'm talking about the stone

bridge in the middle of the Park. It never had an official name and we just called it "the bridge." It bridged Roger's Brook until the early 1960s when the town covered the brook. It bridges nothing now, but is pretty mysterious to anyone not knowing its history.

The brook was covered because it overflowed every few years. Our family, on the northeast corner of Chestnut and Whittier, was bothered by this overflow as much as anyone, but we didn't complain because it just wasn't that bad. When the decision to fix it was made, either the available engineering skill or the town's wallet was insufficient to turn the brook into something beautiful, so they just covered it.

Today the bridge is an aesthetic artifact that once had a funny name. Peg Blake, who graduated from Pynchard in 1952, says that in her time Pynchard kids snuck out at lunch and hid under the bridge to "sneak smokes." As a result, kids called it "Buttys Bridge." It is in the nature of people to try to give things clever nicknames, and Buttys Bridge seems clever to me. It didn't stick as a name, except maybe in Peg's group, and that's too bad. A neighbor on Chestnut Street "turned in" the smokers, according to Peg. Maybe the name would have stuck if the smokers' use had survived for a longer time.

The bridge and the brook were in the inner circle of my play area growing up. With the bridge and nearby bandstand as our dual centerpiece, we played tag and capture the flag and all games imagined by children, but rarely did we go under the bridge because it was unpleasant there, even for grotty young boys. An odor of dead frogs and dank muck discouraged us from spending time there, especially in the summer when low water exposed more of the muck. Only during cold months did the smell disap-

Please see **DALTON**, Page 10

## ALL THOSE YEARS AGO

### 100 Years Ago

Work is progressing rapidly on the house that is being built by Hardy & Cole for John McCarthy on Wolcott Avenue.

The property of the General De-Greasing company was sold at a tax sale held last Saturday in Frye Village to Daniel C. Smith of Lawrence.

The famous globe trotter, Henri Mosse, passed through Andover Saturday afternoon en route to Quebec, Canada, from which he will sail for France.

An alarm of fire was rung in on Sunday night from box 412 but

when the department arrived they found it to be a false alarm. The chimney of the house occupied by Winslow Knowles on Pynchard Avenue was thought to be ablaze but an investigation resulting in finding no fire.

### 75 Years Ago

Legion hall was packed last night when the post held its annual candidates' meeting and discussion of the warrant. Most of the candidates were on hand to present their qualifications and their views.

Governor Joseph B. Ely does "not propose to approve the acqui-

sition of land in Andover or in any other part of the state for the construction of a new hospital," under present conditions, according to a letter received from His Excellency this week by Edmond E. Hammond of Porter Road. Mr. Hammond made queries at the state House in relation to the question which will appear on the ballot Monday.

### 50 Years Ago

Scores of volunteers spent many hours during the past two weeks canvassing the town for blood donors.

Andover will operate under a town manager-selectman form of

government, starting a year from this month, as a result of the voters' decision Monday. A clear majority, of the 6,326 who voted, cast their ballots for the manager plan in an upset victory. Last year the proposal was beaten by a wide margin.

### 25 Years Ago

A three-story shopping and office center will rise on the municipal parking lot behind Town Hall, and a three-level parking garage will be built where the vacant Heartland Jr. building now stands, according to the town manager's latest plan for developing downtown Andover.

### 10 Years Ago

Selectmen candidates Ruben Nieves and Lori Becker say they support building a community center instead of separate senior and youth centers, while incumbent John Hess says he's open to the idea, but doesn't believe it has support within town.

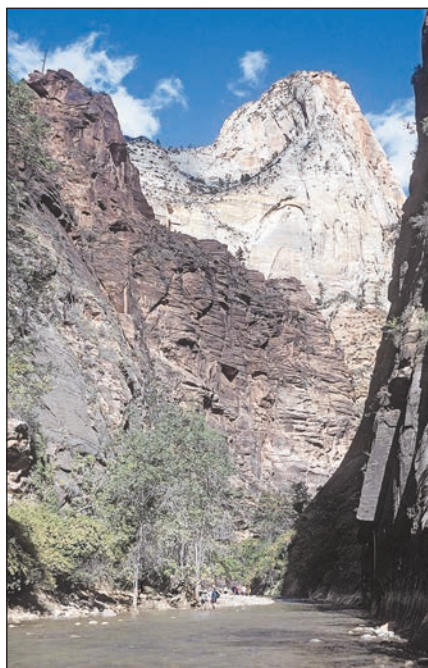
"I don't have a clock that says you have to go to bed at 10." — Selectman John Hess, needing his colleague; Selectmen Chairman Jerry Silverman for fast-gaveling a meeting adjournment. Silverman is scheduled for a retirement roast March 24.

—Compiled by Michelle Wiener

## FROM THE COMMUNITY

### Captured on film

Andover resident John F. Zipeto's photographic images from New England and the West are being displayed this month as "Moments in Time," a photographic exhibition on the main floor of the town library. Zipeto is the artist of the month at the Memorial Hall Library in Elm Square. His show will run through March 31.



Courtesy photo

An image from "Moments in Time," a photographic exhibition by John F. Zipeto.

### 'Godspell' comes to South Church

Can you wipe out hunger with a trip to the theater? Members of Andover's South Church say, "Yes!" More than 100 thespians, singers and artists of all ages will debut their version of "Godspell" this Friday, March 7, 7:30 p.m., at South Church on Central Street. They've transformed the sanctuary into a theater complete with professional lighting, sound and sets. Encore performances will be Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.

Proceeds will go to support Neighbors in Need providing food, clothing and household items to those in need in the Greater Lawrence area.

Residents have spent two months working on the production. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. For more information, call 978-475-0321.

"Godspell," traditionally a colorful pageantry of clowns and jesters, will be por-

trayed through a different, and somewhat local, lens. Artistic director Linda Zimmerman's vision sets Jesus' teachings against the grittier yet familiar backdrop of Boston's North Station. Through realistic characters like professional commuters,



Courtesy photo

The Rev. Jonathan Drury as Jesus and Andrew Harris as Judas in South Church's gritty adaptation of "Godspell."

families heading to downtown shows, paper hawkers and the homeless, Zimmerman tries to make stories like the Prodigal Son relevant to life today.

If you'd like to learn more about Neighbors in Need and how you can help, log on to [neighborsinneed@verizon.net](mailto:neighborsinneed@verizon.net) or contact Linda Zimmerman at 978-685-8321.

### Pustell honored for service

In a ceremony before its meeting on Feb. 19, the Andover Conservation Commission brought back former Commissioner Bob Pustell to honor him for more than 30 years of service to the town of Andover. Chairman Don Cooper presented Pustell with a plaque for his efforts in the

areas of land acquisition, trail development and advocacy for using sensitivity in balancing the individual homeowner's needs with the need to protect the environment.

Robert Pustell's grandchildren, Stuart and Virginia Pustell, son Steve Pustell, wife and longtime advocate for the Andover Trails Committee Margaret Pustell, Pustell himself and daughter Lois Jeanne Pustell, Conservation Director Bob Douglas, Commissioner Al French, Agent Linda Cleary, Commissioners Marcia Miller, Cooper, Gail Ralston, Howard Kassler, Town Manager Buzz Stapezynski and Commissioner Michael Walsh were all present for the event.

### Lacrosse coaches needed

The Andover Youth Service's Lacrosse program is looking for individuals interested in helping coach during the upcoming spring season. Entering its eighth season, Andover Youth Lacrosse is open to all boys and girls in grades one through eight, and is an opportunity for young people to be introduced to lacrosse or to hone their skills for the next level of competition. Over the last seven years, interest in lacrosse has grown and the program has seen many dedicated coaches come and go, said organizers.

Please see **COMMUNITY**, Page 10



**FIRST BIRTHDAY**

**James Charles Yonchak**



James Charles Yonchak was born Feb. 1, 2007, to Jim and Kathleen (Radulski) Yonchak of North Andover, and formerly of Andover. He has two sisters, Ashley, 6, and Sarah, who is almost 3. Grandparents are Walter and Rosemary Radulski of North Andover, former Andover residents, and Eugene and Jane Yonchak of Nashua, N.H. James loves to play and laugh a lot with his sisters, according to the family.

**First birthday messages** normally run on the last Thursday of the month. Submissions must be received by the Townsman on the Friday before that paper. Residents whose children will celebrate their first birthday in March can send a short write-up and photo of their children to the Townsman at [nfater@andovertownsman.com](mailto:nfater@andovertownsman.com). March First Birthdays are expected to run in the March 27 Townsman, space permitting. Submissions are due by Thursday, March 20 at 5 p.m. Submissions received after the deadline or for a previous month will not be published.

**COMMUNITY:**

Continued from Page 9

The Andover Youth Lacrosse season runs from March 16 through June 22. Each team practices two nights per week and plays games on Sundays. The program tries to keep rosters at 20 to 22 players. For that to happen it needs coaching help at the following grade levels:

- Boys 3rd and 4th grade
- Boys 5th and 6th grade
- Boys 7th and 8th grade
- Girls 1st and 2nd grade
- Girls 3rd and 4th grade
- Girls 7th and 8th grade

No experience is necessary, but would be great. Volunteers are needed to help facilitate practices, manage sidelines during games and communicate with parents. If you are interested in helping, contact Bill Fahey or Tony Lombardi at the Andover Youth Services, 978-623-8241.

VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT:  
[www.andovertownsman.com](http://www.andovertownsman.com)

**DALTON: How town landmarks got their nicknames**

Continued from Page 9

pear. Smoking under the bridge likely covered the smell, but maybe the Chestnut Street resident did a favor for those Punchard kids when he turned them in.

For historical background, Punchard High School is now the municipal office building. When it was new, the Punchard High School building was turned over to the town on March 15, 1918, replacing an earlier Punchard Building. The memorable name "Punchard" was dropped later when a new high school building was built on Shawsheen Road in 1958.

**Manor's demolition leads to new rules**

Peg Blake mentions her group and the "Manor." When one of them turned 21, he or she went to the cozy bar at the Manor on the Friday night after his or her birthday and upon arrival was "greeted by cheers" from older brothers and sisters and other members of their group. Peg says that the Manor was the meeting place for Punchard graduates when they came home from the service or college or wherever they'd gone. "We would check in to see who was home and what was going on in each other's lives. These were boys and girls that I went to school with from first grade until graduation," says Peg.

The Manor was the "Shawsheen Manor," a dignified building that had undergone structural redesigns since it was built by John Smith as the family home in the mid-19th century. John Smith was one of the founders of Free Christian Church in 1846 and was an owner of Smith and Dove, a mill on Red Spring Road near the bottom of Essex Street. The mill became the workplace for hundreds. Many of those people lived



Courtesy photo

The Shawsheen Manor about 1920. For several years, it was a place for Punchard alumni to meet. It was demolished in the late 1980s and replaced by a small shopping center.

nearby in the area called Abbot Village. The former mill buildings still exist, although the name "Abbot Village" has disappeared to all but older townies.

Smith's home became a hospital, a rest home, and finally an inn. Of course, it was never a manor, except in name. The Manor was torn down in the late 1980s and replaced by the small shopping center that exists north of Shawsheen Square. Demolition of the building surprised many town officials and citizens, resulting in rules that delay demolition of historic buildings in Andover.

**White Pups**

Another bridge was called "White Pups Bridge," and this name stuck a lot longer than "Buttsy Bridge." Few people know what or where White Pups Bridge is. The reason I know is because my dad always called it that. The bridge is just across the town line in Lawrence, but the reason for its name originated in Andover.

To find the bridge, drive on North Main Street and go through Shawsheen Center. Go

under Route 495 and stay to the right at the fork. You'll cross into Lawrence and arrive at White Pups Bridge in seconds. There's an indoor skating facility to its right. It's a small bridge that crosses over railroad tracks. It was more of a bridge a few years ago when it had a superstructure. Today, there is a chain-link fence that marks it. The fence prevents the village idiots from throwing rocks at trains that pass beneath. On the Lawrence side of the bridge there is a small sign that says the bridge is dedicated to the memory of Michael Torrisi.

In a 1918 Townsman, the name White Pups Bridge is explained by "Andoverian," an anonymous writer.

My father said he thought the bridge was called "White Pups" because there was once a house nearby where several white pups lived, but it was before his time. Actually, it was long before his time, according to Andoverian, who wrote in 1918 that only the oldest people in Andover remember the origin of the name.

Here's the story: In a house that was just inside Andover's

town line lived people who owned two beautiful dogs. The house was a white, south-facing Colonial on the east side of the road. The dogs that belonged to the house were pure white, and it was said that their hair was so fine that it was cut and spun into yarn. The dogs were so notable that people called the property "the house with white dogs."

