

INSIDE: FEASTER FIVE RACE KICKS OFF HOLIDAY SEASON THANKSGIVING MORNING , PAGE 2

OUR 122ND YEAR

Andover Townsman

Issue No. 13

NOVEMBER 26, 2009

75 CENTS



Familiar ring back downtown

Salvation Army on Main Street again

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
STAFF WRITER

Bell ringers from the Salvation Army have returned to their spot in front of the Town House this year after a noticeable absence.

In 2008, the Salvation Army did not collect downtown at all. That's because in 2007, there were complaints from some workers that the bells ringing on Main Street was noisy and disturbing. Following an order from the town to use "common sense" when ringing the bells, Maj. Alberto Suarez, the town's Salvation Army officer, suggested that no bells be used in Andover for the rest of that year.

"I guess there was a complaint that it was too much," said Suarez at the time. "We are so grateful to the town of Andover to let us stand there, that we don't want to create any controversy."

The ringing stopped, but Andover's reputation was portrayed as Scrooge-like.

"The result was bad press...Andover came across as a stuffy place. And it's not. It is very, very generous," said Peter Cotch, a local Rotary Club member who was ringing the bell at the Salvation Army bucket last Friday afternoon in front of the Town House, also known as Old Town Hall. "I just tell people it was a misunderstanding, that's all."

With his leashed 8-year-old Tibetan terrier, Buster, at his side, Cotch rang the bell for three hours and generous contributors seemed happy to donate.

Cotch, who plans to challenge state Rep. Barbara L'Italien next year, said Nov. 20 was the bell-ringing kick-off. Rotarians will be ringing bells

Please see BELLS, Page 4



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

Peter Cotch, an Andover Rotary Club member, rings a bell for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle fundraising drive in front of Old Town Hall.

COMMUNITY CORNUCOPIA



COURTESY PHOTO BY MICHAEL DOLAN

Moriah Crocker shares a smile with Tina Kostaras as part of Sanborn Elementary School's annual Harvest Festival. Students entertained residents at the senior center with music.

Thanksgiving between the generations

By BETHANY BRAY
STAFF WRITER

This year's theme for the Sanborn Elementary School's Harvest Festival says it all: "Building bridges between generations."

The project, now in its 31st year, connects Sanborn youngsters with local senior citizens. Some of the students - and many of the seniors - do not have exposure to the other generation during the rest of the year. The annual event is one of several endeavors in town meant to brighten people's spirits during the Thanksgiving season (see page 2).

Each year, Sanborn students collect items to create Thanksgiving goody bags, which are delivered to area shut-

ins and residents of nursing homes. In each goody bag is an invitation to come to Sanborn for a musical program, held this year on Nov. 24.

"It's one of those tangible events, to go with the children and see the interaction with seniors. That's what makes it all worth it. It's one of those events that doesn't come along often," said Sanborn mom Jane Miller, who co-chairs the project with Kandie Hale. "It brings to life the message of giving back."

Fourth-grade classmates Sara Dever, Savannah Gillis and Sophie Bardetti took care in filling gift bags on Nov. 19, and agreed the project connects generations and spreads happiness.

Please see HARVEST, Page 2

Giving help



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

Nancy Greeley of Andover, a member of the Andover Rotary Club help organize food collected to take to local charities for the holiday.

As park opens, so does Wood's former executive building

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
STAFF WRITER

Say the name William Wood on the streets in Andover's Shawsheen section and most homeowners know who he is even though he died 84 years ago.

The one-time mill-owner from Andover grandly built the stately brick homes in the Shawsheen section for top managers at his mill - American Woolen - and the more simple homes on the other side of his executive building for midlevel workers.

Next weekend, that executive building located in between the two major housing developments for mill workers gets the attention. The Balmoral, an 82-unit condo development since the 1980s, has teamed with The Shawsheen Village Renaissance Project and Andover Historical Society to offer a tour of the historic building. Tour-goers can get a glimpse of Wood's executive taste as The Balmoral was his company's executive office building.

Opened in 1922, the building has proudly maintained its industrial grandeur over the years. Wood's company seal - a Ram's head - welcomes

visitors at the grand front entrance along with just-as-ornate replicas of the Shawsheen Indian.

The foyer is marble, while the executive suite is fireplacced and the building has a first-floor ballroom.

"There's a big 'wow' factor," Jack Flood said of the reaction from guests when they visit The Balmoral and his third floor condo for the first time. He lives in the unit that once housed Wood's office and the unit is included on the tour.

The grand fireplace works, the lights are original and the ceilings

Please see BALMORAL, Page 4

HISTORICAL TOUR

12 condos at The Balmoral
16 Balmoral St., Andover
Saturday, Dec. 5
noon-5 p.m.
\$20 cash or check at the door hosted by The Shawsheen Village Renaissance Project and Andover Historical Society
check out works by photographer David Saums, a former Balmoral resident who won Best in Show 2009 at Art-in-the-Park, Andover

Forum on plan for dam removal Dec. 2

By BETHANY BRAY
STAFF WRITER

If three privately-owned dams were removed from Andover's stretch of the Shawsheen River, canoers could paddle the length of Andover and native fish the river has not seen in more than 100 years could return.

This is the hope of conservation experts and a team of engineers who has spent the last year studying the Shawsheen, engineering

the removal of the dams and its impact on the watershed.

A public forum will be held on the project, which is roughly one-third complete, on Wednesday, Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. in the Public Safety Center, 32 North Main St.

"These are the only dams that are on the Atlantic side of the Merrimack. From an ecological standpoint, if the dams were taken down, it would create a habitat for

Please see RIVER, Page 4

H1N1 response on the clock



Grant Morris photo

Pharmacist Paul Ordman fills syringes with the injectable version of the H1N1 vaccination at the Andover Senior Center on Monday afternoon. Story, page 4.

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Also, let's never stop being thankful to the men and women in uniform, past and present, for the service they have provided to each and every one of us!

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Beloved Feaster Five kicks off Thanksgiving morning

The Feaster Five, the Thanksgiving morning road race that attracts thousands of people to Andover's streets each year is set to begin its 22nd year.

It's not too late to register for either the 5-mile or 5 kilometer (3.1 mile) run on Thursday, Nov. 26. To register, visit www.feasterfive.com.

The race starts on North Main Street at the intersection with Route 133 and ends at Brickstone Square, off Haverhill Street (Route 133).

Fees are \$5 for the short kids' race, and \$30 for either the 5-mile or 5K.

People can register and pick up their numbers on Monday, Nov. 23 and Tuesday, Nov. 24, noon to 7 p.m., and Wednesday, Nov. 25, noon to 6 p.m., at the Andover/North Andover YMCA, 65 Haverhill St. (Route 133), Andover; and on Thursday, Nov. 26 (Race Day) from 7 to 8:15 a.m., at Woodworth Motors, the corner

of Routes 28 and 133.

The Kid's race is at 7:45 a.m., and the 5 mile/5K at 8:30 a.m.

Merrimack Valley Hospice is a beneficiary of the race and three of the women who work there are running to raise money for the agency. One is a chaplain, another is a nurse and a third is a social worker. Each knows firsthand what Merrimack Valley Hospice can do for the patients and families they care for.

Terry Holbrook, the chaplain, will walk in the Feaster Five. She has experienced hospice personally, when her father passed away from colon cancer and her best friend died of pancreatic cancer, according to a release from the agency.

"People turn to hospice for peace and comfort," said Holbrook. "Working at Merrimack Valley Hospice has given me a unique opportunity to see what an impact these donations make in the lives of our families. With

support like this we are able to extend our care to everyone who needs it, regardless of their ability to pay."

Nancy DiPirro became a nurse because of the hospice experience she had when her mother died of lung and liver cancer. Following her mother's death, she enrolled in nursing school and became a registered nurse.

Nancy Kidd, a social worker for Merrimack Valley Hospice, is also making this a holiday tradition in honor of a loved one. She has collected donations for Merrimack Valley Hospice in honor of her sister who died of lung cancer.

"I feel fortunate to have experienced hospice on both a personal and professional level. I jumped at the chance to give back by walking in honor of my sister," said Kidd. "Every donation made during the Feaster Five is going to make a huge difference to a patient facing end-of-life and their family."



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

A big family event for all to take part of the annual Feaster Five Road Race in Andover Thanksgiving morning.

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

Pitching in



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

In front, Kathleen Buck, 10, and her sister Caroline, 9, both of Andover, help organize food they've collected to take to local charities as part of the Rotary Club's food drive.

Turning pumpkins into a Thanksgiving meal

Ironstone Farm found a new way raise money to provide turkeys for families in need this year: the Pumpkins to Turkeys project.

Begun in spring with a plan to turn a section of the Andover horse farm into a pumpkin patch, various participants in the therapeutic programs planted, nurtured and harvested the crop in preparation for the fall. While some of the pumpkins were used for decorating the weekly farm events throughout the fall, and others were used for craft activities for

children, the majority were sold with the intention of using proceeds to buy turkeys for Lazarus House in Lawrence.

The goal was to raise \$1,000, said Director Deedee O'Brien. In the end, more than \$1,300 was raised, with \$800 used to buy and deliver turkeys before Thanksgiving Day. The farm also collaborated with the Rotary Club of Andover to bring turkeys and Thanksgiving Day fixings to other agencies throughout Andover and Greater Lawrence this week.

Free Christian puts giving in Thanksgiving

Sharing Thanksgiving meals was a big part of a day of service by the members of the Free Christian Church in Andover last weekend. Church spokeswoman Maureen Smith said volunteers worked on about 17 different projects around Merrimack Valley.

"We had high school boys working on conservation land with the town of Andover, other teens raking at the ABC (A Better Chance) house on Main Street, lots of volunteers packing Thanksgiving food boxes at Lazarus House in Lawrence and at Neighbors in Need warehouse

in Dundee Park, served breakfast at Cor Unum Meal Center in Lawrence, collected turkeys in our parking lot and lots of families raked leaves for seniors in Andover," said Smith. "We hosted a townwide children's clothing drive to benefit Cradles to Crayons which most of the Andover schools, some of the temples and churches, the library and town hall have been part of. Last Saturday morning, volunteers were in the lower hall of our church sorting and packing these clothes for needy families."

- Judy Wakefield

HARVEST: Kids, seniors mix

Continued from Page 1

"This will help the seniors have a happier Thanksgiving," said Sara.

"Some of them don't see kids very often," added Savannah.

As she packed goody bags with her classmates, Sophie said she was thinking about how happy the seniors' faces would be when they open their gifts.

Each bag, decorated with a hand-drawn tag and green and orange tissue paper, contained juice boxes, fruit, pretzels and other snacks, as well as a potted plant, postage stamps and bookmarks made by Sanborn students.

Sanborn Girl Scouts made homemade tea for the gift bags and Boy Scouts assemble the potted plants, which are donated by Mahoney's Garden Center.

Sanborn fifth-graders delivered the goody bags on Friday, Nov. 20.

The goody bags are just a vehicle for the program's "hidden gem": the gift of time, thought and a personal visit, said Miller.

This year, a few changes were made to the Harvest Festival routine, due to concerns of H1N1 flu.

A public nursing home that Sanborn students have visited in the past cannot allow visitors under the age of 18 this year, said Miller. Instead, a group of 20 students has adopted residents of that nursing home as pen pals, and have been writing

letters to the seniors this fall. They hope to visit the nursing home and meet their pen-pals in the spring, once flu season is over.

Sanborn's Harvest Festival tradition was started by Mary Guziejka, a Sanborn Elementary music teacher who traveled to Britain with her family for a sabbatical, said Miller. While Guziejka's daughter attended a public school in Britain, she learned of their tradition of visiting senior citizens, and brought the idea back to Sanborn.

Guziejka was expected to be a special guest speaker at the musical program on Nov. 24. Sanborn students planned to sing, play instruments and visit with seniors in the audience. In turn, the Sunrise Singers, a choir based at the Andover Senior Center, was to perform for the youngsters.

This is the third year Miller and Hale have organized the Harvest Festival, and they said it's well worth the hours of planning and organizing. Both women have two children at Sanborn.

A large group of parents pitch in for the week of events, including driving fifth-graders to deliver the gift bags.

The project is a rite of passage for Sanborn students, said Miller, with younger grades collecting items for the goody bags, fourth-graders packing and decorating and fifth-graders delivering the bags.

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In Brief

PAST & PRESENT



THEN: The Hood Farm on River Road became the site of the St. Francis Seminary in 1930, a minor seminary for Catholic high school boys interested in the monastic life and the priesthood.



NOW: The Franciscan Center was once the Hood Farm.

Mailing deadlines for Christmas

The US Postal Service recommends the following mail-by dates to ensure your Christmas gift arrives on time:

- Dec. 4 — Military mail destined for Iraq or Afghanistan
- Dec. 11 — Military mail for

other overseas bases

- Dec. 16 — Parcel Post, the most economical shipping service
- Dec. 21 — First-Class Mail
- Dec. 21 — Priority Mail
- Dec. 23 — Express Mail

Christmas Decor seeks to light soldiers' homes

Christmas Decor wants to "Light 200 soldiers' homes this winter to bring holiday joy to families with loved ones serving, but needs America to nominate families." Families are selected for "Decorated Family" from those nominated via the "Decorated Families" link of the Christmas Decor

website, www.ChristmasDecor.net. There is a brief application with an opportunity to write a 500 word essay describing why the family being nominated should be selected. Families will be contacted by a Christmas Decor designer who will design a custom holiday display, according to the company.

QUOTE, UNQUOTE ...



