

INSIDE: A MUSICAL WITH GREEN EGGS, PINK BOAS AND A THING OR 2

OUR 121ST YEAR

Andover Townsman

Issue No. 28 24 pages

MARCH 12, 2009

75 CENTS



New smoking ban: Not a whiff of opposition

By BETHANY BRAY
STAFF WRITER

Not a single Andover resident or business owner came to Monday's Board of Health meeting to express an opinion on allowing smoking at outdoor seating at downtown restaurants and cafes.

The lack of feedback on the

issue in itself sends a message, agreed Board of Health members Candace Martin, Peggy Kruse and Donald Miller, who indicated that barring significant feedback in the near future they expect to ban smoking at outdoor dining areas.

"The people have spoken very loudly," by way of their disinterest, indicating the issue is a non-

issue, said Miller.

Prior to the March 9 meeting, the board had received just one written letter and two phone calls — all in favor of banning smoking at outdoor seating areas.

"My conclusion is that there isn't concern on the part of restaurant owners (that a smoking ban would hurt business),"

said Kruse.

Sam Petrovich, owner of Dylan's Restaurant on Park Street, has a few tables set up outside his establishment on private property. He will not put tables on the sidewalk, he said, because he could not serve alcohol on public property.

Petrovich did not attend Monday's Board of Health meeting,

but said he has allowed smoking in his outdoor dining area in the past, and has never had any problems or complaints. Smokers have always been courteous, said Petrovich, waiting for other diners to finish their meal or stepping away from the tables for a cigarette.

"Outside, I don't see the harm in it," said Petrovich.

The board is accepting comments from the public about smoking at outdoor dining areas until March 20. Unless members receive "an onslaught" of feedback before the deadline, said Tom Carbone, director of public health, they plan on voting on the issue

Please see SMOKING, Page 2

Decision time nears on AHS principal

By BETHANY BRAY
STAFF WRITER

The three finalists for the Andover High School principal position have been visiting the school this week and Superintendent Claudia Bach says she hopes to decide who the next leader will be by early next week.

The three finalists — Jonathan Harris, a Chelmsford native currently working in the Austin, Texas, public schools; Philip Conrad, assistant principal at Hamilton-Wenham High School; and Brian Salzer, principal of Newton South High School — have been talking with students, staff and parents at "meet the candidate" forums. Bach has conducted one-on-one interviews and observed them each on the job in their current schools.

Bach and Candace Hall, Andover's director of human resources, will continue checking the candidates' references through the end of this week. Bach said she will read all of the remarks AHS parents, students and staff have

Please see PRINCIPAL, Page 5

For more on the candidates for principal, andovertownsman.com

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Hindu home rises



Dr. Gopala Dwarakanath, the director of the Chinmaya Maruti center, talks about the second- and third-floor expansion project. The Andover center, 1 Union St., is the only Chinmaya Mission in New England.

Worship and education center starts \$3.5 million addition

By BETHANY BRAY
STAFF WRITER

Visitors to the Chinmaya Maruti center on Route 28 will soon be able to climb more than spiritual heights.

The Hindu worship and education center, the only Chinmaya Mission in New England, is in the middle of a \$3.5 million construction project that will add two floors. It will also more than double the center's size, adding 13 classrooms, a 275-capacity auditorium, apartments for religious leaders and a copper-plated dome and steeple.

They knew it was time to expand when close to 400 children in religious education classes were meeting in hallways and even in two unfinished restrooms, converted to makeshift classrooms, said Chinmaya member and Andover resident Gopala Dwarakanath.



This is an artist's rendering of the proposed finished product, slated to be completed in July.

"I am excited because the building is going to be beautiful. But the philosophy is equally beautiful, of tolerance, understanding and multiple beliefs living together — something the world needs right now," said Desh Deshpande, the center's chairman.

Construction on the addition began in September 2008, and donations have been coming in, despite the economic downturn. The organization continues to raise money and took out a loan to finance the endeavor.

"Every member has contributed to their limit. That's

the most gratifying thing. They've stretched themselves to give to the maximum," said Dwarakanath. "Overall we're glad we started (despite the economy). We're constantly facing challenges, but somehow, by God's grace, things fall together. We truly believe we are instruments in his hands."

Through the fall and winter, Chinmaya's classes and meetings have been held at Greater Lawrence Technical High School on River Road.

Members had hoped to build the second and third floors when the center was originally constructed six years ago, but cut back after Sept. 11, 2001, and the resulting recession.

The back wall of the second-floor auditorium will be all windows, modeled after the Kennedy Library, said

Please see CHINMAYA, Page 2

Leaders take 1% cut, look for union match

By BETHANY BRAY
STAFF WRITER

After volunteering to take a 1 percent pay cut in fiscal year 2010, Andover's nine town department heads met with union leaders Tuesday morning, March 10, encouraging town employees to do the same.

"By and large, the unions understand what's going on out there in the economy, and in people's lives. They understand they need to be part of the solution," said Assistant Town Manager Steven Bucuzzo. "No one wants to lose money, no one wants to do these types of things. But the point is that we're doing it to try and save positions in the town, avoiding layoffs of the people we work with."

The town's operating budget currently has a \$874,000 deficit projected for next year, FY2010; the 1 percent cut from the nine department heads totals \$11,372. The pay cut is a verbal agreement, but will be formalized in writing soon, said Bucuzzo.

"They stepped right up, on voluntary basis. They're leaders every day, but they're leaders when push comes to shove and we have to solve this budget personnel problem," said Town Manager Buzz Stapeczynski. "It's a multifaceted problem, and requires a multifaceted solution ... As I'm designing our recovery program, we need to have less employees going into the future than we have now, on both the school and town side."

On the school side, Superintendent Claudia Bach said pay decreases are one of many options school personnel are looking at to save money.

"We thought it would be a good gesture for the leaders of departments to take a leadership role, and try to be part of the solution instead of part of the problem," said Fire Chief Michael Mansfield. "We all felt, collectively, that it was the best thing we could do to show

Please see CUT, Page 5

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PAST & PRESENT



THEN: Downtown Main Street in the 1950s with parking meters, big street lights and tailfins on the cars.



THEN: Downtown Main Street looking north at the intersection of Chestnut Street.

■ NEWS CALENDAR

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

Bancroft School Improvement Council, Bancroft Elementary School, 8 a.m.

Council on Aging, School Administration Building, third-floor conference room, 8 a.m.

Triad, Andover Senior Center, 36 Bartlet St., 9:30 a.m.

Greater Lawrence Sanitary District CSO phase II planning subcommittee, 240 Charles St., North Andover, 6:30 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 16

Board of Selectmen, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., third-floor conference room, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

Main Street Committee, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., second-floor conference room, 8 a.m.

Conservation Commission,

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

Board of Assessors, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., Assessors Conference Room, 9 a.m.

Patriotic Holiday Committee CANCELED (was at 7 p.m.)

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

MONDAY, MARCH 23

Tri-board meeting of Selectmen, Finance Committee and School Committee, School Administration Building, School Committee room, 7 p.m.

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Service Club hosts candidates forum March 16

The Service Club of Andover will host its 2009 Candidates Forum on Monday, March 16 at the Andover Country Club. Breakfast will be served at 7 a.m. with the forum to begin at 7:30 and conclude by 9 a.m. The five candidates for the two seats on the School Committee and the three candidates for the two seats for selectmen will all attend. This event is open to the public. To make a reservation, call Brad Heim @ 978-376-3178 or e-mail bradheim@verizon.net or e-mail Tony James at tjamesbw@comcast.net. The Service Club of Andover is a group of business people and residents of Andover whose primary mission is to "Make a Difference" in the lives of youth and developmentally disabled people in the Merrimack Valley. Meetings are held monthly at the Andover

Country Club at 7 for breakfast. Guests and new members are always welcome.

League forum March 18

The League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover will host its candidates forum on Wednesday, March 18, at 7 p.m., at Memorial Hall Library. It allows residents an opportunity to meet and question the candidates in advance of the March 24 election.

The three candidates for the Board of Selectmen and the five candidates for the school committee will make opening statements and respond to questions from the audience.

The forum is free and open to the public. The event will be televised live and rebroadcast on cable. For more information, contact Peggy Kruse, 978-474-0176.

QUOTE, UNQUOTE ...

“People get really, really interested when they find out what I do. Most women want me to hypnotize their husbands to become neater.”

Jim Spinnato, a hypnotist who will be performing in the Andover Youth Services show this Friday at Old Town Hall. For a story on the show, see Arts, page 6. For more from Spinnato, visit andovertownsman.com.

“It looks good, smells good and it will make you feel good.”

Joyce Bakshi of the upcoming BLOOMS! flower show in Boston, organized with the help of Andover residents. See story, page 4.

Clean energy focus at Andover houses of worship

A Massachusetts nonprofit interfaith organization is bringing faith and electricity together, through a four-part lecture series in Andover focused on renewable energy.

Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light offered the first lecture Tuesday night at Temple Emanuel. It featured Edward Krapels, founder of the Ambar Northeast Transmission Development Co., who spoke about the need for

transmission to help incorporate renewable energy into the power grid. He spoke about his project, the Green Line, which would connect wind energy in Maine to a substation in Boston via a 140-mile subsea power cable in the Atlantic Ocean.

Krapels' was only the first in the four-part series that will include discussions on oil reserves, climate change and solar energy over the next three Tuesdays, all starting

at 7:30 p.m. in Andover houses of worship. The rest of the lineup of public free discussions includes:

■ “Are We Running Out of Oil? Peak Oil, Climate Change & Renewable Energy” with Dick Lawrence, co-founder of the Association for the Study of Peak Oil, on March 17 at the West Parish Church, UCC, 129 Reservation Road;

■ “How Will Climate Change Affect Andover? Making a

Difference with Renewable Energy,” with John H. Rogers, energy analyst, Union of Concerned Scientists, on March 24 at Andover Baptist Church, corner of Central and Essex streets; and

■ “Can Solar Technology Lower Your Energy Costs?” with Scott McClintock of Nexamp Inc., on March 31, at South Church, UCC, 41 Central St.

For more on the lectures visit andovertownsman.com.

■ NEWS IN BRIEF

Forum considers wise spending of tax money

The League of Women Voters of Andover and North Andover and the Service Club of Andover will co-sponsor a public forum on Thursday, March 26, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at Memorial Hall Library on the town budget, tough times and tough choices.

Andover is facing a huge budget deficit and hard decisions regarding where taxes need to be spent. In an effort to provide information to help voters make these important decisions, the League of Women Voters of Andover and North Andover has teamed up with the Service Club of Andover to co-sponsor this public forum.

The forum will include members of the finance committee, Board of Selectmen, and school committee, plus Town Manager Buzz Stapeczynski and School Superintendent Claudia Bach and will be moderated by Peggy Kruse from the League of Women Voters.

Interested townspeople are welcome to attend to learn of

the challenges that are being addressed and the progress that has been made to date. This is a great chance to ask questions of the town leaders and voice concerns and suggestions. Since town meeting has been moved to late May, there is still time to have some input into the budget process.

If you can't attend but have a question you would like to ask, e-mail it to: presidentLWVANA@lww-andovers.org.

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

Help create dog park in West Andover

Andover residents interested in being part of the steering committee for the newly planned Andover Dog Park at Bald Hill in West Andover are asked to come to a meeting of park organizers at the Andover Police Department on April 2, 7 p.m.

The group is looking for volunteers to head some committees.

Sister-town meeting

Andover Sister Towns Association invites the public to attend a meeting to be held at the Andover Historical Society on Saturday, March 21, at 2 p.m. Its mission is to promote good will, mutual understanding, and friendship between Andover/North Andover, and other Andover communities in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom.

The program committee and the exchange committee will share ideas for meetings, events and trips for the coming year.

Several fun events are planned throughout the year in anticipation of hosting a group of visitors from Andover, England in 2010 for a cultural exchange, according to organizers.

Everyone is encouraged to bring their own ideas as prizes will be awarded for the best program suggestions, they said. Refreshments will be served and new members are welcome to join.

For more information, contact Joan Conroy at 978-475-5476.

Candlelight peace vigil planned for downtown

Merrimack Valley People for Peace will have a candlelight peace vigil in front of Old Town Hall, 20 Main St., on Thursday, March 19, from 7 to 8 p.m. Scheduled during the week of the sixth anniversary of the invasion of Iraq, “this vigil is another opportunity to witness on behalf of all victims of war and occupation, and to voice hopes for a more peaceful world,” according to organizers.

Participants are encouraged to bring and light candles to express nonviolent resistance to current United States policy.

Merrimack Valley People for Peace is a nonprofit educational organization founded in 1984 that advocates for peace, justice and the environment. The group meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month at First United Methodist Church in North Andover at the intersection of Routes 114 and 133.

For additional information about Merrimack Valley People for peace: www.merrimackvalley-peopleforpeace.org .

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4 Thursday, March 12, 2009 THE TOWNSMAN

MCAS: Boon or distraction? Schools candidates at odds

The League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover posed its annual question to the five candidates for School Committee. This year, the League asked: In your opinion, are the MCAS tests a boon or a distraction to Andover students? If you could change one thing about the MCAS, what would you change?

The candidates' responses:

David Birnbach


David Birnbach
The MCAS tests are an important benchmark for how our students are performing, compared to other school systems. While not perfect, they give parents and teachers a valuable snapshot of student competency in English Language Arts and Mathematics. These test scores help our schools course-correct where necessary, and provide teachers with an important tool to gauge how well our students are learning the course material.

We need accountability in our

schools and these tests are an important tool, but they shouldn't be the only tool used to measure student achievement. Whether or not MCAS can be changed, it's important that we develop tests that accurately measure other important life skills, such as complex problem-solving ability, creativity, and self learning skills (i.e. the ability to learn independently). Our students also need these life skills to successfully compete in our increasingly competitive global economy.

Paula Colby-Clements


Paula Colby-Clements
Overall, I would say a boon. The test is a standardized tool that allows us to measure competency in core subjects. Despite the stress and anxiety it may provoke, in the end it's really just another test. A test that asks straightforward questions about core subjects students should master

before advancing. In fact, due to the excellent performance of many AHS students, they have received generous scholarships to state universities that might otherwise not have been available to them. What needs to be changed is the amount of time and resources spent teaching to the exam. It might be better to give students prep courses on the psychodynamics of test taking, offered during study hall periods or after school, to help them master those skills.

Annie Gilbert


Annie Gilbert
There is no question MCAS is a distraction, given the enormous amount of time spent preparing for and administering the exams, analyzing the results, and devising interventions for the following year. If I could change one thing, it would be to retrieve the time lost to other classroom pursuits during this

annual cycle, and I look forward to when we can implement technology that allows us to assess student progress towards curriculum benchmarks continuously — and with more rapid feedback — than MCAS allows. However, we need some way of measuring the education we provide, and MCAS requires us to define the skills our students need, align curriculum to those skills, and regularly monitor our performance against them.

As flawed as it is, we need the kind of feedback MCAS currently provides — so long as we remember that the test is one small measure of what it means to be well-educated.


Arthur Barber
Massachusetts' "frameworks" drive each district's learning goals and objectives. The MCAS were developed to assess how well a district was addressing

these goals and objectives by measuring students' knowledge. The MCAS are a natural progression, where the students are taught and their knowledge is assessed. MCAS are important to both the district and students. Low scores drive analysis of teaching materials, instruction, etc., and help determine appropriate changes. High scores reinforce a job well done.

The challenge occurs when students are not taught with frameworks in mind, but are taught to respond to a test. This disconnect stresses both students and staff and wastes instructional time. This is not the case in Andover. Our scores, while solid, could always improve, thus the value of feedback.

If possible, I would lessen the pressure to perform and increase the feeling that the MCAS is a simply one of many assessment tools.

Diane McCarron

Andover students traditionally perform well on MCAS tests so the tests serve as a benefit for our students. Principals and teachers are able to



Diane McCarron

utilize MCAS results to identify areas of weakness and then work to improve upon these areas. At the elementary level this year, areas for improvement included

open response questions and certain math areas. Andover has talented teachers who easily incorporate lessons to improve these skills. The changes complement, and do not disrupt their regular lesson plans. Issues with teaching focused on MCAS testing tend to arise more often in towns where there are underperforming schools that feel additional pressure by the MCAS system. If I could change one thing about MCAS it would be to provide a limited exception to the 10th-grade English and math MCAS requirement for high school graduation when this requirement effectively serves to forever bar a particular student from graduation.

Forum: Give youth the air space they need in college

Are you a helicopter parent? Find out when Parent to Parent presents its last speaker event for the school year on March 19 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at Memorial Hall Library. Susan Alexander will discuss ways that parents can "let go" when their children head off to college, as part of an event dubbed "Are You a Helicopter Parent?"

In today's world, parents tend to micromanage their children from afar, according to organizers. This does not teach responsibility; it is actually detrimental to developing life skills.

Alexander, dean of students at Wheaton College in Norton, has a longstanding interest in helping children and adolescents realize their full potential. At Wheaton, she developed an approach to working with students and their families that recognized and incorporated the generational shift in higher education to the

Andover residents help put spring in step with BLOOMS!

By WILL EWING
WHAT'S UP CONTRIBUTOR

If you're having a hard time believing spring is right around the corner, The Massachusetts Horticultural Society has just the event for you. This weekend it will throw its first ever BLOOMS! event in Boston, with the help of some Andover gardening experts. For three days, the lobbies of Boston's One International Place, 125 High St. and the InterContinental Boston will host all sorts of arrangements to remind the public that spring is on the way. "It looks good, smells good and it will make you feel good," says Joyce Bakshi of Hidden Road about the upcoming event. Bakshi is the former president of the Andover Garden Club, and has participated in flower shows for the past 15 years. She will enter a flower display and also judge

some participants' entries. BLOOMS! will take the place of the New England Flower Show, which ended after 136 years, due to financial troubles.

"It's a true grassroots effort to keep flowers coming to Boston in March," said Bakshi. She and a handful of other Andover residents are just a few of the hundreds working behind the scenes and in the competitions to help keep the tradition of welcoming spring with a flower show. BLOOMS! will take place from March 13 to 15 in the three locations abutting the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway. It offers flower arrangements, hands-on activities and a guest lecturer. This event is free, parking is \$9.

Flower and landscape exhibits also will be displayed at Simon mall properties Thursday, March 12, through Sunday, March 22. For more information, visit www.simon.com.

POLICE LOG

ARRESTS

Tuesday, March 3 — At 2:34 p.m., Nancy A. Puchtler, 40, of 23 Peter Road, North Reading, was arrested and charged with driving with a revoked registration and an uninsured vehicle trailer.

At 9:13 p.m., James E. Wilson, 53, of 25 Harrison St. Apt. E, Roslindale, was arrested and charged on warrants for driving an uninsured vehicle with a suspended registration.

Wednesday, March 4 — At 12:55 p.m., Jeffrey D. Ivers, 30, of 117 North Main St., was arrested and charged on warrants for defacing property, possession of burglarious tools, possession of marijuana and being present where heroin is kept.

Thursday, March 5 — At 9:17 p.m., Ronald D. Bellmore, 52, of 25 B Burnham St., Nashua, N.H., was arrested and charged on warrants for speeding and license revoked as a habitual traffic offender.

At 9:51 p.m., Lenny K.

Pichardo, 32, of 20 Turnpike Ave., North Andover, was arrested and charged with possession of a class B substance, with intent to distribute.

At 10:18 p.m., Charis A. Hubbard, 19, of 680 Ashburnham Hill Road, Fitchburg, was arrested and charged on warrants for larceny of a credit card and improper use of a credit card over \$250.

