

INSIDE: ANDOVER ARTIST, 12, IS KNOWN INTERNATIONALLY, PAGE 9



OUR 122<sup>ND</sup> YEAR

# Andover Townsman

Issue No. 17

DECEMBER 24, 2009

75 CENTS

## Committee reverses scuba trip decision

BY BETHANY BRAY  
STAFF WRITER

A group of 15 Andover High School students will be scuba diving in Cozumel this February, after all.

The School Committee approved the eight-day field trip at a workshop on Thursday, Dec. 17, three days after its initial vote to deny the trip.

"It was unbelievable that it was voted down," said Laurie Liffmann, whose son, an AHS senior, will be going on the Cozumel trip. "It was ridiculous, a waste of time and energy."

*The school department's lawyer said the School Committee could not be sued if parents signed a permission slip releasing the district from liability.*

Liffmann was one of numerous AHS parents and students that wrote to the School Committee last week in support of the scuba trip, planned as an educational excursion to study marine biology. Students also created a group on the social networking Web site Facebook supporting the trip.

On Monday, Dec. 14, the School

Committee denied the trip, concerned about liability issues for an out-of-country trip where students are diving to depths of 60 feet. Member Dick Collins also said the trip was unfair to students who could not afford its \$2,300 price tag.

The school department's lawyer, Naomi Stenberg, looked into the liability issue last week and

said the School Committee could not be sued if parents signed a permission slip releasing the district from liability.

"So long as the parents have signed an appropriate waiver, which they have (for the scuba trip), there is no liability. If any teacher who goes on the trip is injured, there is the potential for worker's compensation liability," said School Committee Chairwoman Debra Silberstein this week.

Teacher Laura Hajdukiewicz, who leads the high school's

Please see **TRIP**, Page 2

## Manager is meeting expectations

### Annual review indicates need to improve union negotiations

BY BETHANY BRAY  
STAFF WRITER

#### TOWN MANAGER'S EVALUATION

Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski has received mostly high marks for his performance this year from the Board of Selectmen.

The board released their performance evaluation of the town manager for fiscal year 2009 on Monday, Dec. 21. The only category in which selectmen say Stapczynski needs improvement is his collective bargaining with town unions.

For the rest of the evaluation's categories — from his budgeting, management and communication skills to planning and vision — the board rated him as "meets expectations."

Stapczynski's collective bargaining skills also earned the lowest rating on his performance evaluation last year.

"He has made improvements. I think there's a reflection of that, especially in the last round (of negotiations) in the area of health insurance costs," said

(Rating key: 1 is unsatisfactory progress, 2 is needs improvement, 3 is meets expectations and 4 is exceeds expectations)

- Planning, vision and leadership: 3.2
- Administrative/managerial skills: 3.6
- Recruitment, selection and supervision of staff: 3.4
- Budget preparation and administration: 3.2
- Negotiations/collective bargaining: 2.6
- Board/legislative relations: 3.6
- Projects direct administrative responsibility: 3.1
- Projects involving town boards or subcommittees: 3.3

Alex Vispoli, chairman of the selectmen.

"We use this (evaluation) to provide (the town manager) direction for the current year, things we'd like him to do more

Please see **EVALUATION**, Page 2

## Teddy bears and stories



ANGIE BEAULIEU/Staff photo

Sara Sycz, with the Andover Historical Society, reads a book to, from left, Lucy Greenup, 3, Annabella Connell, 3, Chiara Miles, 3, and Sofia Pare, 4, at the Teddy Bear Tea event.

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## Town official accused of assault

BY JUDY WAKEFIELD  
Staff Writer

Local businessman Stephen Stapinski called friends around town on Monday night to let them know about the assault charges filed against him by two women in Lawrence early Sunday morning. And he said he was not guilty of those charges.

His lawyer, Scott Gleason of Haverhill, said Stapinski was robbed and was in Lawrence during the snowstorm to check on a vacant building he owns nearby. Gleason said he checks on the building every night. The trouble erupted when Stapinski followed the women and attempted to retrieve his stolen debit card.

"There is no doubt that Steve Stapinski was robbed," Gleason



Stephen Stapinski

said. "He was embarrassed when the police arrived. ... We have documentation that shows there were five attempts to use his debit card while he was in jail," Gleason

said.

Stapinski will appear in court on Jan. 14.

Meanwhile, longtime friend and Town Moderator Sheila Doherty was one of those to get the call from Stapinski on Monday night. She said Stapinski wanted friends to hear about the Lawrence incident from him, not a newspaper.

Stapinski, who lives on Apache

Avenue with his wife, Patricia, just started a three-year voluntary term on Andover's Finance Committee. Doherty appointed him in March 2008. She reappointed him last July to a three-year term.

"Steve offered to resign, but I told him that was not necessary," Doherty said. "He has earned the time to clear his name."

"I didn't ask how many people he called. He just wanted people to hear it from him," she said. "He said he was not guilty and I believe him."

Doherty went on to say Stapinski, 56, brings "valuable experience" to the Finance Committee whose members volunteer. They

Please see **STAPINSKI**, Page 2



COURTESY PHOTO

Bill and Leslie Ferris of Andover, far right, teamed with workers Michael Ferris, Eric Hansen and John Trachym to decorate a Delta hangar at Logan Airport for a holiday party.

## Lighting up!

### Andover couple buys back Christmas decorating business

BY JUDY WAKEFIELD  
Staff Writer

Standing in a huge Delta airplane hangar at Boston's Logan Airport earlier this month, Bill and Leslie Ferris of Andover smiled with the crowd of some 300 kids surrounding them.

After all, their job was done and the kids loved it. That was worth smiling about to this lifelong Andover couple who had lit up a big holiday party once again.

The Ferrises are the mom and pop behind a popular holiday lighting business in town. They own the local franchise of Christmas Decor, a national company based in Texas. They also own a landscaping business.

not be lighting up this holiday as money woes continue for many companies forcing them to scale back holiday decorating. But Christmas Decor lit up its books with lighting jobs, which included that Delta hangar decorating job. The Make a Wish Foundation hired Christmas Decor of Andover for its holiday party decorating. That party was held at the Delta Boeing 757 hangar on Dec. 12.