I CAN'T TELL A KID WHERE TO go. It's his or her decision.
— *Andover High School Guidance Counselor Mike Marcoux, who says students have taken a greater role in selecting their college over the past 27 years. Story on college-admissions process, page 19.*

THE PARADE STARTED QUIETLY. ON Dec. 1, 1955, an Andover Townsman headline mentioned a scheduled parade. The story said, "and on Saturday, an interesting Santa Claus parade will be held... It will be led by the All-Girls band and will feature Santa and his reindeer. Included in the line of march will be several floats."

— *Bill Dalton writing about the history of the firefighters' Santa parade, which is set for this Sunday, Nov. 29. Story in Townspeople, page 16.*



Parents, get a clue about social networking

Are you clueless about Facebook and what might be posted on your teen's page?

John Maver, an expert in online social networking sites, including Myspace, Bebo and Facebook, will host a workshop for parents on Dec. 3.

The event, open to the public and organized by the Wood Hill Middle School Parent Advisory Council, will begin at 7 p.m. in

the Wood Hill auditorium, 11 Cross St.

Maver will cover Facebook and social networking in general, how information spreads and who can see it, effective privacy settings and parent/child relationships.

Parents are welcome to send questions to Maver before the workshop by emailing john.maver@thoughtlabs.com.

Maver has been involved with the Facebook, Bebo, and Myspace platforms from the time they were released, and has written several successful applications. He has been a speaker at conferences and webinars about Facebook development and was the featured developer for the Bebo platform in the spring of 2008.

As cofounder and principal

of Thought Labs, Maver has worked with small businesses and Fortune 100 companies to find the right goals, strategies, and implementations for their social media campaigns. He also co-authored the book "Essential Facebook Development: Build Successful Applications for the Facebook Platform," to be published by Addison-Wesley Professional this month.

Hats, mittens, scarves collected through Dec. 17

The Andover Department of Community Services is sponsoring the annual Mitten and Hat Collection Program that benefits children and adults of Andover, Lazarus House in Lawrence, Merrimack Valley Schools and the YWCA FINA House. The following locations in Andover have agreed to participate in the program

by displaying the snowman and providing a candy-cane or treat for those who bring new or gently used hats, gloves and mittens of all sizes to the snowman. Look for the snowman at these locations: Andover Town Offices, Senior Center, Memorial Hall Library, SHED, Bancroft, and High Plain Elementary Schools. Shawsheen

School has completed their collection this year. To make donations, simply go to one of the locations before noon on Thursday, Dec. 17, and drop off your mittens, hats, and scarves and pick up a candy cane. The snowman says, "Please donate some hats, gloves, scarves or mittens to those in need. It is the cool thing to do."

Police participate in emergency vehicle operation course

Members of the Andover police department recently participated in a Emergency Vehicle Operation Course at the Massachusetts State Police EVOC facility in Ayer. The free course was presented by the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association, the town's insurance provider.

EVOC is a full-day comprehensive training program on

the safe operation of police vehicles for officers. As a result of the training, the town will receive credit from the MIA Rewards program, reducing the overall costs of their property and casualty insurance.

"Statistics indicate that on average there is a significant reduction in the number of accidents and their subsequent costs for the police

departments who complete the EVOC," said Jeff Siena, MIA Loss Control Manager.

The course consists of a classroom training followed by several hands-on exercises dealing with a number of situations regularly encountered by police officers while operating emergency vehicles, including cornering, evasive maneuvers, braking and backing up.

Girls Night Out

The Magic Parties, self-described as "an organization of women supporting women to bring their gifts and talents into the world," announces Girls Night Out: Conversations for Women That Matter.

The free, public event will be Monday, Nov. 30, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Pike School, 34 Sunset Rock Road.

To register visit www.themagicparties.com/events.html or contact info@themagicparties.com.

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BALMORAL: Tour is Dec. 5

Continued from Page 1

are 12 feet high. What's interesting about the building is that ceiling height decreases as visitors ascend. The building's small condos are spread among four floors. The first floor has 15-foot ceilings while the third floor has 12-foot ceilings.



Judy McFadden stands near a window in her condo at The Balmoral.

"I just love living here. There is much history," said Judy McFadden, who has lived in her first floor condo with nine very large windows for more than 10 years. She's a key organizer for the tour and strong supporter of preserving the historical building.

"Most people don't know (about The Balmoral) and we hope the tour gets the word out," she said. "With the construction of the Wood Memorial Park across the street and the conservation studies to remove dams on the Shawshen (River) including the one in front of the Balmoral, there should be a lot of local interest in our building."

The infamous Mother's Day flood of 2006 flooded first floor units, but the owners have bounced back.

Residents pulled together for the renovation of the Grand Ballroom on the first floor earlier this year and are now hosting the tour. The town Web site lists units assessed values at about \$200,000 each.

"The Balmoral is unique and stands proudly as the grand cornerstone of Shawsheen," McFadden said.

Wood Memorial Park dedication Dec. 2

Joe Piantedosi, director of Plants and Facilities, said the dedication of the William Wood

Memorial Park on North Main Street, Route 28, near Shawsheen Square, will be Wednesday, Dec. 2 at 11 a.m. The town will place a plaque in honor of mill owner William Wood and his family. The total cost of the project was about \$165,000. The money was given to the town by the Wood family and that transfer was approved at Town Meeting, Piantedosi said.

"It's now a beautiful public park. We did some restoring, some new construction on the entry way and planted new trees," Piantedosi said. "It's a nice tribute to this man who was a giant industrialist in his day."

BELLS: Ringing downtown

Continued from Page 1

Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski remembers the 2007 incident and also prefers to leave it in the past.

"They are here and it's great," he said as he stopped by the Salvation Army bucket. "It's part of the holidays."

Stapczynski said the Salvation Army has the town's permission to ring away on Saturdays. He said the group is well-managed and "keeps administrative costs low." That means donations get right to the people who need it, he said, and that's what he likes to hear.



Angela Alex of Andover, right, puts money in the Salvation Army's Red Kettle in front of Old Town Hall as Peter Cotch, Andover

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Musical Direction by Alan Freeman • Choreography by Sharon Lamont

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Merrimack College, North Andover, MA

Scrooge: The Musical is presented through special arrangements with Samuel French Inc., New York, NY

POLICE LOG

ARRESTS
Tuesday, Nov. 17 - At 2:27 p.m., Jeffrey Care, 47, of 32 Murial Terrace, Bradford, was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license for operating under the influence.
At 8:21 p.m., Marjorie Solis, 18, of 5 Elm St., was arrested and charged with assault and battery on a household member.
Wednesday, Nov. 18 - At 11:42 a.m., Sonia Medeiros, 25, of 40 Fern St., Lawrence, was arrested and charged with receiving stolen property over \$250 and possession of a Class B substance.
At 8:10 p.m., John Sabato Jr., 23, of 35 Robbins Ave., Dracut, was arrested and charged with resisting arrest, disorderly

conduct, possession of a Class A substance and the subsequent offense of possession of a Class B substance.
Friday, Nov. 20 - At 11:44 a.m., Edwin Maldonado, 33, of 15 Garfield St., Lawrence, was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.
At 1:04 p.m., Raul Suruy, 30, of 40 Juniper St., Lawrence, was arrested and charged on a warrant for motor vehicle charges.
At 1:40 p.m., Luis Lima, 30, of 151 Saratoga St., Lawrence, was arrested and charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.
Saturday, Nov. 21 - At 1:17 a.m., Ryan Pennie, 19, of 5 Lomas Drive, Framingham, was arrested

and charged as a person under 21 in possession of liquor.
At 6:31 p.m., Emma Oquendo, 27, of 202 South Union St., Lawrence, was arrested and charged on a warrant for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.
Monday, Nov. 23 - At 1:50 p.m., Aaron Ganek, 18, 1 Deerfield Way, was arrested and charged on a warrant for armed robbery.
At 2:28 p.m., a 15-year-old male from Andover was arrested and charged with possession of a Class D substance with intent to distribute.
THEFTS
Tuesday, Nov. 17 - At 1:20 p.m., theft was reported on Main Street.
At 9:15 p.m., another theft was reported on Main Street.
Sunday, Nov. 22 - At 8:28 p.m., a robbery was reported near Comfort Suites on Spring Valley Drive.

BREAKS
Wednesday, Aug. 18 - At 11:34 p.m., a home break in was reported on Pine Street.
Monday, Nov. 23 - At 1:57 p.m., a home break was reported on Somerset Drive.
AUTO INCIDENTS
Tuesday, Nov. 17 - At 9:36 p.m., theft from a motor vehicle was reported on Campanelli Road.
Thursday, Nov. 19 - At 10:45 a.m., theft of a motor vehicle was reported on Haverhill Street.

Town: Next H1N1 vaccine clinic should be for Andover teens

Monday's clinic served 97 of those most at risk

This time, Andover did not run out of vaccine. Andover Health Department Director Tom Carbone said 97 doses of the H1N1 flu shot were administered at the flu clinic in Andover on Monday, Nov. 23. Medical professionals, new moms and spouses, babies younger than 6 months and pregnant women received the shot.
Ying Chen, one of those waiting at the clinic, said she was there because her obstetrician ran out of the vaccine.
Previous clinics in Andover

with 400 available shots had run out of vaccine. Next up are students in Andover public schools. Carbone said more vaccine is available and he is meeting with school officials to determine which students will be first to get the vaccine. Most likely, students in middle schools and Andover High School will be the first to get the H1N1 flu shot, Carbone said, noting that shots will probably be given out one grade at a time.



Ying Chen, who is six months pregnant, waits at the front of the line at the Andover Senior Center to get her H1N1 vaccination as a line of hopeful recipients gathers behind her Monday morning.

RIVER: Forum on dam removal plan to be held Dec. 2

Continued from Page 1

fish that haven't spawned in the Shawsheen for hundreds of years. It would also create the opportunity to canoe from Tewksbury to Andover and all the way to the Merrimack," said Bob Douglas, Andover's conservation director. "It would be the first time water flowed, uninterrupted, since before these very old dams were installed."
The three dams in the study are the Ballardvale dam near Andover Street, the Stevens Street dam near the Post Office and Marland Place and the Balmoral Street dam. The Stevens Street dam is owned by Atria Senior Living Group and the Balmoral dam is owned by the Balmoral Condo Association, while the Ballardvale dam is owned by two abutting companies.
The dams, built during the 19th century era of mills and industry, are no longer used. The Ballardvale and Stevens Street dams were

built to harness water power; the Balmoral was built as an ornamental dam by mill tycoon William Wood, said Douglas.
Now more than 100 years old, the dams pose a liability and are costly to maintain, he said.
Douglas stressed that ultimately, the dam owners "are in the driver's seat" of the removal process.
"Any dam removal would have to go through the permitting process, and we're still in the fact-finding process," said Douglas.
There is also the potential for grant money or funding from state and local agencies to remove the dams, said Douglas.
Next week's meeting will have a presentation on the project as well as open discussion and a question-and-answer session.
Thomas Ardito, president of the Center for Ecosystem Restoration, said his engineering firm will work on historical review, permitting and designing the dam

removal through 2010, with possible removal of the Stevens Street and Balmoral dams in 2011.
The Ballardvale dam would be removed later, Ardito said.
Dam removal must be carefully engineered, he said, accounting for changes in water level, sediment buildup and effect on area storm drains, bridges and other infrastructure.
"These dams are in urban areas, and in some cases there are wetlands that are created or modified by the dams. There is a lot of engineering that needs to be done, to create the kinds of habitats we're looking for," said Ardito. "We've done quite a lot of surveying of the river, and determining how things will look when the dams come out."
An open meeting about the dam removal project was held in December 2008, and discussion became heated with some residents in attendance concerned the dams' removal would cause flooding to their homes or reduce the water level to a trickle.
Ardito said neither scenario would occur if the dams are removed.
"The volume of water coming

downstream is not affected by dams," he said. "Yes, certainly the removal of the dams will reduce the depth in some parts, and certainly the width. But this is naturally a pretty shallow river ... Look at the areas between the dams and you get an idea of what it would look like without the dams."
The Shawsheen River flows 25 miles from Concord to Lawrence, where it meets the Merrimack River 30 miles from the Atlantic Ocean.
The target species in the dam removal project are herring and shad, said Ardito, and fish that migrate between fresh and salt water to spawn. Herring and shad are ecologically important, he said, because other species of birds and marine wildlife depend on them, and will populate a habitat where they thrive.
"Dam removal improves water quality, stream temperature and leads to a more healthy and diverse ecosystem," said Ardito.
For more information on the Shawsheen dam removal project, including a completed feasibility study, visit www.ecorestoration.org

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Lessons learned as she turns to bread and butter project

Sue Tabb



It's pretty unusual for me to write something that isn't humorous or sarcastic or at least a little irreverent but I find myself in that situation today. I've decided to take a hiatus from my column and so I feel compelled to share with my readers some of the things that I've learned over the past years.

Being a lifestyle columnist is a unique gift. I've had the opportunity to write about hundreds of topics that range from dressing your tween and turning 40 to sibling rivalries and organic woes, and all from my own - some would say twisted - perspective. Having the ability to share my thoughts publicly is part of what fuels me so I don't intend to stay silent for long, just for now.

The reason is simple: There are some other demands that are beckoning and need my attention. Our new family company, the bread and butter project, is taking on a life of its own, which is wonderful and exciting but also quite time consuming. For those of you who are unfamiliar, my daughters Katie and Emma who are now 12 and 10 respectively, decided they wanted to launch an online clothing business to help fight hunger. Of course, they needed adult guidance so it has become a labor of love for this family of four. I won't be giving up writing completely as we are blogging about our experience over the first 365 days. Not a small task!