The house became notorious, according to Andoverian, because it had a reputation for "keeping liquor to sell to the butcher, the baker, the candlestick maker," and anyone who stopped and wanted to quench his thirst after a hard day's work in the "new city," as Lawrence was first called. Selling alcohol was not allowed in Andover or Lawrence. Most of the establishment's customers lived in Andover, and it was not respectable to be seen at "White Dogs," as the house came to be called. The illegal practices at the place weren't very secret, but the owners had a trick to protect themselves. Even though the house was in Andover, its barn was in Lawrence. When the owners were tipped off about a raid, they'd shift the liquor from the house to the barn and the Andover constables would be out of luck. When the raid came from Lawrence, it was vice versa.

Andoverian doesn't say when the house went out of business, although it could have happened if Andover and Lawrence figured out how to coordinate their raids, nor does he have an exact reason how the name "White Dogs" transferred itself to the nearby bridge in the form of "White Pups." Those things just happen over time and we'll never know.

A former moderator and selectman, Bill Dalton writes a weekly column for the Townsman. He invites your comments at [billdalton@andovertownie.com](mailto:billdalton@andovertownie.com).

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**BOOK: 'Let My People Go!' available at most bookstores**

Continued from Page 9

Her publisher must also think it works. Illustrations by Richard are being used for the company's latest marketing graphics, including brochures and book-marks. "They liked it and I was

thrilled," said Richard, who grew up in Sharon and has been sketching for as long as she remembers.

"Let My People Go!" is a \$7.95 paperback is available at most bookstores.

Richard's work also was chosen for a holiday fundraiser for

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. She is one of 200 children's book illustrators from around the country asked to design unique snowflake decorations that are auctioned online. Richard used characters from another children's book she illustrated, "The Author with the

Fancy Purple Pen." The snowflake project is centered around the children's book, "Robert's Snow" written and illustrated by Grace Lin. The book was written in memory of Lin's husband, Robert Mercer, who died of cancer last summer.

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**Kaleidoscope and KITE Summer Programs**



Kaleidoscope is a non-profit enrichment program that offers varied educational and cultural opportunities to children in the Merrimack Valley for what will soon be twenty-eight summers.

Exciting and educational enrichment courses for children ages 3-12 are offered from July 7-25, 2008. All programs are taught by highly-qualified, creative instructors. Over 60 well-trained older students work as assistants. Classes are small and activities are definitely "hands on". Courses are diverse and include science, math, sports, literature, art, music,

theater, dance and much more.

New offerings planned for 2008 : CSI Investigations, Fantasy Baseball, Geology, Fun and Fitness, Superhero Escapades, Into the Jungle, Solar System Science, Giggly Wiggle Artist, Kitchen Chemistry, Baton Blast, Extreme Survivor, Hannah Montana Fananas, Picasso Power, Going Green and more.

Kaleidoscope enrolls nearly 800 children each summer. A high percentage are returning students. Many students become aides and later teachers in the program.

The KITE Program (July 28-August 1) is geared for academically talented students in Grades K-8. The 2008 theme is "Shake, Rattle and Roll."

Students from all communities are welcome and encouraged to participate in Kaleidoscope and KITE courses. For more information, visit their website at [www.kaleidoscopekids.com](http://www.kaleidoscopekids.com). The 2008 brochure will be on line before the holiday break.

Summer locations: Kaleidoscope, High Plain Elementary School, Andover; KITE, Merrimack College. The telephone and fax numbers for both programs is 978-475-1422.

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# Arts & Entertainment

## EVENTS CALENDAR

### THURSDAY, MARCH 6

**Author reading:** Sabina Murray will read from her novel, "Forgery," at 7 p.m. at the Andover Bookstore, 89 Rear Main St. This is event is free to the public. For information, call 978-475-0143 or visit [www.andoverbookstore.com](http://www.andoverbookstore.com).

**"Five Wishes" program** at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6 Locke St., with Diane Blake, bereavement counselor at Merrimack Valley Hospice. The program features a short video and a presentation on the Five Wishes program and shares the document that helps patients express how they want to be treated if seriously ill and unable to speak for him or herself. Free and open to the public. For more information, call 978-475-4454.

### FRIDAY, MARCH 7

**Jennifer Ortiz Foundation's second annual Prom Expo and Fashion Showcase** at the Elks Lodge, 652 Andover St., Lawrence. The event will include two contests to award four scholarships to lucky Merrimack Valley students attending college in the fall of 2008, as well as the opportunity to see dozens of Merrimack Valley businesses catering to all their prom needs. For more information on how to become a vendor, volunteer or sponsor, call 978-764-6672 or e-mail [promexpo@comcast.net](mailto:promexpo@comcast.net).

**Candidates Forum:** The Council on Aging/Senior Center will host a forum for the candidates for Board of Selectmen and School Committee at 9:30 a.m. at the Andover Senior Center. The public is invited. A continental breakfast will be served. All candidates will have the opportunity to share their qualifications and vision for the office, and to respond to questions from the audience. Stefani Traina Goldshein, president of the Andover/North Andover League of Women Voters, will moderate.

**Opening reception** for the exhibit "Impermanence," photography by Shelley Zatsky, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Elizabeth A. Beland Gallery at the Essex Art Center, 56 Island St., Lawrence. For more information, call 978-685-2343 or e-mail [cathysexartcenter@yahoo.com](mailto:cathysexartcenter@yahoo.com).

**Community Potluck** at 6:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6 Locke St. There will be a 7:30 p.m. showing of the family film "Darshan, the Embrace." Free and open to the public. For more information, call 978-475-4454.

**ACTING OUT Theater Company** presents its popular St. Patty's themed interactive comedy, "Lafferty's Wake," at 7 p.m. at THE STAGE, 60 Island St., Lawrence. The show is an audience participation comedy about a wake being held for the poor, dearly departed Charlie Lafferty in his favorite Irish Pub. For more information, call 978-794-0001 or visit [www.actingout.biz](http://www.actingout.biz).

**Treble Chorus of New England** presents Engelbert Humperdinck's opera "Hansel & Gretel" at 7 p.m. at Timberlane Performing Arts Center, 40 Greenough Road, Plaistow, N.H. Andover residents singing in this production include Graham Cook, Hadley Green, Molly Lennon, Morgan Muggia, Nozomi Oi, Annelise Mesler, Dylan Millis and Simon Voorhees. General admission is \$5. For tickets or more information, call 978-837-5461 or visit [www.treblechorus.com](http://www.treblechorus.com).

**South Cooperative Theater**, comprised of more than 50 South Elementary School students in grades 3 through 5, will present "Disney's Jungle Book Kids" at 7 p.m. at the West Middle School Auditorium, 70 Shawshen Road. Tickets are \$8 per person and may be purchased in advance at Bella Beads, Olde Andover Village or Learning Express, or at the door the night of the performance. For more information, call 978-623-8833 ext. 1420.

**Phillips Academy music department** will present a concert with the **Academy Chorus and Fidelio Society** under the direction of faculty member Christopher Walter at 7:30 p.m. in the Cochran Chapel on the Phillips Academy campus, 180 Main St. The chorus will perform works by George Gershwin and Gwyneth Walker along with Japanese folk songs arranged by Allen Combs. The Fidelio Society will be singing folk songs, madrigals, popular songs and the premiere of a new work by composer-in-residence James Matheson. This concert is free and open to the public. For more information, call 978-749-4263.

**Ipswich Moving Company** presents "Dreaming Head," inspired by the surrealism movement and the paintings of

Salvatore Dali, at 7:30 p.m. at the Ipswich Moving Company Studio Theatre, 2 Cogswell St., Ipswich. Tickets are \$20 adults, \$15 children, seniors and BDA members. For more information or reservations, call 978-356-5565 or email [jtcraft@comcast.net](mailto:jtcraft@comcast.net). Seating is limited. Reservations are strongly recommended.

**South Church Players** present "GODSPELL" at 7:30 p.m. at South Church, 41 Central St. Tickets are \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. For tickets, call 978-475-0321.

**ECOC program: "The Great Marsh":** Explore the beauty of the North Shore's Great Marsh with award-winning photographer Dorothy Monnelly and Franz Ingelfinger from 7:45 to 9 p.m. in the Phillips Library Auditorium at the Peabody Essex Museum, East India Square, Salem. This program is free and designed for teens and adults. It is co-sponsored by the Essex County Ornithological Club. Museum admission is \$15 for adults, \$13 seniors, \$11 students. For more information or to register, call 978-745-9500, ext. 3011.

**Free "Spotlight on the Youth" concert:** Valerie Taylor conducts the Lowell Philharmonic Orchestra in a free concert at 8 p.m. at the Pawtucket Congregational Church, 15 Mammoth Road. Local string students will join the orchestra in a performance of Capriol Suite by Peter Warlock. Also on the program are works by Elgar, Hahn and Strauss. This program is supported in part by grants from the Dracut and Westford Cultural Councils. For more information, call 978-703-0094 or visit [www.lowellphilharmonic.org](http://www.lowellphilharmonic.org).

### SATURDAY, MARCH 8

**Spring craft fair** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Fellowship Hall at Tewksbury United Methodist Church, 2335 Main St., Tewksbury. An array of items will be available including handbags, hair accessories, pressed flowers crafts, hand sewn items wooden spindle crafts and more. The church will also host a luncheon and there will be face painting for the kids. All proceeds help support the mission and ministries of the church.

**Children's birding program:** The Friend's of the Boxford Town Libraries present a children's birding program with Lisa Hutchings, teacher naturalist at Joppa Flats Education Center of Newburyport, at 10 a.m. at the Boxford Town Library, 10 Elm St., Boxford. This 90-minute program will include learning about winter birds and hands-on activities on backyard birds, eagles and owls. This program is designed for ages 6 and up. Registration is required.

**Annual New Trade Winds/ECHO Performing Arts Festival:** "Keeping the Fire in the Dark Moon Times" entertains and educates through music, dance, oral traditions, humor and stories as presented by representatives of the cultures of Alaska, Hawaii and Massachusetts from noon to 4:30 p.m. in the Atrium at the Peabody Essex Museum, East India Square, Salem. A main performance will take place at 2 p.m. Related drop-in art activities will take place from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Art Studios. Cost is included with museum admission. Admission to the museum is \$15 adults, \$13 seniors, \$11 students. For more information or to make a reservation, call 978-745-9500 ext. 3011.

**Open house and talk** with the Rev. Jeanna Harrison Nieuwejaar, educator and author of "The Gift of Faith: Tending the Spiritual Lives of Children" from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6 Locke St. The talk will take place at 1:30 p.m. Free and open to the public. For more information, call 978-475-4454.

**"Birdbrains":** Learn what makes birds special and how to identify different types through this interactive program and hike from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, 6 Plum Island Turnpike, Newburyport. There will be indoor and outdoor activities, so dress for the weather. This free program is designed for ages 6 through 9. Participants should meet in the Visitor Center. Space is limited. Preregistration is required. For more information or to register, call 978-645-5753 or visit [parkriver.fws.gov](http://parkriver.fws.gov).

**Ipswich Moving Company** presents "Dreaming Head," inspired by the surrealism movement and the paintings of Salvatore Dali, at 2 and 7:30 p.m. at the Ipswich Moving Company Studio Theatre, 2 Cogswell St., Ipswich. Tickets are \$20 adults, \$15 children, seniors and BDA members. For more information or reservations, call 978-356-5565 or email [jtcraft@comcast.net](mailto:jtcraft@comcast.net). Seating is limited. Reservations are strongly recommended.

Please see **EVENTS**, Page 13

## NOW HEAR THIS, HORTON!



KATIE MCMAHON/Staff photos

Brianna Rockwell as the Cat in the Hat and Mike DeLuca as JoJo rehearse a scene from Wood Hill Middle School's "Seussical," which has bits and pieces from about a dozen Dr. Seuss books. The play opens March 7.

## Wood Hill Middle School tackles Dr. Seuss characters in play

BY BETHANY BRAY  
STAFF WRITER

Gina Murray, music teacher at Wood Hill Middle School, stood next to the piano in the school auditorium, the script of the musical "Seussical" in her hand. "Circus animals, where are you?" Murray called.

Six young girls ran down the auditorium aisle toward the stage, answering "Here we are!"

Circus animals are just a few of the wacky characters — all from the pages of Dr. Seuss books — that have been rehearsing at Wood Hill Middle for a production of "Seussical," opening this Friday.

As the cast put final touches on the show in rehearsals last week, Murray and seventh-grade social studies teacher Katie Bent,

*"On opening night, I'll probably be nervous, but then I'll get on stage and love it."*

Wood Hill Middle School eighth-grader Brianna Rockwell, who plays the Cat in the Hat in "Seussical"

### 'SEUSSICAL,' THE MUSICAL

- March 7 and 8 at 7 p.m.
- Wood Hill Middle School auditorium, 11 Cross St.,
- Tickets are \$8 at the door, \$6 in advance
- Contact the school for advance tickets, 978-623-8925

Please see **SEUSSICAL**, Page 12



Morgan Goldstein as Mrs. Mayor and James Conley as Mr. Mayor dance during a scene from "Seussical."

## Ethereal sounds for St. Augustine Church

BY BETHANY BRAY  
STAFF WRITER

Some heavenly sounds will fill St. Augustine Church this weekend, as the New England Classical Singers performs Gabriel Faure's Requiem, which sets pieces of the Catholic liturgy to music.