Friday, March 6 — At 11:48 a.m., Charles R. McKinnon, 35, of 30 Hampshire Circle, Methuen, was arrested and charged on a warrant for driving with a suspended registration.

At 10:51 p.m., Marion Lopez, 23, of 36 Tower Hill St., Lawrence, was arrested and charged with driving without a license.

Saturday, March 7 — At 1:28 p.m., Derek Parrella, 25, of 1 Worsted St., Franklin, was arrested and charged with driving with a suspended license, as well as on warrants for defacing property and larceny over \$250.

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Grand jury proceeding continues in teen's death

BY JUDY WAKEFIELD
STAFF WRITER

The grand jury investigation continues into the death of a Wellesley teen who left an overnight gathering on William Street last month.

Even the lawyer representing the Andover teen host said he was "as much in the dark" as everyone else.

John R. Valerio, the Andover

lawyer representing Zachary Zimmerman, 18, said the District Attorney's office "is continuing to investigate the party." As a result, no details about the night, such as whether alcohol was involved, have been released. In addition, results of the autopsy performed on Elizabeth "Lizzie" Mun, 16, of Wellesley, have not been released.

Mun was found unresponsive in Hussey Brook Pond, at 10:40 a.m.

on Sunday, Feb. 15. She had been reported missing by friends gathered at the Zimmerman home at 58 William St., which is located off North Main Street, about four hours earlier. Andover's police log reported that a missing person call came in at 6:50 a.m.

Mun was transported via helicopter to Children's Hospital in Boston from Lawrence General Hospital. A student at Concord Academy, she was pronounced

dead at 5:27 p.m. at Children's Hospital.

"It's a tragedy for the Zimmers as well as the Mun family," Valerio said.

Valerio said the waiting "is a tough situation," but the district attorney's office is simply doing its job.

"It takes as long as it takes," Valerio said.

Steve O'Connell, spokesman for District Attorney Jonathan

Blodgett, said a grand jury meets twice a week regarding the Mun case, on Wednesday and Friday, but he had no comment when asked how much longer the investigation might take.

"Nothing's changed since the grand jury (was called)," said Neil Fagel, the attorney for Zachary Zimmerman's mother, Laurie Zimmerman. Fagel works at Valerio's firm on Main Street.

O'Connell has previously said

there were no parents home at the Zimmerman house the night of the tragedy (Townsmen, Feb. 19). Mun wandered off around 5 a.m. and apparently made her final phone call from her cell phone at 5:27 a.m. With assistance from AT&T, Andover police were able to track her location. Police combed the brick Shawsheen area of town with dogs and a state police helicopter, and eventually found the teen.

CUT: Heads look to union

■ Continued from Page 1

TAKING A PAY CUT:

Police Chief Brian Pattiello, Fire Chief Michael Mansfield, DPW Director Jack Petkus, Plant and Facilities Director Joseph Piantedosi, Finance Director Anthony Torrisi, Library Director James Sutton, Town Clerk Randy Hanson, Town Accountant Rodney Smith and Steven Bucuzzo, assistant town manager

heads have shown, and participate in a program that demonstrates leadership to the community and employees to get us through these tough times."

Besides pay concessions, the town has been looking at leaving positions unfilled after a retirement, consolidating services and jobs, even saving about \$27,000 by shutting off street lights on cul-de-sacs.

"There's no one magic solution to all of this, but the main solution is to reduce the work force, for now and in the future," said Stapeczynski.

Bill Fahey, director of Andover Youth Services, said his division is ready to do whatever it takes to keep programs going. He suggested every town employee take five unpaid days next year.

"We have to, as town employees, look at ourselves and ask what we can do," said Fahey. "You have to give to get. To keep programs going strong, it's going to take (Andover) employees and citizens going hand in hand, doing it together."

"Speaking for our department, we would be willing to do whatever it takes to keep our program going forward. We as a staff donate a lot of time back to town," said Fahey.

Can changing town services save money?

The League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover offered its annual question to Board of Selectmen candidates: **A budget crisis can be considered an opportunity to implement changes. Please choose one or more town services and explain how they could be delivered differently to save the town money.**

At the March 24 election Will English will face incumbents Ted Teichert and Brian Major in the race for two seats.

Here are the candidates' answers:

BRIAN P. MAJOR

11 Odyssey Way



Brian Major

Andover departments participate in many regional initiatives including public safety mutual aid, regional purchasing, and the Merrimack Valley Library Consortium. Regionalization increases the opportunity for federal and state grants, sharing of specialized equipment and training, and implementation

of best practices. We need to continue to seek opportunities to regionalize, consolidate and share service delivery with neighboring communities.

Potential opportunities include: Regional emergency dispatch which will improve emergency response provider selection and reduce operational costs.

Sharing of inspection services with neighboring communities (building, electrical, plumbing, gas, health and sanitarian).

Consolidation of Andover's four IT departments (schools, public safety, library, general government) to standardize infrastructure design, software implementation and computer system purchasing.

Consolidation of Andover's two Finance departments (schools and town) to standardize budget reporting.

Regionalization, consolidation and sharing of resources between communities are important aspects of maximizing service delivery against each tax dollar spent.

WILL ENGLISH

25 Essex St.

As a town we should be looking at departments that can be



Will English

consolidated in order to save money and provide better and more accountable services to our citizens. Our town has already begun looking at combining the town's technology departments. Likewise our town should look at amalgamating the town financial department with the school financial department this new department would make our services both more efficient and centralized. Human services could be combined under one roof and in doing so save administrative and programming costs. We should look at privatizing services that could save significant costs. Our schools are looking at privatizing custodial work why are we not at a town level? Now is the time for our leadership to push department heads to stretch our funds to the maximum. Families are learning to do more with less and it is time for our leadership to follow suit.

TED TEICHERT



Ted Teichert

Privatization, regionalization, consolidations and reductions are opportunities to make changes in all of our departments in which services can be delivered differently. We can save significant dollars by these actions. We should explore privatizing our custodial services (for both town and school), forestry division and the care and maintenance of Spring Grove cemetery. Regionalization - we should be sharing equipment and services with neighboring towns that maximizes savings. The request from DPW for a sewer/flusher truck is one example. Consolidations - exploring all inner department operations to make sure duplication is not taking place. Reductions - reducing the amount of street lights illuminated at night. This must be done with input from our public safety officer and the DPW.

Candidates offer their plans to assist downtown

With several stores downtown closing or facing difficulties we asked the three selectmen candidates what actions they recommend to help the downtown. Our question:

Several businesses in Andover's downtown have closed this year already, most notably Kaps Menswear on March 1. As a selectman, what new ideas do you have and what actions would you take to help the downtown business district remain vibrant?

WILL ENGLISH

We need to recognize we are competing with neighboring towns and tax-free malls to the north. Our town has successfully mobilized the expertise of volunteers in the past and we should do so now by creating

an Economic Development Council to market both our downtown and vacant spaces on the periphery. We need to stop looking at parking only as a revenue source, and create incentives for people to show town pride and buy locally.

TED TEICHERT

I had the experience running a family business, Andover Sport Shop, downtown for years and have been involved with the Andover Business Center Association. The town should help the ABCA in its marketing and promoting the downtown. The selectmen have supported the closing of streets for events and help should be given in using the Town House for events. The

BRIAN MAJOR

Three factors that influence the vibrancy of the downtown are: diversity of store selection, foot traffic and tax rates. For specialty shops to survive, they must have foot traffic and reasonable commercial taxes to enable profitable sales. Last year, I pulled together town employees, business owners, and concerned citizens to create a new bylaw that allows a banner on Main Street to advertise community events. These events will enhance store foot traffic.

Political Advertisement

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made on feedback forms from the meet-the-candidate nights.

In an e-mail to the Townsmen, Bach said she will make an offer by early next week, and announce the news once the candidate accepts.

"I would hope by early next week

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*APY (Annual Percentage Yield) effective 3/2/09. \$500 minimum balance to open and maintain account. With a River Bank checking or money market account, the APY for the 18 month IRA is 2.85%. Early withdrawal penalties may apply. Fees could reduce earnings on the account.

★ ONE OF THE 33 TOP SMALL BANKS IN AMERICA — 2008 SANDLER O'NEILL + PARTNERS SM-ALL STARS ★

6 Thursday, March 12, 2009 THE TOWNSMAN

Arts & Entertainment

EVENTS CALENDAR

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

9/11 MOVIE, "Beyond Belief," the story of how Susan Retik turned her own personal 9/11 tragedy into a journey of personal strength and international reconciliation. Donations from the screening of the film will benefit the Beyond the 11th Project, Retik's non-profit organization that provides support to widows in Afghanistan who have been affected by war, terrorism and oppression. The movie will be shown at 7 p.m., Temple Emanuel, 7 Haggards Pond Road in Andover, open to the public, \$10 donation suggested; film is also being shown Sunday, March 15, at 8:45 a.m. and 11:15 a.m., and Thursday, April 2, at 7 p.m.

BOOK DISCUSSION, "Giants: The Parallel Lives of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln," by John Stauffer. The story tells of two men who dominated 19th century American life – as allies across the racial divide and friends who drew common inspiration from hardscrabble beginnings and love of language. Andover Bookstore, 89 Rear Main St., 7 p.m., 978-475-0143. All are welcome to the free discussion.

LAFFERTY'S WAKE, interactive Irish musical comedy, performed by Acting Out Theatre, Cedar Crest Restaurant, 187 Broadway in Lawrence, dinner package at 6 p.m., 7 p.m. show, 978-794-0001 or e-mail actingouttheater@comcast.net.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

FILM SCREENING, documentary film, "Soul Masters," followed by questions and answers, and soul healing blessing by Master Teacher and Healer Allan Chuck, who appears in the film. The film will be shown 7 to 9 p.m., \$5, Unitarian Congregation, 6 Locke St. in Andover; 978-474-8010, for information call 415-250-9668.

40TH ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY LUNCHEON, at the Claddagh Pub and Restaurant, 399 Canal St. in Lawrence, music by the Silver Spears Band. Special guests include Mairtin Murlleoir, CEO and publisher of the Irish Echo. Celtic Thunder will perform some excerpts from its North American Tour. For more information and reservations, call 603-898-7766.

LAFFERTY'S WAKE, interactive Irish musical comedy, performed by Acting Out Theatre, Knights of Columbus 505 Sutton St. in No. Andover at 7:30 p.m., 978-794-0001 or e-mail actingouttheater@comcast.net.

ST. PATRICK'S PARTY, with Jake and Elena, 2:30 p.m., Marland Place, 15 Stevens St.; 978-475-4225, ext. 110.

ALADDIN JR. OPENS, South Cooperative Theater, over 50 South Elementary School students, grades three, four and five, present its spring musical, 7 p.m., West Middle School Auditorium, 70 Shawsheen Road in Andover, \$8 per person and may be purchased in advance at Bella Beads, Learning Express or at the door; 978-623-8833, ext. 1420. Show will also be performed on Saturday, March 14, at 7 p.m. and on Sunday, March 15, at 1 p.m.

SEUSSICAL, by the South Church Players, 7:30 p.m., South Church in Andover, 41 Central St., tickets are \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door, proceeds benefit Bread and Roses of Lawrence; 978-475-0321. It will also be performed Saturday, March 14, 5:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 15, at 2 p.m.

STORY SWAP, Susan Lenore will host join in the ancient tradition of storytelling, 7 p.m., Andover Bookstore, 89 Rear Main St., 978-475-0143. Free and all are welcome.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

SPRING EXTRAVAGANZA FUNDRAISER, benefits St. Augustine School of Andover, Casa di Fiori, Wilmington, includes hors d'oeuvres, a chocolate fountain, entertainment, live auction with Emcee Matt Noyes, NECN weatherman, raffles and silent auctions. For tickets and information, call Jacqueline Santini at 978-604-8973 or Melanie Eldracher at 978-604-1997.

BEETLES WORKSHOP, the Shawsheen River Watershed Association will be conducting a workshop on how to raise Galerucella (aka PurLoo) beetles for the biological control of the invasive Purple Loosestrife plant within the lower Shawsheen watershed, 10 a.m. to noon, Memorial Hall at the Andover Town Library. You must attend this workshop in order to participate in the project. Contact Suzanne Robert at ShawsheenRiver@comcast.net or 978-475-9016 before March 12.

LIVE MUSIC, with Ellis Paul, 8 p.m., tickets \$20, featuring songs from his entire catalog and previewing new songs. Crossroads Coffeehouse, 3 Great Pond Road in North Andover; 978-687-3960.

IRISH GENEALOGY DAY, 11:30 a.m. at the Lawrence Public Library, Sargent Auditorium, 51 Lawrence St. in Lawrence. Guests include Janice Duffy of TIARRA Irish Genealogy Society who will discuss the Five Steps for Beginners. Activities include lectures on how to begin a genealogy project, resources and assistance; 978-794-5789.

RECEPTION AT LORICA ARTWORKS, 90 Main St. in Andover, 6:30 to 9 p.m. For more information, call 978-470-1829.

TEACHER WORKSHOP, Parker River National Wildlife Refuge will be

Please see CALENDAR, Page 7



KATE GLASS/Staff photos

Erica Nichols as Mayzie and Dan Ryan as Horton will be performing in South Church's production of "Seussical the Musical" this weekend.

Seuss at South Church

Musical takes over sanctuary this weekend

BY JUDY WAKEFIELD
STAFF WRITER

After four "Godspell" performances, it was time for something new at South Church.

But when your stage is so near the altar, there are only so many shows to consider.

"We are pretty limited on what we can perform in the sanctuary of the church," said artistic director Linda Zimmerman of Andover. "This year we were looking for something new, different and kid-friendly with a good message."

Hallelujah, "Seussical" is just that.

Thing 1 and Thing 2 along with several Whos of Whoville and other Dr. Suess characters are taking over the church sanctuary this weekend courtesy of The South Church Players. The drama group has been performing since its first show, "Godspell," in 1987. Since 1994, a big show has been staged faithfully every year, with a short hiatus for building construction, Zimmerman said.

"Seussical" is a music-based show about the works of children's author Dr. Seuss.

"But it is not just a string of his stories set to music. And, it isn't



Emily Stidson, who plays Gertrude in South Church's production of "Seussical," grows a tail as the Bird Girls, Laurie Sorota, who plays Cat in the Hat, and Sadie Reppucci, who plays Thing 1, gasp.

list includes Gertrude McFuzz, Circus McGurkus and Horton.

"Many of these characters never met one another before. But they meet in our musical. In the course of the story, some will fall in love, some will have desperate adventures and some will save the world," Zimmerman said.

She said at least 15 of the popular Dr. Suess series of books and many of the author's best-loved and most familiar characters will be featured in the show. The list of stories include "The Cat in the Hat," "Green Eggs and Ham," "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas" and "Yertle the Turtle." The character

just one of his stories. It is a totally new, full-length book musical, with a story which weaves together his most famous tales and characters in unexpected ways," Zimmerman said.

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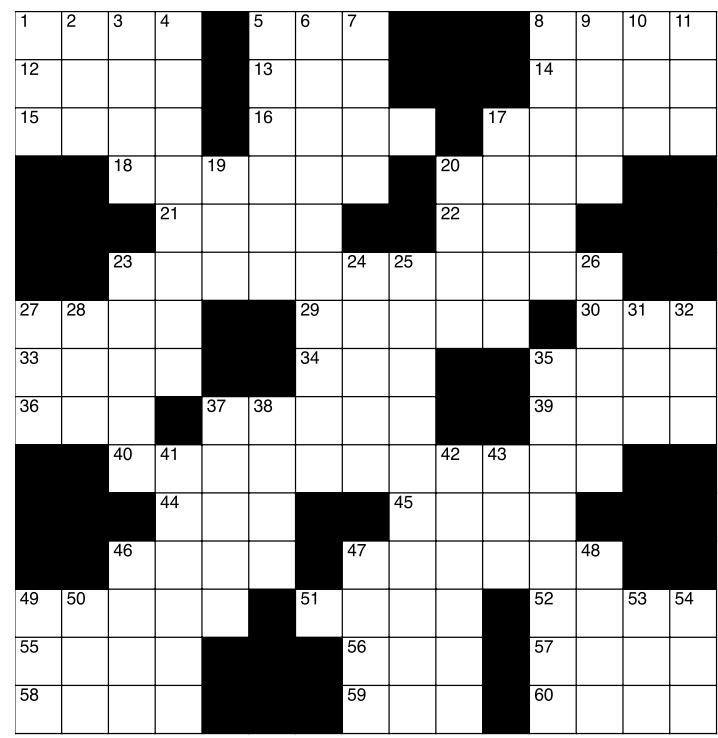
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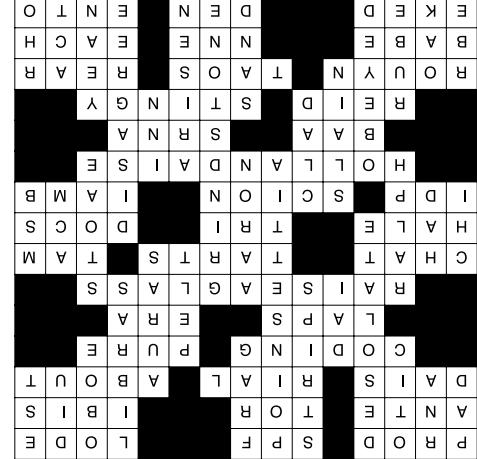
Crossword puzzle

**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Poke at
5. Sunscreen rating
8. Deposit of valuable ore
12. Initial poker stake
13. Hill (Celtic)
14. Wood stork genus
15. Raised speaker's platform
16. Yemen monetary unit
17. Around
18. Encryption
20. Not contaminated
21. 2 or more lengths of a pool
22. Epoch
23. Toast
27. Chew the fat
29. Fruit filled pastries
30. Woolen Scottish cap
33. Am. Revolutionary Nathan
34. Denotes three
35. Medieval men
36. Integrated data processing
37. Descendent
39. Unstressed-stressed syllables
40. Eggs benedict sauce
44. The cry made by sheep
45. Soluble ribonucleic acid
46. Senate leader Harry
47. Unwilling to spend
49. Noranda, Quebec city
51. 87571
52. A hind part
55. Baseball's Ruth
56. Point midway between N and NE
57. Considered individually
58. Made a supply last by scrimping
59. Lair
60. mology: insect studies

CLUES DOWN

1. Water lily leaf
2. Ribonucleic acid
3. Near the ear
4. Make lonely
5. Bares
6. Christmas plant
7. rance: perfume
8. Those born under 7th sign
9. Woodwind instrument
10. Territory of Daman and ___
11. Common N.Y. time (abbr.)
17. Halos
19. Thai variant
20. Furry animal skin

Solution

CALENDAR

■ Continued from Page 6

hosting a workshop, "Let's Go Outside!" for area teachers to find out more about terrific field trip opportunities on the refuge. The free workshop will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. at the refuge visitor center, located at 6 Plum Island Turnpike in Newburyport. For information, call Kate Toniolo at 978-465-5753, ext. 210.

PARISI SPEED SCHOOL PERFORMANCE CHALLENGE, go through a series of five performance tests that evaluate sprinting, jumping, change of direction, strength and endurance. Free, open to boys and girls age 7 to 12 at 10 a.m., ages 12 to 18 noon, Cedarvale Fitness Center, Bradford; questions may be directed to Parisi Instructors Dennis Castro at dcastro@cedardale-health.net or Kelli McDonough at kmchdonough@cedardale-health.net.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

AVIS WINTER OUTING, AVIS Vale Reservation, hike or snowshoe wooded trails by the Shawsheen River. From Andover Street in Ballardvale, take Dale Street to the parking area at the end of the dirt road. Led by Maggie Christopher, 603-728-5051, maggie39@localnet.com.