"We had a good season in spite of what's going on (with the economy)," said Leslie Ferris, who graduated from Andover High School in 1980, four years after her husband graduated.

It's been a busy month for the couple, decorating local homes

Positive economic news may

Please see **PARTY**, Page 2



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# Parish finds toys fast

## Last-minute request for donations from St. Augustine fulfills Christmas wish

By JUDY WAKEFIELD  
Staff Writer

Like the cold weather and snow blanketing Andover, there was another blast going around parts of town last week. Only this blast was not weather-related.

It was a last-minute e-mail blast from Katie Scanlon Le Blanc, Youth Minister/Confirmation Coordinator at St. Augustine Parish in Andover. She said her e-mail was sent to local high schoolers and their parents asking for toy donations.

"It was only a two-day notice asking for toy donations to a project called Operation Blessing in Portsmouth, N.H.," said LeBlanc, who grew up in town and now lives north of the border. "A plea was presented to me from

a friend in New Hampshire, who said many families were in need of Christmas presents for their kids."

Toy drop-off day was last Friday, Dec. 18, at St. Augustine Parish Center and it was a sight to behold, LeBlanc said. The pile kept growing and growing and growing.

"Amidst all the Christmas rush, this small miracle happened here in Andover," she said while eyeing hundreds of donated toys.

The finally count — over 770 items from St. Augustine's were donated on very short notice.

"Now, there is plenty for the families because of St. Augustine's. Instead of two gifts each, they will receive four or five each," LeBlanc said.

## TRIP

Continued from Page 1

scuba club, requested Dec. 14 to take students to Cozumel, Mexico over February break to see sights, dive and study marine biology. She had been approved to take scuba club students to tropical locales for several years, so she had already made plans for the Mexico trip, making deposits and securing a diving company to chaperone. Many of the students had paid for some or all of the trip by last week.

"Safety is a number one concern, and the kids know that from the get-go," said Liffmann. "The ratio (of students to chaperones) is three to one, more so than other trips the school sanctioned. All of the students have to go through a (scuba diving) certification process."

At Thursday's workshop, the committee voted 4-0 to approve the trip. David Birnbach, the committee member most concerned about the trip's liability, was not at the Dec. 17 workshop.

The Dec. 17 vote approving the trip renders the earlier vote moot, said Silberstein.

On Dec. 14, Birnbach said he did not doubt safety precautions planned for the trip. But in a worst-case scenario the School Committee, as a public entity, would be sued for signing off on the trip, more so than the diving company hired to chaperone, he said.

School policies state the School Committee must approve overnight or out-of-state field trips, with the exception of sports tournaments. The superintendent signs off on all local, in-state trips.

The scuba trip had been reviewed and approved by

Superintendent Claudia Bach and AHS Principal Jonathan Harris before last week.

"We wouldn't get a field trip before us unless every 'i' was dotted and every 't' was crossed," Silberstein said.

The School Committee will review its policy on field trips after the holidays, said Silberstein, including the issue of trip costs.

"We'll look at the value of these trips, for educational purposes," said Silberstein. "I think it's a good time to look at that again."

## STAPINKSI

Continued from Page 1

do not get paid.

Stapinski is a well-known businessman in town and attends local benefit fundraisers frequently. He owns Merrimack Engineering on Park Street and is a well-known developer around Andover and throughout

Merrimack Valley.

Doherty explained that the Town Moderator appoints residents to just one committee in town — the Finance Committee. She said Stapinski is a good fit.

"Their job is to advise Town Meeting," she said of the committee. "I don't always agree with him financially ... but strong character is needed and Steve has that."

Stapinski answered the

telephone at his job on Tuesday the day after he called friends in Andover.

"I'm not guilty" is all he said on Tuesday before referring all questions to Gleason.

According to a police report, Lawrence police were called to 77 South Union St. in Lawrence at 2:25 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 20. In the police report, two police officers were responding "to a disturbance" at the address.

"Upon our arrival, we observed a vehicle parked on the corner with the rear end sticking into the street with the defendant (Stapinski) walking away from a broken window on the building."

Two women approached the officers and said Stapinski broke an apartment window and "assaulted both of them."

Stapinski was arrested and transported to the Lawrence Police Station.

# Andover Townsman

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

Continued from Page 1

and businesses. And, they clearly enjoy it.

"People are so busy, but they want lights and that's what we do," said Bill Ferris, who calls his holiday lighting style "turnkey."

Customers turn a home's front door key, enter, flip a switch and the holiday lights come on, he

explained.

So what if this couple's holiday shopping never starts until a few days before Christmas. This couple is used to it and simply enjoys helping others turn on their holiday lights.

It was almost lights out for this local Christmas Decor franchise five years ago. After 23 years, Leslie and Bill Ferris decided to sell both their decorating and their landscaping businesses

and try something different. It was 2004 when the businesses were sold, and the couple was making plans to get into real estate development.

But when the new owner had financial trouble, this couple found themselves seriously thinking of getting the decorating franchise back.

They eventually bought back the businesses. That happened in September of this year, and

six employees were thrilled to be rehired for year-round jobs.

It's worked out well, Leslie Ferris said, as just three months back on the holiday decorating scene has landed new customers while former customers are happy the franchise is back.

"Holiday lights are something positive," Bill said. "It's just great to work around that."

## EVALUATION

Continued from Page 1

of, things we'd like him to do less," Vispoli said.

Stapczynski was given a copy of his review for the first time in a public meeting on Monday night and did not offer any comment, saying he said he'd look it over and get back to the board.

Selectmen evaluate the town manager individually, assigning numeric scores in multiple categories. The board meets, averages the five member's numeric ratings and writes a narrative together for the final review, which is released to Stapczynski and the public.