The singers, as part of an annual outreach concert, will be joined by 16 girls from the Lawrence High School Girls Ensemble for the Faure piece. The March 8 concert will also include Benjamin Britten's "Rejoice in the Lamb," a contrastingly modern piece, first performed in 1943.

New England Classical Singers is an audition-only group of about 35 voices from greater Boston, many from the Merrimack Valley, that has been singing and performing for three decades. The members all have other full-time jobs, but sing because they have a passion for choral music.

Saturday's performance will offer both an evening of high-quality music and a chance for the Lawrence teens to sing with a professional group, conductor and orchestra, said Ann O'Connell, Classical Singers spokeswoman.

The LHS Girls Ensemble, directed by Nancy McGhee, is a "wonderful group of girls," O'Connell said. "They are like angels."

New England Classical Singers has performed an outreach concert each spring for the last nine



ROGER DARRIGRAND/Staff photo

The Lawrence High Girls Ensemble sings alongside the New England Classical Singers during a rehearsal at Lawrence High School under the direction of David Hodgkins. The group will be performing its annual outreach concert on March 8 at St. Augustine Parish in Andover.

### ETHEREAL EVENING: NEW ENGLAND CLASSICAL SINGERS CONCERT OF FAURE, BRITTEN

- NECS annual outreach concert, March 8, 7:30 p.m.
- St. Augustine Parish, 43 Essex St., Andover
- Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors and \$5 for students; available at the door, [www.newenglandclassical.org](http://www.newenglandclassical.org) or by calling 978-474-6090
- The program will consist of Faure's Requiem and Britten's "Rejoice in the Lamb"
- The Lawrence High School Girls Ensemble will join the NECS and soloists Carol Haber, soprano; David Kravitz, baritone; and David Richardson, organ
- The concert is supported in part by an Alfred Nash Patterson grant from Choral Arts New England and the Massachusetts, Andover, Lawrence and North Andover Cultural Councils

Please see **SINGERS**, Page 12

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(Sat)-	MAR 15	<b>Porch Rockers</b>

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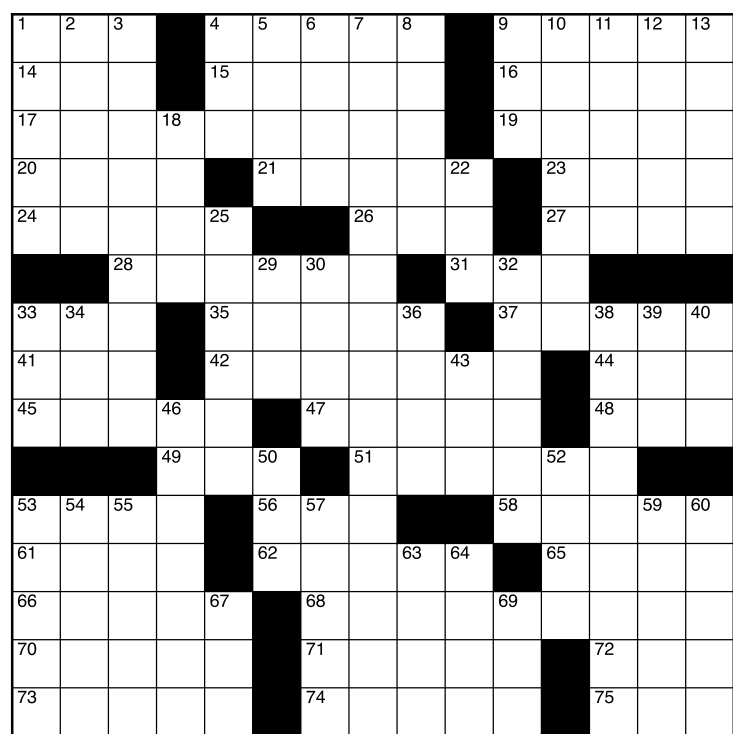
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# Crossword puzzle



- CLUES ACROSS**
- Cambodian leader Pot
  - Animal skins
  - Rumanian river
  - Doctors' group
  - Czech spelling of their capital city
  - "Silas Marner" author George
  - Heartbeat controller
  - Tragelaphus angasii
  - Polite interruption sound
  - Doctor \_\_ children's book author
  - Mix a sauce
  - Aquatic bird of the gull family
  - Wedge shaped machine fastener
  - Bag
  - Unkeyed
  - Fed
  - American time
  - Broadway awards
  - S S S
  - Woman (French)
  - Badmouth
  - Point midway between E and SE
  - Old-hat
  - Indian seaport
  - What part of (abbr.)
  - Tokyo
  - Et\_\_
  - Forearm bone
  - Large northern deer
  - More scarce
  - Ancient kingdom by Dead Sea
  - Indigo bush
  - A strong wind
  - Hawk genus
  - Influenced
  - Looney Toons cat
  - Sylv\_\_
  - Madagascar lemur
- CLUES DOWN**
- About pope
  - Largest Nebraska city
  - Cuts
  - Printing speed measurement
  - Periods of time
  - Large body of fresh water
  - H.C. Andersen story
  - Paxillosida: Luidiidae
  - Manpower
  - A mythical Greek hero
  - Lasso
  - Ancient Greek dialect spoken in Thessaly
  - Austere
  - Utter sounds
  - Helps little firms
  - Sign on the \_\_ line
  - Neither
  - Type genus of the Anatidae
  - Seesaw motion
  - Baseball referee (abbr.)
  - Sergeant major of the army
  - Certain
  - Divides
  - Cape Verde monetary unit (abbr.)
  - A unit of play in tennis
  - Feline
  - Members of U.S. Navy surement
  - English dictionary (abbr.)
  - Traditional Hindu music
  - Type of inflorescence
  - A mean or despicable person
  - 1963 Nobel chemist Giulio
  - Vampire
  - Gum obtained from Burseraceae
  - Rabbit \_\_, Urdike novel
  - H. Hopper's birth name
  - Redirect
  - Mineral valuable enough to be mined
  - Bind

**Solution**

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

# SEUSSICAL: School show is 'very silly, but very fun'

Continued from Page 11

the show's producer, ran through scenes with the Whos from Whoville, Horton the elephant, citizens of the Jungle of Nool, the Cat in the Hat and others.

"This show can be fun, zany and out there, but on the other hand, it has a deeper meaning, taking from emotions in real life," said eighth-grader Sean McCall, the show's student director. "Kids will love the costumes, and parents will love the music. It will bring them back to their childhood."

Wood Hill's production of "Seussical" runs for two evenings, on March 7 and 8.

The cast of 70 sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders have been rehearsing since November. The show's tech crew, stage crew and pit orchestra also are comprised entirely of students, Bent said.

"It's very silly, but very fun," said Bent of the show, as she watched cast members in brightly colored costumes rehearse a song last week. "It's been going smoothly; we have a very hard-working cast."

Sean plays Horton the elephant



KATIE MCMAHON/Staff photo

Sean McCall as Horton rehearses a scene from Wood Hill Middle School's "Seussical."

as well as working as the student director. He has split his rehearsal time between rehearsing in the cast and rehearsing with the cast, as director, he said.

"It's been tough, but definitely worth the experience," Sean said. "I love directing and getting them pumped up for the show. I want them to feel good about what they're doing."

"This cast, as big as it is, they like to joke around, but have connected with each other a lot," he said.

Eighth-grader Brianna Rockwell plays the Cat in the Hat and wears the signature red and white striped stovepipe hat in throughout the show.

"On opening night, I'll probably be nervous, but then I'll get on stage and love it," Brianna said. "This is going to be a very, very good show. It's very out there and wacky, but it's very fun."

"Seussical" combines characters and plot fragments from about a dozen of Dr. Seuss' chil-

dren's books. Written by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty, the original show opened on Broadway in 2000. Wood Hill is performing a "junior" version of the show, with fewer songs. The show's characters are quirky enough to make even the most serious of thespians crack a smile.

Sean said he sees a little of himself in Horton the elephant. "He's just a nerdy, loving guy. All he wants to do is love people," Sean said. "I'm definitely one of those corny kind of guys. I'm a fun-loving guy, same as Horton."

Eighth-grader Danielle Jacobson plays a character named Gertrude McFuzz, who starts the show with a single feather for a tail, which grows longer and longer throughout the show as part of the story line. By the end, Danielle has a rainbow colored feather boa trailing behind her.

Danielle said both kids and adults will enjoy "Seussical," and described the show as colorful, funny, crazy and fun.

"When I heard that this year's musical was going to be about Dr. Seuss, I said 'I have to be in it!'" she said.

# SINGERS: Church organ, small orchestra will accompany

Continued from Page 11

she said. "It's really a neat thing to do. I think the people who hear it and see the girls will love it. It just has a presence about it, and it's very exciting."

The concert will make use of the organ at St. Augustine as well as harp and a small orchestra as

accompaniment. O'Connell described the Faure Requiem, written over several years in the 1880s, as "ethereal."

Britten's "Rejoice in the Lamb" was written for the 50th anniversary of the consecration of St. Matthew's Church in Northampton, England and first performed on Sept. 21,

1943. The text for the cantata is excerpted from a poem titled "Jubilate Agno" by Christopher Smart.

New England Classical Singers is under the direction of David Hodgkins, and Saturday's performance will feature soloists Carol Haber, soprano; David Kravitz, baritone; and David Richardson,

organ.

NECS is a member of the Greater Boston Choral Consortium and gives several performances throughout the year. The group rehearses on Wednesday nights at South Church in Andover. For more information, visit [www.newenglandclassical.org](http://www.newenglandclassical.org).

# Entering Andover: By Don Mathias



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**EVENTS**

Continued from Page 11

**South Cooperative Theater**, comprised of more than 50 South Elementary School students in grades 3 through 5, will present "Disney's Jungle Book Kids" at 7 p.m. at the West Middle School Auditorium, 70 Shawsheen Road. Tickets are \$8 per person and may be purchased in advance at Bella Beads, Olde Andover Village or Learning Express, or at the door the night of the performance. For more information, call 978-623-8833 ext. 1420.

**South Church Players** present "GODSPELL" at 7:30 p.m. at South Church, 41 Central St. Tickets are \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. For tickets, call 978-475-0321.

**ACTING OUT Theater Company** presents its popular St. Patty's themed interactive comedy, "Lafferty's Wake," at 7:30 p.m. at THE STAGE, 60 Island St., Lawrence. The show is an audience participation comedy about a wake being held for the poor, dearly departed Charlie Lafferty in his favorite Irish Pub. For more in-



formation, call 978-794-0001 or visit [www.actingout.biz](http://www.actingout.biz).

**New England Light Opera** in "Night and Day: A Cole Porter Celebration" at 7:30 p.m. at the Firehouse Center for the Arts, Newburyport. Tickets are \$18 for Firehouse members, \$20 nonmembers. For more information on the New England Light Opera, visit [www.newenglandlightopera.org](http://www.newenglandlightopera.org). For more information or tickets for this performance, call 978-462-7336 or visit [www.firehouse.org](http://www.firehouse.org).

**New England Classical Singers**, under the direction of David Hodgkins, will present their annual outreach concert at 7:30 p.m. at St. Augustine's Parish, 43 Essex St. Tickets are \$20 adults, \$15 seniors, \$5 students. For tickets, call 978-474-6090 or visit [www.newenglandclassical.org](http://www.newenglandclassical.org).

**Five O'Clock Shadow**, an all-vocal rock band from Boston, will perform at 8 p.m. at the Crossroads Coffeehouse, on the second floor of Old Center Hall, 3 Great

Pond Road, North Andover. Doors open at 7:15 p.m. Tickets are \$20. Advance ticket purchase is available at [www.crossroads-coffeehouse.org](http://www.crossroads-coffeehouse.org). Tickets will also be available at the door the night of the performance. For more information, call 978-687-3960.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 9**

**Samuel Osgood Stamp Club** will sponsor its annual stamp show and exhibition from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at BPOE Elks Lodge, 652 Andover St., Lawrence/There will be a USPS Philatelic Sales unit

and 24 dealer tables. Also featured will be door prizes, a youth table with free stamps and a philatelic "Chance Board." For more information, email [rogandue@comcast.net](mailto:rogandue@comcast.net).

**Workshop:** Artist and educator Annie Zeybekoglu helps visitors create their own oragami-style book from 12:45 to 2:45 p.m. and 3 to 5 p.m. in the Art Studios at the Peabody Essex Museum, East India Square, Salem. This workshop is made possible by the Lowell Institute. Reservations are required by March 7. Cost is included with museum admission. Admis-

sion to the museum is \$15 adults, \$13 seniors, \$11 students. For more information or to make a reservation, call 978-745-9500, ext. 3011.

**South Cooperative Theater**, comprised of more than 50 South Elementary School students in grades 3 through 5, will present "Disney's Jungle Book Kids" at 1 p.m. at the West Middle School Auditorium, 70 Shawsheen Road. Tickets are \$8 per person and may be purchased in advance at Bella Beads, Olde Andover Village or Learning Express, or at the door the night of the performance. For more information, call 978-623-8833 ext. 1420.