LIVE CHAMBER MUSIC, young musicians from the Symphony Orchestra of the Northshore Youth Symphony Orchestra (NYSO) will perform, Firehouse Center for the Arts in Newburyport, 3 p.m., \$10 Adults, \$8 Students/Seniors/Firehouse Members. Because of the popularity of the programs, advanced tickets are recommended.

LECTURE, Elizabeth Sweeney, Director and

ENTERING ANDOVER by Don Mathias

**MONDAY, MARCH 16**

Curator of the Traditional Irish Music archives at the Burns Library, will discuss some of the special treasures in the collection, free, 1:30 p.m., Lawrence Heritage State Park, 1 Jackson St. in Lawrence; 978-794-1655.

SKATING SHOW, hosted by the Skating Club of Andover at the Valley Forum, Ward Hill Industrial Park, Haverhill, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., with over 120 skaters.

PATRIOTIC CONCERT, The United States Army Field Band and Chorus will perform at the Collins center at 7 p.m. and is hosted by the Patriotic Holiday Committee. For more information, call 978-623-8218.

IRISH FILM FESTIVAL, 11 a.m., Lawrence Heritage State Park, 1 Jackson St. in Lawrence;

978-794-1655.

READING TROUBLE FOR KIDS, discussed with Alison Kamienski, Director of the Lin-damood-Bell Reading and Learning Center in Boston, presented by The Dyslexia Alliance of Merrimack Valley (dyslexiaalliance.blogspot.com) at 6:30 p.m., Tewksbury Public Library, 300 Chandler St. in Tewksbury.

TUESDAY MARCH 17

IRISH MUSIC ALL DAY, the Claddagh Pub and Restaurant, 399 Canal St. in Lawrence; 978-688-8337.

IRISH FILM FESTIVAL, 11 a.m., Lawrence

Please see CALENDAR, Page 8

BALLET: NECB to perform 'Sleeping Beauty'

■ Continued from Page 6

guest, presents a bouquet with a hidden needle to the young princess. The spirited and gracious princess dances with the bouquet in hand until a single prick sends her dancing dizzily under the spell of the Evil Witch Carabosse, who reveals herself as the mysterious guest. Eventually Aurora faints and her family and friends are saddened and shocked to realize that the curse placed upon the infant Aurora on her Christening Day by the Evil Witch Carabosse has come true.

The Lilac Fairy reminds everyone that Aurora is only in a deep slumber awaiting her true love's kiss, and puts everyone under a spell to await the day of the kiss.

A hundred years later, the Lilac Fairy shows handsome young prince Florimund a vision of Aurora in the forest. She leads him to the princess who lies asleep with all her family in slumber around her. He awakens her with a kiss. The ballet finishes with a wedding celebration that their friends, family, court members, fairies and childhood fairytale friends (Bluebird, Red Riding Hood and the Wolf, Puss n'Boots) attend.

NECB says its "new costumes, scenery, choreography and talented dancers from all over the area promise to make this a memorable production."

For more information regarding the ballet, performances, and other information, contact director Phyllis George at the New England Civic Ballet school studios, 978-975-0289.

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8 Thursday, March 12, 2009 THE TOWNSMAN

Emerald Isle radio back for St. Patrick's Day

Andover's Garvey hosts annual show

An Andover resident will celebrate St. Patrick's Day in style again on Tuesday, March 17, with his own radio show, the 23rd anniversary of the Irish Revue.

Radio station WCCM 1110-

AM will carry the show on the air and on the Internet at www.1110wccmam.com, starting at noon.

The show features four hours of Irish traditional music, song,

dance and remembrance, produced by WCCM staff member Bruce Arnold and hosted by Andover native Tom Garvey.

There will be a toll-free number to phone in requests. In

previous years, calls have come from listeners as far away as Ireland, England and Australia, and there was an interview with one of the marching units celebrating the feast of St. Patrick along Fifth Avenue in New York, according to Garvey.

Garvey was recently inducted into the Traditional Irish

Musicians Association Hall of Fame (Comhaltas Ceoltóiri Éireann) at a ceremony in Albany, N.Y., he said. On March 3, at Heritage State Park in Lawrence, he was honored along with Brian O'Donovan of WGBH, Chanel 2 radio, for promoting Irish traditional music over the years.



Staff file photo
Tom Garvey does a radio show on St. Patrick's Day on WCCM.



Clockwise from bottom left:
'Donegal Afternoon,' by Frank Fitzsimons, who paints under the name Franfit, 20x30 oil.



'On the Way,' by Desmond Monroe, 12x12 oil.

Irish beauty on canvas

Lorica Artworks show ushers in spring

Lorica Artworks will usher in the spring with a new exhibit of paintings of Ireland, by Irish and American artists, with an opening reception Friday, March 20, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. featuring live music by the Ceili Band.

Over 40 paintings will be on view at the Main Street gallery, each an interpretation of the Irish landscape as varied in approach as the 16 artists participating, said Mia Guerrera, gallery owner. The show will run from March 20 to April 26. The collection is a celebration of Ireland, a place where the beauty of the land endures in the mind's eye long after it has faded from view.

Guerrera describes the show

in this way: "The title, 'Durable Goods,' is an obvious euphemistic reference. Yet, at the same time it's an entirely fitting description. Art can withstand the tests of both time and man and there's no question that it holds its value. But perhaps more importantly, it has an intrinsic worth that transcends monetary value. Somewhere along the line, as goods became cheaper, technology out-paced itself, and instant gratification became a birth right; planned obsolescence morphed into disposable. Durability was no longer part of the equation. In Ireland, however, a land where vestiges of castles remain standing and ancient rock walls still line the countryside undisturbed,

longevity is not taken lightly. Goods are meant to last, especially now when resources are, as they would say, 'dear.' A painting will never grow old, or go out of style. It will travel with one generation to the next. It's going to hang around for a while...a good long while."

Lorica Artworks is located at 90 Main St. in Andover, in the building with Circles of Wisdom and Bertucci's. Gallery hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, 10-5; Thursday, 10-7; Sunday, 12-4, and by appointment. The event is free of charge and all are welcome. The gallery is handicap accessible. For more information, call 978 470 1829 or visit www.loricaartworks.com.

Library features local artists

The Andover Memorial Hall Library is hosting an art exhibit and sale of paintings and photographs from the members of the Andovers Artists Guild throughout the month. The library is in Elm Square, at the intersection of Route 28, Central and Essex streets.

The artists participating include Andover residents Elaine Meisinger, Shirley D'Agati, Matthew Gold, Carol Boileau, Louise Ponti, Jerry Smith, Susan Siegel, Wendy

Cole, June Munro; Lawrence's Gary Hudson; North Andover's Elizabeth Roop, Deb Venuti, Merry Beninato, Betul Arin; Amesbury's Dave Saums; Tewksbury's Valerie Borgal; Boston's Arlene Greenspan; Ipswich's Dale Partiss Greene; and West Newbury's Carol Potvin.

Library hours are Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 1 to 5 p.m.

Call 978-623-8400 for more information.

CALENDAR

■ Continued from Page 7

Heritage State Park, 1 Jackson St. in Lawrence; 978-794-1655.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

AUDITIONS, for Summer Theatre Ensemble's "Guys and Dolls," for students entering grades seven through 12, South School, 3:30-6 p.m.; www.csa-ste.org or co_producer@mac.com for registration form.

PARENT TALK, Managing the Stresses and Anxieties of Parenting a Child with Food Allergies, with psychologist Judith Stein, Ph.D., 7 p.m., Atkinson Elementary School, 111 Phillips Brooks Road in North Andover. Free and open to the public; pre-registration not required. For information call the Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America/New England Chapter, 781-444-7778.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

PARENT TALK, Are You a Helicopter Parent?, Susan Alexander, dean of students at Wheaton College, hosted by Andover Parent to Parent, will discuss ways that parents can "let go" as their children head off to college, 7:30 to 9 p.m., free, Memorial Hall Library in Andover; andoverpp2.com for additional information.

LIVE THEATER, fresh from Lenox is Theresa Rebeck's hit comedy, Bad Dates, opening at Merrimack Repertory Theatre, 50 E. Merrimack St. in Lowell, 8 p.m., running until April 12.

AUTHOR READING, with David Lovelace author of "SCATTERSHOT: My Bipolar Family," where he tells about growing up in his family where the whole family, except for one sister, is bipolar, Andover Bookstore, 89 Rear Main St.; 978-475-0143. Free and all are welcome.

ADDISON GALLERY EVENT, Close Encounters series present Photographs of the West with Allison Kemmerer, curator of photography and art after 1950, 11 a.m. to noon, School Room, Abbot Hall, Abbot Campus, Phillips Academy in Andover; 978-749-4023.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING WINGATE AT ANDOVER, INC.

Wingate at Andover, Inc. d/b/a Wingate at Andover Rehabilitative & Skilled Nursing Residence located at 80 Andover Street, Andover, Massachusetts, 01810 intends to file an amendment with the Department of Public Health for a Significant Change to the approved Determination of Need (DoN) Project #3-1466. The approved DoN project includes new construction of 8,262 square feet, renovations and other improvements to the existing 123 bed facility, including the addition of 12 DoN exempt beds for a new total of 135 beds. The proposed amendment will increase the cost of the new construction and renovations to an estimated maximum capital expenditure from \$2,948,300 (January 2007 dollars) to \$3,653,372 (February 2009 dollars). Persons who wish to comment on the proposed amendment must submit written comments within 20 days of the filing date of the request to the Department of Public Health: Attention Program Director, 2 Boylston Street, 3rd Floor, Boston, MA 02116. The request for amendment may be inspected at such address and also at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Northeast Regional Health Office, Tewksbury Hospital, East Street, Tewksbury, MA 01876.

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Obituaries

Rita B. Mauceri, 78



METHUEN — Rita B. (Hatfield) Mauceri, 78, died Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at the Prescott House of North Andover.

She was born and educated in Lawrence the daughter of Herbert and Lillian (Thompson) Hatfield.

For years she was employed with Western Electric of North Andover and retired from the Raytheon Co. in Andover as an inspector.

Mrs. Mauceri was a volunteer at Nevins Nursing Home, a former committee member of Park Garden Associates, and who volunteered for bingo at Saint Lucy's.

Rita was the widow of John P. Mauceri.

Mildred Lee West, 91



ANDOVER — Mildred Lee West, of Andover, died Sunday, March 8, 2009, at the age of 91. She was the beloved wife of Howard West, with whom she had shared 68 years of marriage.

Born in Madison, Ohio, Mildred was the daughter of the late Harry and Harriet (Brown) Lee. As a young child, she and her family moved to Andover, where Mildred graduated from Puncard High School, Class of 1935.

In the midst of the Great Depression, Mildred was elated to find work at the Stevens Mill in Andover. With her weekly salary of \$20, she budgeted her income allowing \$5 each for rent, food, utilities and savings. She continued her employment as an inspector at the woolen mill for many years. In 1941, she married Mr. West and they resided in the home she had rented; eventually purchasing the house and continuing to live there in Andover all their married life.

Mrs. West was an accomplished artist. She originally worked in

pencil drawings and later watercolors. Her family now proudly displays much of her work in their homes. She loved animals and always had dogs and cats as pets. As a young girl she enjoyed horseback riding, and in later years her pastimes were gardening and needlecrafts. Mrs. West was an active member of the Andover Historical Society. She is described by her family as an "Old Yankee", loyal, steadfast and a hard worker who loved her family very much.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by her devoted daughter, Judith Stevens of Andover and two sons, William West of Groveland and Alan West of Pittsburgh. She is also survived by eight grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, several nieces and nephews. She was the sister of Robert Lee of Florida and the late Barbara Johnson and Fulton Lee.

ARRANGEMENTS: A memorial gathering will be held Saturday, March 14, 3 to 5 p.m. at the Andover Historical Society, 97 Main St., Andover, MA 01810. In lieu of flowers, memorial tributes may be made to the Andover Historical Society. Arrangements under the direction of Anderson-Bryant Funeral Home of Stoneham.

For week of March 8-14, 2009

Celebrate Saint Patrick's Day March 17

An Irish legend

If you walk in the woods on a moonlit night, you might hear the faint tap-tapping of a tiny hammer.

Irish storytellers say you might catch a glimpse of an Irish leprechaun. The elfin shoemaker's tricks could lead you to a pot of gold.

According to the legend, the leprechaun has a pot of gold hidden somewhere in the woods. If you catch him he must give up his treasure.

You'll have to be quick to capture a leprechaun because the sly little fellow will fool you into looking away for just an instant while he escapes into the forest.

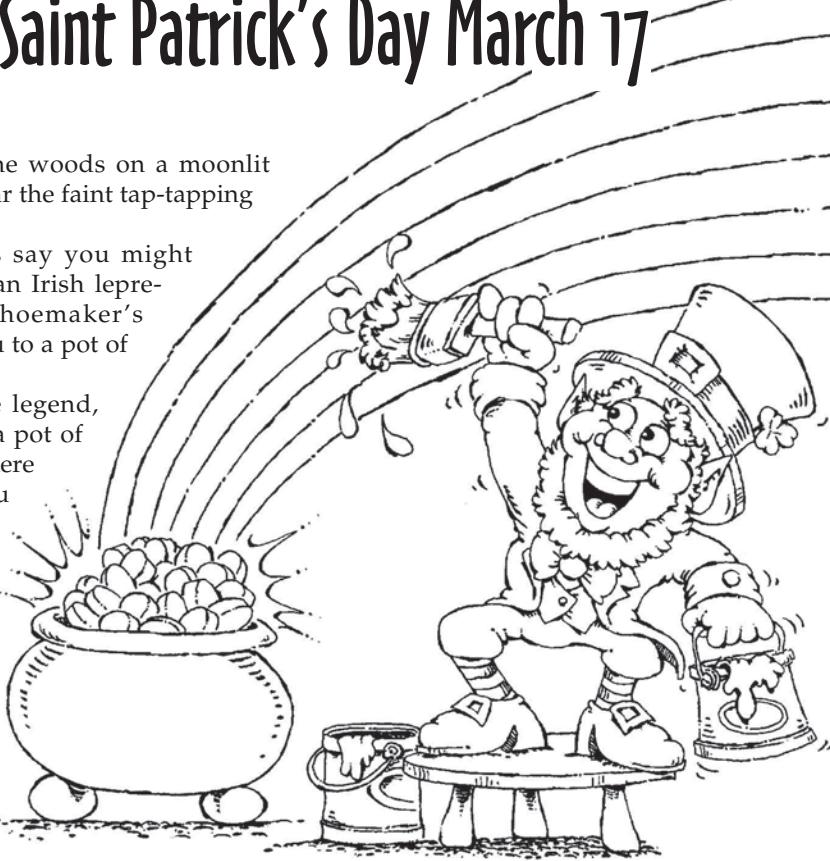
A story is told of a man who compelled a leprechaun to take him to the very bush where the gold was buried. The man tied a red handkerchief to the bush so that he could recognize the spot again. He ran home for a spade. When he returned three minutes later, there was a red handkerchief on every bush in the field.

As long as there are Irish people to tell stories of the "little folk," there will be leprechauns who pull shenanigans to keep you from the pot of gold.

The Blarney Stone

The Blarney Stone really does exist. The stone is set in the wall of the Blarney Castle in the Irish village of Blarney. You can kiss the Blarney Stone, but it won't be easy. You have to lie down on your back and bend your head backwards and downwards to reach it.

The Irish say that kissing the Blarney Stone will give you the gift of blarney, or speaking convincingly to all you meet.



The Rainbow

In the primary bow of a rainbow, red is the first color on the outside, followed by orange, yellow, green, blue and violet on the inside. (Sometimes, you will see a paler, secondary bow above the primary bow. The colors are arranged in the opposite order in the secondary bow.)

Is there a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow? Perhaps the leprechauns know. If you see one, make sure to ask!

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Word Search

Find these words: Blarney, Celtic, Dublin, Emerald, Gold, Harp, Ireland, Patrick, Shamrock



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Newspaper in Education Activity

A limerick is a humorous poem with five lines. The first, second and fifth lines rhyme. The third and fourth lines are shorter and rhyme with each other. As a class, write a limerick about something in the news.

Rose A. Savoca, 96



ANDOVER — Rose A. (Scalia) Savoca, 96, died at Wingate at Andover on Wednesday, March 6, 2009. She was the beloved wife of the late Joseph Savoca, who died in 1982.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y. on March 14, 1912, she was the daughter of the late Vincenzo and Agatha (Bellomo) Scalia. She has resided in the Merrimack Valley for the past 22 years. She was employed as a seamstress for well over 50 years and was devoted to her family, especially her grandchildren. On Sundays, she enjoyed making Italian sauce and dinners for residence of Phoenix Row in Haverhill.

She is survived by her

daughter Anna and son-in-law George Goltieri of Somerset, New Jersey and son Ronald and his wife Diane Savoca of Andover, six grandchildren, Theo, Cynthia and Jennifer Buck, Clarissa Kalman and her husband Seth, Maria Nicole and Joseph Frederick Savoca, one great-grandson, Luca Kalman, two sisters-in-law, Dominique "Minnie" Scalia and Gina Como and several nieces and nephews. She was also the sister of the late Frank Scalia and Margaret and Jean Scalia. The family wishes to thank the staff at Wingate at Andover for their care and kindness.

ARRANGEMENTS: Funeral services will be privately held in Brooklyn, N.Y. Donations in her memory may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. For additional information, please visit www.burkemagliozi.com.

Eva M. Lasonde, 100



ANDOVER — Eva M. (Michaud) Lasonde, 100, of Andover died on Sunday, March 8, 2009 at Salemhaven Nursing Home, Salem, N.H.

Eva was born and raised in Lawrence and Andover and has lived in Andover for most of her life. She worked for 28 years at the former Shawsheen Mills, Andover. She was a member of the former Sacred Heart Parish, Lawrence and is presently a member of St. Patrick's Parish, Lawrence.

Eva was very dedicated to her son, Joseph and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The widow of Armand Lasonde, her family members include her son, Joseph C. Lasonde of Andover and granddaughters, Linda and her husband, Warren Hamlin of Pelham, N.H. and Lisa and her husband, Kevin Casey of Lawrence. She leaves seven great-grandchildren, Cynthia and

her husband Joseph Carberry, Charles and his wife, Kelley Saindon, Melissa Saindon, Ryan and his wife, Jessica Boucher, Jennifer Casey, Kerry Casey and Kara Casey and five great-great-grandchildren and her sister, Marion Roux of Derry, N.H. Eva also leaves her very devoted and loving niece, Marcelle Larocque who brought her communion every month, and was predeceased by her granddaughter, Laurie Lasonde.

The family wishes to thank the caring and loving staff at Salemhaven Nursing Home.

ARRANGEMENTS: Friends may call on Thursday, March 12, 2009 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at The Arthur J. Scott Funeral Home, 298 South Broadway, Lawrence. A funeral Mass will follow at 11 a.m. on Thursday in St. Patrick's Church, Lawrence. The burial will be in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Andover. Memorial Contributions may be made to St. Patrick's Parish, 118 South Broadway, Lawrence, MA 01843. To send an online condolence, please visit, www.dewhirstfuneral.com.

■ RELIGION

On Friday, March 13, at 7 p.m., Temple Emanuel of Andover's senior youth group, TEMTY, will lead the congregation in prayer and song. Join us for this service and be inspired by the congregation's youth. A traditional Oneg Shabbat will follow the service. Temple Emanuel is at 7 Haggetts Pond Road, Andover. Visit the Web site at www.templeemanuel.net or call the temple office at 978-470-1356.

On Saturday, March 14, from 5 to 6:30 p.m., West Parish Church, Fellowship Hall, 129 Reservation Road, will host a corned beef and cabbage supper, featuring Thwaites' Market authentic New England Corned Beef. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5.