Although the town manager's annual review is not tied to a salary increase, Vispoli said the

## TOWN MANAGER'S REVIEW

Three things the selectmen would like the town manager to do more often:

- Continue standing up for effective and responsible budgeting
- Develop (with selectmen) a negotiation strategy prior to beginning union contract negotiations
- Begin combining the information technology operations across the town and schools; likewise for financial operations

Three things selectmen would like to see the town manager do less often:

- Invite the rehashing of activities already decided by selectmen (such as pay-as-you-throw trash policy)
- Stop being soft in the negotiation of the teacher's contracts — the town manager is an equal negotiating partner in the process (as the schools)
- Stop being reluctant to address the status quo with long-term employees — i.e. taking take-home cars away from department heads

board will meet to discuss Stapczynski's compensation for fiscal year 2010 in a closed-door executive session in January.

Once the board comes to an agreement, any changes in Stapczynski's compensation will be announced in a public meeting this winter, Vispoli said.

In December 2008, selectmen increased Stapczynski's annual base salary to \$131,497. He received a 2 percent raise for fiscal year 2008 and a 1.95 percent raise for fiscal year 2009. Prior to that, Stapczynski's last raise was in January 2007.

"We haven't discussed his salary. What's on the table now with him, is the reappointment process," Vispoli said this week.

Stapczynski, 61, has been Andover's town manager since 2000. His current contract expires June 4, 2010, and selectmen are required to let Stapczynski know if he's reappointed by March 4.

At a public meeting Nov. 2, Stapczynski told selectmen he'd like to stay another five years in Andover.

Selectmen are collecting

feedback from residents this winter and plan to make a decision whether to keep or release Stapczynski by Feb. 4. A feedback session for public comments on the town manager's reappointment will be held at the Jan. 4 selectmen's meeting.

Next month, Stapczynski will present selectmen with his vision and plan for the next five years, as well as highlights and achievements of his last five years.

Andover's town charter dictates town managers serve in five-year terms. If reappointed, Stapczynski would serve his fifth term in Andover, the longest tenure of any Andover manager.

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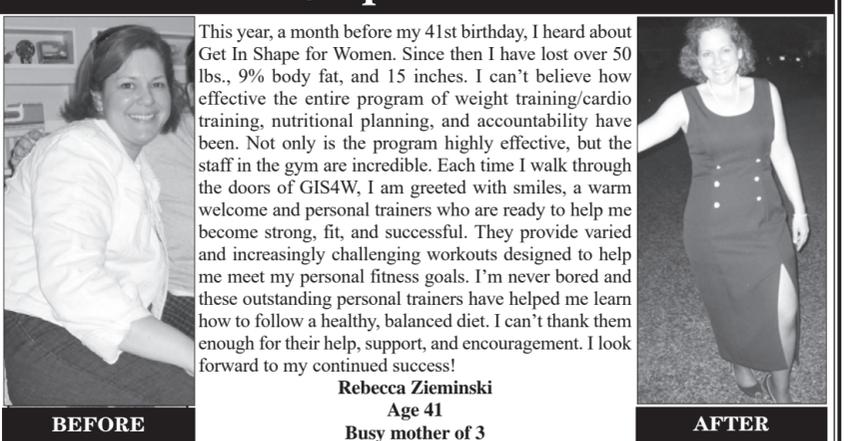
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This year, a month before my 41st birthday, I heard about Get In Shape for Women. Since then I have lost over 50 lbs., 9% body fat, and 15 inches. I can't believe how effective the entire program of weight training/cardio training, nutritional planning, and accountability have been. Not only is the program highly effective, but the staff in the gym are incredible. Each time I walk through the doors of GIS4W, I am greeted with smiles, a warm welcome and personal trainers who are ready to help me become strong, fit, and successful. They provide varied and increasingly challenging workouts designed to help me meet my personal fitness goals. I'm never bored and these outstanding personal trainers have helped me learn how to follow a healthy, balanced diet. I can't thank them enough for their help, support, and encouragement. I look forward to my continued success!

**Rebecca Zieminski**  
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# In Brief

## PAST & PRESENT



**THEN:** Downtown Andover in 1951. One can see the holiday lights, wreaths and even a lighted bell suspended above Main Street.



**NOW:** Downtown Andover, looking south on Main Street, from Elm Square. Years ago Christmas lights would be suspended across the streets all the way down to Punchard Avenue.

### Holy Family offers MRSA screenings

Holy Family Hospital is the first in the Merrimack Valley to provide advanced MRSA (Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus) and Clostridium difficile rapid screening capabilities for inpatients. Identifying and managing these bacteria quickly and accurately are essential to preventing the spread of Hospital Acquired Infections (HAIs).

“Holy Family’s rate of HAIs is among the lowest in the state already,” expressed Dr. Venu

Saddi, MD, Director of Infection Control. “By moving to this enhanced rapid testing protocol, Holy Family continues its longstanding efforts to reduce HAIs and further fosters our environment of quality and safety for patients and their families.”

Receiving results of these screening tests in less than two hours instead of 24 to 36 hours allows the hospital to identify patients testing positive more immediately at the time of admission.

## QUOTE, UNQUOTE ...



“We will now see more even and consistent flow through the length of the Skug River ... This is seen as a good compromise by everybody. We can still use the trails, and a ponded area will remain, but not as large. The beavers can stay where they are and not be trapped out.”  
— Conservation Director Bob Douglas, on the breaching of a beaver dam near Salem Street, see story Page 8.

“Knowing that one person might not do drugs because of my poster ... Just being a part of [the anti-drug campaign], knowing my potential impact on the community, makes me feel a little better about myself.”  
— Hemang Kaul, 15, on being featured on an anti-drug poster, see story, Page 14.