Anyway, I wanted to first thank all of you who have been following my work for so long. It is so gratifying to know that I have made you laugh or think

Grant will expand program

Family Service Inc. of Lawrence, has received a grant the Massachusetts Service Alliance to expand its "Big Friends Little Friends" program, which matches to at risk youth in Greater Lawrence with adult mentors. The goal of the Big Friends Little Friends program is to improve performance in school and increase the young person's self-confident and self-esteem. As one mentee,

Nathan said of his mentor, David, "He has changed my life a lot. He is my best friend, he taught me a lot about friendship and whenever I need someone to talk to he is just a phone call away."

"Family Service recognizes that mentoring is the most effective way to improve the lives of at risk youth," says Kay Berthold Frishman, Family Service's Executive Director. "We are so pleased that the Massachusetts Service Alliance recognizes the power of mentoring and that they have chosen to invest in Greater Lawrence."

Family Service, Inc. has operated the Big Friends Little Friends program since 2008, before which time the program operated independently as Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Lawrence. Individuals interested in becoming a mentor are encouraged to call the Big Friends Little Friends Program Coordinator, Leah Feroce, at 978-327-6640, or email lferoce@familyserviceinc.com.

Volunteers needed for Elder Services

Make a huge difference in the life of an elder in your community. In the spirit of the national effort toward community service for all, Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley is seeking volunteers to be companions, shoppers, or medical advocates who accompany and assist elders to medical appointments throughout the Merrimack Valley region. Volunteers receive training, flexible schedules, ongoing support and mileage re-imbursment.

Training will be at Elder Services offices, 360 Merrimack St., Building 5, Lawrence.

For more information about dates and times of the trainings, call Eileen Giordano at 978-946-1463 or Gerry Proulx at 978-946-1445.

Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley is celebrating our 35th anniversary. As we continue serving elders, families and caregivers the need for volunteers grows. The programs and services, offered by Elder Services, provides education and in-home resources to elder residents of the Merrimack Valley's 23 cities and towns.

or just feel like you are not the only one who hasn't used their gym pass in two years, doesn't believe in allowances or is ready to flush your kid's cell phone down the toilet. Many of us live pretty parallel lives and I've been happy to open the window and let you all see in.

So as I reflect on what I've learned, I can't help but think that many of the lessons have come from you. Your reaction to my work is what it's all about. I've put together a small list of things that I can take away from this experience. It's by no means complete, but it's all I've got at the moment.

I've learned that it's not about the words you write, but the sentiment you convey.

I've learned that if someone reacts to your work - positively or negatively - they are paying attention. And if they pay

attention, you've done your job.

I've learned that listening to your audience makes you a better writer.

I've learned that every column, like every story, has an underlying message. That message might be different for every reader but as long as they discover one, you've done your job.

I've learned that my husband and kids are good sports about having our lives be public fodder.

I've learned that my husband and kids are what give me a life in the first place.

I've learned that finding out someone cut your article out and taped it on their fridge is better than any award I could receive.

I've learned that I will never be a perfect mom or a perfect wife but that I am a near

perfect version of me.

So there you have it in a nutshell. Of course everyday life has a tendency of clouding your vision so it's sometimes hard to remember these things. Taking the time to put words to paper does force you to dust them off every once in a while and remember what's important.

We are testing the waters with our new family venture and trying to teach our daughters how to run a sustainable business and give back. We are stepping out of our comfort zone and hoping that this will be a valuable learning experience for all of us. My writing is important but it will always be here. I hope you will too when I return to the page. In the meantime, be well and check in with us at www.breadandbutterproject.com.

Making a difference



Courtesy photo

Despite a driving rain on Saturday, Nov. 14, a group of volunteers managed to remove a bridge along the Merrimack River trail in Andover that had been deemed structurally unsafe. Pictured are, from right, Jeff La Fountain, Eddie Skeirik, David Bunting, Colin Flynn, Melissa Flynn, Holly Peterson and Dan Fionte; not pictured are volunteers Amy Wetterscoq, Bob Decelle and Rocky Morrison.

Check. Check. Check out.

- ✓ Dad ~~fishing rod~~ Scotch
- ✓ Gramma ~~wool scarf~~ Baileys
- ✓ Housewarming ~~glasses~~ chardonnay
- ✓ Mailman ~~cash~~ eggnog or wine
- ✓ Jessie & Matt ~~cd's~~ pinot noir
- ✓ Yankee Swap family - liqueur
- ✓ Jennifer ~~sweater~~ Kahlua
- ✓ Scott ~~toolbox~~ a gift card
- ✓ Sis ~~golf shoes~~ chardonnay
- ✓ Uncle John ~~necktie~~ merlot
- ✓ Mom ~~earrings~~ Grand Marnier
- ✓ Auntie ~~pointsettia~~ gift card
- ✓ Holiday party ~~cheese~~ champagne
- ✓ Grampa T. ~~spybook~~ dark rum
- ✓ Ted - ~~Patriots shirt~~ rum sampler
- ✓ Josh ~~golf video~~ scotch
- ✓ Office swap ~~candy~~ liqueur
- ✓ Husband ~~guitar~~ Patron 4 Pack

✓ Me - a great cabernet sauvignon



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Arts & Entertainment

EVENTS CALENDAR

SATURDAY, NOV. 28

POKEMON TRADING CARD GAME TOURNAMENT, for kids of all ages. This free-to-play tournament offers kids a chance to socialize and battle, improve their Pokémon deck strategy and earn premier ratings that could result in invitations to future Pokémon TCG tournaments. Batter-UP at 1875 Main St., Tewksbury, hosts, 11 a.m.

LIVE THEATER, "Animal Crackers," by St. John's Preparatory High School of Danvers, with Eric O'Connor and John McKeon, both Class of 2013 from Andover, Kaneb Theatre, Alumni Hall, 72 Spring Street, Danvers, 7:30 p.m., \$15 for adults and \$10 for seniors and students; rsantoro@stjohnsprep.org or Alicia Greenwood at agreenwood@stjohnsprep.org, 978-774-1050.

SUNDAY, NOV. 29

HOLIDAY PARADE, The Annual Andover Holiday Parade, hosted by the Andover Fire Department, noon. Rain/snow date is Dec. 6. Parade route is Whittier to Elm to Main to Punchedard to Bartlet.

LIVE THEATER, "Animal Crackers," by St. John's Preparatory High School of Danvers, 7:30 p.m., see Nov. 28 listing.

MONDAY, NOV. 30

GIRLS NIGHT OUT, hosted by The Magic Parties, an organization of women supporting women to bring their gifts and talents into the world, 7-9 p.m., free, donations accepted, Pike School, 34 Sunset Rock Road, Andover. Register: <http://www.themagicparties.com/events.html> or info@themagicparties.com.

TUESDAY, DEC. 1

HOLIDAY DECORATING DEMONSTRATION, Memorial Hall Library, 7 p.m., presented by Cindy Mattson of Given-Erwin Florist; www.mhl.org, 978-623-8401, ext. 31 or 32.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 2

OPEN SING, of Handel's MESSIAH, 7:30 p.m., Old South United Methodist Church, Reading Center, \$5 donation at the door; www.readingsymphonyorchestra.org.

SHOPPING NIGHT, featuring many vendors, 6-9 p.m., Ashland Farms Assisted Living (Near McDonald's), 700 Chickering Road (Route 125), North Andover.

THURSDAY, DEC. 3

LIVE PATRIOTIC CONCERT, 7 p.m., Collins Center, Shawsheen Road, Andover, free but tickets required, stop by the Veterans' Office in Andover Town Hall, Andover Senior Center or mail a self addressed stamped envelope to the Veterans' Office before Nov. 25, limit 6 tickets per request; 978-623-8218.

AUTHOR READING, Anita Diamant, the author of The Red Tent will read from her new book, Day After Night, about four women who were refugees from Nazi Germany. Haunted by memories, the women find salvation in friendship and their shared experience. Andover Bookstore, 89 Rear Main St., 7 p.m., free; 978-475-0143.

FRIDAY, DEC. 4

HOLLY JOLLY HOLIDAY FAIR, The Andover Senior Center, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 30 Whittier Court, proceeds will be used to off-set senior program costs.

SILHOUETTE ARTIST, at Memorial Hall Library, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. by appointment, with Jean Comerford of Portraits in Silhouette, \$29 each and takes 10 minutes; for appointments call Emily Classon at 978-623-8401, ext. 49, or eclasson@mhl.org.

HOLIDAY BOOK SALE, at Memorial Hall Library, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; great gift ideas; Emily Classon at 978-623-8401, ext. 49, or eclasson@mhl.org.

LIVE THEATER, Miracle of 34th Street by

Please see CALENDAR, Page 7

Eric Raimondi, 12, as Tiny Tim, and Bobby Kerrigan as Scrooge, in Pentucket Players production of "Scrooge The Musical" which will conclude its run at the Rogers Center for the Arts at Merrimack College this weekend with shows on Friday, Nov. 27 and Saturday, Nov. 28. Call 978-521-9259 or see www.pentucketplayers.org for \$40 tickets.



TIM JEAN/Staff photo



A photo taken from the Musgrove Building, of one of the first Firefighters Holiday Parades. The parade began in 1955. For more on the parade, see Bill Dalton's column, page 16.

Better not pout, just a few days till Santa Parade is this Sunday, Nov. 29



FILE PHOTO

Santa Clause waves to the spectators during a previous Andover Firefighters Holiday Parade.

The 54th Annual Andover Firefighters Holiday Parade is coming to town.

Known to many as simply "the Santa parade," the firefighters' event will come through downtown Andover this Sunday, Nov. 29 at 1 p.m. with Santa's appearance marking the end of the parade. The rain/snow date will be the following Sunday, Dec. 6 at 1 p.m.

Participants should meet at noon in the parking lot behind Doherty Middle School.

The parade travels down Whittier Street to Elm Street, Elm Street to Main Street, and Main Street to Punchedard Avenue. The parade co-chairmen are Andover Firefighters Mike Dalton and Todd Collins.

This year's grand marshal is Andover Townsman columnist

and former Andover town moderator and selectman Bill Dalton.

Participants are asked to pass candy by hand to spectators. Throwing candy poses a safety hazard as children might run into the road and path of the parade to retrieve errantly thrown or dropped candy, according to firefighters.

The line up for the parade includes, but is not limited to:

- Fire Department Color Guard
- VFW Color Guard
- Clan Mcpherson
- AHS Marching Band
- Dance Infusion
- Campbell Highlanders Pipes & Drums
- '60s Invasion
- Brownies and Girl Scouts

Please see PARADE, Page 7

Information thief's story a cautionary tale

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
STAFF WRITER

Matching the color of his name, Red, the lead character in a new self-published book by Andover author Eric Lundquist bleeds mystery. The mystery

novel "Red's Query" follows Red from one high-tech escapade to another.

Red is "a covert, government, Internet information thief," according to the author, who said he grappled with the "hot button issues of the digital age" in his

fast-paced book.

The book raises questions about search engine security and about who owns a person's private information.

The story is believable, hopefully leaving readers to be more careful about what they type into their computer. That's just what this Andover writer wants.

"It's amazing what we turn over to Google and Facebook... nobody is paying attention that a company is writing a profile on you," said author Eric Lundquist. "This is a cautionary book for our times."

The longtime town resident is a former newspaper reporter who switched to technical writing for technical journals. He enjoys fiction writing and was disciplined enough to write about 2,500 words each day when he was working on his book.

It's the first published book for Lundquist and another is still on his cellar floor, he said. He enjoyed writing Red's story.

Illegal data brokering is what Red does for some \$25,000 a month - in cash, of course. His story moves furiously between covert assignments. You don't

have to be a techie to enjoy the book. The book is available on Amazon.com and many reviews are positive.

"As someone who is not a geek, I found the story offered fascinating glimpses of the high-tech industry," wrote one reader.

"A very chilling read in the age of the Patriot Act and the encroachments on our privacy. The scary part is how believable it all is," wrote another.

The book costs \$17.95 while the electronic version for a Kindle is \$9.99.