At the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Andover,

■ BUSINESS BRIEFS

Covino elected to YMCA management team

Elizabeth A. Covino of Andover has been elected to a four-year term on the association of YMCA professionals Chapter 4 Board of Directors. Covino is director of community relations and development for the Merrimack Valley YMCA. In this capacity she is a key member of the president/CEO's management team and directs the public relations and communication functions of the association, as well as managing the annual fund-raising campaign. She has been with the Merrimack Valley YMCA since 1997. In addition, she serves on the YMCA of the USA's National Marketing Advisory Committee. AYP is the professional association of YMCA staff members in the United States.

Silke to serve on water works advisory group

Christopher M. Silke, P.E., a senior project manager and corrosion control specialist in the Water Practice Group at Wright-Pierce, has been selected to serve as a committee member for the American Water Works Association Water Research Foundation. Silke will serve a three-year term on the water research foundation's infrastructure project advisory committee. He was selected from a pool of PAC applicants comprised of drinking water professionals who provide expertise in a variety of research topic areas. As a water research foundation PAC member, he will oversee the technical direction and performance of a three-year research project.

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Center shows the value of perseverance

Congratulations to the supporters of the Chinmaya Maruti center on Route 28 in Shawsheen who have shown that with a little faith and a lot of perseverance, great things can be accomplished.

Anyone who takes North Main Street toward Route 495 will notice on their right that steel beams are rising from the center near the Lawrence border. A \$3.5 million addition will more than double the center's size, adding classrooms, an auditorium and a noticeable copper-plated dome.

Members originally planned to raise money to build a three-story center back around the turn of the millennium. But after the economic downtown following Sept. 11, 2001, they scaled back, building the first floor and claiming they would continue raising money to build the rest. A lot of people made similar claims about continuing as expected back then. Few have been able to deliver. But during the last eight years, members of the worship and education center remained committed.

"Every member has contributed to their limit. That's the most gratifying thing. They've stretched themselves to give to the maximum," Andover resident Gopala Dwarakanath told reporter Bethany Bray.

At a time when it seems everyone is looking to the government for help — which is to say, looking to other, hurting taxpayers — it's encouraging to see groups in Andover such as Chinmaya members working together to achieve their dreams. It should inspire us all to continue dreaming big, working hard and pulling together.

1-percent gesture appreciated, but long-term solution needed

Town department heads who agree to take a 1-percent pay cut to save jobs have made a nice gesture. Hopefully, Andover town and school employees will pull together and offer a similar cut.

If they do, it would go a significant way to saving jobs — this year.

But the real solution to town financial problems won't be found in one-year decisions. About 70 percent of the budget is in salary and generous benefits. Until the town works with the unions to agree to contracts that make workers' health-care, vacation, sick-day and pension costs more reasonable, Andover will continue to face annual debates about what programs or positions to cut.

WEB QUESTION

Is 1 percent pay cut enough?

Downtown: Looking for a place where everybody knows your name

Several recent store closings have created vacancies in Andover's downtown. Last week, we asked you what type of stores you would support with purchases, if they moved into vacant spots downtown. With 90 voters responding:

■ A bar was top choice, receiving 48.89 percent of votes.

■ An ice cream shop was second choice, receiving 14.44 percent.

■ A restaurant, serving full meals received 11.11 percent.

■ A green grocer or small market received 6.67 percent.

■ A cafe and hardware store tied, with 4.44 percent.

■ A pet store received 2.22 percent.

■ A bookstore, bank and adult clothing store received 1 vote each.

■ 4.44 percent of you had different ideas, and chose "other."

■ The options music store, hair salon, children's clothing store and pharmacy did not receive any votes

This week's question: Is 1 percent a sacrifice or empty gesture?

Last week, nine town department heads — including the assistant town manager and police and fire chiefs — volunteered to take a 1 percent pay cut for fiscal year 2010, as a way to help close a \$874,000 budget deficit. How do you feel about the decision?

■ One percent is just an empty gesture, and does not amount to much.

■ It's just a ploy to get unions to make concessions.

■ Every little bit helps.

■ Other town and school employees should follow their example.

■ Taking a pay cut in these economic times is a sacrifice.

■ There are other big-ticket items that should be looked at first.

■ It shows they understand residents have been hit hard.

■ Other.

To cast your vote, visit www.andovertownsman.com and scroll to the bottom of the page. For lengthier answers, e-mail Editor Neil Fater at nfater@andovertownsman.com

Opinion

DON'T LIKE THE WEATHER? WAIT A MINUTE



Courtesy photos by Deanna Carpenteri
March in New England can take its toll on all sorts of people, including the snow family created by Andover residents Haley Sutliff and Talia Carpenteri, both age 9. The top picture was taken on Saturday, March 7 at 10 a.m. and the bottom picture was taken later the same day.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kaps closing is end of era

Editor, Townsman:

After all the press and talk and concern about the national and global condition of the economy these days, Andover saw March 1 its own version of how difficult times are. Andover saw truly the end of an era with the closing of Kaps. Now, singling KAPS out is not to ignore other businesses that have or will close. No one ever likes to see good, hard-working people have to make this difficult choice. But for many of us, Kaps' closing is somehow different. To see this happen to a family-owned business of hard-working, ethical, community-spirited people who have been in business for three generations and weathered all other economic times is very difficult.

Andover has lost more than a retailer. We have lost the personal touch, (where else could you walk into a store and have the merchant know your father's shirt sleeve length?), the eye to detail and the art of customer service that Kaps brought to our downtown. There was a standard set by the Kapelson brothers for how business should be conducted in Andover, and that standard was taught to them by their father and grandfather. There was respect and concern for fellow merchants, and a desire to make Andover better. Although Kaps originally was located in Lawrence, when it moved to Andover, our downtown was the better for it.

I can understand all the business reasons why stores like Kaps are closing, but mostly I find myself just feeling sad. Jim, Joel and John have done their family's legacy proud, and dealt with their employees and customers with integrity and dignity.

The lights in Kaps went out, and an era did end.

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.

Mail to:

33 Chestnut St.,
Box 1986, Andover, Mass. 01810

Fax to: 978-470-2819

E-mail: Neil Fater at nfater@andovertownsman.com. Please include the letter in the body of the e-mail, not as an attachment.

Cutting health education hurts kids

Editor, Townsman:

Once again health education is on the chopping block in preliminary budget considerations put forth by the school administration. Elementary health education, the building block, is being considered for elimination.

It has been suggested that in times of budgetary restraint "Non-essential items should go first." The health of children is essential and paramount to their education. Health affects and touches every student.

David Driscoll, former commissioner of education, at his outgoing speech to the state advisory councils said, "If I have one regret, it is that I didn't fully comprehend the impact of the health of the student on their academic success. It is unreasonable to expect students engaged in substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior and depression to fully achieve their maximum academic potential."

The last time we eliminated health, then School Committee-man Chris Smith stated, "I hope we don't live to regret the decision that we make this evening."

In two short years independent analysis of risky behavior in Andover demonstrated the committee's mistake loud and clear. Seventh-graders surveyed showed a significant increase in alcohol, tobacco and marijuana

use. Inhalant use tripled, cocaine use increased dramatically and sexual promiscuity rates multiplied. Students were not versed in the dangers of HIV/AIDS or destructive eating patterns. Our children were left to navigate negative influences on their own and floundered. Two years later we reinstated health teachers and reduced the rate of risky behaviors in most areas significantly below the state average. However, many students who never received health instruction face obstacles unequipped.

Regular classroom teachers are woefully unprepared in the current techniques needed to teach this sensitive subject matter.

This is evident in the documentation gathered for the Community Health Advisory Team. It is obvious to even the most casual observer of youth behavior the struggles many other communities face. Our children are far too important to put on this seesaw ride. We desperately need our health teachers.

DAVE NICHOLS

24 Smithshire Estates

The writer is a former schools health director.

Visitor impressed by Andover's friendly downtown

Editor, Townsman:

I had never been to Andover before, other than to just pass through. I used to coach and we would sometimes go to Phillips Academy for an event. You really can't gauge a community looking through school bus windows.

Last week, I had a business meeting and my client suggested a spot in Andover center. We met at a coffee shop, and since I've been cooped up for months I suggested we walk around town.

We walked up the street and a man was out sprinkling salt and sand on the sidewalk. "How are you?" he asked. My companion and I were talking about the uniqueness of anyone even looking at you on the street much less speaking. We crossed over and started to walk

the other side of the street when I glanced over to a young man pumping gas. "Hello," he said, and waved.

Now wait a minute. Isn't this New England? Aren't we hard-boiled Yankees? What's up with talking to strangers in public places?

Andover, I must say that I was touched by these small acts of human kindness. You really made my day. I would encourage all in town to patronize these downtown businesses whenever possible. Apparently, they are a special group.

AL MOREL

Hudson, Mass.

Celebrating the march of women in history

Editor, Townsman:

Women's History Month shines a spotlight upon women who, for too long, were told to keep quiet and stay off stage. Since 1987, during the month of March, thousands of events have been held throughout the country to recognize the accomplishments of women.

The Andover Senior Center is hosting a three-week series of programs. Susan B. Anthony will appear on March 30. The library and Andover Book Store will display and discuss their favorite books on women history, and the Historical Society will introduce notable Andover women from history.

Progress is being made. Anthony spoke for years about the wage gap; she would be pleased to know the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act is now law. As an agent for the Anti-Slavery Society, Anthony worked for abolition; she would be amazed to know our new president is an African-American. And she never doubted that someday a woman would be U.S. president.

We honor all women who have played a role in this struggle toward equal rights. As Anthony always said, "Failure is Impossible."

SALLY MATSON

23 William St.

The writer is a Susan B. Anthony enactor.

Andover Townsman

Established 1887

Publisher
Al Getler
Editor
Neil Fater

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

SELECTMEN'S RACE LETTERS

Former selectman supports Will English**Editor, Townsman:**

The Board of Selectmen is always in need of new talent and fresh ideas. Will English provides both. I first met English when he was a star on the Academic Bowl. He was an impressive Andover High student who competed in the Merrimack Valley events. Since then he has graduated from the University of Halifax where he distinguished himself as a leader.

Town boards need new blood. English has grown up in Andover. He is bright, articulate, thoughtful, has solid values, and cares about the town. Along with his brains, youth and energy he will bring something special to town government, and I am pleased to support his candidacy for this office. He has my vote.

LARRY LARSEN
Bryan Lane**Teichert keeps all boards communicating****Editor, Townsman:**

For the Board of Selectman and School Committee, there are four choices to make among eight candidates. I would encourage all voters to seriously consider the candidates this year, as we are facing difficult choices for the future of Andover. Although it is said almost every year by someone, this year we truly can't continue "business as usual."

While the School Committee must find ways to maintain the excellence of the Andover Public Schools with less financial resources, selectmen must be concerned about the universe of town services, encompassing all departments, including the schools. One candidate running for the selectmen this year has demonstrated that capability over the past several years. His ability to work with other elected and appointed officials and with department heads to understand all of their needs and to attempt to balance conflicting interests will be of particular importance this year, and in the coming years, as we struggle with increased needs and declining revenues.

I ask you to join me in supporting Ted Teichert with one of your two votes for selectman on Tuesday, March 24.

ELLEN LYNCH
46 Morton St.**Former moderator: Keep a good selectman, Major****Editor, Townsman:**

For many years as town

moderator I made it a personal policy not to get involved in the campaigns of our elected officials, as I needed to work with all who were elected. I can now voice my opinion. This election will be uniquely vital for our town. For at least 70 years, I have studied our fiscal status, and I don't need to watch the news to tell you these are the worst times since the 1930s. Few, other than myself, can recall the vote at Town Meeting in the early '30s to cut the salaries of all the full-time town employees by 1 or 2 percent. There was fire and brimstone, but we had veteran selectmen who were not afraid to take stands and guide the town through those difficult years. (I am not suggesting we cut or don't cut salaries, it is just what happened then.)

My purpose in writing is to ask voters to retain Brian Major as selectman. He understands town finances, how state funding works, how the tax rates affect us all, how departments interact, and what we need to bring the town through these difficult times. Most of all, I trust Major, and we share something very dear to me, a love for Andover.

I have seen firsthand the importance a veteran selectman can bring to this town, and we have an opportunity to keep a good one.

JAMES D. DOHERTY
9 Juniper Road**English brings new generation to table****Editor, Townsman:**

As baby boomers, we are excited to offer our enthusiastic support to the next generation of town leader, Will English, candidate for selectman.

We have gotten to know English through the years — from his days as a youngster making his way through the Andover public schools to his tireless work for Andover Youth Services, and from student union president at Kings College in Nova Scotia to his return home as a mature, thoughtful, and bright adult committed to giving back to the community that has given him so much.

These challenging times beg for a new generational voice at the table of the Board of Selectmen. English brings vitality, an openness to learning about the needs of young and old residents, and fresh approaches to resolving our most pressing issues. He is dedicated to public service for the right reason, to make a difference.

A vote for English for selectman is a vote for positive change and confidence in our future.

PAUL AND GAY TANKLEFSKY
23 Pasho St.**Teichert sees multiple perspectives****Editor, Townsman:**

It has been a pleasure to know Ted Teichert for over 35 years. He truly cares about the well-being of our town. His understanding and compassion are focused on our fellow residents and their needs. He also understands that to fulfill the needs of our residents requires fiscal constraint, carefully setting priorities and providing the necessary tools for employees.

It is easy for us to ask for more services from either or both the town and school budgets. It is easy for us to question the budget and the budget process, but Teichert knows this town and how to match the sincere needs of all concerned with available tax dollars. His experience is critical during our current fiscal climate.

Teichert is respected, by young and old alike, for his down-to-earth, common-sense, teamlike approach. Never one for division, he is able to see multiple perspectives, and the details of an issue. What makes Teichert so unique is despite the devil being in the details, he never loses sight of the big picture. His keen ability to listen and his sincere calm caring personality has been essential during the budget process.

DAN GRAMS
Corbett Street**Teichert a listener and a doer****Editor, Townsman:**

As an Andover resident for 16 years, I have come to appreciate many things about this great town, not the least of which is its stable government and fiscally responsible elected and appointed officials. Selectman Ted Teichert stands out in this impressive crowd, with his exemplary commitment and experience. Teichert has a solid sense of what needs to be done, even when the decisions are hard, and is adept at weighing priorities. He recognizes the town's responsibilities to residential and commercial taxpayers alike, and is good at recognizing what we can and cannot do with the limited resources available.

As an appointed municipal employee in a neighboring community, I wish we had his candid and honest style of political leadership. He knows well the process for getting things accomplished, and his historical firsthand knowledge has served us all well. Teichert thinks about all sides of an issue before deciding how to act, and he is both a listener and a doer.

Andover is very fortunate to have the kind of thoughtful and

effective leadership that Teichert has provided over the years. Especially in these trying economic times, experience matters. Re-electing Teichert will help ensure a strong and steady future.

KAREN SAWYER
19 Sutherland St.**Major a risk taker and leader****Editor, Townsman:**

The wheels of government turn slowly, even in Andover. Over the past four years I was on a small committee that wanted banners promoting civic events displayed over Main Street. One might think we were trying to erect a full size replica of the Eiffel Tower. It took countless meetings, conversations, e-mails, draft proposals, research into other towns' practices, and a final appearance at Town Meeting. Through it all, one selectman, Brian Major, saw the value and paved the way for our committee to triumph.

I have been involved in other civic activities involving Major. Whether it was a comprehensive parking plan, a property tax structure that treats businesses and homes fairly or the planning of Andover Days, I have watched him bring people together and lead them.

At last year's Town Meeting Major shocked people by getting up from the selectmen's table and standing behind a microphone for citizens. He did it to challenge the otherwise unanimous selectman decision against purchasing a valuable parcel. That he switched sides in what seemed to be a foolhardy move demonstrated his willingness to defend something he believed. That he actually prevailed demonstrated his abilities as an effective leader.

MARK SPENCER
13 Sunset Rock Road**English represents needed change****Editor, Townsman:**

It is time for changes and Will English has the know-how and ability to help lead Andover as a selectman. English has always had the best intentions for Andover. While many towns like Andover are struggling financially, we believe English can make Andover a better place for all. His willingness to communicate and listen to all is an asset the town can definitely use.

We believe English is the answer for change that Andover needs now.

DAVID AND ROSALIE KONJOIAN
Chandler Road**Major balances present needs and future vision****Editor, Townsman:**

Brian Major has and will continue to bring a high standard of enthusiastic service as an elected representative of the people of Andover. The positions he supports and has advocated for on our behalf are the issues we all deeply care about and wish to see progress in a fiscally responsible manner. Major's thoughtful approach and analysis, and willingness to work in collaboration with others, results in lower costs and fully functional solutions.

Andover is a strong town because the voters have historically placed people in leadership roles who have the capacity to balance our current needs while keeping an eye on the vision for our future. Major has continually demonstrated he is a person who can do both well.

MIKE & MARGIE MUSSO
51 Lovejoy Road**Lifelong resident English is dedicated****Editor, Townsman:**

In only five weeks Andover's residents will be faced with the choice to elect a new selectman to the town of Andover or to stick with the status quo. Will English, candidate for Board of Selectman, is a lifelong Andover resident who is dedicated to serving the people of this town. English will not only bring a fresh face to the selectmen but he will bring new ideas and a great perspective from someone who loves the community that he grew up in.

English has spent many years working for the Andover Youth Services. Through this experience, he gained important knowledge about how the town runs and developed a passion for giving back to the town.

English was also president of his student body at Kings College in Canada and worked on a national campaign in the last presidential election. Given his previous experiences and his dedication to the town of Andover, English has great potential to make a positive impact on this town. As young people of Andover we ask voters to support English in the upcoming election.

KIM MCLEOD
149 Shawsheen ROAD
ALLY DAVIS
82 Central St.**English has served town since his youth****Editor, Townsman:**

We have been fortunate to

have lived in Andover for the past 24 years. We have raised our children and taken advantage of the town's many services and programs. We are also fortunate to have many qualified people willing to heed to the call to public service. This year we have a vibrant newcomer to our political landscape, Will English.

English is no stranger to Andover and volunteering for causes in which he believes. He was raised and educated here and has made the decision to return to give back. Our first introduction to English was when he was a young man at our church. He volunteered to help with projects and became involved with many segments of the community. He was the first youth member of the parish's vestry, its board of directors. He did not limit his participation to youth issues but fully participated in the challenging issues of those times. As he has grown and matured, the same spirit of volunteerism has flourished.

We are supporting English for selectman since we feel he will bring a fresh perspective to town government when new ideas will be invaluable to cope with the unprecedented hurdles which we face.

SCOTT AND SUSAN RICHARDSON
35 Magnolia Ave.**Teichert committed to youth, downtown****Editor, Townsman:**

It is with my utmost enthusiasm that I endorse Ted Teichert for selectman. As a parent of children attending Andover schools and as a business owner in town, I have witnessed first-hand the experience, fairness and support he has demonstrated to so many causes during his terms on the Board of Selectmen. Teichert's commitment to the youth in our community, our school department, his support in keeping the town center vital during these difficult economic times and his experience and knowledge during budget negotiations are just a few of the reasons to support him for selectman.

His willingness to listen to concerns and quickly find a fair solution is an asset and necessity for anyone serving in this role. Our community is facing difficult times and decisions during the upcoming months. I believe we need Teichert's experience to continue to assist our community through these challenging times.

SHARON BREIGHNER
Reservation Road**ELECTION LETTERS**

This is the last week for election letters. The Townsman has a long-standing policy of not accepting letters for candidates in the issue prior to an election. The election is Tuesday, March 24.