**South Church Players** present "GODSPELL" at 2 p.m. at South Church, 41 Central St. Tickets are \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. For tickets, call 978-475-0321.

**Portland Taiko** will perform "Is That Thunder?" at 2 p.m. at Durgin Hall, 35 Wilder St., on the University of Massachusetts Lowell Center for the Arts, as part of the Discovery Series. It combines drumming, choreography and visual storytelling. Tickets are \$12, \$10 for groups of ten or more. For tickets, call 978-934-4444 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Friday or visit [www.uml.edu/centerforarts](http://www.uml.edu/centerforarts).

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# Obituaries

## Phyllis Humphrey Adams



ANDOVER — Phyllis Humphrey Adams, 1920 — Monday, Feb. 25, 2008.

Wife of the late Charles Quincy Adams, mother of: Patricia A. Adams of Ipswich, Marty Adams-DeSimone of Beverly, John Quincy Adams and his wife Tanya of San Clemente, Calif., grandmother of: Kimberlee A. Chalifour and her husband David of Beverly, Melissa Ouellette and her husband Charles of Bradford, Gregory J. Adams, Matthew J. Adams, Erik J. Adams, Alexis E. Mehringer and her husband Tim, great-grandmother of: Courtney M. Chalifour, Ashley T. Chalifour,

Matthew C. Arena, Jack C. Ouellette and Joshua C. Ouellette, also "adopted mother" of Dominic Bertocci and William DeSimone. Mrs. Adams died in the presence of her family and the caring staff of Caldwell Skilled Nursing Home in Ipswich.

**ARRANGEMENTS:** All services are private. However, if anyone wishes to celebrate her life, Mrs. Adams had requested that donations be made to: the American Cancer Society, 30 Speen St., Framingham, MA 01701; Children's Hospital Boston, P.O. Box 414421, Boston, MA 02241; or to Hospice of the North Shore, 10 Elm St., Danvers, MA 01923. Assisting the family is the Morris Funeral Home of Ipswich. To send condolences to the family please go to: [www.MorrisFH.com](http://www.MorrisFH.com).

## Frederick H. Brelsfoard, 60

ANDOVER — Frederick H. Brelsfoard, of Andover, died Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2008 at the Kaplan Family Hospice House in Danvers. He was 60 years old.

Mr. Brelsfoard was born in Decatur, Ill., on June 6, 1947, he was the son of Gladys (Drew) Brelsfoard of Decatur, Ill., and the late Benjamin Brelsfoard. He was a gentle soul dedicated to creativity.

He is survived by his wife Lee Fitzpatrick-Brelsfoard of Andover. Two sons; Samuel T. Brelsfoard and his partner Stephanie Hayes of Medford; Alex D. Brelsfoard and his wife Tabitha Ralphs of Woburn. One brother, Michael Brelsfoard and his wife Diane, and one sister, Carol Smith and her

husband James, all of Decatur, Ill. He is also survived by the family pet "Emma" and several nieces and nephews.

**ARRANGEMENTS:** His funeral service will be celebrated Saturday, March 1, 2008 at 11 a.m. in the Chapel at West Parish, 129 Reservation Road, Andover. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend. Blessing of the cremains to follow in the West Parish Columbarium.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Frederick's memory to the Kaplan Family Hospice House, 78 Liberty St., Danvers, MA 01923. Arrangements are under the direction of the Burke-Magliozi Funeral Home, Andover. For additional information, please visit [www.burkemagliozi.com](http://www.burkemagliozi.com).

## Anne Guillemette, 88

METHUEN — Anne (Valenchuck) Guillemette, 88, of North Andover, died Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2008 at the Sunbridge Nursing Home on Broadway.

Born in Lawrence, Mrs. Guillemette had been an area resident all her life. She retired from the Internal Revenue Service in 1986 as a supervisor. Mrs. Guillemette had attended St. Roberts Parish.

The widow of Alcide

Guillemette and daughter of the late Michael and Fanny Valenchuck she is survived by one daughter, Anne Guillemette of Andover; two sisters, Natalie Balutis of Dorchester and Mary Scott of Port Richie, Fla. There are several nieces and nephews.

**ARRANGEMENTS:** A graveside service will be held on Monday at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Andover at 9 a.m. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of the Edgar J. Racicot Inc. Funeral Home, 256 Broadway, Lawrence.

## Joseph A. Lardiere, 85

HAVERTHILL — Joseph A. Lardiere, 85, of Haverhill, died Friday, Feb. 29, 2008 at Baker-Katz Nursing Home, Haverhill.

He was born in Revere, April 8, 1922, son of the late Joseph and Elizabeth Lardiere, and was educated in the Revere School System.

For over 45 years he was employed as a senior design draftsman for General Electric from where he retired in the mid 1980s.

An Air Force veteran, Mr. Lardiere enjoyed gardening and motorcycle riding.

His survivors include his wife of 65 years, Sophie (Oliver) Lardiere

of Haverhill, three sons, Edward D. Lardiere of Haverhill, David E. and his wife Marian Lardiere of Andover, Joseph M. Lardiere, and two grandchildren, Brooke and Benjamin Lardiere.

**ARRANGEMENTS:** Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend the funeral Mass Monday at 1 p.m. in Sacred Hearts Church, So. Main St., Bradford. Burial will be in Walnut Cemetery, Haverhill. There will be no calling hours. Arrangements will be announced by the H.L. Farmer & Sons Funeral homes, Haverhill and Bradford. Condolences to his family may be made at [www.farmerfuneralhomes.com](http://www.farmerfuneralhomes.com).

## Arlene M. McAweeney

NORTH ANDOVER — Arlene M. (Syda) McAweeney, of North Andover, formerly of Woburn and Medford, died Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2008.

She was the beloved wife of Charles B. McAweeney Sr.; loving mother of Carol E. Bellavance and her husband Paul of Andover, Charles B. Jr. of Maryland, Elizabeth A. Gosselin and her husband Jerome of New Hampshire, Kenneth E. and his wife Jean of Westford and Joan C. McAweeney of North Andover; dear grandmother

of Paul O. Bellavance Jr. of South Boston and Kirby McAweeney of Westford. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

**ARRANGEMENTS:** Funeral procession from the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Square), Somerville will be Friday at 9 a.m. followed by a funeral Mass in St. Clement Church, Medford at 10 a.m. Relatives and friends invited. Calling hours are Thursday from 4 to 8 p.m. Interment in St. Patrick Cemetery, Watertown. For more information visit [dohertyfuneralservice.com](http://dohertyfuneralservice.com).

## DEATHS

Phyllis Humphrey Adams  
Frederick H. Brelsfoard, 60  
Anne Guillemette, 88  
Joseph A. Lardiere, 85  
Arlene M. McAweeney  
Isabelle Davis McSherry, 105

Adolph G. Medelinskas, 93  
Ernest J. Neaves, 81  
Mary E. Proctor, 80  
Edith G. Shportun, 80  
Andrew G. Spanos, 80  
John Thomas, 82

## Adolph G. Medelinskas, 93



LAWRENCE — Adolph G. "Otto" Medelinskas, 93, formerly of Lawrence, died Sunday, March 2, 2008 at the Nevins Centre in Methuen.

The son of the late George and Ursula (Lapinskas) Medelinskas, Otto was born in Lawrence. He was educated in Lawrence schools. Otto was a 1934 graduate of Lawrence High School. He was a four letter athlete excelling in football, baseball, and track. He was captain of the 1933 undefeated State Championship football team, which is the only Lawrence High School team to win a post-season game. Otto led the team in scoring for three consecutive years and was voted to both the All-Scholastic football and baseball teams. He earned 10 varsity letters, received the Cregg Medal, and was inducted into the first Lawrence High School Hall of Fame in 1988.

He was a member of the former Assumption BVM Church and the former St. Francis Church, both of Lawrence, and was a member of the Holy Name Society at St. Francis.

Adolph "Otto" was a resident of Lawrence for most of his life and was employed at the former Pacific Mills in Lawrence and at Western Electric, later AT&T, in North Andover, from where he retired.

Otto was a longtime member of the Lawrence YMCA.

The widower of his high school sweetheart, Bertha (Knops) Medelinskas, he is survived by his daughters, Ann Sunderland of Methuen, Carol Elliott and her husband James Elliott of Salem, N.H.; a son, George Medelinskas and his wife Ginger of Haverhill. He is also survived by his sister, Pauline Grenda of Lawrence; eight grandchildren, Mark Elliott of Coventry, R.I., Kimberly Elliott of Auburn, N.H., Todd Elliott of Andover, Kami Elliott of Hudson, N.H., Jill Coughlin of Wakefield, Tracey Delano of Methuen, Christopher Medelinskas of Oakland, Calif., and Sarah Medelinskas of Oakland, Calif. He is also survived by seven great-grandchildren, Tyler Elliott, Colin and Kyle Elliott, Brendan and Abigail Coughlin, and Callie and Carter Delano.

Otto's family extends their heartfelt thanks to all the staff and the administration at Nevins Centre for the wonderful care and kindness given to him during his stay.

**ARRANGEMENTS:** A funeral service will be held Tuesday at 11 a.m. at the Bole Memorial-Baron-McAuliffe-Yameen Funeral Home, 184 Jackson St., Lawrence. Burial will follow in the Immaculate Conception Cemetery, Lawrence. Relatives and friends may call Monday, March 3 from 6 to 8 p.m. and Tuesday from 9 to 11 a.m. at the funeral home. 978-686-0386. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Resident Activities Section at Nevins Nursing and Rehab. Centre, 10 Ingalls Court, Methuen, MA 01844.

## Ernest J. Neaves, 81

ANDOVER — Ernest J. Neaves, of Andover, died Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2008 at the Lawrence General Hospital. He was 81.

Mr. Neaves was born in Boston on Aug. 19, 1926. He was the son of the late Ernest and Sarah (McIntyre) Neaves. He was a graduate of Northeastern University in Boston and an Army Veteran of World War II. He was employed as a mechanical engineer for Boston Edison for 40 years, and also spent 10 years working at the former Resco Power Plant in North Andover.

He is survived by his wife, Alice (Keohane) Neaves; two sons, Christopher Neaves and his wife Cathryn of Andover and Mark Neaves and his wife Nancy of San Juan Capistrano, Calif.; one daughter, Katherine Kingsley and her

husband Eric of Westford. Mr. Neaves is also survived by three grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. He was father of the late Gerald Neaves and brother of the late Marian Halligan.

**ARRANGEMENTS:** Funeral from the Burke-Magliozi Funeral Home, 390 North Main St., Andover, Monday, March 3 at 9 a.m. followed by a Mass of Christian burial in St. Augustine's Church, 43 Essex St., Andover at 10 a.m. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend visiting hours on Sunday, March 2 from 3 to 7 p.m. Interment to follow in Spring Grove Cemetery, Andover. Donations may be made to the Jimmy Fund, 44 Binney St., Boston, MA 02115. Arrangements are under the care of the Burke-Magliozi Funeral Home, Andover. For additional information please visit [burkemagliozi.com](http://burkemagliozi.com).

## Edith G. Shportun, 80

CANDIA, N.H. — Edith G. (Sherman) Shportun, 80, of Candia, N.H., formerly of Salem, N.H., died Thursday, Feb. 28, 2008, at her home.

The daughter of the late Elwin and Mabel (Bamber) Sherman, Edith was born in Stoneham. She was educated in Methuen schools.

She was employed as a tax examiner at the Internal Revenue Service Center in Andover, from where she retired. She resided in Salem, N.H. for 35 years, until moving to Candia a year ago.

She was a member of St. George Orthodox Church in Lawrence. She enjoyed being with her family.

She is survived by her husband of 60 years, Alexander Shportun Jr., of Candia; a daughter and her husband, Mary A. and Dwayne A.

Fall of Candia; grandchildren, Theresa M. Collupy and Sara J. Saulnier, both of Candia; two great-grandchildren; a brother, George Sherman of Ft. Worth, Texas; a sister, Dorothy Labreque of Salem, N.H.; and several nieces and nephews.

**ARRANGEMENTS:** A funeral service will be held Monday at 11 a.m. in St. George Orthodox Church, 8 Lowell St., Lawrence. Burial will take place in the spring in United Lebanese Cemetery, Andover. Relatives and friends may call Sunday from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Boles Memorial-Baron-McAuliffe-Yameen Funeral Home, 184 Jackson St., Lawrence (978-686-0386). In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. George Orthodox Church Building Fund, 8 Lowell St., Lawrence, MA 01840.

## Andrew G. Spanos, 80



LOWELL — Andrew G. Spanos, 80, a member of a well-known Greater Lowell family, died Wednesday afternoon, Feb. 27,

2008 at Lowell General Hospital surrounded by his family, after a year long battle with prostate cancer. He was the husband of the late Helen V. (Vergados) Spanos, who died in November, 1998. They had been married for over 46 years at the time of her death.