## NEWS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 30	TUESDAY, JAN. 5	THURSDAY, JAN. 7
<p><b>Retirement Board</b>, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., third-floor conference room, 8:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>Board of Assessors</b>, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., assessor’s conference room, 9 a.m.</p> <p><b>Board of Registrars</b>, Town Clerk’s Office, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., third-floor conference room, 5 p.m.</p> <p><b>Last day to register to vote for Jan. 19 special election; Town Clerk’s office open until 8 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>School Committee</b>, School Administration Building, School Committee room, 6 p.m. executive session and 7 p.m. open meeting</p> <p><b>Zoning Board of Appeals</b>, Memorial Hall Library, the hall, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>WEDNESDAY, JAN. 6</b></p> <p><b>School Building Committee</b>, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., third-floor conference room, 8 a.m.</p>	<p><b>Zoning Board of Appeals</b>, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., third-floor conference room, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Ballardvale Fire Station Building Committee</b>, Public Safety Building, N. Main Street, fire chief’s conference room, 7 p.m.</p>

## Interstate 93 community workshop is Jan. 21

Interested in shaping the future of development at the new I-93 interchange?

Participate in the project’s second community workshop. Expect an interactive meeting, where you will see conceptual illustrations depicting a “vision plan” for the study

area adjacent to the new interchange and will have a chance to review and critique the objectives for this significant effort that will shape future development in Andover, Tewksbury and Wilmington.

The three towns have begun developing a zoning code for

the I-93 Tri-town Interchange development area. The zoning is a critical step in maximizing the economic potential of the land that surrounds the interchange; community input is vital to its development.

The meeting Thursday, Jan. 21, 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Old Town

Hall, 20 Main St. SNOW DATE is Thursday, Feb. 4 (Same time/location) For additional information about the project and schedule, please visit: <http://www.vhb.com/tri-townfb> <http://andoverma.gov/planning/i93/>

## Donate coats for kids this winter

The cold winter chill is a harsh reminder that many families face the prospect of a long winter without a warm coat. And while schools and corporate partners have been busy collecting coats for Anton’s Cleaners’ Coats for Kids drive, more coats are still needed to meet the demand. All types of coats—infants, kids, adults—can be donated through Jan. 9, 2010.

Since it began in 1995, Coats for Kids has distributed over 550,000 coats, representing \$6.5 million in donated cleaning costs. Last year alone, nearly 65,000 coats were collected, including many through the corporate partners and school program.

“Our wish is that everyone remembers there are many people out there who want nothing more than to receive the gift of warmth this holiday season,” says Charles A. Anton, President of Anton’s Cleaners. “We hope if you receive a new coat for the holidays, or purchase one for your children, that you drop off the old ones at any of our 44 stores or at Jordan’s Furniture.”

Anton’s reminds everyone that more coats are needed to reach its goal of collecting 60,000 coats that will be cleaned by Anton’s at no charge. Following cleaning, Coats for Kids’ distribution partners such as Massachusetts Community Action Programs,

Salvation Army, Cradles to Crayons, BUMC: Outreach Van Project, and Catholic Charities, among others, will ensure that coats get to those who cannot afford one during the cold weather months.

FOX25, Jordan’s Furniture and KISS-108 & JAM’N-94.5 are providing promotional support for Coats for Kids. Supporting Partners for Coats for Kids include Graham Communications and Package Supply Corp.

For more information, visit [antons.com/cfk](http://antons.com/cfk) or call the Coats for Kids hotline at 800-659-0069. You can also follow Coats for Kids on Facebook and Twitter.

### December health clinics

The Andover Health Department will offer mini clinics on Monday, Dec. 28, from 1 to 2 p.m. at Frye Circle. Senior-center clinics are being held 2 to 3 p.m. each Wednesday, including Dec. 30. No appointment is necessary.

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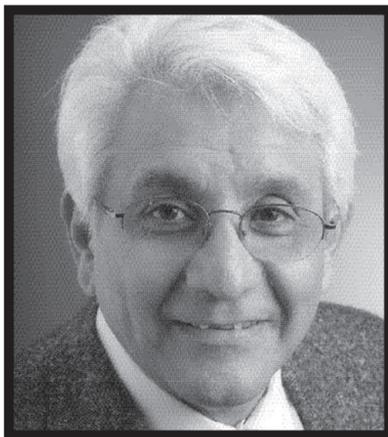
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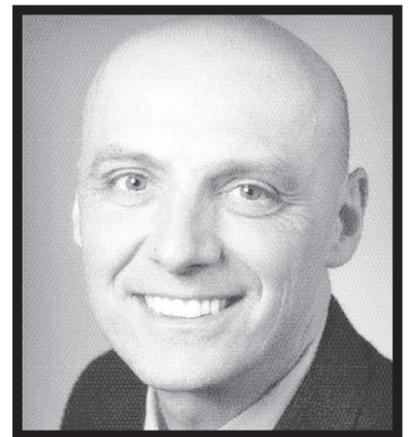
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■ POLICE LOG

COMPILED BY BETHANY BRAY

**ARRESTS**

**Tuesday, Dec. 15** – At 12:16 p.m., Keri Dipietrantonio, 38, of 114 Capen St. Medford, was arrested and charged with distribution of a class B substance.

At 12:26 p.m., Joanne Ciccolo, 23, of 46 Calumet St., Revere, was arrested and charged with possession of a class B substance, with intent to distribute.

**Wednesday, Dec. 16** – At 4:28 p.m., Marissa J. Reed, 24, of 93 Dracut, Lawrence, was arrested and charged on a warrant for failure to pay fine for shoplifting.

**Thursday, Dec. 17** – At 4:18 p.m., Emilio Delarosa, 25, of 120 Berkeley St., Lawrence, was arrested and charged on warrants for driving without a license, driving with no license in possession and speeding.

**Friday, Dec. 18** – At 2 a.m., Kevin M. Hembrough, 32, of 80 Gould Pond Road, Hillsborough, N.H., was arrested and charged with giving a false name during booking and possession of a class B substance; also on warrants for

possession of a class A drug and two warrants for possession of class B drugs.

**Monday, Dec. 21** – At 2:53 p.m., Jario Jose Alvarez, 24, of 43 Royal Crest Drive Apt. 2, North Andover, was arrested and charged with driving with a suspended license and registration.