Letters on School Committee candidates, Page 15**WE BUY YOUR UNWANTED GOLD!**

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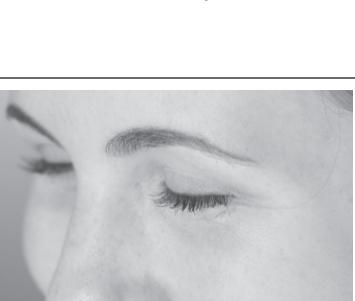
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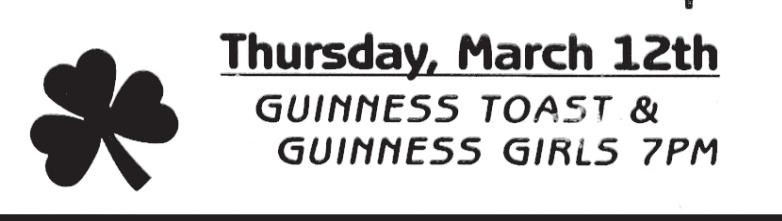
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Wednesday, March 18th

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Townspeople

Beyonce helps Berens grab brass ring



Sponsor Aly Formichella steps forward with Drew Berens as he accepts the title of Mr. AHS during the 18th Annual Mr. AHS contest at Andover High School Friday night.

Juniors compete to be new Mr. AHS

Stepping forward on the strength of his singing and dancing in the talent competition, Drew Berens has begun his reign as the new Mr. Andover High School.

Berens beat out five other juniors for the prize in the often tongue-in-cheek competition on Friday, March 6. He competed against and performed with runner-up Derek Monson, second runner-up Joe Downes-Berry, Mark Costagliola, Eddie Xu and Tommy Fuerst.

Highlights of the 18th annual Mr. AHS included:

- Berens dancing with the video "Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It)" by Beyonce Knowles;
- Eagle Scout Fuerst

wrestling a bear during his "dream date," which involved camping;

- Monson showing Tina Fey has nothing on him by impersonating Sarah Palin — in drag;
- Xu showing his soulful footwork while dressed like a Blues Brother;

- Downes-Berry spoofing the survival show "Man vs. Wild" on a video shot in Andover; and

- Costagliola sweating to the Oldies with Richard Simmons and being dragged from his dream date by his mom, active parent Diane Costagliola.

Hosts Eric Bryden and Iha Kaul kept the night entertaining with their banter during brief lulls between competitions.



Tommy Fuerst shows his skills during the 18th Annual Mr. AHS contest.



Eddie Xu shows he has soul while performing "Soul Man" in Blues Brothers garb.



Mark Costagliola sweats to the oldies during the talent competition.



Joe Downes-Berry runs through a routine with his sponsor, Courtney Casper.



Derek Monson takes the stage as a gun-toting Sarah Palin.

School days: Bad milk, a finger 'bam' and bunkers

Bill Dalton

To this day Maureen Fredrickson (Punchard High Class of 1954) won't drink milk. When I mentioned the morning milk served in grade school in a recent column, she said it caused her to have a "flashback of the little bottles of white milk in those wooden crates left on the front steps of the school waaaaay too

long." She remembers the milk as warm and disgusting and said the thought of drinking milk still brings "gag time."

Maureen remembers the corporal punishment used at Indian Ridge School. "I was no stranger to the rattan. I can't remember how many whacks you would get on your hand, it might have been only one. The teachers kept us at bay by just the fear of it. Miss Brown administered the punishment," she said. "Also, Miss Brown — if you talked, when not being talked to — had this way of drawing her middle finger — crooked it — then positioned it behind her

thumb and was able to snap it breaking the sound barrier, and bam! — right on your the corner of your mouth. Boy, did that smart. It was worse than the rattan."

Maureen went to grade school near the end of the corporal punishment era or at least the end of the time when it was used routinely, but she received another kind of treatment she thought was as bad as physical punishment. She remembers singing in a group at the front of the classroom before Christmas. Apparently the teacher didn't like Maureen's voice so she told Maureen to move her lips

like she was singing but not let any sound come out. Maureen says, "Boy, it made me feel bad! Years and years and years later — like about 40 — I would meet the teacher at the Andover Bank and would want to say, 'Why would you do that to a little kid?' I never did though."

Maureen was in grade school during World War II and remembers how frightening the blackouts were. She says, "They scared the heck out of me. They would pull down the black shades, and we would hide under our desks."

I was a few years behind

Please see DALTON, Page 14



The first grade class at Indian Ridge School as it appeared in the 1946 Tercentennial Guide. Maureen Fredrickson is in the front row right. Behind her is Eddie Brogan, Janet Svenson, and Isabelle, whose last name is unknown. In the middle row is Billy Miller, David Gordon, and Betty McMillan. If you can identify any of the others, please contact the Andover Townsman or billdalton@andovertownie.com.

How are you coping with the economy?

Church hosts meeting for people to share stories

BY JUDY WAKEFIELD
STAFF WRITER

President Barack Obama worked community-oriented jobs in Chicago before entering politics and emphasized on the campaign trail the importance to him of hearing directly from people at public meetings around that city.

This Saturday, Christ Church organizers say they'll copy that kind of grassroots approach and host a house meeting as a way for townspeople to talk about the troubled economy.

"Obama started this way," organizer Rosemarie Buxton said of the March 14 house meeting.

"We invite people of all ages and demographics to come and share their personal stories about how the current financial crisis has affected them and their hopes and dreams for the future."

The house meeting is being held Saturday, March 14, at 9 a.m. at Christ Church, 25 Central St. A light breakfast will be served.

Stories will most likely revolve around the answers to these questions put together by Buxton:

- What are the hopes and dreams dream that you have for yourself, your children, your grandchildren?

- How is the current economic downturn affecting your ability to achieve your dreams?

- Are you anxious because your retirement account is dwindling away?

- Are you concerned about funding your children's college education?

- Have you or a member of your family experienced a recent "downsizing" in the workplace?

The church has partnered with the Merrimack Valley Project, a group of faith, labor and community leaders based in Lowell, to run the meeting. The group unites people across racial, ethnic and economic lines to come together on a variety of social issues, including affordable housing and immigration. MVP has grown to more than 30 member groups in several Merrimack Valley communities, including the Christ Church congregation in Andover.

Buxton said listening to what a congregation is saying matters in these trying economic times.

"This is a listening campaign," Buxton said of the house meeting approach. "We've heard so many people, in both urban and suburban areas, say the economy is affecting them."

"This is basically a chance to hear their stories," Buxton said. "We'll share the stories and then take it to the next step, to a larger group, if they (speakers) want that."

Residents who are interested in attending can contact Buxton at rosebuxton@yahoo.com or 978-683-7055, or Helen "Skip" Eccles at 978-475-8291.

14 Thursday, March 12, 2009 THE TOWNSMAN

WEDDINGS**Carolyn Hines and Robert Naylor**

Carolyn Hines and Robert Naylor were united in marriage on Oct. 11, 2008, at the CopperWynd Resort and Club in Fountain Hills, Ariz.

Carolyn is the daughter of Elaine Hines and the late Edward F. Hines Jr. of Andover. The maid of honor was Tara Sweet. Bridesmaids included Lori Gosar, Kristene Celaya and Elizabeth Scott, cousin of the bride. The bride was given in marriage by her brother, Jonathan Hines of Andover.

Robert is the son of Joyce Naylor of Deerfield, Fla., and Raymond Naylor of Staten Island, N.Y. His best man was Peter Loukas. Groomsmen included John Barry and Raymond Naylor Jr., brothers of the groom.

The bride graduated from Andover High School and from Arizona State University. She received her master's degree in education from the University of Phoenix and is an art teacher in the Phoenix school system. The groom, who grew up in New York, works at the Westin Kierland Resort in Scottsdale, Ariz.

The couple spent their honeymoon in Hawaii and reside in Scottsdale, Ariz.

**Peggy Buckley and David Froburg**

Peggy Buckley and David Froburg were married Oct. 5, 2008, at DiBurro's in Bradford. Thomas Leone, justice of the peace, performed the double-ring ceremony. The bride was given in marriage by her father.

Elizabeth Delaney of Webster, N.H., sister of the bride, was matron of honor. Kathleen Newcomb of Exeter, N.H., sister of the bride, and Aimee Rogers of Wakefield, Mass., were bridesmaids. Emily Newcomb of Exeter, N.H., and Samantha Harris of Dracut, Mass., nieces of the bride, were flower girls.

Matthew Calcina of Wells, Maine, was best man. Patrick Noonan and Scott Bernard, both of North Andover, were ushers. Trevor Froburg and Nathan Froburg, sons of the groom, were ring bearers.

The bride is the daughter of William and Maureen Buckley of Concord, N.H. She graduated from Kearsarge Regional High School in 1991 and earned an associate's degree in criminal justice from NHTI in 1993 and a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Massachusetts Lowell in 2003. She works for the town of Andover.

The groom is the son of Frank and Donelda Froburg of Andover. He graduated from Andover High School in 1992 and is enrolled in the criminal justice program at Northern Essex Community College. He works for the town of Andover.

The couple went on a honeymoon to Aruba and reside in Andover.



Courtesy photo
Francis and Margaret O'Connor have been elected to lead the Hibernians of Essex County and the Lady Hibernians, respectively.

Andover pair to lead Hibernians

An Andover couple are making local community-service history.

The Hibernians of Essex County have elected Francis O'Connor of Andover to serve as president of the Essex County board for the next two years. O'Connor was first elected to this post in 2007 and will be serving his second term.

In a rare coincidence, his wife, Margaret V. O'Connor, has been elected as president of the Lady Hibernians for the same two-year span.

This marks the first time that a husband and wife have served simultaneously as presidents of the two organizations.

Margaret O'Connor, a local

Realtor, previously held the office of vice president of the Lady Hibernians and had served as treasurer to the board.

"The Ancient Order of Hibernians is comprised of Catholics of Irish blood or descent who are citizens of the United States, for the purpose of promoting friendship, unity and charity among its members and to foster the ideals and cultivate the history and traditions of the Irish race throughout the world," according to a release.

The O'Connors have three children, Francis O'Connor Jr. of Andover, Eileen O'Connor Bernall of Lawrence and Michael O'Connor of Pennsylvania, along with five grandchildren.

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DALTON: Maypole dance was student's favorite memory

■ Continued from Page 13

Maureen and remember that, in the early 1950s, we routinely held air raid drills. "Air raid" was a euphemism for an atomic bomb attack. On short notice we'd be moved to the basement of John Dove or Jackson School, which was officially designated as a "shelter." (They were

behind where Doherty Middle School is today.) We were put in the dark room with several teachers and the doors were closed. After a few minutes, someone — the custodians, I'm pretty sure — pounded on the doors trying to make it sound like bombs exploding. Of course, we knew it was all fake. As far as I know, none of us required

psychological help. One of Maureen's favorite childhood memories was, as a young grade-schooler, doing the maypole dance at the distant Shawsheen School. She says, "I was so excited. I had never been that far away in Andover." She also remembers Andover's Tercentennial Celebration and says, "I wore a burlap

bag as an Indian for the 300th Anniversary."

Maureen's picture, republished here, appears in Andover's Tercentennial Guide published in 1946.

• • •

Bill Dalton writes a weekly column for the Andover Townsman and can be reached at bill-dalton@andovertownie.com.

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Barber improves Andover, state education

Editor, Townsman:

In these challenging economic times it's necessary to have experienced, dedicated School Committee members who recognize good education practices. Art Barber not only has taken a leadership role for the Andover schools, but has been elected as Massachusetts Association of School Committees' Division 1 vice chairman. This amplifies Andover's voice on Beacon Hill.

Barber has extended his expertise and experience to the state level to represent Andover's best practices in education and town management. He has been a strong advocate for education and your children.

Barber was instrumental in organizing Division 1's recent regional meeting, showcasing Andover's business manager and plant and facilities director. This meeting provided an additional forum for Andover, through Barber, to learn about innovative programs in other communities.

Barber's involvement in MASC provides a library of policies, position papers, recent legal opinions, evaluation instruments, and current legislative initiatives for the individual needs of Andover.

I encourage voters to return Barber to the Andover School Committee so he can continue to make a difference in your town and across the commonwealth.

EVELYN S. THOREN
Chelmsford School Committee
MASC Division 1 chairwoman

Colby-Clements rethinks status quo

Editor, Townsman:

Our economic climate is forcing us to rethink the way we do business. We need a creative problem-solver to challenge the status quo and generate new possibilities for our schools and children.

Paula Colby-Clements is the School Committee candidate best equipped to do that.

I worked with Colby-Clements on various community projects for more than six years, including during her time as Andona Society president. She was an effective leader who orchestrated collaboration between nonprofit organizations, community leaders and town businesses to raise funds to benefit the youth of Andover. This funding helped programs districtwide including seismology at Andover High, a sensory garden at Shawsheen, reading and literacy programs at the elementary schools, an engineering lab at Doherty Middle and many after-school and sports programs.

Colby-Clements evaluates all sides of issues without bias, and follows through and delivers intelligent, creative solutions in a concise and articulate manner. I am always impressed by her drive and skill at navigating the demands of her family and three children, her full-time work and her commitment to better our community for all youth.

I am fortunate to call Colby-Clements a friend. Our town would be equally fortunate to have her on the School Committee.

CAROLYN HILL PAGE
3 Douglass Lane

Former schoolman Birnbach a proven leader

Editor, Townsman:

David Birnbach can make it happen.

I've known Birnbach for seven years. He is a good listener and has tremendous respect for others' opinions. He is innovative, creative and has the vision and professional connections to guide our schools and introduce the skills necessary for 21st Century learning.

Birnbach grew up in Andover. His commitment to education is evidenced by his election twice to the School Committee, even before he had a child in school.

On the committee he helped forge bonds with other town boards, leading to the formation of the strategic planning task force. He was a strong advocate for music and successfully fought to keep the program intact when there were budget constraints. Because he recognized overcrowding, he participated in the analysis that led to building the High Plain and Wood Hill schools.

Birnbach's history, experience and relationships will help the committee as it continues to move forward in a cohesive fashion to do what is best for Andover. He's a proven leader who will stand up for what's right.

DENISE NASH
17 Rutgers Road

Gilbert will be full-time leader

Editor, Townsman:

As the parents of one young child and with another soon to arrive, we have started following School Committee issues with great interest. In particular, we have been paying close attention to the Townsman's questions to the candidates. It has been refreshing to read the responses from Annie Gilbert, who has answered your questions with thoughtfulness, candor and intelligence. As we look forward to our children entering Andover's public schools, we are heartened to know that our School Committee could have a leader like Gilbert, who has been deeply and effectively involved in the schools, and whose own children have gone through the system.

We especially like that Gilbert will treat her School Committee position as a full-time job. All the candidates seem to have interesting ideas for improving the schools. But as we know personally from our careers in education, ideas are somewhat meaningless without action. It means a great deal to us that Gilbert is committed to putting in the time, energy and hard work required to get things done.

FRANK AND VALERIE ALOI
374 Salem St.

Mom Colby-Clements has skills, passion

Editor, Townsman:

Paula Colby-Clements and her family have been friends of mine for many years. We have worked together at the Massachusetts School of Law for over 10 years. She is professional, compassionate, caring and extremely talented at working with diverse groups and effectuating change even in the most trying of situations. I have seen her create collaboration between faculty members to implement important curriculum changes. She is a "take charge" person who hears both sides before acting.

I have seen her dedicate her time to the Andona Society, raising money for the schools

SCHOOL COMMITTEE RACE LETTERS

and then taking on a leadership role, as president, to encourage membership and collaboration to support schools' curriculum enhancements.

Anyone who works with Colby-Clements knows she listens, is fair and reasonable in her assessment of problems and is not afraid to make tough decisions. Most importantly, she is a loving and caring mother to her three children who will be in the Andover schools for years. What motivates her is knowing her hard work will make a better place for her children and ours.

Colby-Clements has the skills to be a positive force on the School Committee and she cares deeply about keeping our schools strong for everyone.

LYNN BOWAB
18 Hemlock Road

McCarron's work shows she would be wonderful committee member

Editor, Townsman:

We have worked with Diane McCarron on community projects over the last few years. We have found her to be a person who works hard to achieve a desired goal. She is always thorough and pays a great deal of attention to detail. McCarron works well in committees and groups. She is willing to participate in discussions but also willing to listen respectfully to the opinions of others.

We feel that she would be a wonderful addition to the Andover School Committee or any other town office she may aspire to in the future.

RUSS AND PAT OUELLETTE
4 Napier Road

Incumbent Barber maintains schools' excellence

Editor, Townsman:

The Andover schools have a long tradition of excellence in education. We have maintained this tradition during good economic times as well as difficult times such as today.

Much of this achievement is due to very dedicated and responsible school board members. Art Barber, two-term member of Andover's school board, falls into this mold.

This long standing tradition of excellence in education was true when I brought my family to Andover 33 years ago, and it is just as true today under the tenure of Barber and his fellow board members. Barber is one of those dedicated school board members who has helped us maintain the high level of excellence that we have come to expect.

My three children are all grown and successful, and they were all helped along the way by the Andover school system.

These are trying economic times. Let's re-elect Barber. His dedication and ability can help us maintain the same level of opportunity for today's children as was provided for my children.

WALTER McNAMARA
7 Cardinal Lane

Energetic leader Colby-Clements is committed

Editor, Townsman:

I met Paula Colby-Clements through the Andona Society. She quickly distinguished herself by volunteering for many jobs, including getting a health license to be Andona's certified food handler, crucial for Clowntown. While I was Andona president, she chaired the Civic Committee, overseeing the Babysitting course, Spring Fling for middle schoolers, camps and scholarships. She then served a two-year term as

president. She demonstrated an amazing capacity to get others engaged, listened carefully during controversial discussions and offered well-thought-out opinions respectful to both sides. She is a quick study, level-headed and has a wonderful sense of humor that makes difficult situations less tense.

As a professor and admissions director at Massachusetts School of Law, Colby-Clements organized a week for the Massachusetts Court of Appeals Justices to hold hearings there. She contacted local high schools, including Andover High, so mock trial students could attend and have lunch with the judges. She joined Great Women to Know, a professional women's network that supports Esperanza Academy, a privately funded middle school for girls in Lawrence.

As a parent of two children in elementary school and one in preschool, she will be a committed School Committee member with an eye to the system's long-term success.

DENISE BORDONARO
7 Meadow View Lane

State rep. backs tireless Gilbert

Editor, Townsman:

I am writing to convey my enthusiastic support for Annie Gilbert for School Committee. I have known Gilbert for over a decade as a neighbor, a friend, and most significantly as a tireless volunteer dedicated to the Andover School System.

Gilbert is a former teacher whose experience includes serving on the Shawsheen and Bancroft School PTOs and assisting with long term planning on the Bancroft School Improvement Council. As vice-president of the ACE Program, she recognizes the need for private funding to help foster innovative school programs. Private funding of an ACE grant coordinator has resulted in more than \$2 million in grant funding for our schools to augment state and local spending.

We are in the midst of unprecedented fiscal times which require critical decisions regarding spending priorities. Gilbert possesses an in-depth knowledge of a school system and will be able to work collaboratively to arrive at a consensus regarding the budget. She brings a keen intellect, an openness to listening, and a desire to work hard.

BARBARA A. L'ITALIEN
5 Harper Circle

Barber has business, education knowledge

Editor, Townsman:

One of the reasons we love Andover is the large number of extremely qualified volunteers. We know Art Barber from his time as our daughter's soccer coach, and later as a School Committee member who worked with us on a number of community efforts. We have always known him as a fine man, with both common sense and business knowledge. We remember him standing up at Town Meeting to protest a particularly onerous anti-business sign article, and we respect him for that.