Born in Lowell, March 5, 1927, the son of the late George and the late Veneta (Sperounis) Spanos, he attended Lowell schools and was a graduate of Lowell Trade High School in 1944.

During World War II, he served in the U.S. Navy as a Seaman Second Class aboard the aircraft carrier USS Midway. He received the World War II Victory Medal and the American Theatre Medal. Previously, he was nationally known for his cable-splicing skills, that provided power through-out the country including Puerto Rico and Cuba.

Andy was a Master Electrician in both Massachusetts and New Hampshire for over 50 years. Until he retired several years ago, he was the owner and operator of A.N.G. Electric Inc. of Lowell for 43 years.

He was a member of the Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church and a member of the Men's Guild at the Church.

He was also a member of the William North Lodge in Lowell, where he earned the 32nd degree Scottish Rites Mason. He was a former member of the Lowell Lodge of Elks.

Andy was an avid sports fan. He was a season ticket holder for 15 years with the Boston Celtics and 30 years with the New England Patriots.

He is survived by a daughter, Andrea H. Carr of Lowell; three sons, George J. "Joe" Spanos and his wife Bethany of Andover, Paul A. Spanos and his wife Susan of Dracut, and Nicholas A. Spanos and his wife Sharon of Lowell; three granddaughters, Samantha Spanos of Dracut, Helena Spanos of Lowell and Destiny Spanos of Andover; three grandsons, James Spanos and his wife Jennifer of Dracut, Nicky Spanos and Andrew Spanos, both of Lowell; a sister, Dorothy Spanos of Dracut; two brothers, James G. Spanos and his wife Theresa of Dracut and Charles G. Spanos of Lowell; a brother-in-law, George Chouprakos of Dracut; and many nieces and nephews. He was also the brother of the late John G. Spanos, Louis G. Spanos, Irene Wojcik, and Ann Desrosters. He was the brother-in-law of the late Pauline Chouprakos, the late Judge Nicholas J. Vergados, the late Carole Spanos, and the late Vasilius and Mary Vergados.

**ARRANGEMENTS:** Friends may call at the O'Donnell Funeral Home, 276 Pawtucket St. at Fletcher from 2 to 9 p.m. Sunday. His funeral will take place from the funeral home Monday at 10 a.m. followed by a funeral service at the Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church at 11 a.m. Burial in the Westlawn Cemetery. Those wishing, may make contributions in his memory to the Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church Mortgage Elimination Fund, Fr. Sarantos Way, Lowell, MA 01854. E-condolence/directions at [www.odonnellfuneralhome.com](http://www.odonnellfuneralhome.com).

Arrangements by funeral directors James F. O'Donnell Jr. and John W. Crane.

## John Thomas, 82



SALEM, N.H. — John Thomas, 82, of Salem, N.H., died Sunday, March 2, 2008 at the Parkland Medical Center, Derry, N.H.

He was born in Lawrence, grew up and was educated in Andover. He was the son of the late Jeroslaw and Amelia Tomasczewski. He was a resident of Salem for the past 52 years, formerly of Andover.

Mr. Thomas owned and operated New England Ceramic Supply Company in Salem, N.H. He was a U.S. Navy veteran, serving during World War II.

He enjoyed bowling, golf, and birdwatching. He mostly enjoyed

working around the home and gardening.

He was predeceased by his wife Dorothy (Ritchie) Thomas. He was also predeceased by a brother Steve Tomaski. He is survived by a daughter: Judy and her husband Michael Brown of Wrightsville, Pa.; and son: Mark Thomas of Salem, N.H.

**ARRANGEMENTS:** Calling hours will be held Wednesday, March 5, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., followed by a funeral service at 2:30 p.m. at the Douglas & Johnson Funeral Home, 214 Main St., Salem, N.H. Burial will follow in Pine Grove Cemetery, Salem. Memorial contributions may be made to: Adventa Cemetery, 1 East Commons Dr., 33, Londonderry, NH 03053. To send a message of condolence to the family, please view the obituary at [www.douglasandjohnson.com](http://www.douglasandjohnson.com).

## Isabelle Davis McSherry, 105

ANDOVER — Isabelle Davis McSherry, 105, died Sunday, March 2, 2008.

Born in New York, Feb. 17, 1903, she and the city grew up together. She threw ticker tape from an office window at the World War II Armistice Day Parade.

She married her childhood sweetheart, Thomas McSherry, in 1925. She witnessed the building of Rockefeller Center, went to the 1939 World's Fair on Long Island and volunteered in Civil Defense drills after Pearl Harbor. In 1943 the family was transferred to Massachusetts with Western Electric.

She moved to Andover in 1950, where she saw many more changes. Her long life was filled with the love of family and friends.

Isabelle is survived by her daughter Jean McSherry DeRosa of Andover, her granddaughter Bonnie DeRosa of Cambridge, two grandsons, Tim DeRosa and his wife Barbara of Las Vegas and Thomas DeRosa of Andover, great-grandchildren, Nicole and Nathan Dee and Rachel DeRosa, all of Las Vegas.

**ARRANGEMENTS:** A funeral service will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 8, 2008 at the Conte Family Funeral Home, 28 Florence St., Andover, MA 01810. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Treatment Advocacy Center (TAC), 200 North Glebe Road, Suite 730, Arlington, VA 22201. For directions to the funeral home or to leave online condolences, please visit [www.contefuneralhomes.com](http://www.contefuneralhomes.com).

## Mary E. Proctor, 80



NORTH ANDOVER — Mary E. (Edward) Proctor, 80, of Port Charlotte, Fla., and North Andover, died Monday, Feb. 25, 2008 at Prescott

House Nursing Center.

Mary was raised in Methuen and graduated from the Stephen Barker Grammar School and Edward Searles High School. She also graduated from the Katharine Gibbs Secretarial School.

Mary was employed for many years in the business office at New England Telephone Company as well as the Internal Revenue Service in Andover.

She was a member of the North Andover Women's Club, the Andover Country Club and the Kingsway Country Club in Florida.

Mary is survived by her husband Howard Proctor of Florida

and North Andover, her two daughters, Joan Proctor of North Andover and Plymouth, and Nancy Allbee and her husband Ken of Methuen. Also among her survivors are her grandchildren, Michael Allbee and his wife Kelly of Newmarket, N.H. and Kristen Allbee of Haverhill. She is also survived by her great-grandson, Thomas Allbee.

**ARRANGEMENTS:** A funeral Mass will be offered on Saturday, March 1, 2008 at noon at St. Michael's Church. Burial will follow in West Parish Cemetery in Andover. Family and friends may call on Saturday from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Dewhurst and Conte Funeral Home, 17 Third St., North Andover. Memorial contributions may be made to either Merrimack Valley Hospice, Hospice House Fund, 360 Merrimack St., Bldg. 9, Lawrence, MA 01843; or The American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22718, Oklahoma City, OK 73123-1718. For directions or to leave online condolences, please visit [www.contefuneralhomes.com](http://www.contefuneralhomes.com).

## RELIGION

Open house with the Rev. Jeanne Harrison Nieuwejaar: Reverend Jeanne Harrison Nieuwejaar, religious educator and author of "The Gift of Faith: Tending the Spiritual Lives

of Children," will speak about the importance of nurturing our children's spiritual growth on March 8 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6 Locke St. There will be ample question and answer period. For more information, call 978-475-4454.

Corned beef and cabbage supper on March 15 from 5 to 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall at West Parish Church, 129 Reservation Road. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 children. For more information, call 978-475-3528.

West Parish Church presents the "Save Our Planet" film festival every Friday during Lent, now through March 14, at 7 p.m., 129 Reservation Road. A free offering will be collected for the benefit of the World Wildlife Fund. All events are sponsored by the Christian Education Ministry of West Parish Church.

## Unitarian Universalist Congregation

"Five Wishes" program on March 6 at 7:30 p.m. with Diane Blake, Bereavements Counselor at Merrimack Valley Hospice. The program will feature a short video and a presentation on the Five Wishes program and share the document that helps you express how you want to be treated if you are seriously ill and unable to speak for yourself. Free and open to the public. For more information, call 978-475-4454.

Community Potluck on March 7 at 6:30 p.m. There will be a 7 p.m. showing of the family film "Darshan, the Embrace." Free and open to the public.

Open house and talk with Reverend Jeanne Harrison Nieuwejaar, Educator and Author of "The Gift of Faith: Tending the Spiritual Lives of Children" on March 8 from 1 to 4 p.m. The talk

will take place at 1:30 p.m. Free and open to the public.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation is located at 6 Locke St., Andover. For more information on any program or event above, call 978-475-4454.

## Temple Emanuel

Special abbreviated "TOT Shabbat" Sabbath service for toddlers, preschool and school aged children on March 14 at 5 p.m. The service will be followed by a Shabbat Dinner at 5:30 p.m. Reservations are required for the dinner. This event is open to the public.

Williams College a Capella group "The Elizabethans" will perform at the Sabbath Eve service on March 21 at 6:30 p.m. This service is open to the public. Refreshments of wine and cheese will be served prior to the service at 6 p.m. A traditional Oneg Shabbat will follow the service.

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# Education

## BOOK REVIEW

### Parallels with Bible give another level to 'Jacob'

By MARI MIYACHI  
WHAT'S UP CONTRIBUTOR

"Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated." So goes the Bible verse from Romans 9:13, referencing the twin sons of Isaac, Jacob and Esau. Since Esau is the firstborn, he is entitled to lead the family after Isaac's death. But Jacob eventually prevails over his brother, and when Esau attempts to kill Jacob out of jealousy, he is killed by the bow of Jacob. And while the bloodline of Esau eventually died out, Jacob's sons became the prodigious Twelve Tribes of Israel.

Similar is the story of twin sisters Sara Louise and Caroline Bradshaw in "Jacob Have I Loved" by Katherine Paterson. From their birth, Sara Louise, or "Wheeze" as her sister derogatorily nick-names her, feels cast aside and ignored by her parents, who constantly dote on angelic Caroline. In the story, set on the isolated Rass Island in the Chesapeake Bay during the 1940s, Louise lives in the shadow of the perfect, beautiful, and talented Caroline. As Louise grows up, she rebels from the femininity of her sister by helping her father on their fishing boat, the Portia Sue. She befriends the pudgy adolescent Call and the village outcast known as "The Captain." But Caroline, as she does with everything else, manages to take away even the friends and dreams Louise holds closest to her heart. As the two progress to adulthood, Louise struggles to discover who she is and what she wants to be, which ultimately allows her to become her own person apart from Caroline's glow.

For anyone who has siblings, younger, older or twin, "Jacob Have I Loved" hits a familiar note. Sibling rivalry is certainly a prevalent issue in families, but beyond that, this novel is domi-

nated by Louise's sense that Caroline has been entitled to success and love. But it is how Louise overcomes this sense and realizes her own self-worth that makes this book such an uplifting story. Having self-confidence and gaining control over one's life is especially important to pre-teens, who during middle school endure a huge amount of social upheaval and instability.

I would give this book an 8 out of 10. Paterson creates fabulously deep characters, and develops many aspects of the Bradshaw family and the other inhabitants of Rass Island that bring the book to life. More interesting still is the constant biblical connection: Louise is the first born, like Esau, and also shares a very close bond to her father, Truitt, as Esau was favored by his father, Isaac. And as Jacob fled his homeland to the house of Laban, Caroline leaves Rass Island and lonely Louise behind. The biblical references do not end there, however, and much enjoyment can come from comparing Paterson's own story to that of Jacob and Esau's.

While "Jacob Have I Loved" was written with a younger reader in mind, the story and the moral are useful to children and teenagers alike. Being second best and living in the shadow on someone else, whether that person is a sibling, a classmate, or even a parent, is an almost universal experience. As Louise discovers, the strength to overcome this obstacle cannot be found by changing who you are or changing those around you, but by knowing yourself and finding satisfaction in yourself. That is a message everyone can appreciate.

\*\*\*  
Mari Miyachi is an Andover resident and student at Phillips Academy reviewing books for young adults.

## Marketing club back with bang

### 10 students head to state competition

By BRIAN MESSENGER  
STAFF WRITER

The return of the DECA Club — a club for students interested in marketing and business — has been both a swift and successful one at Andover High School. Students in the club have done well enough that 10 will compete in a statewide marketing challenge next week.

The club, available to students enrolled in either marketing or entrepreneurship classes, was cut several years ago, but returned to the high school this fall under the guidance of first-year AHS business technology teacher and club co-advisor Shelagh St. Laurent and the high school's television production and business teacher, Joe Spanos.

"When I got here I was really excited to bring it back," said St. Laurent. "I think Andover's really taken to DECA well. It's just a starting point. For such a big school, it's only going to take off. The kids are really excited."