At 1:32 p.m., a caller reported a road rage incident on North Main Street, with a person getting out of their car and smashing the window of another car. At 3:41 p.m., Michael F. Reilly, 18, of 44 River Road, was arrested and charged with assault and battery and malicious destruction of property over \$250.

At 8:46 p.m., Ana Sosa, 69, of 3 Albion St. Lawrence, was arrested and charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

**INCIDENTS**

**Tuesday, Dec. 15** – At 10:50 a.m., an officer found several bags illegally dumped at the leaf dump at High Plain Road.

At 2:44 p.m., a call was received reporting a possible assault on

Shawsheen Road.

At 3:20 p.m., security at a Shattuck Road business called police regarding a female employee in possession of a firearm. A responding officer gave the woman a court summons for improper storage of a firearm and escorted her off the property.

At 7:07 p.m., a Salem Street motorist reported two kids throwing snowballs at passing cars.

At 11 p.m., a report of a robbery was called in from River Road. A person approached another person, at knife point, saying he would be stabbed if he didn't give him his money. The suspect left in a Chevy Silverado extended-cab truck onto River Road.

**Wednesday, Dec. 16** – At 11:01 a.m., police and fire personnel responded to a false fire alarm on Shawsheen Road.

**Friday, Dec. 18** – At 12:34 p.m., a caller reported a coyote and a fox wandering around near a Beacon Street playground.

At 1:07 p.m., police and fire responded to a pulled fire alarm

on Shawsheen Road.

At 10:56 p.m., Andover police and fire assisted the state police with a rollover crash on Interstate 93 northbound, with a car on fire. The road was closed to accommodate a medflight helicopter. Andover units cleared the scene at 11:36 p.m.

**Saturday, Dec. 19** – At 1:11 p.m., police assisted fire personnel at a house fire on Beacon Street.

**Sunday, Dec. 20** – At 1:29 a.m., a Franklin Avenue caller reported hearing shots in the area.

At 12:10 p.m., a caller from the Collins Center, Shawsheen Road, reported kids were sledding into the parking lot while people were trying to park for an event. A responding officer spoke to the youths.

**AUTO ACCIDENTS**

**Tuesday, Dec. 15** – At 7:10 p.m., report of a car hitting a light pole on High Plain Road, no injuries.

**Thursday, Dec. 17** – At 4:44 p.m., a 911 caller reported a car off the road into the woods off the 495 North ramp to Route 133; no injuries.

**Saturday, Dec. 19** – At 11:56 a.m., a report of a child struck by a vehicle in the parking lot of the YMCA, Haverhill Street.

At 4:33 p.m., a report of a hit-and-run crash in the Shawsheen plaza parking lot, North Main Street.

**AUTO INCIDENTS**

**Tuesday, Dec. 15** – At 12:05 p.m., Wing Environmental, Lowell Junction Road, reported license plates stolen from two of their vehicles.

At 7:51 p.m., a Lovejoy Road resident reported a stolen or lost license plate.

**Saturday, Dec. 19** – At 6:20 a.m., a Chestnut Street resident reported her car was rifled through, but nothing stolen.

At 9:49 a.m., a Stevens Circle resident reported an overnight vehicle break-in. At 10:05 a.m. and 4:43 p.m., Pasho Street residents reported overnight vehicle break-ins, with items stolen. At 12:57 p.m., a Sherry Drive resident reported an overnight vehicle break-in.

At 1:41 p.m., report of a cell phone taken from a vehicle on

Avon Street.

At 2:50 p.m., a Honda Accord with stolen license plates was towed from North Main Street.

**Sunday, Dec. 20** – At 12:45 p.m., a Sherry Drive resident reported his vehicle was broken into a few days ago.

**Monday, Dec. 21** – At 2:57 a.m., an officer found several vehicles had been broken into on Pine Street, and a state police canine unit responded to search the area. No suspects were found.

**THEFT**

**Wednesday, Dec. 16** – At 6:28 p.m., theft of an iPod was reported at Andover High School, Shawsheen Road.

At 7:34 p.m., a person reported their wallet was stolen while working at EISAI, Corporate Drive.

**Thursday, Dec. 17** – At 3:51 p.m., report of a theft of a bicycle from Ridge Street.

**BREAKS**

**Saturday, Dec. 19** – At 8 p.m., a Haverhill Street resident called reporting a break-in to her home, with nothing stolen.

# Winter moth has fluttered into Andover

Janet Brink

Andover residents and others throughout Eastern Massachusetts are reporting seeing small brown moths flying around at night, flocking to porch lights and other light sources. These are winter moths (Operophtera brumata).

Winter moths do not do any damage when they emerge from their cocoons around Thanksgiving. They will be around through December particularly when the temperatures are above freezing. In this stage, they are annoying but they do not eat or hurt anything at this time. They do not bite or sting. By emerging in what is basically winter weather, the moths avoid many predators. They do not feed now and their only purpose is to mate and lay eggs. The eggs hatch in late March or early April.

The moths you see in flight are always males; female winter moths are practically wingless and spend their days on tree trunks, house foundations or other surfaces, waiting for a mate. Once they have mated, the females hide their eggs in the crevices and folds of the

bark. Each female lays about 150 eggs.

While the winter moths can be a nuisance when they cluster around homes, they do their real damage in the spring as small green caterpillars. They attack maples, oaks, cherry, apple, crabapple, blueberry and other fruit trees in early spring, often completely defoliating them. Defoliation over four years can seriously damage a tree.

As with most invasive species, the winter moth invasion is not a simple one. The insect has been identified and its life cycle understood. The moths are native to Europe. Somehow they were transported to North America and were first spotted in Nova Scotia. From there, they have reached New England. The University of Massachusetts Extension Service is experimenting with a natural predator, Cyzenis albicans, a parasitic fly that was effective in bringing the moths under control in Nova Scotia. With further study and then implementation of control, we can hope the damage will be minimized and the winter moth will be managed.

Janet Brink is a member of FACT (Friends of Andover Community Trees) and the Andover Garden Club.