Barber is a business leader who also has a doctorate in education. How can you get more qualified for a school department position than that? His long track record of public service, and his marriage to South School teacher Connie Barber, makes him uniquely qualified. We are thankful he wishes to continue in a sometimes thankless job.

Andover's public schools are among the finest anywhere and

the fine work of current and previous School Committee members is an important factor. We are sure there are many good candidates, but in this time of economic trouble, we need leaders who can get the most out of our budget, and have the experience and commitment to do so.

BILL AND ANNIE PERKINS
14 Rennie Drive

Barber protects tax dollars

Editor, Townsman:

Please join me in voting to re-elect Art Barber to the Andover School Committee. In these uncertain economic times we need an experienced leader protecting our tax dollars. Barber is truly committed to providing Andover children the highest quality education. His two daughters are successful graduates of the Andover school system. His commitment to excellence and his determination to run our schools efficiently is what sets him apart from the field.

As a parent of two children in elementary school and one in preschool, she will be a committed School Committee member with an eye to the system's long-term success.

DENISE BORDONARO
7 Meadow View Lane

Barber improves town, schools

Editor, Townsman:

I am voting for Art Barber for School Committee because of his past performance showing strong leadership and dedication to the town and the school system.

Barber was the co-founder of the Andover Coalition for Education, which has helped raise money for educational programs. He has been active in all aspects of the School Committee efforts, including negotiating last year's budget and working on the School Building Task Force. He has been a proponent of a vibrant downtown business district and recently helped Rapids, a clothing store at 39 Main St., stay in business.

Barber has lived in Andover for over 20 years and been involved in public service like the Andover Youth Services and Senior Center Task Force, showing his commitment to the betterment of Andover on all fronts, especially regarding the youth of our town.

His School Committee record speaks for itself. He has looked for new ways to generate additional revenue, and I've watched him detailing the annual budget, analyzing every expenditure closely, and always looking for ways to help Andover work more efficiently.

I believe he fully deserves our vote of confidence March 24.

TED GEORGIAN
11 Lovejoy Road

Visionary Birnbach works with everyone

Editor, Townsman:

Andover has some very good choices for School Committee and all the candidates have much to offer. The perfect candidate should have the ability to make pragmatic decisions, question but also support the administration, encourage innovative ideas, make tough choices and stand by them, and collaborate with the community. After much consideration of these points, I am writing to endorse David Birnbach for School Committee.

Birnbach is the candidate we

need especially in these challenging times. He is a proven leader, visionary and collaborator. As a lifelong resident with a history of public service, he has established relationships with many members of our town boards. During his last stint on the School Committee, Birnbach helped hire the superintendent, was part of the group that studied overcrowding and enrollments, which led to the proposal to build High Plain Elementary and Wood Hill Middle schools, and worked on building connections with town officials that eventually led to the formation of the Strategic Planning Task Force.

I hope all voters will take the time to learn about all the candidates for School Committee. It is my hope they will then join me and vote for Birnbach on Tuesday, March 24.

DIANE COSTAGLIOLA
Belknap Drive

Colby-Clements' solutions earned vote

Editor, Townsman:

After studying all of our candidates for School Committee, Paula Colby-Clements appears to be the right choice. What impresses me most is her grasp of the issues and the clear-cut solutions she proposes. She has come forward with a number of proposals to expand learning while optimizing the value of taxpayer dollars spent on education. Also, Colby-Clements is the only one who has mentioned anything about environmental considerations when it comes to operating our schools. She has a keen view of all the important matters we need to address and the practical expertise for dealing with them.

Colby-Clements is the breath of fresh air we need on the Andover School Committee. She has earned my vote.

MAUREEN T. O'CONNOR

297 Salem St.

Schools must preserve music, arts

Editor, Townsman:

It's imperative that we don't cut music and the arts. These programs are vital to our students' educational experience and must be preserved.

When I went through the Andover schools, music and the arts played an integral role in our education. As an active musician for the past 35 years, my public school music classes gave me an important foundation that I've used throughout my adult life. These classes enhanced my cognitive/thinking skills, built discipline, improved listening skills, and boosted my academic ability.

Given the wealth of research linking music and the arts to increased brainpower and academic achievement, our schools should be increasing our focus on music and the arts, not eliminating them. We have a wonderful asset in the Collins Center that's controlled by the school system, and we should collaborate with Berklee School of Music, Tufts, Boston University's Drama School and the New England Conservatory to offer our students a series of thrilling music and drama programs. Twenty years ago, the Collins Center was the epicenter of music and the arts outside Boston, and students benefited greatly. Let's commit ourselves to think creatively and find ways to cost-effectively enhance our focus on music and the arts.

DAVID BIRNBACH

86 Osgood St.

The writer is a candidate for School Committee.

ELECTION LETTERS

This is the last week for election letters. The Townsman has a long-standing policy of not accepting letters for candidates in the issue prior to an election. The election is Tuesday, March 24.

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16 Thursday, March 12, 2009 THE TOWNSMAN

Education

School will continue until late June

BY BETHANY BRAY
STAFF WRITER

Andover took its fourth snow day for this year on Monday, March 2, as a late-season storm dumped close to a foot of snow on the region. The district can take up to five snow days — or one more — and keep the tentative last day of school as June 29.

Superintendent Claudia Bach said Friday, March 6, that she hesitates to give a date for the last day of school this early in the

SNOW TOTALS

4: number of snow days taken as of March 10
June 22: last day of school had there been no snow days
June 29: last day of school with five snow days built in
Source: 2008-09 school calendar, posted on www.apst.net, and Alison Phelan, executive assistant to the superintendent

year. Past years have seen unexpected late-season snowstorms or spring flooding causing school

to be canceled and effecting the last day of school, she said in an e-mail.

The 2008-09 school calendar lists the last day of school as Monday, June 29, assuming there are five snow days. The current four snow days would appear to create a last day of Friday, June 26. If the district goes over the five-snow-day cushion, schools must add enough class time to make up the state's required 180 days.

The last day of school is officially decided by the School

Committee, which will take a vote "much later" in the spring, said Debra Silberstein, School Committee chairwoman. The committee makes its decision after receiving a suggestion from the superintendent.

Due to a messy snowstorm on Monday, March 9, high and middle school students were released 20 minutes early, at 1:45 p.m. on Monday. This gave school buses extra time to navigate slushy, snowy roads and pick up elementary students at their normal dismissal time of 2:45 p.m.

Career performances at West Middle



Lt. Col. Laurie Farris of the New Hampshire Air National Guard lets Emily Edwards, a West Middle School eighth-grader, try on her flight helmet during Career Day at the school. Farris, who lives in Andover, is a pilot on a KC-135 refueling jet at the Pease Air National Guard base in Portsmouth, N.H.



Kim Horsman, a personal trainer for Yang's Fitness Center in Andover, shows West Middle School eighth-graders Sydney Gillis, left, and Jaclyn Alois how to do push-ups during Career Day.



Bob Willard of Andover, a computer engineer, shows West Middle School eighth-graders Molly Cronin, left, and Cassie Kobelski the motherboard of a PC as talks about his profession.

BOOK REVIEW: 'MAXIMUM RIDE: THE ANGEL EXPERIMENT'

First book in 'Maximum Ride' series flies high

BY HARRY WOOD
WHAT'S UP CONTRIBUTOR

think others would enjoy too. It's "Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment" by James Patterson, the first book in a currently four-book series.

"Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment" tells the story of six people: Maximum (or Max), Fang, Iggy, The Gasman, Nudge and Angel. They are all 15 and younger, but live together in California without parents. They aren't related (at least as far as they know), but they are united

by one thing: Their parents gave them to a lab called "The School" when they were babies to be part of an experiment where scientists grafted avian DNA into their human DNA. They act like normal kids, talk like normal kids, and basically look like normal kids, except for one thing: they have wings.

Along with their wings, some of the group have strange, unexplainable powers. Angel, for example, can read minds. As

young kids, the six manage to escape from The School.

At the beginning of this book Angel is stolen from the group and taken back to The School, so it can test her mind-reading abilities. Max and the others must find out where Angel is located, and then rescue her. Guided by a mysterious and cryptic voice in Max's head, they make their way across the country, fighting human-wolf hybrids called Erasers, meeting new friends

and new enemies, and discovering more information about The School, their parents and who they are.

The plot of this book is impressive. Patterson deftly mixes a powerful story of self-discovery about people protecting the ones they love with a fast-paced action drama. He creates a perfect equilibrium, making sure that the story doesn't move too slowly for fans of the action side, but isn't too over-the-top for people looking more for substance.

However, the part of "Maximum Ride" that impressed me the most was how well Patterson captured the voice of the protagonist and narrator, Max. Most authors do not always have the easiest time effectively making teenage characters sound like, well, teenagers. Patterson has it down. Max is witty, tough, hilariously sarcastic, and a smart-alec — just like 95 percent of the teenagers out there. Without

Please see REVIEW, Page 17

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KATIE MCMAHON/Staff photo

Candidates differ on whether to combine two schools

BY BETHANY BRAY
STAFF WRITER**ARTHUR BARBER**

Andover is working with the Massachusetts School Building Authority to develop a plan to either replace or renovate Bancroft School. If successful, we should receive maximum funding reimbursement.

I am open to the potential of two buildings on one campus or a combined building. Hopefully the facility will be green, cost-efficient, allow the combining of new technology with traditional values (and retire the outdated open concept).

Before deciding on a plan I would like more parental and taxpayer input.

ANNIE GILBERT

As a current Bancroft and former Shawsheen parent, my first priority is keeping both these wonderful school communities individually intact. Bancroft should be replaced, preferably on its present site and in a way that integrates some features of the current building's character with technologically and ecologically forward-thinking design. Shawsheen's unique programming should also be preserved. I'm open to combining the two projects on one site, preferably as separate buildings in a campus-like setting.

DAVID BIRNBACH

Due to the numerous structural problems, Bancroft Elementary needs to be replaced, not renovated. I attended Shawsheen School. It's a special place and is uniquely cultivating to our young children, focusing on important developmental stages. We have to consider this aspect along with building, staffing, and long-term maintenance costs, when assessing whether the two schools should be combined. And we need to involve the Shawsheen and Bancroft parents, principals and teachers in our deliberations.

PAULA COLBY-CLEMENTS

I'd like to have Shawsheen and Bancroft combined at one site if we can get the necessary approvals in place. Doing that, we could have close to 50 percent of the new construction cost funded by the commonwealth, versus Andover taxpayers spending 100 percent for repairs to Shawsheen. Further, I'd want to see a new building designed with energy efficient technology that is environmentally friendly and economical to run, thereby adding to the one-time construction cost savings.

DIANE McCARRON

I have supported combining Shawsheen and Bancroft due to Shawsheen's need for renovation. A new facility could cater to the special needs of the Shawsheen population and achieve cost efficiencies by centralizing functions and decreasing transportation costs. I would try to keep this new school in the Bancroft area of town. I have previously recommended the redevelopment of Shawsheen into affordable elderly housing.

Locating a senior center in the same building would also be beneficial.

However, the part of "Maximum Ride" that impressed me the most was how well Patterson captured the voice of the protagonist and narrator, Max. Most authors do not always have the easiest time effectively making teenage characters sound like, well, teenagers. Patterson has it down. Max is witty, tough, hilariously sarcastic, and a smart-alec — just like 95 percent of the teenagers out there. Without

Please see REVIEW, Page 17

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Finance Committee can provide roadmap for schools

Ken Seifert



Bill Doherty, a School Committee member for 39 years, warned me that in the springtime before the annual wres-

tling match for dollars known as Town Meeting, the Finance Committee would advise all public services that this was a bad year. For over 60 years there never was a good year.

OK, maybe we did exaggerate the number of times they told us. But it was our way of injecting humor during difficult times. School administrators used to joke that the Finance Committee expected us to do more and more with less and less until we would do everything with nothing.

But in 2009 only a billionaire might dispute the proclamation that this is a bad year.

Looking back on 23 years as superintendent and beyond, I see the Finance Committee as a

reason Andover is a nice place to live. Members take the volunteer job seriously. They also expect money to be spent wisely and according to the road map voted at Town Meeting. They allow some detours when an alternate route is needed.

We have cycles where the town side thinks the committee favors the schools. There are times when the school side can't accept the recommendation to spend more money on roads than books. For the most part, all sides do understand the streets are not paved with gold and recognize the needs of the entire town.

From time to time there may be members who have a school-department bias. There may be members who have a town-department bias. Sometimes there are members who have an anti-public-service bias. I guess that is a way of insuring checks and balances. I never did ask the moderators if that was the plan. The collective decision is what is right for all the citizens of the town.

One of the unsung heroes of the town has to be Joanne Marden. She studied the monthly reports

and reminded us of trends in case we didn't notice. Blazing new trails or pet projects within the existing budget were frowned upon. Members of the committee knew that when concerns were shared, the message would be delivered. When Marden spoke, I listened. She may not have thought so, but she always had my attention.

I have witnessed times when the committee members were almost booted off the stage. There were times when they have received standing ovations. Measuring the whole mile, they have done a fine job. Sometimes we taxpayers forgot how we voted against the recommendation of the committee. We then proceeded to blame them for the mess we were in. This is not to say we should follow every recommendation. I have had some members recognize and said they had guessed wrong.

Their primary function is to look at our debt, available funds, state aid, level of services, future revenues, and to look at the wisdom of what is being proposed. If you don't have a good plan, don't ask for money. The committee

behaves like Scrooge and will bah humbug a loosely sketched wish list. It also tries to bring financial discipline to the taxpayers, elected officials and top administrators.

This is a new era. We need to be up to the challenges of an uncertain future. This year I would like to see the Finance Committee share with us a multi-year projection that shows its best thinking. It must be at least three years. It should include three scenarios: rose-colored glasses (optimistic), the-sky-is-falling (pessimistic), and the world is not coming to an end (most probable). They should show us our decisions of the past. We've been too busy watching the Celtics, Patriots, Red Sox and, now, the Bruins. Are we able to afford what we want?

They could present this on our local TV station or be the opening scene to the annual Town Meeting drama. I want the clearest picture of reality they can create, to expose us to what we need to do. I know we are headed into a storm but at least in our town we should be able to see bright clouds on the horizon.

SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS

Here's what's for lunch in the Andover public schools March 16-20:

Elementary schools

Monday: Teriyaki meatballs and lo mein noodles, grilled cheese and pretzels, seasoned veggies, fresh fruit and juice.

Tuesday: Crispy chicken sandwich, pizza wedge, jumbo pretzel and yogurt or string cheese, rainbow pasta salad, green apple and shamrock cookie.

Wednesday: Meat lasagna and garlic bread, veggie chili and bread stick, pizza burger on a roll, garden salad, three-bean salad, french fries and fruit mix.

Thursday: French toast, mini yogurt, mozzarella sticks and marinara sauce, sloppy joes and shredded cheddar on a roll, Caesar salad, roasted potatoes and fresh fruit.

Friday: Early Release - No Lunch

Middle schools

Monday: Egg-and-cheese or egg-and-sausage croissant, cheddar bacon burger with lettuce and tomato, mozzarella sticks and marinara sauce, garden salad, potato wedges and chilled pears.

Tuesday: Cheese or pepperoni pan pizza, soup and salad, chicken nuggets, dips, roll, Caesar salad, St. Patrick's day cake and juice.

Wednesday: Macaroni and cheese, dinner roll, pastrami on a roll, jumbo pretzel, yogurt, string cheese, macaroni salad, minestrone soup, fresh fruit and juice.

Thursday: Veggie or sausage pan pizza, Italian sub with the works, roast turkey wrap, soup, hot vegetable and fresh fruit.

Friday: Steak-and-cheese or meatball calzone, oven-fried chicken, rice pilaf and biscuit, soup and salad, seasoned carrots, apple crisp and juice.

Andover High School

Monday: Chicken sauteed with garlic topped with Alfredo sauce, broccoli and cheese over penne pasta served with garden salad, bread stick and fruit cup.

Tuesday: Pasta with meat or marinara sauce, garlic bread, seasoned green beans and apple crisp with topping.

Wednesday: Buffalo wings with french fries, coleslaw, dinner roll and fresh fruit.

Thursday: Oven-roasted turkey, whipped potatoes, vegetables, dinner roll and chilled peaches.

Friday: Oven-baked ham, rice pilaf, seasoned vegetables,

dinner roll and chilled pears.

Also available a la carte daily at the elementary and middle schools: bottled water and 100-percent juice; low-fat ice cream and yogurt; bagel with light cream cheese; yogurt; fresh fruit of the season; and milk. At Andover High School: wrap/deli bar with sandwiches made to order with favorite toppings, daily sandwich offering, daily specials and panini specials.

For prices or other information about lunches, call Gail Koutroubas at 978-623-8622.



RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) is a chronic condition in which multiple joints become swollen and stiff. It is an "autoimmune" illness, in which the body's immune system makes antibodies that attack the synovial tissue that lines our joints. Inflammation of the synovial tissue can cause cartilage destruction and bone erosions, leading to deformity of the joints, which can be disabling.

After 10-12 years, most people with RA have some degree of joint deformity or work disability. Sometimes those antibodies also damage other parts of the body, including the lungs, blood vessels, and nervous system.

Treatment of RA is directed at suppressing the inflammation of the joints, in the hope of controlling symptoms and preventing progressive deformity and disability. Several different categories of medications may be useful, but all carry the risk of serious side effects. There are also alternative therapies that have been helpful for many people. People with RA need a doctor who will help them understand their treatment options, and change course if there are adverse effects or progression of disease.

Please browse my website for more information, or call 978-470-0001 for a complementary "meet and greet" appointment.

P.S. You also want a doctor who helps you with the emotional effects of chronic pain and disability.

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AHS International Club adopts African school

By Emily Stidson

INTERNATIONAL CLUB MEMBER

being celebrated in March. The club welcomes all Andover High School students and faculty who wish to attend.

It also encourages all to take part in a more serious effort, to aid its adopted school in Africa.

In October, led by French teachers Olga Shaknovsky and Kim Caverly, the International Club adopted an elementary school in Burkina Faso, Africa. Students in the club and in several French classes baked various goods, and from just two bake sales raised a total of \$617 to send to the school by electronic transfer.

"Every penny goes to the kids

who lost one or two parents," Shaknovsky said. "No middle man. The teacher doesn't take anything for herself." The majority of the money paid for such basics as rice, shoes and school supplies, but some of it bought medicine for children suffering from AIDS. The epidemic orphaned many of them, and without this kind of aid they would not survive, according to the school.

"Even in these difficult economic times, we shouldn't forget about those who struggle more than us," said Noortje Groosman, a senior member of the

International Club.

Both Caverly and Shaknovsky plan to hold more bake sales during this semester, and hope their enthusiasm spreads.

"If businesses want to donate money to our sister school through the Andover High School PTO, donations will be tax-deductible," Shaknovsky said. Those who wish to donate can contact Kim Caverly at kcaverly@aps1.net or Olga Shaknovsky at oshaknovsky@aps1.net.

Emily Stidson is a student at Andover High.

REVIEW: 'Maximum Ride' is full of action, substance

Continued from Page 16

Max's voice, this book probably wouldn't be as nearly as engaging or entertaining. But luckily she is there, and the entire story is peppered with her cunning, bravery, and best of all, blistering sarcasm.

The other characters are all well put-together, from the brooding, secretive Fang, to the overly talkative, bubbly Nudge. But Max is the one who livens up the story and holds it together.