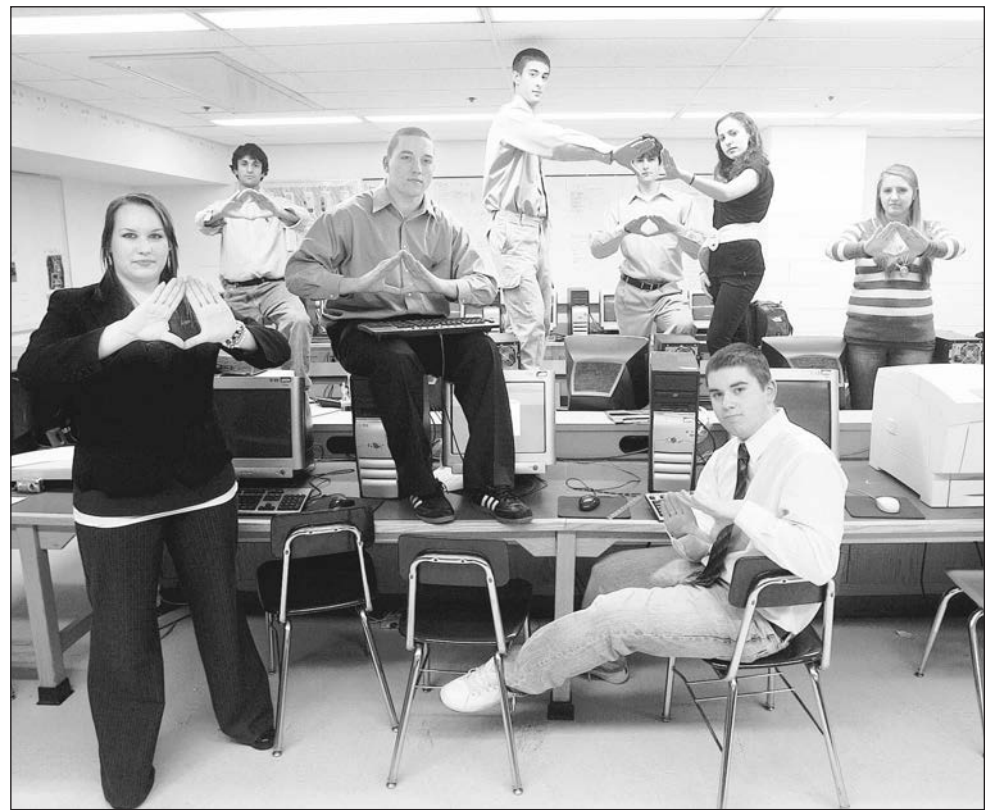
Worldwide, more than 185,000 students participate in DECA Inc.-related organizations, which help promote young peoples' interest in marketing, management and entrepreneurship, according to DECA.org. More than 2,000 students participate in DECA clubs across Massachusetts, according to the Web site.

In the DECA Club's first year back at Andover High School, it sent 17 town students to a district-wide competition, facing off against more than a dozen area high schools, St. Laurent said.

At DECA competitions students choose a category such as accounting or food-service management. They then take a 100-question multiple-choice marketing exam and are given a case study and 10 minutes of preparation. Finally, students give a presentation to business professionals, proposing a solution to the case study.

"That's probably the most stressful part," said Michael Primes, 17, an Andover High School senior, who chose sports and entertainment marketing as his category. "I was in charge of a theme park and essentially getting local high schoolers to work for me that summer."

After the students' tests were graded and



ROGER DARRIGRAND/Staff photo

Andover High School marketing club, DECA, show the DECA sign at Andover High School. The club will compete in Boston next week for the state marketing tournament. From left, Ashley Saffer, 17, Pawan Dewani, 17, Michael Morander, 18, Michael Primes, 17, Andrew Speen, 17, Elizabeth Tverskoy, 16, Greg Joyce, 16, and Jen Angell.

their presentations judged at the district competition, the top seven students in each category advanced to the state competition, where a similar format will be followed in Boston between March 12-14.

Winners of the state competition will move to the national level in Atlanta, scheduled for the last week in April.

"I think there's a really good chance that a couple of them could move on," said St. Laurent.

Two of the 10 Andover High students going to the state competition, Elizabeth Tverskoy and Andrew Speen, opted to participate in a written DECA competition.

They will bring a 30-page research paper that they wrote with them to Boston and present a restaurant business plan.

"Basically, it's a restaurant concept that combines elements of the past, present and future together to attract a wide audience," said Speen, 17, a junior. "The best of both worlds."

In researching the paper, Speen said he learned a lot about target markets and business finance.

"That was pretty complicated," said Speen. "That was a big part of it."

St. Laurent said an additional aspect of DECA is getting students involved in the business community, which Speen and Tverskoy were able to do while researching their paper.

"They worked really hard on it," said St. Laurent. "They did a lot of behind-the-scenes work, talking to business owners. They did a lot of research."

Primes, who plans to major in business in college, said he is optimistic about his chances in the statewide competition. The competitions have given him a taste of the real business world and what is expected of him, he said.

"It definitely is intimidating because you're in front of local business owners," said Primes. "You don't know what they're going to be asking you."

## Reading Representative



Courtesy photo

Congresswoman Niki Tsongas reads to students at Sanborn Elementary School on Monday morning.

## High school hosts photo exhibit of families with gay members

By BRIAN MESSENGER  
STAFF WRITER

A photo exhibit showcasing families with gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender members was expected to attract the attention of a diverse sampling of high school classes and the public beginning yesterday.

A student group, the Andover High School Gay-Straight Alliance, made a 20-photo exhibit called "Love Makes a Family" available to the school and greater community. The exhibit also includes first-person narratives and quotations from people depicted in the predominantly black-and-white photos.

"Just to see it — it's one thing to be accepting and it's another to realize that there's not much to accept," said Zach, an Andover High student and member of the Gay-Straight Alliance. "When you see this you get a sense that it's really normal, that there's no real difference between families."

It is the policy of the Andover

High School Gay-Straight Alliance not to reveal the last names or ages of its members. The policy started several years ago, when a high school student's home was vandalized after being identified in a local newspaper, according to club co-adviser and high school science teacher Deb Burch.

The traveling exhibit, which has been displayed at schools and businesses across the country, came to Andover High School once before, more than 10 years ago, Burch said.

"I think a lot has changed," said Burch, noting that it has been years since any notable incident of homophobia-related harassment has occurred at the school. "Across the board in Massachusetts, it has been a lot more open and accepting."

Burch said she planned to show the exhibit to her bio-ethics class. Students will use the notes they take this week when learning about sexual orientation and bioethical questions later in the semester, she said.

Also expected to view the ex-

hibit are "a huge number" of health, English, photography and social studies classes, she said.

When it comes to gay and lesbian students, Ani, a member of the Gay-Straight Alliance, said there is a general feeling of acceptance at the high school.

"It's kind of like the difference of nationality," said Ani. "I'm Italian and my friend is German. It's not a big deal."

Ani said students and residents could benefit from viewing the exhibit.

"It's just really cool to see all these families," said Ani. "It's a really, really great exhibit. It can be really helpful to see those things because you may not know someone who has gay or lesbian family members. It's really worth taking the time to see it while it's here."

"The point is to see, indeed as the title says, 'Love makes a family,'" said Burch. "They are varied tremendously and it is indeed united by love. The narratives are powerful, first-person stories."

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# Sports

## Andover's Drew impressive in only season as starter

Andover goalie Nick Drew drops to his knees to stop a puck during the Christmas tournament. Drew and his 1.40 goals-against average earned Merrimack Valley Conference/Dual County League Division 1 Player of the Year honors.



JARROD THOMPSON/Staff photo

By DAVID WILLIS  
STAFF WRITER

WOBURN — Despite the result Sunday evening, Andover's players were still quick to skate onto the ice and congratulate their goalie, Nick Drew, on his outstanding performance.

"Nicky played incredible," said Andover captain John Hyslip. "He kept us in this game and kept us in this season. He was amazing."

Drew recorded 26 saves through regulation and overtime and stopped four out of five skaters in the shootout in the Golden Warriors' 2-1 loss to Austin Prep in the second round of the Division 1 North tournament.

But the result did not dampen what was a breakout season for the goaltender.

### THE NICK DREW FILE

**Position:** Goalie

**On the ice:** In only season as Andover starter, the senior recorded a 1.40 goals-against average and four shutouts in 20 starts. He received the MVC/DCL Division 1 Player of the Year award.

**Homecoming:** Spent the first two years of his high school career at Central Catholic before making the decision with his family to transfer to Andover High last year.

"You can't say enough about the job Nick did for us this season," said Andover coach Mario Martiniello. "He's been our backbone all year and he gave us every-

thing we could ask of a goalie."

In his only year as a starter, Drew led the Golden Warriors to a 13-4-4 record and took home the Merrimack Valley Conference/Dual County League Division 1 Player of the Year honors.

"Coach Martiniello came to me before the Malden Catholic game and told me I had won the award," he said. "The guys definitely gave me a hard time about it, especially coach. It was all in fun though."

But Drew was almost never a Golden Warrior. He spent the first two years of his high school career as a goalie for Central Catholic.

"My grandfather (Bill DeLuca) does a lot with the Central Catholic community and it seemed like something new," he re-

Please see **DREW**, Page 18

## Andover advances to finals

### Hughes, Fantini lift Warriors over Lowell

By DAVE DYER  
STAFF WRITER

METHUEN — The third time may be a charm, but it was Andover's inside game that lifted it to a convincing 44-34 victory over a flustered Lowell team Tuesday night in a much-anticipated Division 1 North semifinal.

The Golden Warriors (21-3), who fell to Lowell in the semis the last two years, beat the Red Raiders at their own game, right around the basket, as well as all other facets of the game.

As a result, they advance to Saturday's 5:45 p.m. sectional championship game against archrival Central Catholic at the Tsongas Arena.

Led by seniors Lauren Hughes (12 points, 12 rebounds) and Camille Fantini (12 points, 11 rebounds), the Warriors more than controlled the paint against a taller Lowell team that features 6-foot-3 Whitney Wilson (7 points) and her 6-1 twin sister Brianna (4 points).

Meanwhile, Laura Renfro and friends more than neutralized Lowell point guard Ashley Rivera, holding the 1,000-point scorer to an extremely quiet 10 points on 4-of-18 shooting from the floor.

Renfro, for the third time this year, put the clamps on Rivera but, on this night, it was the inside play of Fantini and Hughes that made the difference.

The Wilson twin towers only got five shots off in the first half with only two of them connecting.

Fantini was an energetic dynamo from



ROGER DARRIGRAND/Staff photo

Andover players erupt in celebration after downing Lowell in the Division 1 North semifinals on Tuesday. The Golden Warriors will face archrival Central Catholic on Saturday in the North finals.

the start and had eight of her points in the first quarter. In the frame, the Warriors forced six turnovers, allowed Lowell to get off only nine shots and zoomed to a 14-7 lead.

At halftime, the inside duo — neither of whom are taller than 5-9 — combined for 15 points as the Warriors held a 23-15 advantage.

"Camille and Laura played their hearts out and I'm so proud of them," said Andover coach Jim Tildsley. "They really did a job on their big girls."

The Warriors extended their lead to 34-20 after the third quarter and seemed to have the game locked up.

But eight straight points brought Lowell within seven, 35-28, with three minutes remaining. However, Meghan Thomann (10 points) hit a back-breaking 3-pointer at the 2:56 mark.

Andover will now set its sights on Central and red-hot 6-2 sophomore Katie Zenevitch.

It will be another challenge for the undersized Warriors.

### Andover 44, Lowell 34

#### Division 1 North semifinal

**Lowell (34):** Kara Rogers 0-2-2, Ashley Rivera 4-2-10, Cavanaugh 4-2-11, Brianna Wilson 2-0-4, Maggie Wallace 0-0-0, Molly Desmond 0-0-0, Cara Shaugnessy 0-0-0, Whitney Wilson 3-1-7, Tess Cigliano 0-0-0. Totals 13-7-34

**Andover (44):** Natalie Gomez-Martinez 2-1-6, Meghan Thomann 3-1-10, Ilana Cohen 0-2-2, Lauren Hughes 2-8-12, Kelly Driscoll 0-0-0, Laura Renfro 0-2-2, Camille Fantini 4-1-12. Totals 11-15-44

**3-pointers:** L — Cavanaugh; A — Gomez-Martinez, Thomann 3, Fantini 3

**Lowell (19-3):** 7 8 5 14 — 34

**Andover (21-3):** 14 9 11 10 — 44

**Next round:** Division 1 North Final

Saturday, 5:45 p.m., at Tsongas Arena

Andover vs. Central Catholic

### ► Roundup

## 'Sky's the limit' for McConnell

### BOYS TRACK

Before heading into the city, Andover sprinters coach (and fifth-grade teacher) Scott Price brought Chris McConnell into his classroom. There, the 16-year-old signed autographs for the grade schoolers, who figured they were in the presence of a celebrity.

"He's well thought of by the kids in Andover," said Price, one of the top sprinters in UMass history with a 21.46 200-meter clocking in 1998. "The sky's the limit for Chris McConnell."