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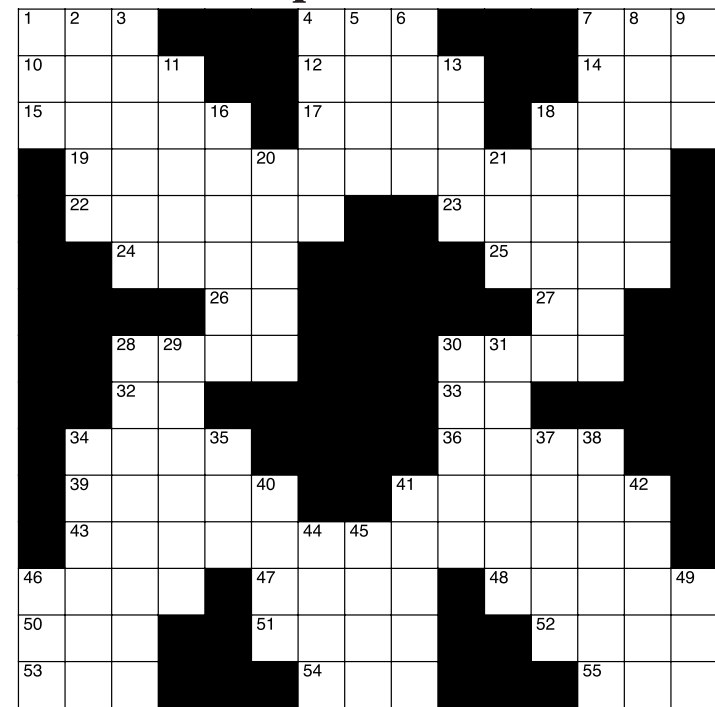
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Crossword puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Gas usage measurement
- 4. Decomposition
- 7. SNL's S. Meyers
- 10. Data transmission speed measure
- 12. Sayon ____: goodbyes
- 14. ____compoop
- 15. Solo operatic songs
- 17. ____ngeti: Tanzanian plain
- 18. Cautious and shrewd
- 19. Fairytale beginning
- 22. Comely
- 23. More reasonable
- 24. 7th Hindu month
- 25. Sound units
- 26. Atomic #73
- 27. Of I
- 28. Fixed charges
- 30. Cigarfish
- 32. Roman 60
- 33. Jupiter satellite
- 34. Considerateness
- 36. Preserving substance
- 39. Arabian chieftain
- 41. Provides food
- 43. Singer Lady Day
- 46. Large quantities
- 47. Lyric poems
- 48. Ecuadorian money unit
- 50. Wet, spongy land
- 51. Container weight counterbalance
- 52. Israeli Prime

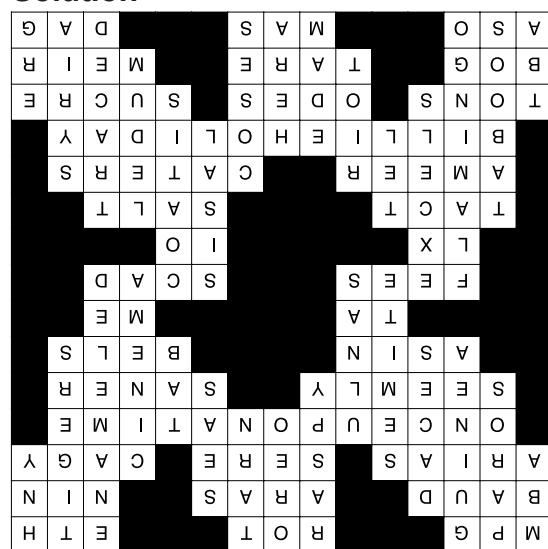
CLUES DOWN

- 1. License for Wall Street
- 2. Parikia - island city
- 3. = to 21 shillings (Br.)
- 4. A rough voice
- 5. Chocolate cookie with white filling
- 6. Small lake (Br.)
- 7. Cloisonned
- 8. Big cats
- 9. Honey (abbr.)
- 11. Cyprinid fishes
- 13. Mains
- 16. One who speaks a

CLUES DOWN

- Minister Golda
- 53. Volcanic mountain in Japan
- 54. More (Spanish)
- 55. UN head
- Hammarskjold
- Semitic language
- 18. A film theater
- 20. Arm bones
- 21. A restaurant bill
- 28. Pink plastic yard bird
- 29. Surpasses
- 30. A plant fiber used for making rope
- 31. Coon cat
- 34. Prohibitions
- 35. Cablegram (abbr.)
- 37. Labrador tea
- 38. Followed exactly
- 40. Public violence
- 41. Romaines
- 42. Eastern Mediterranean country
- 44. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
- 45. Queen of the gods
- 46. Don't know when yet
- 49. Heat unit

Solution



Chamber music, traditional carols offered at free PA concerts

Phillips Academy's music department will offer two free concerts next weekend, Dec. 5 and 6.

On Saturday, Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m. the Phillips Academy Chamber Music Society, comprised of faculty and students, will play. This concert, free and open to the public, will take place in the Timken Room at Graves Hall on the Phillips Academy campus,

180 Main St., Andover. Graves Hall is handicapped accessible. The program will include movements of chamber music by Arenksy, Schubert, Hummel, Mozart, Perishetti, Donizetti, Schickele, Dring, Beethoven, Debussy, Vivaldi and Dvořák.

The Service of Lessons and Carols will take place on Sunday, Dec. 6 at 4:30 p.m. in the Cochran Chapel, Chapel Avenue,

presented by the Phillips Academy Chaplaincy and Music Department. The Service of Lessons and Carols is derived from ancient sources and is celebrated according to its usage at King's College, Cambridge, England, according to the school. Traditional Christmas readings will be heard and familiar Christmas carols from various traditions and cultures will be sung and

played. The service will feature the Fidelio Society and the Academy Chorus under the direction of Christopher Walter, the Handbell Choir under the direction of Patrick Kabanda and the Academy Harp Ensemble under the direction of Emily Lewis.

For further information contact the music department at 978-749-4263 or e-mail to music@andover.edu.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Continued from Page 6

Acting Out!, 7 p.m., North Andover High School Auditorium, \$15, \$20 Reserved, tickets at Ye Olde Pepper Candy Shoppe, 59 Main St., North Andover; 978-208-9132, www.actinguotheater@comcast.net

LIVE THEATER, "Animal Crackers," by St. John's Preparatory High School of Danvers, 7:30 p.m., see Nov. 28 listing.

SATURDAY, DEC. 5

CHRISTMAS CONCERT, The New England Classical Singers, 7:30 pm, Rogers Center of Merrimack College, \$20, \$15 Senior, \$5 student. Tickets available at Andover Bookstore, box office; www.newenglandclassical.org, (978) 474-6090.

RED BOW FAIR, The North Parish Unitarian Universalist Church of North Andover, 190 Academy Road, Old Center, North Andover, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., free admission; www.northparish.org.

TOUR OF BALMORAL CONDOS, Andover, noon to 5 p.m., \$20, 12 units on tour along

with participation by the Andover Historical Society and the Shawshen Renaissance Project Committee, renovation of Grand Ballroom included along with works by David Saums, a local photographer who has won numerous awards including the 2009 Best Artist award at Andover's "Art in the Park" event; jmc8108@gmail.com.

HAM & BEAN SUPPER, West Parish Church, 129 Reservation Road, Andover, 5 to 6:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Rolling Ridge Retreat and Conference Center, 660 Great Pond Rd, North Andover.

LIVE THEATER, Miracle of 34th Street by Acting Out!, 2 and 7 p.m., see Dec. 4 listing.

HOLIDAY OPEN STUDIOS, noon to 5 p.m., showcasing current exhibit, Winter Lites II, and works by many local artists including Zsuzsanna Taylor Donnell, Ilene Richard, Jack Holmes, Cindie Kazmer and Wilda Gerideau-Squires, all of Andover, Western Ave Studios, 122 Western Ave., Lowell; www.westernavestudios.com, 978-349-8069.

SILHOUETTE ARTIST, see Dec. 4 listing.

LIVE THEATER, "Animal Crackers," by St.

John's Preparatory High School of Danvers, 7:30 p.m., see Nov. 28 listing.

HOLIDAY BOOK SALE, Memorial Hall Library, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; see Dec. 4 listing.

SUNDAY, DEC. 6

POLAR EXPRESS RIDE, hosted by Hallmark Health Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice, departs from and returns to the Anderson Commuter Rail Station, 100 Atlantic Ave., Woburn, departs at noon, 2, 4, 6 p.m., run is about 60 minutes, \$15 per person, children under age one are free; http://www.hallmarkhealthhomecare.org, click the train icon to be directed to online registration. Seating is limited; Janet Perault, (781) 338-7902.

LIVE CONCERT, Reading Civic Concert Band, in a program of symphonic wind music featuring an all-British lineup of composers, 3 p.m., Parker Middle School auditorium, 45 Temple St., Reading, \$12 adults, \$8 seniors, students, under 12 free.

FREE LIVE JAZZ, The Merrimack College Jazz Ensemble, holiday inspired jazz and swing music, made up of Merrimack College students,

faculty and alumni, 7:30 p.m., Rogers Center for the Arts on the campus of Merrimack College.

IT'S A WONDERFUL BARBERSHOP LIFE!, featuring Region 1 SAI Quartet champions, A Cut Above, with the Merrimack Valley Chorus, 2 p.m., \$12-15, Wilmington Middle School, 25 Carter Lane, Wilmington; 800-928-6151, www.merrimackvalleychorus.org.

LIVE THEATER, "Animal Crackers," by St. John's Preparatory High School of Danvers, 2 p.m., see Nov. 28 listing.

LIVE THEATER, Miracle of 34th Street by Acting Out!, 1 and 6:30 p.m., see Dec. 4 listing.

HOLIDAY OPEN STUDIOS, see Dec. 5 listing.

TUESDAY, DEC. 8

200 YEARS OF PARTY DRESS, Memorial Hall Library, 7 p.m., Andover Historical Society hosts festive tour of party fashions from 1800 to today, including a parade of vintage and reproduction costumes; www.mhl.org, 978-623-8401, Ext. 31 or 32.

PARADE

Continued from Page 6

- Uncle Sam's Ragtime Band
- North Andover School of Dance
- ATA Black Belt Academy
- Bektash Calliope
- Andover School of Ballet
- Cub Scout troops
- Andover Center for the Performing Arts
- Aleppo Shriners Mounted Patrol
- Worcester Fire Pipes & Drums
- LT-1 with Santa
- Nancy Chipendales
- Andover Historical Society Marchers (in costume)
- AHS Girls Swim Team

ENTERING ANDOVER by Don Mathias



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Learn the Rules of the Couponing Road



By Jill Cataldo
The Coupon Queen

It's important to understand the rules of couponing. Every store has them – but sometimes, in the busy aisles and checkout lines of a grocery store, it can be difficult to determine what they are. Listen to this reader.

Q: "How should I handle a situation like this? My store frequently has sales in which the ad states "4 boxes of crackers for \$5 – must buy four to receive \$5 total price for all four." This would be fine, but this store will only accept three like coupons for the crackers in the same transaction! Of course, the store never posts its coupon rules. Even if I ask to see the store's policy, the staff will not produce it."

A: It certainly doesn't sound like this store is very friendly to coupon shoppers. Coupon policies exist for both the store's employees and its customers. They spell out all of the rules for coupon usage. They're important tools for any good Super-Couponer to be familiar with.

Most major grocery stores either post a coupon policy on their Web sites or provide a copy for customers to view in-store at the customer service counter. If yours doesn't, call or e-mail the store's corporate office and you can probably get a copy of your own. It is worth contacting the corporate office directly for a policy versus trying to obtain a coupon policy at the store level, especially if the store has been less than cooperative.

So what's in a coupon policy? They often cover a wide range of rules for using coupons. Almost every coupon policy answers the following questions:

- Does the store double (or triple) coupons?
- Does the store accept competitors' coupons?
- Does the store accept Internet-printable coupons?
- Does the store accept expired coupons? (Some do!)
- Can you stack a store and manufacturer coupon together?

Some other topics you may find covered in the coupon policy can include:

- Buy One, Get One Free sales – many stores allow shoppers to use a coupon on each item, even the "free" one.
- Coupons without size limits – a coupon stating it is good on "any deodorant" may be redeemable on a trial or travel size if no specific size is noted.

As for what your store told you about the three like-coupon limit, once you have a copy of the store's coupon policy, take a look and see if what you're being told matches what the store's policy actually states. If it doesn't, take a copy of the policy with you on your next shopping trip and have it on hand the next time you are confronted with a "rule" that is not actually stated in the store's policy. I never advocate being a pushy or aggressive shopper. However, as I've discussed in previous columns, Super-Couponers may be more familiar with a store's coupon policy than some of the cashiers are. It's very difficult for a store to argue with its own corporate policy on coupon use.

If the store does indeed have a three like-coupon limit spelled out in its policy, guess what? You must accept it. That's the other part of knowing the coupon policy well. As shoppers, it's our responsibility to abide by the rules. And while a rule like this may seem strange or odd, if it's in the policy, there's probably a reason for it. In this case, perhaps the store has had an issue with people clearing shelves of popular sale items.

One of my local stores has added a rule limiting the use of printable coupons to one per transaction. Certainly, as a shopper, I've found this annoying. The store's own Web site allows shoppers to print two of each printable coupon! However, if the store had a problem with coupon fraud in the past (photocopying Internet coupons is a common problem) it likely implemented this rule to reduce its exposure to fraud. Knowing the rules helps me plan my shopping trips. I know not to take more than one like printable to this particular store, so my shopping trips go more smoothly. It's also good to show our stores that shoppers are interested in playing by their rules.

Of course, the other side of the equation is that this supermarket's competitor, just down the street, will allow me to use as many printable coupons as I'd like. My decision on where to shop in any particular week is based not only on what's on sale at which store but also on where I'll be able to use the coupons that I have. Yours can be, too.

Jill Cataldo, a coupon-workshop instructor, writer and mother of three, never passes up a good deal. Learn more about couponing at her Web site, www.super-couponing.com. E-mail your couponing coups and questions to jill@ctwfeatures.com.

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Business

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

Andrew Botti of Andover, has been elected chairman of the board of the Smaller Business Association of New England. He is a partner at the Beverly law firm of Colucci Norman LLP.

Wright-Pierce, a New England provider of water, wastewater and infrastructure engineering services, announces that **Joseph G. Witts** has joined the company as senior associate with responsibility for business development. Witts has more than 15 years experience in the municipal arena and facility operations having served as a superintendent and as a municipal sales engineer for an equipment manufacturer. Witts has also served in a leadership role for many industry professional organizations.