My only problem with this book is minor: the action starts very quickly, and leaves you little

time to get your bearings before you're thrown headlong into the plot. However, that doesn't lower my enjoyment of the book much, and I am still giving "Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment" a 9.5 out of 10. This book is funny, exciting, action-packed and well written. There is some violence

in the book, so I would say it is appropriate for anyone 12 and older. Readers who enjoy this book should check out the rest of the series as well.

Harry Wood is an Andover resident and student at Brooks School, a private high school.

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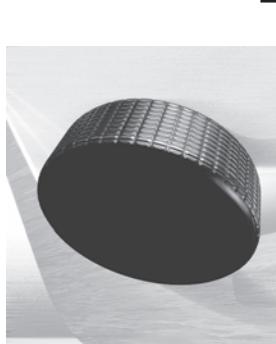
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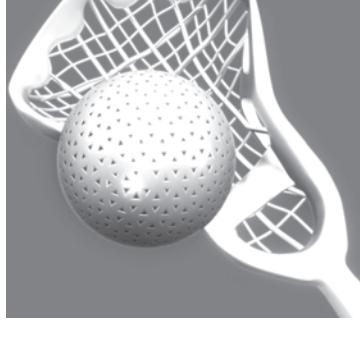
all printing is done at the shop itself.

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Sports

■ ROUNDUP

Price guides McConnell to New England track title

BOYS TRACK

As he crossed the finish line, Chris McConnell slapped his hands together in frustration.

He had not broken his state record in the 55-meter dash that he had set a week earlier. But he had still run a 6.38, 18/100ths of a second faster than his closest opponent, earning him victory in the event at the New England Indoor Championships on Friday.

McConnell was quick to credit his sprint coach, Scott Price. In early December, the coach walked the junior over to the wall of honor at Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center.

"See this state record," Price said, pointing to the names of Wellesley's Antone McCatty and Lexington's Johann Jack, the co-holders of the best 55-meter dash time (6.38) in Massachusetts history. "Take a look at it. Because next year it's going to have your name on it."

Price, who won the New England 200 title at Wakefield High in 1994, was Jack's old rival. They faced each other as schoolboys and in college, when Price was at UMass Amherst and Jack was at Boston University.

"He would tell me every day," McConnell said, "You gotta beat him."

"Everything he says is useful. Coach Price trained me for my peak to be last week and this week."

On deck are this weekend's Nike Indoor Nationals at Reggie Lewis. McConnell's goal is simple, to win.

Relay magic

McConnell wasn't the only Andover sprinter to run a blistering time. He teamed up with Brendan Crawford, Mark Vetere and Kerrick Stevens to win the 4x200 in a time of 1:31.08.

According to Price's hand-timed splits, McConnell (22.3), Crawford (22.6), Vetere (22.6) and Stevens (22.9) were each terrific.

"It takes four guys," Price said.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Warriors bow out

For the third time in four years, the Lowell curse struck Andover.

Racing down court in the closing seconds,

Please see ROUNDUP, Page 19

OUT OF THE SHADOWS

Former Andover star Vetrano excelling at Saint Anselm



Courtesy photo

Former Andover star Greg Vetrano has emerged as a standout for Saint Anselm. The junior's breakout game was a 27-point performance as the Hawks shocked top-seeded Bentley in the Northeast-10 tournament.

By DAVID WILLIS
STAFF WRITER

As the game grew on, Greg Vetrano could tell something was special.

"The basketball just felt so good coming off my hand," Vetrano said. "For select times during the game, the basket just looked huge. It was one of those great nights."

On March 3, the guard delivered the exclamation point on his breakout college season. Vetrano scored a career-high 27 points as No. 8 Saint Anselm shocked top-seeded Bentley 88-85 in the Northeast-10 tournament.

"Ever since I have been at Saint A's Bentley has put a hurting on us," said the Hawks junior. "My freshman year they beat us in the playoffs, and this year in the regular season they beat us by a big margin (84-57). It was great (to win), and it was especially good because I had a bigger impact on the team this year."

Vetrano knocked down five 3-pointers and added six assists in the win. One spectator that was wowed by his performance was his older brother and former high school and college teammate Chris Vetrano.

"He played his heart out," Chris said. "He has always been a very, very good player. His received more playing time this season, and with it has come better production."

Greg Vetrano's ability as a scorer has never been in question. The 5-foot-8, 160-pounder was a two-time All-Scholastic at Andover High, finishing his career in 2006 with 1,086 career points.

He signed a scholarship with the Hawks, but despite appearing in every game in each of the first two seasons, he often struggled to find playing time. Last season, he averaged 5.0 points in 13.1 minutes a game as a backup guard. But with his brother graduating after last season, Vetrano found himself in position to make his mark this

Please see COLLEGE, Page 19

■ SPORTS FROM THE COMMUNITY

Andover Bantam IIs net state championship

The Andover Bantam IIs won the Massachusetts Bantam Tier III State Championship in Springfield last weekend, winning a double overtime thriller against Concord-Carlisle, 4-3 in the final. Andover also defeated teams from Pembroke, Stoneham, Wilbraham and Waltham, to go 5-0 in the tournament.

Let by goalie Kevin Shea, the team gave up only seven goals in five games. Doug Hubschman had a hat trick in the championship game and Danny Keenan scored the game winner, assisted by Brett Coneeny.

Coaches Mark Coneeny, Paul Fraser and Lou Shipley said they were "extremely proud of the way the team represented Andover."

French Basketball League sinks final 2009 buckets

The Andover Department of Community Services Bob French Basketball League just completed



The Andover Bantam IIs won the Massachusetts Bantam Tier III State Championship. Pictured are: front row, bottom, left to right Brett Coneeny, Tyler Stahle, Joey Comeau, Billy Rand, Danny Keenan, Kevin Shea, Ryan Halloran and Matt Hysczak. Second row, assistant coach Lou Shipley, Clarke Shipley, Andy Hook, Stevan Castaldo, Doug Hubschman, Nick Ardagna, Joe Baglio, Tyler Lacroix, Connor Fraser, head coach Mark Coneeny and assistant coach Paul Fraser.

its 2009 season.

The Junior Boys Division ended

its season in a close playoff game between Teams 2 and 4. Team 2

won the game 31-24. Members

of the winning team are Donald

Andover Gold wrap up season



The Andover Gold Boys Basketball Travel Team finished its season 16-2 in the Merrimack Valley Basketball League. From left are Gavin Liddell, Peter Dankert, Dillon Clancy, Luke Washburn, E.J. Perry, Kyle McCarthy, John Muldoon, Darin Hunt, Jake Lansberry, Sami Aruri, Alex Marshall, Oliver Eberth, Coach E.J. Perry and (back) Coach Don Hunt.

Alois, Jonathan Bailey, Daniel Bailey, Tommy Gallagher, Ian Jeffery, Jacob Koffman, Matthew Layman, Matthew Meagher, Ben Munick, Mahin Rahman, Chris Rinaldi, and Graham Scott.

Other division champs were Junior Girls Nikki Dlesk, Ashlie

Please see COMMUNITY, Page 19

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COLLEGE: Local athletes shine

■ Continued from Page 18

year.

"It took me a little while to find and get used to my role," he said. "At first I was at point guard, and it was harder to score off that. I wanted to be more aggressive, because I feel like that is one of the strengths of my game. I decided I could distribute and still be aggressive with the ball."

Vetrano broke out on Nov. 11 when he scored 17 points in a 74-64 win over American International. He followed that up three games later with 19 points against Bloomfield and two games after that with 22 against Southern New Hampshire.

"I've always been a scoring guard," he said. "I'm back in a starting role, where I'm more comfortable. I can get everyone involved, and keep myself involved."

For the season, he finished second for the Hawks (17-13) with 12.6 points per game, and led the team with 166 assists and 98 free throws made. With Saint A's season ending with a loss to Assumption last Thursday, Vetrano is now set on making his final college season a memorable one.

"I was thinking after the loss that it's all over a year from now," he said. "I feel like I should be improved next year, and we have everyone back for another run."

Cosgroves make their mark

The move to Adelphi University has been a good one for Vetrano's former running mate, Casey Cosgrove.

The junior, who transferred from Quinnipiac before the season, has started 25 of 27 games at point guard. He leads the Panthers in assists with 139, is second in scoring at 10.9 points a game and third in rebounding (4.4 a game) at just 5-foot-10. With Cosgrove's help, Adelphi sits at 20-8, 14-5 in the conference.

Cosgrove's sister, Maggie Cosgrove, has also found her groove in college basketball. The 5-foot-3 sophomore is in her second year as the starting point guard for Sacred Heart University. In 27 games, Cosgrove ranks second on the pioneers in assists (94) and fourth in points (8.7). She also shoots a stellar .864 from the free-throw line, good for second on the team.

Also seeing playing time is Salem State freshman Tristian Shannon. The 2008 Andover High graduate has played in 23 of 27 games for the Vikings, averaging 2.2 points and 3.5 rebounds in 13.5 minutes a game.

Ian Dempsey, a 2007 Andover grad, has appeared in 19 games for Plymouth State, grabbing 18 rebounds and scoring 20 total points.

Thomann still gold from long range

Having hit 233 3-pointers in her high school career, Meghan Thomann possessed one of the best shots around during her career at Andover High. And the guard has carried that stroke into college.

As a freshman at Bentley College, Thomann has knocked down a team-high 52 3-pointers

on 153 attempts this season. She ranks sixth on the Falcons in points at 6.1 a game.

Korsberg a standout for Crimson

Apparently, the schoolwork at Harvard isn't holding back freshman Kristi Korsberg.

The four-time Division 1 state champions in the 200 freestyle has contributed right away in her first season with the Crimson. At the Ivy League Championship meet, Korsberg placed fifth in the 1,000-yard freestyle (10:03.06), fifth in the 200 butterfly (2:03.15) and sixth in the 400 IM (4:25.04).

Nasta receiving accolades

Maria Nasta's accomplishments are not going unnoticed. Last week, the UMass Boston junior was named to the Eastern College Athletic Conference East Second Team.

This season, Nasta led the Beacons in points with 38 on 11 goals and 27 assists in 26 games, to rank ninth in the nation with 1.46 points per game.

For her career, Nasta has tallied a whopping 90 points (36 goals, 54 assists). She played her freshman year at New England College. In just two seasons at UMass Boston, she has 83 points (31 goals, 52 assists) and earned ECAC East First Team All-Conference honors last season. She currently ranks third all-time at UMB in points.

Join the discussion. To comment on stories and see what others are saying, log on to andovertownsman.com.

COMMUNITY

■ Continued from Page 18

Dykeman, Cassandra Ferreira, Katherine Grygiel, Megan Hartnett, Julia Keenan, Lauren Kramer, Caroline McDonald, Madeline Mueher, Megan Mueher, Beth Nash and Zara Silva-Landry.

The Intermediate Boys Division ended with a tie between Team 2 (of Angelo Cerbone, Thomas Feigenbaum, Quinn McCarthy, Parker Nally, Dylan Norris, Alec Pollack, John Romano, Drew Rooks, Cole Spencer and Geoffrey Warne) and Team 4 (of Colin Campbell, Alex Dalton, Jay Healey, Jack Hughes, Nicholas Kulungian, Daniel Lee, Mashuk Rahman, Jason Spencer, Marshall Su and Matt Tringali).

Intermediate Girls Division champs were Gisele Aoun, Elizabeth Day, Talia Dellatto, Carley Jessep, Rachel Major, Rebecca Mini, Allie Morgenstern, Laura Morissette, Caitlin Patten, Caileigh Reming, Carissa Reming and Avery Sutliff.

Senior Boys Division champs were Jacob Burte, Andreas Christopoulos, Mike Cirbee, Harrison Cobb, Matthew Conlin, Joe Danisch, Matthew Dalimonte, Liam Doherty, Sam Kefferstan, Jonathan Klayman, Jake Flaherty, Peter Minigell, Erich Rothmann and Justin Sonberg.

Senior Girls Division champs were Michelle Cloutier, Emma Cutley, Virginia Duffy, Lauren Flynn, Jessie Jacobowitz, Rachel Marinelli, Christina Marino,

Catherine Muldoon, Aislinn Mulligan, Alyssa Otole, Nicole Pelletier, Abigail Pustis and Helen Root.



Courtesy photo

Courtney Harkins of Andover is a standout skier at the University of Colorado.

Andover skier helps team to nationals

Courtney Harkins, a sophomore at the University of Colorado at Boulder, helped her team qualify for the National Championships of the United States Collegiate Ski Association.

During the regular season, Harkins finished fifth and sixth in two days of slalom racing at Beaver Creek and seventh at Loveland Valley. At Telluride, she earned a sixth in giant slalom. Her team qualified to the western regional championships at Steamboat Springs this past weekend where Harkins had a seventh place in slalom.

The Buffaloes finished second overall, earning their place at Nationals.

Harkins is a journalism and English double major from Andover. Previously, she skied for Concord Academy and the Loon Race Team.

Holy Family Hospital's lecture

The third lecture of a series, on Hip and Knee Replacements, will be May 6 from 5 to 6 p.m. in the Holy Family Hospital auditorium.

Tom Hoerner, MD, from Essex Orthopaedics and Optima Sports, will help people navigate through the considerations of joint replacement surgery.

STONE WALL
Real Estate Corner



by Bill Buck, Broker/Owner

AN AGGRESSIVE SELLING STRATEGY

Current circumstances in the real estate market dictate that sellers list their homes with agents who will market their properties aggressively. Such efforts begin with market analysis, which involves comparing the home to similar homes in the area that have sold recently. This comparison forms the basis of a listing price that both appeals to prospective buyers and ensures sellers of a proper return on their investment. Then, it is the agent's responsibility to "get the word out" by advertising in newspapers, conducting open houses, listing the property on the Multiple Listing Service, and connecting with buyers and brokers on the Internet. Aggressive marketing translates into an increased likelihood of selling a home in a challenging market.

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Please send your questions or comments to me at:
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ROUNDUP: Andover falls to No. 1-seed Lowell

■ Continued from Page 18

sophomore Natalie Gomez-Martinez fired up an off-balance 3-pointer. The ball swished through the net perfectly.

Unfortunately, the efforts of Gomez-Martinez, who led all scores with 19 points, was not enough to overcome No. 1-seed Lowell, which held on for a 50-48 victory last Wednesday in the Division 1 North semifinals at Methuen High.

"We gave it all we had, but it's tough when they have two girls (6-3 Brianna and 6-1 Whitney Wilson) who are seven inches taller than anyone we have, and who have really improved. They've got some nice post moves now that are tough to stop."

Nicole Boudreau battled double teams all night, and finished with three 3-pointers for 13 points. Shannon Cooney added standout defense and five points.

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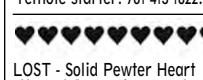


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3A Lost & Found

LOST: Sat., Feb. 28, large sum money that was in a Newburyport 5 Cents envelope lost either inside the Clam Box Restaurant or in the parking lot. (978) 463-8829

LOST: Set of keys Good Harbor Beach, Gloucester, has remote starter. 781-413-1822



LOST - Solid Pewter Heart Shaped Cremation Jewelry Pendant. Please call (978) 265-157 when found.

RWARD



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REWARD



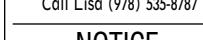
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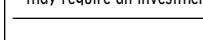
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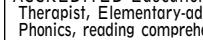
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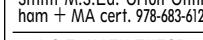
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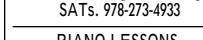
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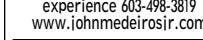
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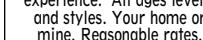
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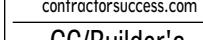
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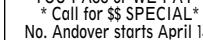
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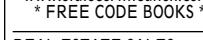
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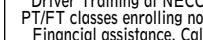
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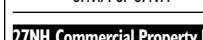
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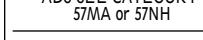
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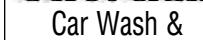
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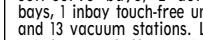
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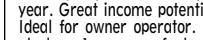
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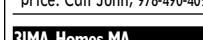
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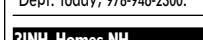
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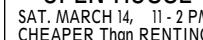
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RWARD

68NH Roommates/Housing To Share NH

DERRY - share 3 bedroom furnished home. Central air, washer/dryer, cable. All utilities. 3-2 bedrooms available. \$525 & \$600. Security deposit. 603-898-6019

EAST HAMPSTEAD, NH clean, safe, sunny, quiet, room with cable, laundry, parking! \$140/wk, includes utilities. 603-382-8531

EPING older female seeks older roommate. Furnished room, \$500 includes utilities. Pet friendly. 603-679-1586

HAMPSTEAD, Non-smoker to share nice home.

BEAUTIFUL**YARD & DECK**

washer/dryer, close to 495/93, \$600/mo. or \$160/wk, includes heat & utilities. 603-329-6128

HAMPTON: Live year-round, walk to beach, share modern ranch house, WiFi. \$135/mo. includes all. 603-479-6379

First Run
LONDONDRY: 2 rooms and private bath in my Townhouse, share kitchen, washer/dryer. Pool & parking included. \$550 utilities included. Call 978-414-4516

NEWTON Shore Remodeled Farmhouse, quiet, \$600 mo. All Utilities Included. Non smoking. (603) 339-2776

PLAISTOW, NH - Room for rent in house. Female seeks some. No smoking or pets. \$140 a week. (603) 382-8237

SALEM female seeking some to share condo, large bedroom, parking, laundry. Convenient to 93. \$450 includes utilities. No pets. 978-430-5533

SALEM - share large private home, quiet neighborhood, own entrance, sun room, bath, pool, washer/dryer, easy access to Rtes. 93 & 28. All utilities included. \$550 month. Call (603) 275-4585.

SEABROOK: Large, sunny room, \$550, includes utilities, high speed internet, A/C, hardwood. 603-474-8060

**76-100
Help Wanted****83 Professional**

FAMILIES LIKE YOURS BECOME A FOSTER PARENT

Casey Family Services seeks experienced parents to provide a family for kids in foster care - ages 10-15.

Financial Compensation
Top quality training
Ongoing Support

Call 800-883-8836
caseyfamilyservices.org

85 Medical**First Run
MEDICAL
RECEPTIONIST**

FT experienced receptionist for busy 2 doctor Podiatry practice. Individual must have multi task well, a proficient knowledge of insurances, manage appointment scheduling, balance daily receivables, and track insurance referrals. Must have computer skills. Duties include preparing, organizing and filing patient charts,ulatory correspondence. Fox requires 2 Methadone Assoc. LLP or mail to: 191 Broadway

89 Trades/Industrial**First Run
Auto Mechanic**

FT looking for detail oriented person, pay commensurate with experience. Benefits. Call 781-537-5379

91 Sales**Property Management**

MRS Management is seeking an aggressive professional with at least 5 years of sales & marketing for commercial/retail spaces. Looking to develop a northern MA/Southern NH territory. Call Steve of 978-887-2349.

93 General**AVON !!**

We Train. 100-250-1815
email: avonnn@aol.com

**First Run
EXPERIENCED COLLECTORS**

Were you recently laid-off because of the declining economy and looking for full time employment? VKI's Lawrence, MA location is looking to fill several positions.

If you have strong communication skills and you're serious about your career, there's a place for you on our team:

We offer:
*Excellent bonus structure
*Flexible health care benefits
*Paid holidays and vacation time
Valentine & Kebartos, Inc. is a highly competitive company looking for the individual with the most advanced collection technology along with a professionally trained collection staff. Sound interesting? If you have the qualities described above, in addition to a powerful drive to succeed, call Rick Howley, at 800-311-7766 ext. 211 to arrange a personal interview. VKI is an equal opportunity employer.