McConnell, a sophomore, finished third in the 55-meter dash (6.48) at the New England Indoor Track Championships on Friday.

"At the end of the day, the fact that a sophomore is running in the 6.40s is remarkable," Price said. "It's kind of scary to think about how good he's going to be if he puts the effort in."

The Massachusetts Division 1 champ was the top finisher from the Bay State, but failed to reach his personal best of 6.42 he notched last week. He plans on competing at the National Scholastic Indoor Championships March 14-16 at the Armory Track and Field Center in New York City.

"It keeps the fire blowing for next year," Andover coach Peter Comeau said.

And in the spring, Price said, "We expect him to steal 30 bases (in baseball)."

Please see **ROUNDUP**, Page 18

## McLaughlin dynasty entering its final days

### Last of legendary hoops family not ready to close chapter just yet

By DAVID WILLIS  
STAFF WRITER

Few area families have accomplished as much on the basketball court as the McLaughlin family of Andover.

But whenever this season comes to an end for the Holy Cross women's basketball team, it will put a close to the storied McLaughlin hoops tradition.

"My parents haven't really talked to me about it ending," said Ashley McLaughlin. "I don't know if they think it will be too emotional."

Ashley is the youngest of three siblings, also consisted of brothers Tommy and Corry, that made their indelible mark on Andover High basketball lore.

She is currently a senior forward for Holy Cross (17-12), a team that is headed into the Patriot League tournament starting March 8. If the Crusaders are to win that tournament, they would make their second straight trip to the NCAA Division 1 tournament.

"It would just be the best to go out in the tournament," she said. "I can't imagine a better way to end my career than to win the Patriot League and make the tournament."

"Last year we played Duke. It was such a great atmosphere. You see all the hype on TV, but when you get there it is such an amazing atmosphere that I will always remember. There is nothing like it."

The 6-foot-1 senior has started all 29 games for Holy Cross. She is second on the team

with 4.0 rebounds per game, and is a stand-out defender on the low post.

But success on the hardwood began long before she donned the Purple and White of the Crusaders.

McLaughlin was a four-year varsity player for Andover High and a two-time Eagle-Tribune All-Star. Her senior season, 2003-04, she averaged 14.2 points per game and was Eagle-Tribune Player of the Year and an All-Scholastic.

She was also a key member of the team her junior season that won the Division 1 state championship over Minnechaug on a buzzer-beater by Samantha Hughes.

"Seeing Hughes hit that shot was an amazing feeling," she said. "All those girls on the team were so close."

For her career, she totaled 1,150 points. That still ranks her second all-time in scoring for Andover girls basketball, behind Charlotte Muller (1,616).

"She plays down low now but she played on the wing for me," said Andover basketball coach Jim Tildsley. "She was a slasher as an offensive player and was not afraid to put the ball on the floor. She was also one of the best defensive players I have ever had. She blocked shots and covered the other team's best player."

McLaughlin's success in basketball followed a tradition in her family. Her father, Tom, a native of Bronx, N.Y., played Division

Please see **MCLAUGHLIN**, Page 18

### THE ASHLEY MCLAUGHLIN FILE



**Sport:** Basketball  
**Position:** Forward  
**School:** Holy Cross  
**High School:** Ranks second in Andover High history with 1,150

points, and stood out for Golden Warriors that won 2002-03 Division 1 state championship. All-Scholastic her senior year. Also stood out in volleyball.

**College:** A four-year varsity player and three-year starter at forward for Holy Cross. Is second on the team in rebounding with 4.0 rebounds per game.

**Family:** Father Tom played at Tennessee and UMass Amherst. Brother Corry played for Andover High and Vermont. Brother Tommy set a then-Andover High record with 1,564 points in only three years. He went on to play at William and Mary and Princeton.



Courtesy photo

Ashley McLaughlin, left, handles the ball for Holy Cross. The former Andover High star has carved out a role as a low-post player for the Crusaders.



# MCLAUGHLIN: Brothers' lessons pay off as player looks to NCAA finals

Continued from Page 17

1 basketball at Tennessee and UMass Amherst.

Her oldest brother, Corry McLaughlin, excelled for the Golden Warriors from 1993-97. The 6-foot-8 center then began his college career at Fordham before transferring to Vermont. He excelled as a student-athlete, making the America East Academic Honor Roll four straight years, and was a two-year captain as a key player off the bench. He recently moved out to California to work in business.

Tommy McLaughlin then followed, and earned the nickname Tommy Gunn for his scoring exploits. In only three years, he scored a then-school record 1,564 points. He missed his entire senior

season with a knee injury. Tommy went on to play at William and Mary and Princeton. He currently works for Morgan Stanley Financial in New York City.

"I learned to play basketball with my brothers and my dad," Ashley said. "I learned my post moves from Corry and to flash and go to the hoop like Tommy. "We would go out and shoot every day in the summer. And we played with no fouls and they were rough on me. That's where I gained my toughness."

That toughness has become McLaughlin's trademark during her time at Holy Cross. The four-year varsity player has started 83 of a possible 87 games over the past three years. She played in 31 as games a freshman and earned Patriot League All-Rookie Team

honors. "I take a lot of pride that I went to such a great school," said McLaughlin, who verbally committed to Holy Cross as a sophomore. "I wouldn't change a thing for the world. I love the team, and this is such a great school. I have had a great experience here."

The Crusaders must win three games in the Patriot League tournament. If they do, they would return to the NCAA tournament.

She hopes that is the case, because she isn't ready for her career to come to a close.

"It is so weird," she said. "It is a little bitter sweet because it is my senior year. Basketball will always be a part of my life, and it is going to be very different not having a game or having to get up and go to practice every day."

# DREW: Grew up with Golden Warriors

Continued from Page 17

membered, "I loved the program and coach (Mike) Jankowski was great. I don't regret it."

But before his junior year, his family came to him with an idea.

"They brought up the idea of going to Andover High," said Drew, who cited the strain of commuting as a major issue. "At first I was reluctant. But my brother and the more I talked to my friends about it, the more I fell in love with the idea of going back to Andover. I grew up with all the guys on the (Andover) hockey team."

And the Golden Warriors have

## Austin Prep 2, Andover 1 (Shootout)

**Division 1 North Quarterfinal**  
Goals: A — Rik Retelle; AP — Dave McDonald, Dan Ellis  
Assists: A — John Hyslop; AP — Brandon Hartt, Carl Titcomb  
Saves: A — Nick Drew 26; AP — Rob Pappagianopoulos 20  
Austin Prep (13-4-5): 1-0-0-0-1-2  
Andover (13-4-4): 1-0-0-0-0-1

benefited in a big way from his return.

After a year as a backup, Drew started 20 of 21 games for Andover this year, recording a whopping 1.40 goals-against average and four shutouts. He allowed more than two goals in a game on-

ly twice, and held opponents to only one goal eight times.

"I definitely exceeded my expectations," said Drew. "All I wanted to do was go in and help win games. I didn't think I would win an (MVP) award in my first year as a starter."

Drew, who began playing hockey at age 2 and goaltending at age 8, plans to continue his playing career next season. He hopes to do a post-grad year at the Tilton School in Tilton, N.H.

"I just love playing goalie," he said. "It's a lot of pressure, but that's what makes the position even more fun. I like that I am the last line of defense."

# ROUNDUP:

Continued from Page 17

## GIRLS TRACK

### Warrior relays impress, again

The Andover girls followed up their championship in the Division 1 All-State meet with another stellar showing at the New England Indoor Track Championships.

The Andover quartet of Vanessa Singleton, Kayley Pettoruto, Laura Cody and Colleen Shannon took second in the 4x400 (4:00.37). Melissa Knapp, Christina Muccio, Emily Shields and Singleton took third in the 4x200 (1:45.42).

## GIRLS HOCKEY

### Andover girls suffer same fate as boys

Andover allowed the tying goal with less than a minute to go in regulation, and like the Andover boys a day earlier, came up short in the shootout and fell to Woburn 3-2 in the Division 1 quarterfinals on Sunday.

The Golden Warriors (13-7-1) opened the scoring just three minutes in, when Sarah Oteri received a pass from Katie Shields and slid it underneath a sprawling Rebecca Papa. But Woburn struck back quickly, scoring less than a minute later.

Andover retook the lead when Heather Paonessa found a streaking Nicole Giroux in the neutral

## BOYS BASKETBALL

### Despite Shannon's efforts, Andover bows out

Despite 19 points from Tristian Shannon, Andover fell 53-44 to Lynn Classical in the preliminary round of the Division 1 North tournament last Tuesday. Derrick Beasley added 11 points for the Golden Warriors, who finished the season 11-12.

## Boys Basketball

### Division 1 North Preliminary Round

Andover (44): Kevin Potanco 0 2-2, Derrick Beasley 5 1-0-2, Tristian Shannon 8 3-3-19, Zach Burck 5 1-0-2, Greg Cook 1 1-2-3, Josh Torres 1 0-0-2, Chris Abreu 1 0-1-2, Sam Hutchins 1 0-0-3, D.J. Fazio 0 0-0-0, Peter White 0 0-0-0, Totals 18 7-12-44  
Classical (53): Quivan Jackson 4 3-4-13, Luis Ayala 0 1-2-1, Jarell Byrd 6 3-4-16, Jasper Grassa 5 2-2-14, Kyle Smith 0 1-2-1, Cameron Smith 1 2-4-4, Tony Johnson 2 0-2-4, Totals 18 12-20-53  
3-pointers: A — Hutchins; LC — Jackson 2, Byrd, Grassa 2  
Andover (11-12): 13 12 613 — 44  
Lynn Classical (14-9): 15 14 816 — 53

## Boys Hockey

### Woburn 3, Andover 2 (shootout)

**Division 1 Quarterfinal**  
Woburn (15-5-3): 1 0 1 0 1 — 3  
Andover (13-7-1): 1 1 0 0 0 — 2  
Goals: A — Sarah Oteri, Nicole Giroux  
Assists: A — Katie Shields, Heather Paonessa  
Saves: W — Rebecca Papa 23; A — Megan Pettoruto 28

## Girls Hockey

### Woburn 3, Andover 2 (shootout)

**Division 1 Quarterfinal**  
Woburn (15-5-3): 1 0 1 0 1 — 3  
Andover (13-7-1): 1 1 0 0 0 — 2  
Goals: A — Sarah Oteri, Nicole Giroux  
Assists: A — Katie Shields, Heather Paonessa  
Saves: W — Rebecca Papa 23; A — Megan Pettoruto 28

## Boys Track

### Boys New England Track Championships

at Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center  
Andover Placer:  
55 meters: 3. Chris McConnell 6.48

## Girls Track

### Girls New England Track Championships

at Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center  
Andover Placer:  
4x400: 2. Andover (Vanessa Singleton, Kayley Pettoruto, Laura Cody, Shannon), 4:00.37; 4x200: 3. Andover (Melissa Knapp, Christina Muccio, Emily Shields, Singleton), 1:45.42

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# 2-10

## Announcements

### 3A Lost & Found

FOUND 2 Original Paintings of Joan Crawford by famed artist Roy Lichtenstein and many other personal items. Found Downtown North Salem, MA. Call (323) 354-4385

FOUND BRACELET Sweet Winkley St., #29208. Call (978) 857-1459

FOUND CAT, all black, short haired with big green eyes, about 1 year old, in Chunksy's Parking lot in Haverhill. Call (978) 764-4593

FOUND CAT black & orange, So. Lawrence. Call to describe (978) 683-3271

FOUND CAT: domestic short haired female, multi-color about 6 mos old. Very friendly. Ryol side area in Beverly. (978) 395-5456

FOUND CAT in Amesbury on Rt. 110, short haired brown tabby female adult cat, very sweet disposition. Call MRFRS for more info on "Margie", 978-462-0760.

FOUND GOLD BANGLE BRACELET At Rogers Center parking lot, Merrimack College. Call (978) 474-0704

FOUND in Plaistow on Chandler Ave. 209. DVDs & cases on side of road, perhaps fell off the roof of your car?? Call to identify before 8pm (603) 382-2329

FOUND: Large set of keys, vicinity of Reynard Street, Gloucester, Sunday afternoon, March 2nd. 978-283-8307

FOUND, necklace on Friend Street in Gloucester, has pendant & initial. Call (978) 283-5922

FOUND, Older wedding band, very simple, found in local second hand store in Haverhill. Call (978) 373-9872

FOUND radio controlled plane crashed into Merrimack River on 218. Waited for owner to retrieve. Call to identify (978) 463-1724

FOUND: Shih Tzu, 02/27, Woodland Rd., Beverly, MA. Call Animal Services to claim or adopt, (978) 921-4000, ext. 2361.