He serves as state director and executive committee member of the Massachusetts chapter of the New England Water Environment Association Water Environment Federation, was past president and is now a member of the board of directors of the Massachusetts Water Pollution Control Association.

Witts is based in the Andover office and will work with the professional staff at each of the firm's nine New England offices as a business development representative.

"Joe is a seasoned, knowledgeable professional in the water and wastewater industry and we look forward to working with him in establishing new clients, and serving our existing clients in the Central and Southern New England region," states William E. Brown, President of Wright-Pierce.

The **Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office in Andover**, announces that its Web site, NewEnglandMoves.com, was presented the Real Estate Standard of Excellence award by the Web Marketing Association. This is the fifth time that NewEnglandMoves.com has been honored with a WebAward by the Association.

Now in its 13th year, the WebAwards is an annual Web

site award competition that names the best Web sites in 96 industries in 47 countries while setting the standard of excellence for all Web site development. NewEnglandMoves.com, the largest real estate services Web site of its kind in New England, was judged on design, copy writing, innovation, content, interactivity, navigation, and use of technology.

Wright-Pierce was selected for the 2009 Circle of Excellence by PSMJ Resources Inc., the premier management consulting firm for the A/E/C industries. Wright-Pierce has been recognized as a "Top Performing" firm by PSMJ for three of the past four years.

The PSMJ Circle of Excellence is determined by weighting each firm's ranking in the overall PSMJ A/E National Performance Survey with respect to thirteen individual benchmarks. The benchmarks are indicative of performance in the various aspects of business operations and are not determined by firm revenue, profitability, or size.

"The thirteen benchmarks that determine the Circle of Excellence were chosen to reflect that the firm is well-managed, has a strong client base, and is led in a responsible and sustainable manner. PSMJ believes that clients prefer to work with well-run firms because they are more likely to provide superior service and value," stated H.E. Daniels.

"We are proud to be included in the Circle of Excellence for the third time in the past four years," stated William E. Brown, Wright-Pierce President and CEO, "this continued recognition confirms our commitment to provide the highest level of service and value to our clients."

Andover based **RDK Engineers Inc.** was honored at the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce's 2009 Small Business of the Year Awards luncheon for winning the Award for Business Excellence. Accepting the award for RDK were Christopher, CEO, and Laura DePalma, CFO. The Award

for Business Excellence honors companies in Greater Boston that have demonstrated exceptional business growth, management innovation, workplace excellence and a commitment to the community. The Chamber chose RDK, named in 2008 as one of Boston's "Best Places to Work," as this year's award recipient for their unwavering commitment to the growth and development of their employees, their innovative building system practices, green solutions, and their environmentally conscience technologies. In addition, RDK was recognized for consistently strong financial performance, achievement in management, and community and social responsibility.

Pamela B. Linzer, RN, MSN, PCCN, infection prevention specialist at Winchester Hospital, and a resident of Andover has received an Rx for Excellence Award from the Massachusetts Medical Law Report.

The 2009 Rx for Excellence awards salute the very best in risk management, patient safety and community involvement. Forty-five honorees were selected this year from across the state by Massachusetts Medical Law Report, a quarterly newspaper for the medical community.

In addition to her work at Winchester Hospital, Linzer regularly visits local schoolchildren to discuss the importance of proper hand hygiene. Most recently, she met with 60 second graders at Muraco Elementary School in Winchester on Oct. 19 to read the story "Germs Make Me Sick!" by Melvin Berger and assist students in conducting an ultraviolet light test to see if they washed their hands well after being exposed to pretend germs.

"I am very proud to be recognized for my efforts to reduce hospital acquired infections," Linzer said. "I'm also extremely fortunate to have such tremendous support for infection prevention efforts and initiatives from Winchester Hospital's leadership and front line staff."



Diana Kiesel, left, co-owner of Yang's Fitness Center; Bridget Shaheen, executive director of Lazarus House Ministries; and Bill Buck, president of the Rotary Club of Andover display the check that will go toward feeding needy families on Thanksgiving.

Yang's, Rotary team to feed 200 families Thanksgiving dinner

Members and staff of Yang's Fitness Center and Martial Arts have raised over \$1,800 to benefit needy families of local organizations at Thanksgiving.

Since 1999, Yang's has teamed up with the Rotary Club of Andover to provide more than 1,900 turkey dinners to families of the Andover Housing Authority, Massachusetts Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children, Bread and Roses and the Lazarus House Ministries.

"Our goal was to feed over 200 families this year, and we are very pleased to have met and exceeded our goal," Diana Kiesel, co-owner and program director at Yang's, said in a release. "Our

fundraising efforts, along with the generosity of the Andover community, donated non-perishable food items collected in bins that were placed in local businesses by The Rotary Club. This will allow over 200 needy families to enjoy a healthy, bountiful Thanksgiving meal."

Those who missed this year's Thanksgiving fundraiser, also known as the Turkey Brigade, are invited to contact Kiesel at www.YangsFitnessCenter.com for information about how they can participate next year.

For more information about the Rotary Club of Andover, visit www.RotaryAndover.org



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Track open for exercise during winter

The public is allowed to use the Andover High School track inside the field house starting Monday, Dec. 7 and running through March 5.

follows, according to Brian McNally, physical education director:
 ■ Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 6:15 to 7:15 a.m.
 ■ Monday, Wednesday and

Friday evenings from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.
 During school vacations the track will be closed to the public. Parking is behind the field house in the morning and evening.


Town census will be mailed by Dec. 31

The annual town census will be mailed to residents at the end of December 2009. Anyone who is leaving town for an extended period of time and at risk for not receiving the census during December 2009-January 2010 should contact the town clerk's office at 978-623-8257 so that they will not be dropped from the voter or census rolls.

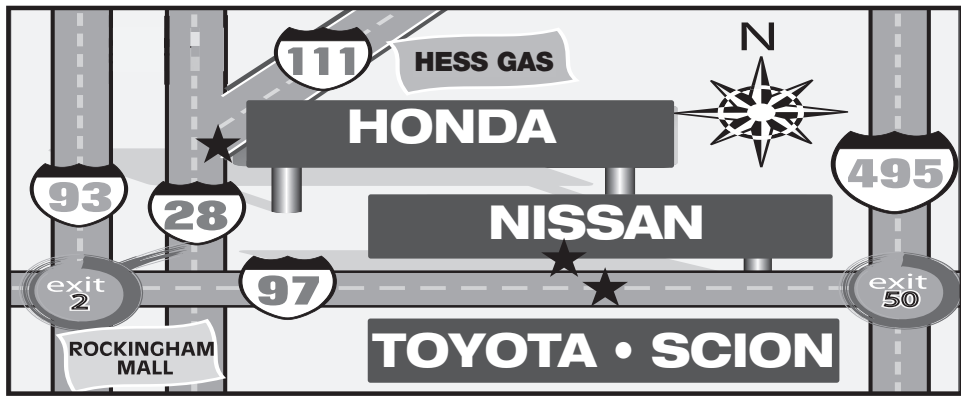
All registered voters must return the census each year to remain on the voter rolls per state law. Non-registered voters are also required to return the annual census. This information is commonly used to verify a person's residency for public school admittance, military benefits, and in-state tuition reductions, according to the town clerk's office.

December health clinics

The Andover Health Department will offer mini clinics on Monday, Dec. 14, from 2 to 3 p.m. at Andover Commons and on Monday, Dec. 28, from 1 to 2 p.m. at Frye Circle. Senior-center clinics will be held 2 to 3 p.m. each Wednesday, Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30. No appointment is necessary.



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Andover Holiday Guide

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CHESTNUTS AND COMMUNITY



Bill Sharp and the Mad Bavarian Brass Band entertains as the tree is lighted during the Holiday Happenings in downtown Andover last year.



Free horse-drawn hayrides will return this year, sponsored by Andover businesses.

Holiday Happenings: Special event in downtown Dec. 4

Horse-drawn rides, roasting chestnuts and Christmas carols will fill the downtown Friday, Dec. 4, for Holiday Happenings a community event that temporarily shuts down Main Street for shoppers and is sponsored by the Andover Business Center Association.

Shops will stay open late, holding open houses, and "Holiday Happenings" buttons will be sold for \$10. These buttons will grant the buyer discounts in various stores downtown the night of Holiday Happenings.

For the fourth year, a Christmas tree will be lit downtown, in the cubby area near TD Banknorth at 6:30 p.m.

Main Street will be closed for Holiday Happenings from Punchard Avenue to Elm Square from 6 to 9 p.m.

There will be two horse-drawn hay wagons departing from the Olde Andover Village Lot on the south end of the downtown and free rides on these hay wagons from 6 to 9 p.m. About a dozen businesses are paying for these rides.

The Andover Historical Society's carol group will be singing carols on the hay wagons. People also will roast chestnuts in front of the Town House, also known as Old Town Hall, 20 Main St., sponsored by the Andover Historical Society and the Andover Business Center Association. Phillips Academy student Casey McQuillan will sing in front of the Town House, also called Old Town Hall. For further information, log onto www.andoverbusinesses.org.

Breakfast with Santa

Breakfast with Santa will be held from 9 to noon the next morning, Saturday, Dec. 5 at the Free Christian Church on Elm Street. The event used to be held in Old Town Hall, but was moved last year when the town decided to charge a rental fee. The event serves as a fundraiser for the girls ice hockey team, through pictures of children with Santa.



Santa often makes an appearance at the nighttime event on Friday, and returns to town the next day for Breakfast with Santa.

Andover residents Allecia Dodd-Noble and her younger sister Airis Dodd-Noble waited under the Christmas tree during the Holiday Happenings event in downtown Andover last December.



Andover Chamber Music Series musicians perform in the warm surroundings of South Church at last year's holiday concert.

Candlelit chamber music for Christmas

Andover series offers 'Baroque Big Band' at South Church

Nothing celebrates the warmth of the holidays like the glorious concertos of the Baroque Era performed in the church settings for which they were composed, believes Julie Scolnik, artistic director of the Andover Chamber Music Series.

So the Andover Chamber Music Series and Mistral, its ensemble-in-residence, will usher in December with "The Baroque Big Band," their annual concert of 18th century masterpieces by Vivaldi, Bach and Telemann. There will be a candlelit performance in

Andover on Saturday, Dec. 5, at 5 p.m. at South Church, Central Street.

There is another concert on Friday, Dec. 4, at 7:30 p.m. in the First Church Congregational, in Cambridge, Mass.

This concert features Vivaldi's most celebrated work, The Four Seasons, perhaps the boldest and most brilliant form of program music in the Baroque Period. These beloved concertos were said to have taken their inspiration from sonnets whose specific accounts of

Please see CHAMBER, Page 15

Christmas 'Miracle' coming to area

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas around Acting Out! Theater Company from Lawrence, which is staging a holiday classic, "Miracle on 34th Street."

Its musical version of "Miracle on 34th Street" will run on Friday, Dec. 4 at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 5 at 2 and 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 7 at 1 and 6:30 p.m. at the North Andover High School auditorium. The cost is \$15 for general admission and \$20 for reserved.

"Miracle on 34th Street is a refreshing reminder that children are truly wiser than we think. This is a fantastic family musical that will have kids and adults laughing and cackling as Kris Kringle fights the system. Bring the whole family and find out if there really is a Santa Claus," says a release from the company.

Following last year's production of "Willy Wonka", this is Acting Out! Theater Company's largest show yet with 110 cast members hailing from all over the Merrimack Valley. Andover residents have lead and supporting including Jeremy Moses as Dr. Bartholomew Sawyer, Dan Goldman as District Attorney Mara, Abby Goldman as Hendrikka, Jeff Ashworth as Dr. Pierce, Patrick Kitchen as Tommy Mara, and Ben Gallahue as Tommy Mara.

As a special treat, the North Andover High School Marching Band will join the production as part of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade scenes. Both the North Andover High School Marching Band and the Acting Out "Miracle" Float will appear in North Andover's Christmas parade on Saturday, Nov. 28.

Acting Out! Theater Company is a 501c3 non-profit corporation with the mission of providing opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to become involved in theatrical stage productions. Acting Out! also offers a variety of theatrical classes for children and adults. For more information visit www.actinguout.biz.

In addition, Acting Out is collaborating again with the Ye Olde Pepper Candy Shoppe, this time to produce handmdade Kringle Krunch Bars. Five Kringle Krunch Bars contain a special letter from Santa himself inviting the lucky winner to join him on stage at one of the five shows and to tell him the winner's Christmas wish. The winners also receive one free ticket to the show for a guest. Kringle Krunch Bars can be purchased for \$3 at Ye Olde Pepper Candy Shoppe, 59 Main St., North Andover.

For tickets call 978-208-9132 or visit actinguouttheater@comcast.net.



A section of the 50 musicians from the United States Air Force Band of Liberty play for First Lieutenant David A. Alpar, commander and conductor (far right), during last year's Andover performance.



Last December, the United States Air Force Band of Liberty performed a free concert for 400 people at the Collins Center. Resident Maria Dankens and her daughter, Claire, then 3, were among them.

Air Force band offers free concert in town

The United States Air Force Band of Liberty will perform a free Christmas season concert on Thursday, Dec. 3, at 7 p.m. at the Collins Center for the Performing Arts, Andover High School, 80 Shawsheen Road. The Veterans Services Office is hosting the patriotic event. This is a free concert, yet tickets are required. At this time, those interested in attending are asked to stop by the Veterans Services Office on the main floor of Town Offices, 36 Bartlet street to pick up tickets. Tickets are also available at the Andover Senior Center. There is a limit of six tickets per request. For more information, call the Veterans Services Office at 978-623-8218.