## Cleanup



KATE GLASS/Staff photo

John Parker of the Andover Parks Department clears the sidewalks in front of the Andover Town Offices on Sunday afternoon.

# Andover Rotary welcomes new members

When he became club president in June, Bill Buck challenged each current member to recruit another member. Since then, the club has welcomed several new rotarians, including:

- Al Getler, publisher, The Eagle-Tribune and Andover Townsman;
- Michael Flaherty, executive director, Wingate at Andover;
- Alice Coogan, director, Merrimack

Valley YMCA; James Synder, executive manager, Merrimack Valley Saturn; and Brian Mercier, president of Emergency Medical Training Services. "I am delighted," Buck noted, "These people are respected professionals in their fields and are extremely valuable additions to our organization. We are excited

that they have committed themselves to Andover Rotary." In October, the Club ran its first pancake breakfast at the Bowling Green, in partnership with Atria Marland Place. It featured a delicious breakfast prepared and served by chefs from Marland Place, children's games, and a raffle of items donated by local businesses. It was hugely successful, raising much-needed

funds for Lazarus House, Challenge Unlimited at Ironstone Farm, and the West Elementary STOP (Stop Teasing Other People) program. The Rotary Club of Andover holds regular breakfast meetings Fridays at 7:30 a.m. at the Lanam Club on North Main St., Andover. If you would like to know more about the rotary, you are welcome to attend, or visit their Web site at <http://www.rotaryandover.org>.

**Medical Connection**  
by Bill Daly, M.D.

**H1N1 FLU SHOTS "FOR EVERYONE"**

Up 'till now we have all been told that the H1N1 (Swine) Influenza Vaccine was being rationed, because demand far exceeded supply. All of a sudden the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Mass Department of Public Health (MDPH) have announced that there is enough H1N1 flu vaccine available, so "anyone who wants one" can have this vaccine. But your doctor's office might not have it -- where does one go?

Your town's Health Department is probably offering vaccine clinics. I am currently administering the H1N1 vaccine to all of my patients who want one. The process to obtain the vaccine was unusual, and required applying through a special program months ago. I routinely communicate with all my patients through email newsletters, keeping them informed of this and other services (such as electronic prescribing).

Some people should NOT be vaccinated, including infants under 6 months, and anyone with a past history of allergy to chicken eggs or neomycin, Guillain-Barré syndrome or severe reaction to previous flu vaccination.

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# Obituaries

## James G. Carmichael, 87



YORK, Maine — James G. Carmichael, 87, a life long resident of Andover, and recently of 117 Long Sands Road in York, died Thursday, Dec. 17, 2009 at

York Hospital. He was born Jan. 27, 1922 in Andover, the son of the late George and Elizabeth (Miller) Carmichael. A graduate of Puncard High School, Mr. Carmichael was a Navy veteran of World War II; he served as a signalman aboard the USS Osmond Ingram, a destroyer that participated in the North Atlantic, European, African and Pacific campaigns.

He had worked 32 years for the ITT Continental Baking Co. before retiring in 1984 as regional sales manager. Mr. Carmichael was a 32nd degree Mason in the Scottish Right of Boston, a member of St. Matthew's Lodge and the Scottish fraternal organization Clan Johnston in Andover. He was also a Shriner serving with the Aleppo Temple's provost guard in Wilmington and was associated with the Tin Can Sailors, the National Association

of Destroyer Veterans. Mr. Carmichael was a member of the Free Christian Church and was a long-time score keeper for the Rogers Golf Tournament held each year at the Andover Country Club.

His wife of 57 years, Thelma (Fairweather) Carmichael predeceased him. He was also predeceased by his sister, Elizabeth Whitcomb MacKenzie. Mr. Carmichael leaves three daughters, Jamie Doubleday and her husband Raymond of Thomaston, Maine, Cynthia S. Lodise and her husband Michael of Danville, N.H., Lee-Anne Leverone and her husband Richard of York, Maine; and a son, Dana B. Carmichael and his life partner Stephane Ann Farmer of Frisco, Texas; a sister, Helen Caldwell and her husband Richard of York, Maine; three grandchildren, Joshua, Amanda and Hannah Doubleday; and a great-grandson, Robert.

**ARRANGEMENTS:** A memorial service will take place in the Chapel at West Parish Cemetery on Jan. 9, 2010 at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Andover Senior Center, care of Katherine Urquhart, 36 Bartlett St., Andover, MA 01810. Lucas & Eaton Funeral Home, 91 Long Sands Road, York, Maine is directing arrangements. Visit [www.lucaseatonfuneralhome.com](http://www.lucaseatonfuneralhome.com).

## William A. Cashman, 87



LYNN — Mr. William A. Cashman, 87, of Lynn, died early Monday morning, Dec. 14, 2009 in a local nursing home, following a lengthy

illness. He was the beloved husband of the late Madelyn F. (Conlin) Cashman.

Born in Lynn, William was the son of the late Gerald A. and Louise (Baker) Cashman. He was a graduate of Lynn English High School, Class of 1940. He enlisted in the United States Army Air Force and served during World War II in the 39th Fighter Squadron. During that time, he spent three years in the Pacific Theater.

Prior to his retirement in 1985, William worked as a Legislative Assistant to the former Atty. General Francis X. Bellotti. Prior to that, he was the Legislative Director of the Massachusetts State Labor Council, AFL-CIO. He also worked as a bricklaying instructor for the National Association of Home Builders, teaching bricklaying to Vietnam-era soldiers at Ft. Devens. From 1953-1970, he served as the Business Agent for the Bricklayers, Masons, and Plasterers Union, Local 12, Lynn. He was Secretary and Treasurer of the Bricklayers, Masons, and Plasterers Union's Health and Welfare Fund of

Essex County for over 19 years. He was President of the Lynn Building Trades for 10 years.

He and his late wife also operated the Boreen Irish Import Shop in Lynn for many years.