First Run**Line Cooks**

2 years minimum experience. Apply at Barking Dog Bar & Grill, 21 Friend Street, Amesbury, ask for Matt

**First Run
PT Merchandiser**

For sun glasses experience only Please call (603) 379-1084 fax resume to: (603) 379-1086

**First Run
WAREHOUSE POSITION**

HAZMAT SHIPPER/ RECEIVER

Seeking a detail oriented individual for a full-time opening in a Warehouse environment. Responsibilities include packaging, shipping and receiving of hazardous material. Knowledge of CFR & IATA regulations a plus. Benefits include medical, 401K, profit sharing, etc. Strong Chemicals is a friendly, growing business located in Newburyport, MA. E-mail resume to Jason@chems.com or apply within. EOE

93 General**Students
H. S. Seniors & others**

Great pay, flexible schedule, sales/service, no experience necessary, oil goes 18+, conditions apply, call now. (978) 739-4448

97 Work Wanted

Ads In This Classification Are
WORK WANTED
NOT HELP WANTED

**First Run
Bartender seeks**

work-experienced mature reliable man can work day and/or eve., Wed.&Thurs. 978-361-5040

98 Caregivers

ASSIST quadriplegic man in Peabody. Paid monthly. Mtn. this Fri., 6-30pm-late. \$138/hr.; also am-8-3 4-day/s/ week. \$13.05hr. 978-531-6370

**First Run
CAREGIVER needed**

Female preferred. Must be reliable, patient, honest & have own car. \$11.60hr. For more details & interview Call 978-228-9273.

**First Run
CARTER**

Part-time responsible CNA for Salem, MA woman with MS. Mon & Sat., 7:30-12 noon. Hiring immediately. Must be local to Salem, have driver's license & HEAVY LIFTING Required. 978-388-0814

COFFEE AND END TABLE

Coffee table & end table - glass/wrought iron, \$90 or best offer. 603-722-0141

COMMODE

never used, brand new. \$15. Call (978) 683-0518

CRAFT SUPPLIES

card stock-about 100, 5 for \$1; envelopes-many sizes-about 100, 5 for \$1; for about 48 used coloring pointing books, \$3-\$7each; about 50 patterns \$300.00; 15 theorem patterns \$3each. 603-642-3336

DIGITAL CAMERA

built-in camcorder, 3.2 MPix, 8x digital zoom, built-in MP3 player, & much, much more. Brand new never used, cost \$180, sell \$75. (978) 458-8890

DINING KITCHEN TABLE,

3'x5', 2 chairs, asking \$225. (978) 922-6458

Hot Deals

DINING ROOM SET For sale

& take care of elderly woman residing in attractive condo. Experience helpful, some training available. Room & board provided. Stipend based on experience & time worked. Personal care of Marion, companionship, house cleaning, laundry, cooking, 3 references required. For details, 603-454-7969; 802-723-4534; 609-865-3627.

**First Run
HELP**

HELP to care for elderly woman in her Manchester, MA home. Hours flexible. \$10/hr. 978-865-2128; 978-497-8008

PCA ROWLEY

No Smoking! No Perfumes! 20 yr. old Sweet Young Man. Weekends, 11-5; Weekdays, 2-5. \$11.60 hr. Free room in exchange for care of house, medical appointments, companionship. 978-643-4466 Newburyport

VISITING ANGELS

SENIOR HOME CARE Licensed, Bonded, Insured. Call 978-462-6162

W. Newbury, MA: Care giver

(female preferred) PT for 88 yr. old woman with dementia must be reliable, patient, cheerful & kind. Experience providing complete care, meal care & companionship. Please call 978-377-4599

99C Child Care Providers Non-Licensed

ALL CHILD CARE PROVIDERS IN MASSACHUSETTS ARE REQUIRED TO BE LICENSED. Only NH Childcare Providers May Be Licensed Or Non-Licensed

COLLEGE STUDENT

seeks FT nanny position in your home for summer 2009. Clean driving record, great references. Call Jill 978-475-7236.

99C General**ATTENTION!**

Beware of anyone replying to your ad offering to send you a check for shipping and you sending them back the difference.

Also beware when responding to classified ads that ask you to send shipping cost. Possible scam!

CAR SEAT

5-40 pounds, 19-43 inches, 5 point harness, almost new condition, smoke free environment, 1 1/2 years old. \$70. (978) 927-6699

SAFETY FIRST BABY BOUNCER

\$25 OR BEST. (603) 890-0575

TOY BOX

white bead board, 16"x26", Pottery Barn, excellent condition, \$40. (978) 470-2300

102 Articles for Sale

ANTIQUE WROUGHT IRON SADDLE AND BRIDLE RACKS! fancy, \$100 ea/best (978) 463-7358

ATTENTION!

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I04 Antiques/Collectibles

SCALE large, antique Hobart, works. \$200. Call 5-7pm, 978-686-9464.

SPINNING WHEEL in good condit. on \$250.00 (978) 388-5988

WALL PICTURE lights up, electric, 11" x 12" winter scene. \$10. (978) 683-0007

I06 Bicycles/Mopeds

BICYCLE 26 Inche Men's 700C Schwinn Varsity Road Bike. Comes with a 14 speed chimento disc and only have one year. Ask for \$190 at the store cost \$240 online \$250

ROAD BICYCLE 700C bicycle Schwinn 26 inches for \$190. Call 978-804-2337 for more info.

SMALL boys mountain BIKE used less than 2 seasons. 24" tire, front shock, 21 speeds, great high-end bike original \$310. Will sell \$125. Call (978) 372-6707.

I07 Fitness/Sports

TODDLER BED, Girls, white metal, like new \$70. Girls bike with training wheels, special paint job \$20. (978) 394-2070.

ARCHERY: 2 Stan thumb releases, \$45 each. Hunter Safety System Vest, like new, \$100. Scott caliper release #45. (978) 394-1880.

ARCHERY: Truglo single pin fiberopic sight, \$40; 3 pin fiberopic sight by North American Archery \$20. (978) 394-1880.

FIGURE SKATES, new, girls, white with blade guards, \$40. SKI'S & ski boots, \$45. No. Andover. (978) 327-5963

GOLF CLUBS MacGregor. \$100 for all. Call Tom, (603) 898-2723.

I07 Fitness/Sports

SKATES, girl's white Glacier size 12, like new \$30; HOCKEY HELMET boy's Bauer, white, youth size, \$25. (978) 530-1736

STAIR MASTER 400 PT excellent condition. \$75 best offer. Call (603) 642-8686

TREADMILL. SPORTCRAFT folds for easy storage, heavy duty includes all the bells & whistles, \$199 (978) 478-8797

10 Building Materials

ANDERSEN French Potio Doors. New framed, 5'11 1/4" x 7' 3". High performance tempered glass. Factory applied satin nickel hinges. White. Comes with screens & gliders. Brand new. Original price \$2,500. Asking \$1,500. (978) 879-4634

I07 Fitness/Sports

WINDOWS - ANDERSEN, vinyl, light, like new \$30; HOCKEY HELMET boy's Bauer, white, youth size, \$25. (978) 530-1736

Brother printer/copier/fax machine #MF-4350 manufactured in 1998 in good working order uses toner instead of ink \$35. (978) 270-8364

GATEWAY P3 - complete \$30 P4, complete \$100 (978) 470-1632

I16 Cameras-Photography

Canon EOS40 Canon speed light 420EZ, Canon FTB with electronic flash includes zoom lens, macro lens & wide angle lens \$150 (978) 914-7302

CLASSIFIED CONNECTION

Get connected. Get results. www.ClassConnNorth.com

1-800-927-9200

fax 1-877-927-9400

I16 Cameras-Photography

VIDEO Camcorder: Built in still cameras 2" color LCD panel, 8X digital zoom located with features, new in box. Cost \$240 selling for \$89 (978) 458-8020

I18 Computer/Software

Brother printer/copier/fax machine #MF-4350 manufactured in 1998 in good working order uses toner instead of ink \$35. (978) 270-8364

I20 Firewood

SAMSUNG BLU RAY DISC PLAYER BDP-1500 with Update. \$180 metosmoke@comcast.net

I20 Firewood

ADS in this category must show prices by cubic feet. Half a cord is 64 cu. ft. and a cord is 128 cu. ft.

First Run

Kin Dried, available in 1/2 cords & full cords, \$50/cord (128 cu. ft.). Call 978-767-2329.

HARD WOOD

(128 cu ft) Cut, Split & Delivered within 10 miles of Newton, NH

Seasoned: \$350 ★ Green: \$300 (per cord) Call 603-303-2923

I21 Fuel

\$1.59 Call 24 Hours 978-921-0702, 781-631-8193

PAYLESS OIL

(prices subject to change)

↓↓↓↓↓ ATTENTION FUEL CONSUMERS:

All ads in this classification run in our 10 paper "Classified Connection" that covers the North Shore, Merrimack Valley and Southern New Hampshire.

Ads appearing in this section may or may not deliver to this entire market.

Prices may reflect a "Local" delivery area only and may be higher for an extended delivery area.

↑↑↑↑↑ C.O.D. OIL

OIL • SERVICE • MA Only

• Low Cost Heating Oil

• Most Reliable Delivery

• Pay by check or cc

300-809-4001

Or order 24/7 @ CODOIL.com

PATRIOT OIL

Call for today's low price. 978-744-6405

Premium Pellets

& Pellet Stoves. 603-642-4888

THE FIREPLACE CENTER

\$350. Call 603-693-7172

I23MA Garage/Yard Sales MA**MOVING SALE**

Furniture and more! Saturday, & Sunday 8 - 2

81 Tracy St. Peabody 2nd Floor/backdoor

NORTH READING - INDOOR MOVING SALE

Sat. 9-3. Furniture: living room, dining room, etc. Toys, games, household items. Too much to list! 42 Wilson Ave N

I23NH Garage/Yard Sales NH**LONDONDERRY MOVING SALE**

Sat. & Sun. 3/1 & 3/15, 9-2pm. 4 Beermeadow Rd.

Furniture, fridge, tools.

GREAT DEALS!

I25 Garden Supplies**GRANITE BLOCKS & CURB,**

Riprap, Screened Loom,

Processed Gravel & Fill,

Miles River Sand & Gravel

978-356-2290

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wood lathe, tools for \$450, yours for \$300. Porta-Cable 12" mitre saw \$125; 14" abra-

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ITEM

Proposal No. RFP009/03-09/040
Real Property Acquisition for Conservation/Passive
Recreation Purposes

Specifications and Proposal forms may be obtained at the Office of Central

Purchasing, Andover Town Offices, 36 Bartlet Street, Andover, MA 01810.

No proposer may withdraw his proposal for a period of One Hundred Eighty

(180) days after the date set for the opening thereof.

There is No Security required with this proposal.

Andover is an affirmative action/equal opportunity purchaser.

The Town reserves the right to accept or reject, in whole or in part, any or all

proposals or take whatever other action may be deemed necessary to be in the

best interest of the Town.

Elaine M. Shola
Purchasing Agent

AT - 3/5, 3/12/09

LEGAL NOTICE**LEGAL NOTICE****TOWN OF ANDOVER****MASSACHUSETTS****ADVERTISEMENT****REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

Sealed proposals for furnishing the following will be received at the Office of

Central Purchasing, Andover Town Offices, 36 Bartlet Street, Andover, Massa-

chusetts 01810 until the time specified below at which time the proposals will be

opened. The time received will be stamped on each proposal and for a consis-

tency of time, the wall clock in the Purchasing Office will be the determining

OPENING

April 6, 2009

11:00 A.M.

IF YOU DESIRE TO

OBJECT THERETO,

YOU OR YOUR ATTOR-

NEY MUST FILE A

WRITTEN APPEAR-

ANCE IN SAID COURT

AT: Salem

ON OR BEFORE TEN

O'CLOCK IN THE

MORNING (10:00 A.M.)

ON: 04/06/2009

In addition, you must

file a written affidavit of

objection to the peti-

tion, stating specific

facts and grounds upon

which the objection is

based, within (30) days

after the return day (or

such other time as the

court, on motion with

notice to the petitioner,

may allow) in accord-

ance with Probate

Rule 16.

WITNESS, Hon.

Mary Anne Sahagian,

First Justice of this

Court.

Date: February 23,

2009

Pamela Casey O'Brien

Register of Probate

AT - 3/12/09

To all persons inter-

ested in the above capi-

tated estate, a petition

has been presented

requesting that a docu-

ment purporting to be

the last will of said

decedent be proved

and allowed and that

Robert W Holmes Jr. of

Milton, MA be appoint-

ed executor/trix, named

in the will to serve

Without Surety.

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24 Thursday, March 12, 2009 THE TOWNSMAN

To Get Your Full Local Forecast, Go To <http://www.Andovertownsman.com>

THURSDAY	THU. NIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly sunny; colder	Partly cloudy	Mostly sunny	Breezy with sunshine	Plenty of sunshine	Plenty of sunshine	Mostly sunny	Partly sunny

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather.com ©2009



TOWN TALK

Andona's Casino Night is March 21

On Saturday, March 21, The Andona Society will host its annual spring event to benefit the youth of Andover. Residents can join the group for Casino Night, and play Blackjack, Texas Hold'em, Roulette, and more. This year the event will be held at the Wyndham Hotel in Andover from 7 to 11:30 p.m. In addition to playing games of chance, people can enjoy music, light food, drinks and a silent auction.

Attendees may choose to purchase a Gambler ticket (for \$35 and you receive \$1,000 in chips) or a High Roller ticket (for \$50 and you receive \$3,000 in chips). Additional chips may be purchased before the event. Chips have no monetary value but can be exchanged at the end of the evening for fun prizes.

For more information on the event and to purchase tickets, visit the Andona Web site at www.andonasociety.org.

All proceeds go directly to the youth of Andover. Programs sponsored include the Expeditionary Learning Outward Bound Program at the Wood Hill Middle School, the Engineering Lab at

the Doherty Middle School, and the Seismology Program at Andover High School. In addition to these programs, the Andona Society awarded \$10,000 in college scholarships and \$15,000 for Andover children to attend summer camp last summer.

BU hockey co-captain visits Bancroft

With the Boston Bruins posting a winning season, it's hockey mania this school year with budding hockey players plentiful.

So Debra Nichols' kindergarten class was thrilled when John McCarthy, co-captain of the Boston University hockey team, visited Tuesday morning. Many sported hockey shirts as they presented McCarthy a homemade hockey alphabet book, entitled "Z is for Zamboni."

They talked about his shirt number (15) while he signed the hockey shirts worn by the 5-year-olds.

It was a homecoming for McCarthy as he attended Bancroft for three years. The St. John's Preparatory School graduate, the son of local dentist Frank McCarthy and Joan McCarthy, a preschool teacher at Christ

From Bancroft to Beanpot



Courtesy photo
Co-captain of the Beanpot-winning Boston University hockey team John McCarthy's visit to Debra Nichols' kindergarten class at Bancroft Elementary School on Tuesday morning was a hit, she said. Many of her students sported hockey shirts as they presented McCarthy a homemade hockey-related alphabet book, titled "Z is for Zamboni."

McCarthy is a former Bancroft student.

Church, had fun being the center of learning at Bancroft. Now he has been drafted by the San Jose Sharks.

But first, it's the Div. 1 playoffs

for BU. The Beanpot Turney winners take on the University of Maine tomorrow night, Friday, March 13.

— Judy Wakefield

Marines to visit West El fourth-graders

Next Tuesday, March 17, youngsters in Ms. Mohammed's fourth-grade class at West Elementary will get to meet their penpals.

Two Marines, Haverhill native Ricky Mendoza and John Nagle, a Baltimore native, will personally thank Mohammed's class for the letters of support they sent to them while they were stationed in Iraq.

Mendoza and Nagle will talk to the fourth-graders about life in the military, and in Iraq.

Last fall, the West El youngsters were connected to U.S. soldiers through the Andover-based advertising agency Effective Student Marketing Inc. The company's president, Andy Kelly, has a daughter, Emma, at West Elementary and combined the letters from West Elementary with care package items donated by staff and customers.

— Bethany Bray

Live from warmer climates ... it's Rev. Gill

The Rev. Jeff Gill, rector of Christ Church, has begun his six-month sabbatical, and is blogging as a way to keep in touch with family, friends and his Central Street congregation.

You can read about Gill's adventures, which include a few days in Florida at Red Sox Spring training, at www.jeffgilljourney.blogspot.com.

Gill and his wife, Carolyn, left Andover on Feb. 27. His sabbatical, centered on "themes of joy," will include time to visit family and friends on four continents, attend conferences and retreats, and complete periods of reflection, prayer and writing.

Carolyn will accompany him for some of the trip. Also on the agenda is a father and son bike trip from Canada to Mexico, spanning 2,000 miles down the Pacific coast.

The sabbatical, Gill's first after six years at Christ Church, is possible through a grant from the Lilly Endowment's National Clergy Renewal Program. The church's Assistant Rector Adam Schumaker will fill Gill's shoes while he's gone, as well as interim Margaret Schwarzer, hired for the six-month period.

— Bethany Bray

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It's culinary team work at Palmers

The Executive Chef at Palmers, John Ingalls, has a signature dish so delicious that he makes them every Sunday at home, according to his wife.

"It's lobster cakes and it's so delicious," said Rebecca Ingalls. "We serve it with a red pepper sauce...so delicious!"

Those lobster cakes are as popular at Palmers Restaurant and Tavern on Elm Street. The restaurant has been a North Shore favorite for over 20 years - the past 13 of those years have been in Andover. John Ingalls said the culinary team work approach has been the recipe for the restaurant's success in Andover.

Led by John, the team also includes Day Sous Chef Tina Marzolini, and Night Sous Chef Mark Stout. The three enjoy a warm camaraderie and a great passion for food and cooking.

Like John, the two are passionate about their signature dishes. For Mark, it's his fantastic Sesame Seed Blue-Fin Tuna with Asian noodles. It's a less fishy signature dish for Tina, as her Veal and Lobster Amaretto is to die for.

For each of them, the cooking passion started years ago. John has been cooking since childhood and graduated from The Culinary Institute of America in 1977. He carved out his place on Boston's restaurant scene back in the 1980's. After stints in the city and on Martha's Vineyard, he established Palmers Restaurant on the waterfront in Swampscott. In 1995, the restaurant moved to 18 Elm St. in Andover.

Palmers' three formal dining rooms - in addition to the large Tavern - soon filled with delighted diners

customers. As business prospered, kitchen backup was needed. Luckily, Tina was ready to make her culinary debut.

Having just graduated from Newbury College in Brookline, Tina joined John in the Palmers kitchen in 1998. Tina was influenced early on by Graham Kerr, better known as the "Galloping Gourmet" on television. Sprinkle her Italian heritage and passion for sautéing, and it mixes up to add a scrumptious touch to the Palmers menu.

Add in her steadiness and grace, and the Palmers kitchen was more than well-received. Tina is well known among local foodies as she makes several public appearances each year. Tina always has a yummy station at The Taste of Andover and is involved with many other local charity events.

Mark's history at Palmers dates

back to 1997 when he was still a student at Andover High School. After graduating from AHS, he left Andover to complete his culinary training at New England Culinary Institute in Vermont. He worked in several kitchens before returning to Palmers in 2002.

For Mark, his culinary influence in childhood came from all those Julia Child cooking shows he watched. Now best known for his creative flair, he keeps that alive by sharing his culinary passion and talent with informal Cooking/Tasting classes. Mark is a true food aficionado but also has a fondness for the sweater items on the menu. In addition to his job as night sous chef, he recently assumed the role of Palmers Pastry Chef.

It's a three-tiered culinary team at Palmers just waiting to serve you! Appetites wanted!



In the kitchen at Palmers Restaurant are, from left, Day Sous Chef Tina Marzolini, Executive Chef John Ingalls, and Night Sous Chef Mark Stout.

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