Merrimack hosts free jazz and swing Christmas concert

The Merrimack College Jazz Ensemble will perform a free holiday concert on Dec. 6 that the college says "is sure to get even Scrooge tapping his feet."

The evening of holiday-inspired jazz and swing music, from favorites to the unexpected, is meant to bring out some Christmas cheer. The concert is free and open to the public; donations to benefit Lazarus House in Lawrence will be gratefully accepted, according to the school.

The Jazz Ensemble is made

up of Merrimack College students, faculty and alumni. They have been performing together since 2004 under the direction of Charles Collins. The concert is Sunday, Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Rogers Center for the Arts on the campus of Merrimack College, near the intersection of Routes 114 and 125 by the Andover and North Andover line. The Rogers Center is handicap accessible.

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Get one-of-a-kind gift, provide senior programs

Residents will have a chance to purchase hand-crafted items made by Andover seniors at the Holly Jolly Holiday Fair on Friday, Dec. 4.

The event is the only fund raiser of the year for the Andover Senior Center, and all proceeds go into programs, allowing the center to offer forums and specialty programs at very low or no cost, according to Karen Payne-Taylor. The Dec. 4 fair is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Andover Senior Center, 30 Whittier Court, ground floor.

The offerings are expected to include hand-crafted gift items, quilted purses and runners, a variety of seasonal decoration, arrangements, live plants, knitted goods, baked goods and a huge assortment of costume jewelry.

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'A Christmas Carol' returns to Stoneham for theater's 10th year

Stoneham Theatre re-opened its doors with "A Christmas Carol" on Dec. 1, 2000 and, in celebration of its 10th season, brings this holiday classic back to its stage. The production will feature Leigh Barrett as the Ghost of Christmas Past, Nigel Gore as Ebenezer Scrooge and Gerard Slattery as the Ghost of Christmas Present.

The Stoneham Theatre production of A Christmas Carol is both adapted and directed by Diego Arciniegas.

"Returning to the original story that opened our doors is a very special experience for me personally and one that makes me reflect on 10 years of live theatre in our beautiful home," Weylin Symes, producing artistic director of Stoneham Theatre, says in a release. "What a perfect story to open our doors with and to revisit once again a story full of redemption and hope and community. I'm proud to bring this heartwarming tale back to our stage and to the extended family that is our audience."

Arciniegas said he hopes to "sift through the text and the tradition surrounding the story to discover how and why this story redefined the holiday season." He'd like the audience to "walk away feeling a little closer to the mind and heart of Charles Dickens, appreciating how this story widened the experience of Christmas from a religious festival to a civic celebration in which everyone could participate."

Stoneham Theatre will celebrate its 10th anniversary before the evening's performance of A Christmas Carol on Dec. 2009.

There will be hors d'oeuvres, a special anniversary cocktail, gifts, and holiday merriment. Ticket price is \$65 per person including performance and is the event is black tie optional. The celebration begins at 6 p.m. followed by the performance at 8 p.m. Subscribers of Stoneham Theatre may exchange their tickets to attend the Anniversary Celebration for an additional \$15 per person.

Stoneham Theatre also offers North Shore Music Theatre Subscribers one free ticket to one first Friday night performance of any of the seven main stage productions in the 2009-10 season, including A Christmas Carol. The first Friday night performance of A Christmas Carol will be on Friday, Nov. 27. Free tickets for North Shore Music Theatre subscribers are available

by calling the Stoneham Theatre Box Office. A Christmas Carol features music directed by Eric Hamel, Choreography by Ilyse Robbins, Costume Design by Toni Elliott, Lighting Design by Franklin Meissner, Scenic Design by Janie Howland, and Sound Design by David Wilson.

A Christmas Carol runs Friday, Nov. 27 through Sunday, Dec. 27. Tickets are \$48 or \$44 for adults, and student and senior discounts are available. Stoneham Theatre is located at 395 Main St., Stoneham. For tickets and information, visit or call the Box Office at 781-279-2200, open

Tuesday through Saturday 1 to 6 p.m. or visit www.stonehamtheatre.org.



Andover residents in the New England Classical Singers include, in front, from left: Diane Fagan Affleck, Joanna Wagner, Sarah Letsky and Martin Heller; and, in back: Jim Affleck, Bill Donelan, Mandi Edgerly and Meredith Price.

Carols from the Western world

The New England Classical Singers Christmas concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5 at the Rogers Center at Merrimack College.

The night will feature "Christmas in

the Western World" by William Grant Still, and British, American, German and French carols, followed by an audience sing-a-long. Tickets are \$20 for general admission, \$15 for seniors, and \$5 for

students. Tickets may be purchased at the Andover Bookstore or the box office at the Rogers Center. For more information visit www.newenglandclassical.org or call 978-474-6090.

Multicultural Christmas

The Treble Chorus of New England will present its annual holiday concert, this year called "Let Us Celebrate as One." The group's three choirs all come together to present music celebrating traditions from many different countries. The children will sing, in different languages, traditional songs from this special time of the year.

The concert will be Tuesday, Dec. 15 at Rogers Center for the Arts, Merrimack College,

on the border of Andover and North Andover, at 7 p.m. Tickets for general admission are \$16, and students and seniors pay \$10. For more information, visit www.treblechorus.com.

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CHAMBER: Baroque music offered

Continued from Page 13

the seasons can be heard in every line of music – the lightening and thunder of a spring storm followed by flowery meadows and goat-herds, the happy harvest of autumn, the freezing snowflakes and chattering teeth of winter, accordind to the ACMS.

"A surprise narrator will introduce each movement with the corresponding prose. Each season will be led by not one but four different virtuosic violin soloists: Irina Muresanu: winter, Kristopher Tong: summer, Yura Lee: fall, and Gabriela Diaz: spring, each of whom has garnered prestigious awards in their careers as international concert artists," according to an ACMS release.

This concert is in memory of the late Hart Leavitt, longtime Andover resident, teacher at Phillips Academy, board member emeritus of ACMS and music-lover.

Tickets are \$30 for general admission with a \$10 student rush. For more information call 978-474-6222 or visit www.andoverchambermusic.org.

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Townspeople

Parade is a gift from the firefighters

Bill Dalton



Years ago, I watched a house fire on Chestnut Street. The second floor of the house was wrapped in swirling smoke, and flames spit out a window. A large ladder bridged a firetruck on the street to an upstairs window. A firefighter ran up the ladder with a hose over his shoulder and disappeared into the smoke. He and the other firefighters saved most of the structure.

The act of running toward danger is unnatural for humans, unless they are protecting loved ones. It takes courage, pure and cold, to voluntarily run toward danger, but this particular incident of running up the ladder and into the smoke was routine for the firefighters. And the incident gave me a simple epiphany, which was this: it is routine for firefighters to risk their lives and take action that is contrary to the natural inclination for self-protection. To run toward danger, toward potential death or serious injury, in order to help a stranger or save a stranger's property takes courage (and training) that very few of us have, besides those in the military and police.

This Sunday the annual "Santa Parade" will be held downtown. The event is emblematic of the Andover firefighters' dedication to the town. They originated the parade, have run it for 54 years, and pay for it from their own pockets, and they do it with little fanfare.

The parade started quietly. On Dec. 1, 1955, an Andover Townsman headline mentioned a scheduled parade. The story said, "...and on Saturday, an interesting Santa Claus parade will be held... It will be led by the All-Girls band and will feature Santa and his reindeer. Included in the line of march will be several floats..."

The next week's Townsman showed a picture of a group smiling youngsters sitting in a fire truck. Four years later, the December 3, 1959 Townsman said that Santa was coming to town aboard a fire truck, and he'd take up headquarters at the Fire Station. The story said that, the year before, 1000 youngsters spoke to Santa and received small gifts. Mentioned also was that the Firemen's Relief Association sponsored the event.

In addition to the parade, just before Christmas, the firefighters kept a "talking mailbox" near the old Fire Station behind the Old Town Hall. Children would call Santa from the mailbox and the fireman on telephone duty would act as Santa while speaking with the kids. Other firemen could watch the kids' joyful reaction from inside the firehouse.

The correct name for the parade originally was, "The Andover Firefighter's Christmas Parade" and that became the "Andover Firefighters Santa Parade." The firefighters don't make a big deal about the name, so it is commonly called the "Santa Parade." Fair enough, things take on their own names, but it seems to me that, when we watch the parade, we should remember who put it together and paid for it.

I'm proud to say that I'm related to three firefighters. I have two nephews on the Andover Fire Department, Bob and Mike Dalton, and my wife's sister, Valerie Roberts, is a firefighter in Long Beach, Calif. My son, Jack, is also a "blue," but in this case a police officer; he's a sergeant with the Durham, N.H. police.

I'm the grand marshal of this year's parade. I greatly appreciate the honor. However, with honesty I have to

Town gearing up for holiday season

Gingerbread construction

The Andover Department of Community Services has openings in its Dec. 2 Gingerbread House Workshop from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the West Middle School cafeteria.

Organizers report "We will nibble while we decorate your own individual winter wonderland using graham crackers, frosting, gumdrops, and a variety of other sweet treats." Children ages 4-10 need to be accompanied by an adult. This workshop will be supervised by DCS staffers Meg Batcheller and Lisa Guerin. Cost is \$20 per child. Register online at www.andoverma.gov/dcs and scroll down to code No. 337, call

978-623-8277, or visit the Town Offices at 36 Bartlet St.

Garden Club workshop on wreath decorating

Residents can also prepare for the holidays by decorating a fresh evergreen wreath on Tuesday, Dec. 1, at 10 a.m. at South Church, 41 Central St. The Andover Garden Club will provide wreaths, a selection of decorative materials and ribbons to stimulate creativity - or people can bring favorites that match their home décor.

"Several design experts will be on hand to provide advice and guidance. You will take home a beautiful creation to hang in or outside your home," said a release from the club.

The cost is \$5 for members and \$10 for guests. People are asked to sign up by Nov. 27 so club can determine how many wreaths to provide. Contact Judy Wright at 978-337-7942 or wrightspaces@comcast.net

Founded in 1927, the Andover Garden Club is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that encourages the study and practice of horticulture, landscape design, and floral design; aids in the beautification of the town of Andover; and helps protect and conserve natural resources. The club provides both financial and hands-on support to a variety of municipal, educational, and environmental organizations throughout the region. Information about joining the Andover Garden Club is available from

AGC membership chairman Anne Feeney (978-475-7119, pianopasta@comcast.net).

North Pole Calling

For the fifth year Andover will have a hotline to Santa, offering children ages 3 and older an opportunity to speak directly with Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus. Santa can give a special holiday greeting, recognize a positive behavior, or send a special message.

The service is offered by Andover Department of Community Services and Enterprise Bank.

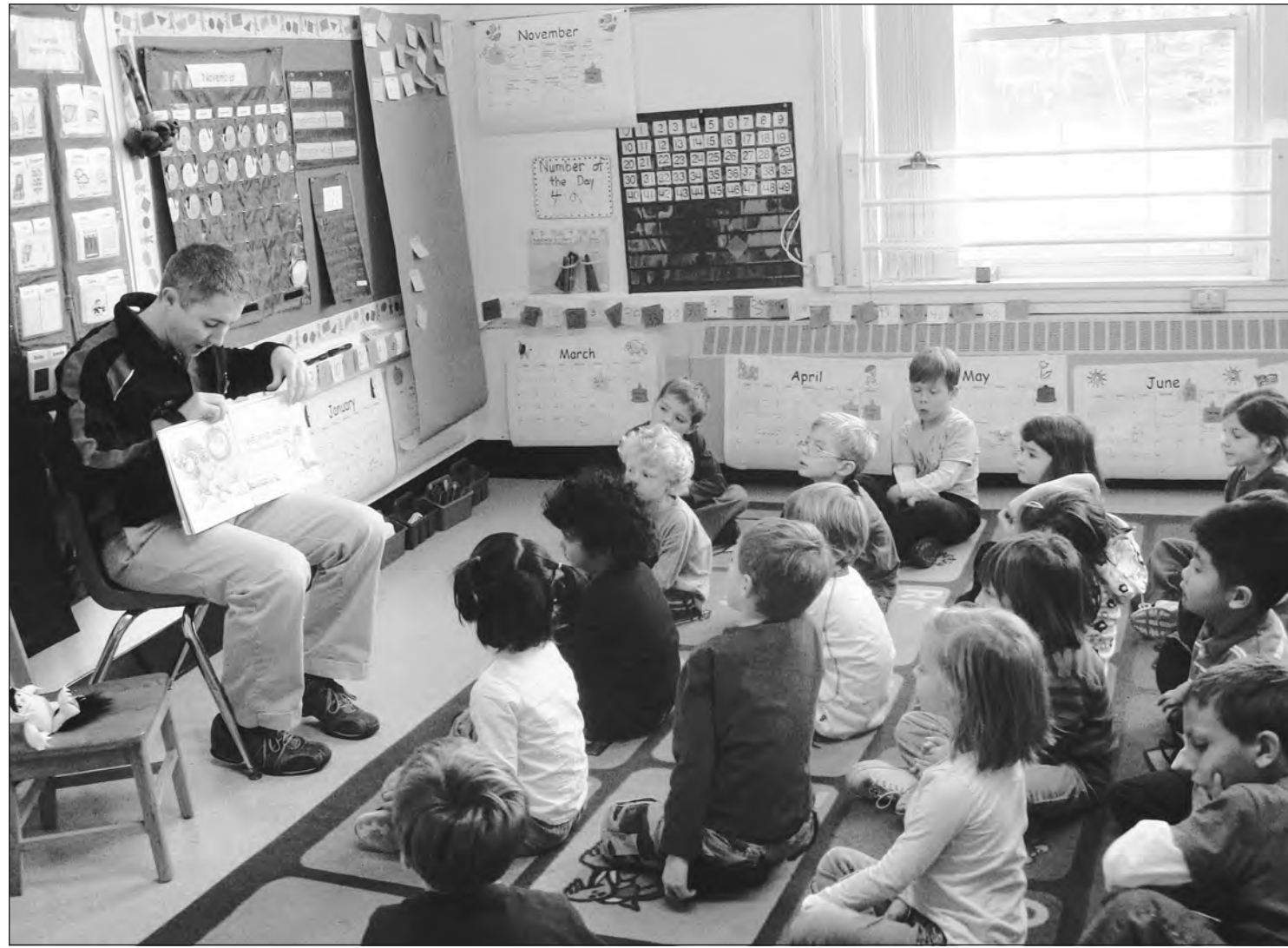
Santa will be available to call children on Thursday, December 10 to give a personal hello to the kids between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. A brief conversation is

planned, and older or younger children in the household can also say a quick hello.