He was a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) Division 10, the Meadowlarks, and belonged to several local VFW Posts. He enjoyed travelling, reading, sports, and spending time with his family. He sponsored Irish concerts for many local charities, headlining the Clancy Bros. and Frank Patterson, just to mention a few. He was the former historian of the AOH Division 10 and in 1974, he was named "Irishman of the Year."

He leaves his children, William M. Cashman and his wife Rita of Andover, Peter A. Cashman of Lynn, Susan A. Kern and her husband Robert of Lynn, Cathy E. Cashman of Amesbury, and Eileen C. Cashman and her partner John Kellar of Newburyport. He is also survived by eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**ARRANGEMENTS:** William's funeral was held from the Cuffe-McGinn Funeral Home, 157 Maple St., Lynn, on Friday, followed by a funeral Mass in St. Pius V Church, Lynn, at 10:30 a.m. Interment St. Joseph's Cemetery, Lynn. Gifts in William's memory may be sent to the Ancient Order of Hibernians Scholarship Fund, 104 Federal St., Lynn, MA 01905. For online memorial and guestbook, visit [www.cuffemcginns.com](http://www.cuffemcginns.com).

## SUPPORT GROUPS

### Coping with Loss

A bereavement support group will be held at the Dracut Council of Aging, Mammoth Road, Dracut on the second and fourth Wednesday each month from 10 to 11:30 a.m. The group is free and open to the public. All interested individuals must register. Call Lu Bonanno at 978-372-4211 for additional information and to register.

### Advocates

Self-advocates are forming a new group in the Greater Andover area. It is an opportunity for people with cognitive disabilities to learn about empowerment, learn about rights, meet new people and get involved in the self-advocacy movement. This movement educates people about working together to make choices that enrich their lives. The meeting will be held Tuesdays at the North Andover/Andover YMCA on Haverhill Street from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The meeting is open to people with disabilities as well as their supporters. Contact Barbara Pandolfi, program manager, The Arc of Greater Haverhill-Newburyport, Formerly The Arc of Northern Essex County, Inc., 57 Wingate St., Suite 301, Haverhill, call 978-373-0552, fax 978-373-0552 or e-mail [Barbara.Pandolfi@TheArcofGHN.org](mailto:Barbara.Pandolfi@TheArcofGHN.org).

### Chronic disease

Chronic disease self-management is for anyone living with an ongoing medical condition such as arthritis, asthma, cancer, chronic back pain, chronic fatigue syndrome, diabetes, fibromyalgia, heart disease, high blood pressure, lupus, Parkinson's disease or stroke. Sponsored by Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley and Lowell General Hospital. Meets

the second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 1 to 2 p.m. in Hanchett Auditorium. Call 978-937-6038.

### Diabetes

Diabetes support group meetings: third Wednesday of the month, 7 to 8:30 p.m., Mary Breen 603-898-5023.

### Down syndrome

"Celebrating Our Special Gifts," a Down syndrome LGH Support Group provides support and education for the parents of children with Down syndrome. Parents encourage and strengthen each other, sharing experiences, knowledge and understanding, to enrich the lives of their children so they may reach their fullest potential. Meets the third Monday of each month, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Clark Auditorium at Lowell General Hospital. Parents and children of all ages are welcome. Call group leader Linda at 978-459-6854.

### HIV/AIDS

AIDS Action of Andover Mothers Group, for mothers and other family members of people who are HIV positive or have AIDS, twice monthly; 978-470-2626.

### Lyme disease

Lyme disease support group, offering information and support, second Tuesday of every month, 7 to 9 p.m., Heritage at Danvers, 9 Summer St., Danvers; Kay Lyon 978-468-6336; [www.lymesite.com](http://www.lymesite.com).

### Mental health

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI), Greater Lawrence, meets every third Thursday of the month, 7 to 9 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 57 Peters St., North

## Ann E. Castignoli, 64



HAVERTHILL — Mrs. Ann E. "Nancy" (Mehm) Castignoli, 64, beloved wife of the late Richard A. Castignoli, died

Friday morning, Dec. 18, 2009 in the Holy Family Hospital in Methuen.

Born and raised in Lynn, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Elizabeth (Hughes) Mehm. She received her education in the Lynn school system, graduated from Lynn English High School, Class of 1963 and continued her education, earning her nursing degree from the Lynn Hospital School of Nursing, Class of 1966.

Mrs. Castignoli had been employed as the director of nursing for the D'Youville Senior Care Center in Lowell until the time of her retirement earlier this year. A resident of Andover for 26 years prior to moving to Haverhill six years ago, she was a member of St. Robert Bellarmine Church in Andover. She was a loving mother, grandmother and sister, who will be missed by all who knew her.

Surviving her are three daughters, Cheryl Castignoli of

Lowell, Diane Eggert and her husband, Chris of Greenville, S.C. and Karen Butkovich and her husband, Daniel of Amesbury; three grandchildren, Kaitley, Michael and Allyson Eggert and one grandchild on the way; her brother, Rev. Richard J. Mehm of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Malden; two sisters-in-law, Marilyn Mehm of Pennsylvania and Cynthia Costello and her husband, Nick of Amesbury; many special friends including, Rose Fazio and her husband, Sal of Tewksbury and Karen McGrath and her husband, Alan of Peabody, several nieces and nephews.

**ARRANGEMENTS:** Family and friends called on Monday, Dec. 21, 2009 at the Cataudella Funeral Home, 126 Pleasant Valley St., Methuen. Mrs. Castignoli's funeral Mass was held on Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2009 at 11 a.m. in St. Robert Bellarmine Church, 198 Haggetts Pond Road, Andover. Mrs. Castignoli's burial followed in St. Mary's Cemetery, 90 River Road, Tewksbury. Expressions of sympathy may be made in Ann's memory to the D'Youville Senior Care Center, 981 Varnum Ave., Lowell, MA 01854; or to the Immaculate Conception Church, 10 Fellows East Malden, MA 02148. For directions and condolences, please visit our Web site and online guestbook at [www.cataudellaFH.com](http://www.cataudellaFH.com).