LOST: Black Cat with patch of white on belly, very friendly. Vicinity of Crosby St., Haverhill. Missing since Feb. 3. Please call (978) 373-2781

LOST Cat, 5 yr old male orange tiger "Mayer" escapes from Brimbal Ave., Sun. afternoon. REWARD IF FOUND. Kelly 857-222-5437

LOST: Cat 9 mo. old maine coon all black, male, thursday night (Feb. 28th) in Dunkin Donuts parking lot Rte 111 off Exit 3 Windham NH. Please call (978) 974-0606

LOST CAT, all black, short hair with hazel eyes, almost 7 years old, "Wolfe" very friendly. From Webb & Myrtle St. Methuen, MA area. (978) 683-3342

LOST CAT, black male, 2.5 years old, neutered, 8 lbs. Congress St. Amesbury area. His name is Bear. Family misses him. 978-388-1676

LOST CAT, black & white female, all white underside, white paws & nose, since Jan. 29th from Riverdale, Gloucester area. (978) 287-3769

LOST CAT, black & white, fluffy, about 7 mos. old, Female. Around 19th Ave/Primmose St., Haverhill. 978-837-8685

LOST CAT, large black male. Riverside Haverhill area. Answers to "Bill". 11 years old. Broken canine teeth. (978) 521-5614

LOST CAT, Loop area, Methuen, grey/white male with 1 ear. Reward. (978) 682-4376

LOST CAT, male, 3 years old, all white with light blue eyes, very little orange on the ears & tail, little cross eyed, answers to "Didi" from the Presidential Dr., Bradford MA area. (978) 377-0548.

LOST: CATS IN VICINITY OF Reservoir Rd., Gloucester, MA, any sightings call Felina Rescue of Cape Ann (978) 282-1837

LOST Cell Phone in Salem, Vicinity of Mandy's Pizzeria. Gray, Razor phone. Thank you. Call mike 978-535-4450

LOST DOG, 21/08, 4th Ave., Haverhill, Jack Russell Mix. Small, white & dark brown/black. Tan nail collar. call Kristen 978-423-2900

LOST DOG, black lab mix, puppy 10 lbs., all black with white spot on chest, vicinity of Groveland St., Lynn. (781) 592-9116

LOST: DOG BOXER, Brindle with white patch on chest/black spots, pink collar. cut tail. Lost in Dog Town on Van. 2/18 (978) 281-3057

LOST: Elderly female black lab near Walls Ford, Salisbury on 2/13. Call (978) 462-8973

LOST: Gold chain and small diamond pendant, sentimental value, missing since Jan. 31st. Vicinity Gloucester YMCA. Reward. 978-281-0195

LOST KEYS, (1) blue key with patriots logo & (1) Toyota key with remote on 29. Possibly in Methuen, Lawrence or Lowell! MA. L/or Windham or Kingston NH. 978-423-1563

LOST - Man's silver diamond ring, Show's parking lot Salem, NH. Very sentimental. Reward. (978) 682-6050

LOST - Mink jacket From Tom Shea's Restaurant in Essex MA Thurs. 2/21. Very special to me. Great sentimental value. REWARD. Please call (978) 526-7878

LOST: 20 lbs. all black with white spot on chest, vicinity of Groveland St., Lynn. (781) 592-9116

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## 3A Lost & Found

LOST: November 29th Salem Family Probate court. Salem, MA. Black backpack pocketbook, includes important family info & papers. Reward 978-852-9411

LOST: Pitbull, female, chocolate/white, chocolate catch right eye, natural ears, white paws, chest, white tipped tail, red nose. \$\$ Reward \$5. 801-814-4082.

LOST SET OF CAR KEYS Horizon Restaurant, 6 Rogers St., Gloucester. 2/15 about 7pm. Please call Jed (978) 879-9501

LOST Silver bracelet with heart, club, diamond & spade. Macy's in Saugus or Christmas Tree Shop. REWARD. Lisa (978) 531-3974

LOST WATCH, woman's Tag Heuer, professional steel, white face. Reward. Thank you. 978-468-0155.

LOST WATCH, woman's Tag Heuer, professional steel, white face. Reward. Thank you. 978-468-0155.

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HAVERHILL - Park St., 4 rooms 2 bedroom, 2nd floor. No dogs. Off street parking. Laundry in basement \$850+ utilities. 800-898-6466

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MERRIMAC: Newly renovated 2 bedroom, 2nd floor, parking, dishwasher and disposal. No dogs. \$875. + 1st, security. (978) 463-0079

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METHUEN: 2 bedroom 1st floor, nice vally fully appointed, hook ups ample parking. Great location. \$1250 heated. (978) 685-2094

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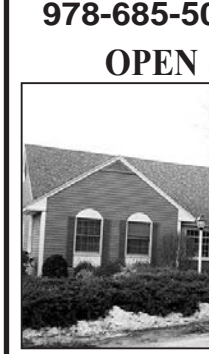
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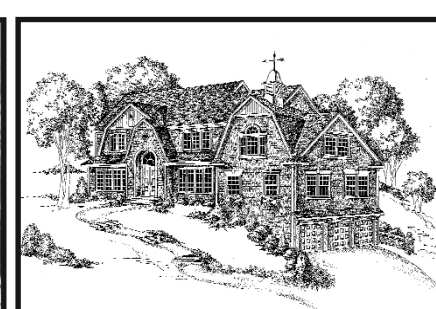
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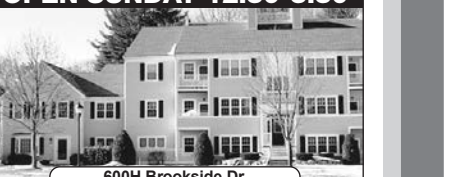
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**ANDOVER - \$599,900**  
Historic Shawsheen Village. Quality built home on an acre lot. Two fireplaces, 2.5 baths, central air, 2-car garage, town services. Nearly 2,500 sq. ft. of living space!  
Ask for Joan Ponti

**ANDOVER - \$610,000**  
Forest View Estates. Beautiful Millstone model built by Pulte. Two-story open foyer, 9' ceilings; gourmet island kitchen opens to FR w/FP; fenced, level lot.  
Ask for Gretchen Papineau

**OPEN SUNDAY 2-4**



**94 Foxhill Rd.**

**NO. ANDOVER - \$669,000**  
Well maintained & extremely private 10 room Tudor home near the Old Center. Seasonal lake views, gorgeous yard with heated pool, partially finished lower level! **New Price!**  
Ask for Kristen Hart



**ANDOVER - \$699,900**  
Ten plus room Colonial on lovely treed lot in commuter friendly, treed neighborhood. Four-five bedrooms, 3.5 baths, sun room, sun porch w/cathedral ceiling, and finished lower level.  
Ask for Janet Meyer

**LOWELL - \$775,000**  
Historic Sarah Francis Mansion c. 1895. Fully restored Belvidere 15 room Colonial Revival. Graceful elegance, sun-filled 3-story grand foyer. Beautifully landscaped. English gardens, gazebo. Buildable lot included.  
Call 978-851-3731

**OPEN SUNDAY 1-3**



**2 Doyle Cir.**

**ANDOVER - \$969,000**  
Loaded 11 room Colonial with 4,500 sq. ft. on over 2+ acres of land. Five plus bedrooms, 4.5 baths, central air and vacuum, sprinkler & security system. Cul-de-sac location.  
Ask for Kathy Tarro

**LOWELL - \$1,199,000**  
Spectacular 22 room Victorian w/original details & views from Belvidere Hill. Too many upgrades & features to list! Third floor renovated & restored. C/A on 2nd & 3rd flrs. Three story carriage house w/stable.  
Call 978-851-3731

**ANDOVER - \$1,750,000**  
Andover Country Club near-new Colonial with 7,100 sq. ft. of living space. Every amenity and feature in 11 oversized rooms. 4.5 baths with marble, C/A, 2 MBR suites, 3 FP's, 3-car garage.  
Ask for Gretchen Papineau

**JUST LISTED!**



**ANDOVER - \$1,750,000**  
Andover Country Club near-new Colonial with 7,100 sq. ft. of living space. Every amenity and feature in 11 oversized rooms. 4.5 baths with marble, C/A, 2 MBR suites, 3 FP's, 3-car garage.  
Ask for Gretchen Papineau

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THURSDAY	THU. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly sunny	Partly cloudy	Turning out cloudy	Rain possible	Partly sunny; colder	Partly sunny	Partly sunny	Mostly cloudy
<b>High: 48°</b>	<b>Low: 25°</b>	<b>High: 49°</b> <b>Low: 31°</b>	<b>High: 35°</b> <b>Low: 23°</b>	<b>High: 29°</b> <b>Low: 12°</b>	<b>High: 34°</b> <b>Low: 16°</b>	<b>High: 38°</b> <b>Low: 25°</b>	<b>High: 42°</b> <b>Low: 27°</b>

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**TOWN TALK**

**Hot dog, it's Jennifer!**

Andover's famous hot dog man now includes customers from Hollywood.

Dan Cowan of Methuen, who parks his hotdog stand outside Old Town Hall on Main Street when the weather is good, has a small part in a Jennifer Garner upcoming movie, "The Ghosts of Girlfriends Past." The movie was filmed in Boston and Ipswich.

In Cowan's scene, Garner's character buys a hotdog, gets mustard on her face, and has her photograph taken by Matthew McConaughey's character.

Cowan is not sure if his hotdog-serving scene will make the cut, but he said Mrs. Ben Affleck likes hotdogs. After the shoot, she ordered one with mustard only.

— Judy Wakefield



Don Cowan, owner of Brian's Father's Hot Dog stand, says he sold Jennifer Garner a hot dog after filming a scene with the movie star.

per story. That story was sent to her hometown friend, Ann Lux of Hidden Road. Lux dropped off the story to the Townsman. She said Elmer is best known in swimming circles around town because she was a regular at the YMCA and was once featured in a newspaper story about senior swimmers.

— Judy Wakefield

**Published at 90**

One is never too old to write a book. Cathleen Burns Elmer, the former resident of the Rose Cottage on Central Street (across from St. Augustine School), proves it. Elmer, 90, has just released her self-published book, "Bicentennial Bliss."

The new author left Andover for Texas in 2000 to be closer to her orthopedic surgeon son, Edward Elmer. She wrote the book from her nursing home apartment and was featured in a recent newspa-

**Andover skaters pack one, two punch**

On Feb. 1, Andover residents Anne Thompson and Ally Bruce participated in the Figure Skating Competition at Bay State Games

in Williamstown. Ally placed first in the juvenile girls free skate group, while Ann placed second. Taking third place was Katrina Katsoulis of Methuen. All the girls represented Colonial Figure Skating Club in Acton.

**Keep invasive plants at bay**

The Andover Village Improvement Society invites residents to its annual dinner meeting on Tuesday, March 11, featuring invasive species specialist Sylvan Kaufman, curator of the Adkins Arboretum. Invasive plant species are a hot



Katrina Katsoulis, left, of Methuen and Ally Bruce, center, and Anne Thompson, both of Andover, participated in the figure skating competition at Bay State Games in Williamstown.

topic on both public and private lands. National Forest Service officials have declared invasive species the No. 2 challenge on national lands, "and even in backyard gardens, these obstinate invaders can overrun ornamental plants and destroy wildlife food and habitat resources," according to information from AVIS. Kaufman has written an essential resource book to help aid in the understanding of plant invasions, their causes, and the changes these plants make in natural areas, said AVIS. She and her father, Wallace Kaufman, wrote "Invasive Plants: Guide to

**DALTON MOVES**

Bill Dalton's column has moved to the Townspeople section. Be sure to look for it there in future issues.

Identification and the Impacts and Control of North American Species," the first-ever comprehensive field guide to North American invasive plants.

"We want this book to be a resource for people who might not know much about plants, but who want to learn about invasive plants in their region and why they are a problem. Whether you're a homeowner, landscaper, or just love the outdoors, it's a great book because it contains very useful information presented in a readable, non-technical way," said Kaufman.

The dinner and presentation will be at the Andover Country Club at 6 p.m. Tickets for the dinner are \$30 per person, but the presentation is free to the public. For information and tickets, call Libby Poland at 978-475-6159.

**Vigil for peace marks five years in Iraq**

Merrimack Valley People for Peace is holding a 7 to 8 p.m. candlelight vigil for peace in front of the Andover Old Town Hall on Wednesday, March 19, the obser-

vance of the anniversary of five years of war in Iraq. Organizers said, "The vigil is a witness to pursue peace, bring the troops home and end the war. Let your light shine and bring friends, families, neighbors, churches."

For information, contact the Rev. Jim Todd at 978-687-7864.

**Presidency conference at Mass. School of Law**

Fascinated by FDR? Confused by Coolidge? Enamored with Eisenhower?

As the nation gets ready to elect our next commander in chief, the Massachusetts School of Law at Andover has a two-day conference on the U.S. presidency planned for next month.

Political scientists from around the country will speak and debate what makes a president fail or succeed at "Chasing Success or Court-ting Failure: An In-Depth Look at the Attributes an American President Must Possess for Success" on April 26 and 27. The conference will focus on the White House in the post-Civil War era through current day, with an emphasis on the administrations of Franklin Roosevelt and his successors.

For more information or to sign up, call the school at 978-681-0800 or e-mail Jeff Demers at demers@mslaw.edu.

— Bethany Bray

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