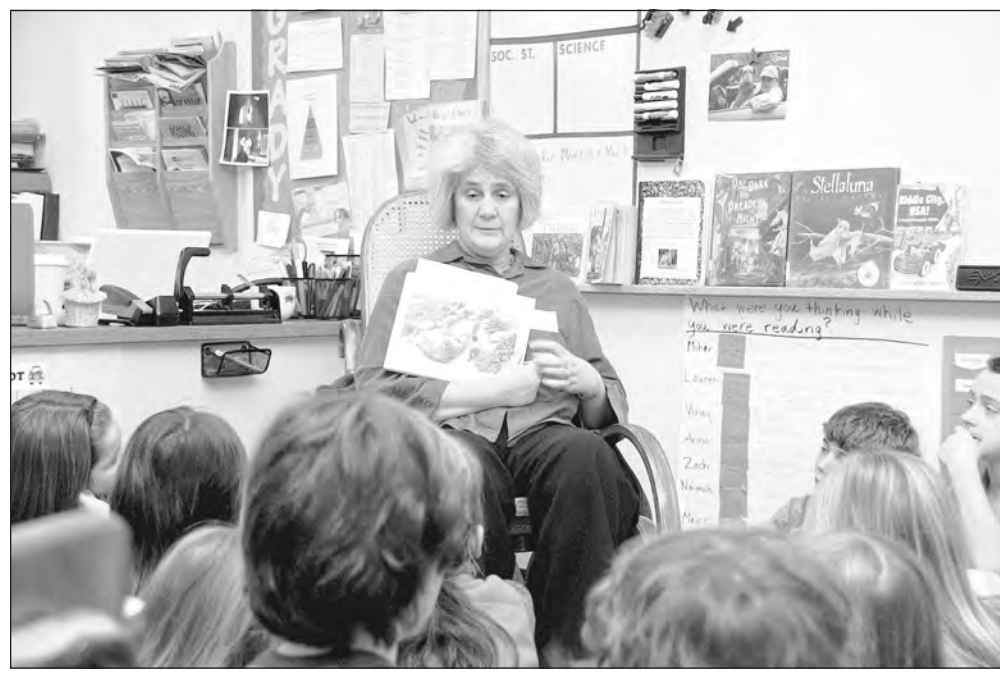
One hundred children spoke to Santa Claus last year. A special North Pole registration form is available on the DCS web site at www.andoverma.gov/dcs. Register by Wednesday, Dec. 9, accompanied by a nominal fee of \$5 per family. DCS staff elves suggest that the child's name, grade, school and any special remarks, sports, academic progress reports, be included on this registration form. For those with caller ID, please be aware that Enterprise Bank has donated the hotline telephones for Santa to use.

Contact DCS at 978-623-8277 or visit DCS at Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St. for more information.

SHARING STORIES



Dan Reilly, swim team coach at the YMCA, reads to Krista Galligani's kindergarten class at Shawsheen School during the Community Read Along.



Andover resident Nancy Jeton, a former Pike parent, reads to students at the private school.



Andover resident Tony Dyer, a former Pike English teacher, was among 16 visitors who read to Lower and Middle School classes at Pike on Nov. 18.



Jonathan Harris, Andover High principal reads to Kate Gerry's second grade class at the Shawsheen School.

ALL THOSE YEARS AGO

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100 Years Ago Nov. 26, 1909

Despite high prices, Valpey Bros. est. 1866 and located at 2 Main St. sold nearly a ton of poultry this year. Arden butter, Bonnymeade Farm Cream, fresh eggs, new canned goods, fresh vegetables and beef, lamb, pork and veal is also available this week.

A new store has been opened on Barnard Street by L and E. Elliott. It contains a fine line of pork products and canned goods.

Work is advancing rapidly in the two-tenement house being erected by P.J. Hannon on Florence Street.

"There is a kettle heating in the White House for the managers of the sugar trust. Unless something akin to a miracle happens to change President Taft's convictions, the men who have been directing the affairs of the American Sugar Refining company will receive an excommunication in his message to Congress the like of which no corporation has ever before had."

The annual Thanksgiving Union Service was held yesterday afternoon in the South Church. Owing to the storm the attendance was not large, but those present listened to an interesting sermon by Reverend Frederic Palmer on the relations of religion and the community.

Advertisement: The reason why "Vino!" is the best strength tonic for feeble old people, delicate children and weak run-down persons is because it combines the two most famous tonics—cod liver oil and tonic iron.

Gayton Reynold of Salem N.H. was a Thanksgiving guest at the home of his sister Mrs. Joseph W. Poor in Frye Village.

Miss Edith Johnson, Punchard '09 and now a member of the first year class at Mt. Holyoke has returned home for a few days.

"Townsman Reader" wants to know the origin and exact meaning of the word "dude." An Andover educator says it signifies a man of caricature. In other words, a man who has more broadcloth than brains. Dudes are a new specimen here in Andover.

75 Years Ago Nov. 23, 1934

Henry Cabot Lodge Jr., gave a very interesting and worthwhile talk on "Preservation of Peace" at the meeting of the November club on Monday afternoon. He proved a speaker having a very pleasing manner of presentation on his subject matter.

A Special Town Meeting on school construction at the Punchard High School building is now a probability. The building group has contemplated reducing the size of the gym and the stage and changing specifications on materials to meet the appropriation voted by Town Meeting. A special meeting would be asked to provide more money to meet the cost of the larger construction. The gymnasium will be smaller, but the basketball court regular high school size. Folding doors will remain, allowing a crowd of 1200 to attend town meetings.

Please see DALTON, Page 17

Please see YEARS, Page 18

WEDDINGS



Carrie Rainen and Kyle M. Rys

Carrie B. Rainen, daughter of Shelly and Edward Rainen of Andover, married Kyle M. Rys, of Andover, formerly of Paramus, N.J., son of Sharon and Harvey Rys, of Paramus, N.J., on Aug. 30, 2009 at Church Landing Resort, in Meredith, N.H. Cantor Donn Rosensweig of Temple Emanuel in Andover officiated.

The bride and groom's attendants included matron of honor Abbey O'Connor of Philadelphia, Pa.; and bridesmaids Marguerite Reardon Madden of Andover, Jessica Leiken of Liverpool, N.Y., and Tiffany Kosloy of Sherman Oaks, Calif. Best man was Scott Rys

of Paramus, N.J. Groomsmen were Aaron Goldstein of Liverpool, N.Y., Brandon Corbett, Arlington, Va. and David S. Rainen of Andover.

The bride is a 1999 graduate of Andover High School, a 2003 graduate of American University and 2006 graduate of New England School of Law. She is a practicing attorney at Rainen Law Office, P.C.

The groom is a 2002 graduate of American University. He is the office manager at Rainen Law Office, P.C.

The couple honeymooned for two weeks in the Greek Isles and Venice. They reside in Andover.



Valerie Shaw and Mathew Previte

Valerie and Mathew Previte were married Sept. 19, 2009 at Wonalancet Chapel in Tamworth, N.H., where the Rev. Thomas Cleveland officiated the double ring ceremony. A reception followed at The Darbyfield Inn, Albany, N.H.

The bride was given in marriage by her son Robert Taylor. The best man was Eric Previte brother of the groom, and ushers were Ahmed Theeb, and Yousef Theeb.

The bride is the daughter of

Frederick and Carolyn Shaw of North Reading. She is a graduate of North Reading High School.

The groom is the son of Steven and Joan Previte of Reading. He is a graduate of St. Johns Prep and Boston College.

The couple are currently employed at Century 21 Spindler and O'Neil and are co-owners of Ace Home Medics.

After a honeymoon to The Grand Canyon, the couple live in Andover.



Kathleen Kendrick and Aron Bellorado

Kathleen Kendrick and Aron Bellorado were married Sept. 12, 2009 at St. Roberts in Andover. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Richard Conway. The reception took place at the Hellenic Center in Ipswich.

The bride is the daughter of Wanda Payant of Leyden and David Kendrick of Colrain, and step-daughter to James Payant of Leyden. She is a graduate of Mohawk Trail Regional High School, class of 1997, and received a bachelor's degree in biology from Western New England College in 2001. In 2004, she graduated from the University of Massachusetts Lowell with a masters degree in biological sciences. She is the EVM technology development program manager for Pfizer in Andover.

The groom is the son of Christine Bellorado of Tewksbury, and John Bellorado of Winchendon. He graduated from Andover High School, class of 1998, and received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Massachusetts Lowell in 2002. In 2003, he

graduated from Harvard University with a master of science in engineering. He is employed as a software engineer at Verivue in Westford.

The matron of honor was Wanda Payant, mother of the bride, and the bridesmaids were Elizabeth Bigelow, Janelle Checkett, Janice Shaw, Lori Innes and Ariel Woods. The flower girl was the bride's niece, Madison Kendrick.

The best man was Blake McCauley, best friend of the groom and fellow graduate of Andover High School, and the groomsmen were Michael DenHartog, Jason Bellorado, Damon Bellorado, Michael Gilman and David Kendrick. The ring bearer was the groom's nephew, Vincent Bellorado.

The bride's veil and the flower girl's dress were made by the mother of the bride. The couple released butterflies as part of a native American tradition.

The couple honeymooned in Kauai, Maui, and on the big island of Hawaii. They reside in Chelmsford.

BoomerVenture winter program

BoomerVenture, a group of programs geared to Baby Boomers, is beginning a new series of classes, now offered on three afternoons per week. Call to register: 978-623-8321.

The BoomerVenture Campus is at 30 Whittier Court in Andover. Information is available for the following classes:

Boomer Zumba: Dance to Afro-Caribbean music and swing to Latin beats. Party instead of working out. Thursdays, Jan. 7 to March 25 from 3:30 to 4:20 p.m., \$55 for 10-week session.

Energize with Exercise: Great basic exercise designed for 40+ bodies. Work out hard without going to the gym. High results with low impact floor aerobics and weight training. Now through Dec. 14, Mondays 3:25 to 4:25 p.m., \$65 for 12-week session. Also Mondays, Jan. 4 to March 22 from 3:25 to 4:25 p.m. \$55 for 10-week session.

Boomer Bridge: Calling all bridge players. Each week play duplicate hands that practice your bridge skills. Great handouts and analysis weekly. This is not an introductory course but is appropriate for beginners and more experienced players. ACBL accredited bridge instructor Terry Kay Bargar. Mondays, Jan. 4 to March 22 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. \$125 for 8 weeks. Drop in fee is \$25 per day.

DALTON: Parade praise

Continued from Page 16

say that they – all of Andover's firefighters, past and present – are the real grand marshals. They truly deserve the honor. They help us sleep at night. They protect us, and they are good at it.

In any event, the Santa Parade is the firefighters' holiday present to the townspeople

of Andover and, especially, to its kids.

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

Medical Connection
by Bill Daly, M.D.

MONONUCLEOSIS

"Mono" is a common viral illness that occurs most commonly in adolescents and young adults. It usually causes a high fever, severe sore throat, swollen glands and tonsils, weakness and fatigue. It is diagnosed by history and physical examination, plus blood tests to indicate the presence of Mono and exclude other possible causes of your symptoms such as hepatitis and others. If severe abdominal pain occurs, it might indicate rupture of the spleen which is a life-threatening emergency.

Mono is caused by the Epstein-Barr virus. It is spread through contact with saliva, mucus or tears, and symptoms usually begin 4-6 weeks after exposure to the virus. It is sometimes called the "kissing disease" because it can be spread through kissing, but also by sharing drinking glasses, eating utensils or toothbrushes.

Mono is treated with rest and nutrition, to help your immune system defeat the virus. Acetaminophen helps to reduce fever and relieve the sore throat and fever. Saltwater gargling and throat lozenges also help. Avoid contact sports or heavy lifting for at least one month, as your spleen may be enlarged and at risk for rupture. When my patients are ill, I see them myself the same day they call. Please browse my website, then call 978-470-0001 for a complimentary "meet and greet" appointment.

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Education

December is a crucial month for applying to college

AHS counselors advise tackling applications in small chunks

By ERIC BRYDEN
WHAT'S UP CONTRIBUTOR

The month of December is a popular favorite, with holiday spirit and the return of wintry weather. But December means something else for seniors, including those at Andover High School: it's crunch time in the college admissions process.

The process is known to create a busy and often stressful start to students' senior year. So what exactly does this process consist of? For most, it begins with researching different colleges, and learning about their majors and programs. Next, students may use multiple resources, such as college websites or guide manuals, to determine what colleges they might realistically be accepted into. Many will visit schools to "get a good feel" for the campus and the community, enabling them to discern if they would want to live there for the next four years.

However, the application process is usually the most daunting step. Most schools ask students to fill out a common application, in which they elaborate on general personal information. The common application also demands the personal essay, a writing piece in which a student is given perhaps 1,000 words to explain who they are, and what they can bring to the campus. Additionally, many schools require students to submit supplemental essays on various topics. Schools will almost always require students to receive written recommendations from previous teachers. It is the student's task to give these teachers the necessary materials in order to write and send their recommendations. Most schools still require testing (SATs or ACTs), and students will have to take these four-hour standardized tests, and have their scores sent.

This is clearly a lengthy process, and high school guidance counselors are typically at the helm of aiding seniors. Mike Marcoux, and Peggy Cain, the two most senior guidance counselors at the high school, say this process has changed over the years.

Mr. Marcoux has been in the guidance department for 27 years, and Ms. Cain is a close second with 26 years. During that time there have been "enormous changes," says Cain. Marcoux and Cain agreed that students have "branched out" and are now look at colleges outside of New England. Acceptance rates have lowered as the "competition has become more intense."

"We are at the peak," said Cain, talking about the growing numbers of students who apply.

Early applying is more prevalent and while seniors used to have an average of four to five months to organize their applications, early deadlines can limit that to six to eight weeks following the start

of senior year. Seniors are applying to more schools in past years, with eight to ten being the average, said Marcoux and Cain. Additionally, the economy has affected the number of applicants applying to state funded colleges and universities. Marcoux said that students who in years past might have applied to "all private schools" will now apply to both private and public universities.

Cain said that testing is one of the major stressors of the process. The SATs and ACTs put pressure on students, and students are encouraged to take them multiple times. However, Cain remarked that less emphasis is being put on testing as colleges are aware that "test preparation can create inequities." Marcoux said that the common application essay can be stressful because "fewer schools do interviews, and the essay takes full reign over [conveying] who a student is."

Both counselors agreed that the most common dilemma students face during the process is making the decision about where to apply. Marcoux said that the decisions are "more up to students now," with parents and counselors playing less of a role.

"I can't tell a kid where to go," said Marcoux. "It's his or her decision."

Many seniors are not only handling the college process, but are also working on a rigorous course-load. Cain suggested that seniors should "ask for help when they need it," but believes that "every student can do it." Those entering the process are advised to start earlier, and to know their schedules to balance these months.

Marcoux said that the process is best done in "small chunks." He suggests people work hard on one portion of an application, take a break, and continue.

Marcoux and Cain strongly contend that the majority of "outcomes are good. Colleges are a fit and will turn out very well." Every year, both are visited by college freshman who have nothing but fantastic things to say about the school they are attending. Both want seniors to remember that a college's main priority is to build their freshman class. With that in mind, Cain wanted students to realize that "admissions are not a measure of who you are." Receiving a rejection letter "does not mean that you weren't qualified," she emphasized. Marcoux and Cain firmly agreed that there are many excellent schools, and that one can even "pick eight top choices" and be satisfied with any outcome.

"December can be an emotional month," said Cain. "There are lots of people who are more than willing to help."

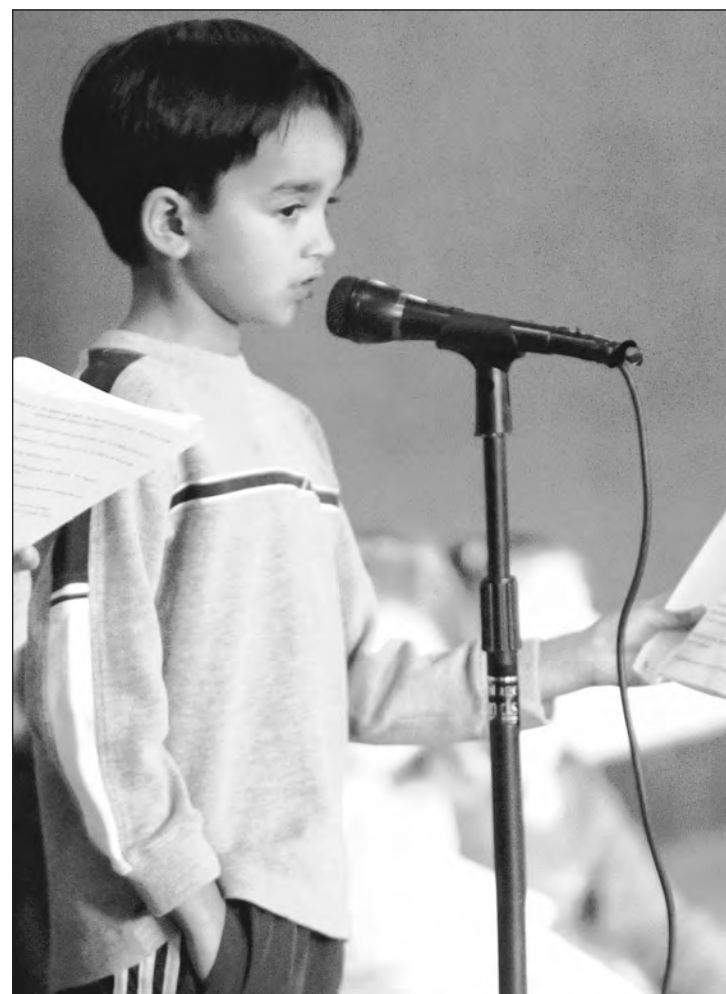
Eric Bryden is an Andover High School student writing as an intern at the Townsman.

MASTERFUL PERFORMANCE



TIM JEAN/Staff photos

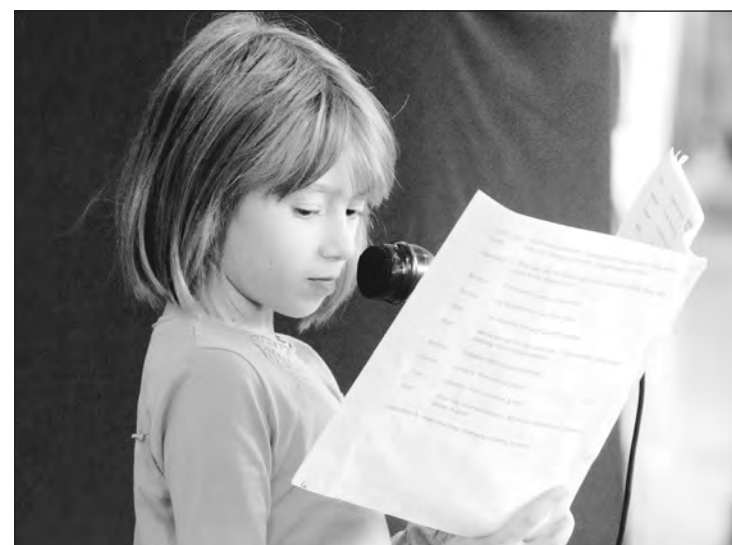
Shawsheen School students watch the Puppet Masters perform a Thanksgiving Day show. The student group was lead by Reading Specialist Sharon Faulkner and performed for the first time for the entire school.



Cameron Frary, a second-grader at the Shawsheen School, was a student narrator for the Shawsheen Puppet Masters show.



Shawsheen School Puppet Masters performed a Thanksgiving Day show.



Second-grader Sofia Armstrong was another of the students who helped narrate the Shawsheen Puppet Masters show.

Life on a bike – no matter what the weather

From Germany
Michael Kaluzny



After spending two months in Germany, I am now surprised when I step into a car. For the most part, I have used my bicycle and

public transportation to get from point A to point B.

Over the past few months I have developed an intense love-hate relationship with my bicycle. Riding in the perpetual rain is miserable. On the way to school you get soaked. After sitting, dripping wet in class for five hours, you finally dry off a little bit. But, by that time, it is time to make the trek back home. No matter how well I encase myself in rain gear, I still manage to get wet.

On the other hand, the convenience, independence and low cost is liberating. Unlike in the U.S., I don't have to continuously step in a car, bum a ride or pay for gas. Here, school, home, the train station and the center of town are all within a one-mile radius.

There is such a rooted dependence on the bicycle in my area. Every morning on my way to school the streets are clogged with hundreds of students and workers on their way to their daily commitments. They weave in and out of traffic, pedestrians and each other, on assorted two-wheeled contraptions. Bicycles are real players in the daily traffic flow. Therefore, third-graders complete a bicycle safety course and even earn a bicycle license. Luckily, I didn't have to take that course.

There are a remarkable number of rules regarding bike riding. For example, at night, dawn and dusk you have to ride with

front and rear lights. Furthermore, if you break any traffic rule while riding a bike, the police have the authority to take away your automobile drivers license. It's easy to tell who has a license: the people who don't sprint to try and slide in under the gate at the railroad crossings.

It is important to note that many people do live in more isolated areas of the countryside. However, these small villages tend to be served by at least one regular bus route, so it is possible to be completely independent of the automobile. Luckily, my town, though not a village, is part of the greater Hannover transportation authority. In town we have a train station and an extensive bus system. In terms of short distance travel, driving just doesn't make sense. Everything that one could need in terms of stores, restaurants, school or movie theaters is either a bike, bus or train ride away.

Luckily, train passes for

students are not terribly expensive. As a student, for slightly less than 20 euro a month I can use all services of the transportation authority after 2 p.m., on weekends and holidays. So far I would say I have received more than my money's worth. Twice a week I take the train into the city for a language course and I spend time on the weekends in the city with friends. It takes either 20 or 30 minutes depending on the train to get to the Hauptbahnhof (central station) in Hannover. From there, you can travel to pretty much any corner of Germany and Europe.

Overall, I have loved the freedom and mobility that the transportation system affords. Though honestly, on some of those really wet and dreary days, I wish I could just jump in the car.

Michael Kaluzny is an Andover resident living as a student in Germany. He is submitting periodic columns about his experience there.

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Weather forecast grid for Wednesday through Tuesday, including icons, conditions, and high/low temperatures.

Real estate advertisement for Clay Brook at Sugarbush, featuring a photo of a home interior and contact information for fractional and whole ownership.



Holiday pie-making is a tradition at West Elementary School. Leah Cormier and other students set a new record by making 170 pies in 40 minutes this year, according to the school.

TOWN TALK

Hall named for Jim Doherty
Andover's first Town Meeting hall is now named in honor of longtime Town Meeting moderator Jim Doherty.

Selectmen on Monday named the hall upstairs at Old Town Hall the "James D. Doherty Town Meeting Hall." The hall was the site of the first Town Meeting after present day Andover and North Andover split into two communities, said Selectman Brian Major.

- Neil Fater

Still cheering for men in red
It's been 20 years since a fire roared through a home on Temple Place where a 3-week-old baby girl lay sleeping.

Andover firefighters arrived in time to

save that baby and her frantic mother, Linda McNeil, from the second floor while putting out the flames on Nov. 21, 1989. McNeil will never forget that day.

She has spent the years since that fire cheering for Andover's firefighters. The little girl they saved, Sarah Pearson, is now 20 and studying accounting at Northern Essex Community College.

McNeil, who now lives in on Lucerne Drive, brought a cake, words of support and newspaper accounts of the 1989 rescue to an impromptu fire anniversary party last Saturday at the Public Safety Center.

"They saved my baby and I just think they are the best human beings," she said. "I will continue to honor them."

- Judy Wakefield

Steps almost done

The new steps leading to the auditorium at Doherty Middle School are just about done. The construction project has taken several months, but it will finally wrap up during the next two weeks, said Joe Piadedosi, director of Plant & Facilities.

Workers still are waiting for the railings. While the auditorium has been called Veterans Memorial Auditorium by some, Piadedosi said it will now go by its real name, the Andover Memorial Building. Town records show a Special Town Meeting on Dec. 11, 1932, gave the site that name. Piadedosi said town Veterans Services Director Michael Burke notified him about the proper name.

- Judy Wakefield

Large real estate advertisement for Tom Carroll at RE/MAX Partners. Features the headline "ANDOVER MARKET CONTINUES TO IMPROVE" and ten property listings with photos and prices.

Real estate advertisement for Tom Carroll featuring three property listings: an ANDOVER IN-TOWN Convenience property for \$299,900, an ANDOVER IN-TOWN Location property for \$164,900, and a HAVERHILL Desirable Location property for \$129,900.

Advertisement for Yang's Martial Arts & Fitness Center celebrating 21st year. Offers Kung Fu for kids ages 5 & up with a special gift idea of 6 weeks for \$75.

Advertisement for Palmers Restaurant & Tavern featuring a PRIX-FIXE TASTING MENU of 3 courses for \$25.00, available Monday through Thursday evenings.

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Advertisement for Bateson Enterprises, Inc. offering Septic Service, including pumps, repairs, and installations in Andover, MA.

Advertisement for Andover Chimneys offering new roofs and all types of masonry repair services.

Advertisement for Freedom Tire Complete Auto Service, featuring a 12,000-mile warranty and services from GoodYear and Gemini.

Advertisement for Disney Carpet Collection and Arrow Floor Carpet One, offering carpet services in Andover, MA.

Advertisement for Reflections Snow Plowing, offering quality work guaranteed in Ben Ristuccia's area.

Advertisement for Wm. Lawrie Painting Improvements, offering interior and exterior painting and wallpapering.