## Alfred J. Gioia, 87



ANDOVER — Mr. Alfred J. Gioia, 87, formerly of Lawrence, beloved husband of Helen (LaRose) Gioia, died

Tuesday evening, Dec. 15, 2009 in the Lawrence General Hospital.

Born and raised in South Lawrence, he was the son of the late Simon and Angelina (Pappalardo) Gioia. He graduated from Lawrence High School and continued his education, graduating from the New England Aircraft Institute in Boston. An honorably discharged veteran, he served his country during World War II as a member of the United States Navy, where he was stationed in South America and India, attached to the Air Transport Command. He later served as an aircraft inspector for the U.S. Navy at the Naval Air Station in Alameda, Calif.

Mr. Gioia had been employed for 38 years as a supervisor for American Airlines in Boston, until the time of his retirement in 1980. He was a member of the American Airlines Northeast Vanguard and the Three Diamond Society.

In addition to his wife, with whom he shared 11 years of

marriage, he is survived by two stepsons, Everett LaRose and his wife Joyce of Andover and Brian LaRose of Nashua, N.H.; a son-in-law, Bernard Bush of Salem, N.H.; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; a nephew, Stephen Gioia and his wife Peggy of Salem, N.H.; his niece, Linda Colton and her husband Christopher of Groton. He was also stepfather of the late Gale Bush, who passed away in 2007.

**ARRANGEMENTS:** His funeral was held from the Cataudella Funeral Home, 126 Pleasant Valley St., Methuen, Saturday, Dec. 19, 2009 at 8:45 a.m. followed by a funeral Mass at 10 a.m. in the Corpus Christi Parish at the Holy Rosary Church, 35 Essex St., Lawrence. Entombment was in St. Mary's Mausoleum, Barker Street, Lawrence. At the request of the family, there will be no visiting hours. In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made in Alfred's memory to the charity of one's choice. For directions and condolences, please visit our website and online guestbook at [www.cataudellaFH.com](http://www.cataudellaFH.com).

## RELIGION

On Friday, Jan. 8, at 5:30 p.m., Temple Emanuel of Andover, will hold a "TOT Shabbat" Sabbath service, for toddlers, preschool, and school aged children. Rabbi Robert Goldstein will lead the child-centered liturgy and tell a story. Cantor Donn Rosensweig will lead the singing. This service is Open to the Public. Service will be followed by a Community Shabbat Dinner at 6 p.m. Reservations are required for Shabbat Dinner. Temple Emanuel is located at 7 Haggetts Pond Road in Andover. Please visit the website at [www.templemanuel.net](http://www.templemanuel.net) or call the Temple office at 978-470-1356.

On Friday, Jan. 8, at 7 p.m., Temple Emanuel of Andover will hold a Grade 5 Family Service, led by Rabbi Robert Goldstein, Cantor Donn Rosensweig and Cantor Idan Irelander, Religious School Music Director. Temple Emanuel is at 7 Haggetts Pond Road in Andover. Please visit the website at [www.templemanuel.net](http://www.templemanuel.net) or call the Temple office at 978-470-1356.

On Sunday, Jan. 10, at 11 a.m. Temple Emanuel of Andover will welcome retiring Superintendent of the Andover Schools, Dr. Claudia Bach. Dr. Bach will reflect on her tenure as head of Andover's public schools, as well as her vision for how public schools can best meet the needs of the students, particularly in the years to come. Our program, which is Open To The Community, will begin with coffee and danish, and conclude by 1 p.m. Temple Emanuel is at 7 Haggetts Pond Road, Andover. Please visit the website at [www.templemanuel.net](http://www.templemanuel.net) or call the Temple office at

978-470-1356.

On Friday, Jan. 22, at 7 p.m. Temple Emanuel of Andover will hold a Kabbalat Shabbat Unplugged Service in conjunction with a Pulpit Exchange with Andover's South Church. The service will be led by Rabbi Robert Goldstein, Cantor Donn Rosensweig and Cantor Idan Irelander, Assistant Music Director, accompanied by a variety of professional musicians. The evening's sermon will be given by South Church's Reverend John Zehring. The service of soulful music and inspiring prose is open to all, regardless of age, affiliation or faith. Wine and cheese will be served prior to the service at 6:30 p.m.

Temple Emanuel is at 7 Haggetts Pond Road in Andover. Please visit the Web site at [www.templemanuel.net](http://www.templemanuel.net) or call the Temple office at 978-470-1356.

On Saturday, Jan. 23, at 7 p.m., Temple Emanuel in Lowell will hold its 2nd annual Israeli Film Festival. The featured movie will be "The Band's Visit." "A fading Egyptian police band arrives in Israel to play at the Arab Cultural Center. When they take the wrong bus, the band members find themselves in a desolate Israeli village. Set against a breathtaking desert landscape, this cross cultural comedy proves that getting lost is sometimes the best way to find yourself" (quote taken from Movie Jacket). Temple Donation greatly appreciated. Light refreshments available.

The Temple is located at 101 West Forest St. in Lowell. Please visit the Web site at [111.temv.org](http://111.temv.org) or call 978-454-1372.

## Help terminally ill and their families through VNA care

VNA Care Network and Hospice, a nonprofit home health care, hospice and wellness agency, needs volunteers to provide practical and emotional support to terminally ill patients and their families on the North Shore, Cape Ann and Merrimack

Valley. Volunteers receive training, supervision and support. Call Nancy Barcelo, volunteer coordinator, at 888-663-3688, Ext. 4271. For more information about VNA Care Network and Hospice, visit [www.vnacarenetwork.org](http://www.vnacarenetwork.org) or call 800-728-1862.

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## Wreaths for veterans



Civil Air Patrol Cadet Hannah Kuegler salutes after placing a wreath at the veterans monument in Spring Grove Cemetery on Dec. 12. Kuegler and Cadet Alex Sullivan of the Essex County Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol participated in the Wreaths Across America project, laying wreaths on the veteran's graves and monuments at St. Augustine's and Spring Grove cemeteries in Andover.

## RMV enhances online, electronic services

The Registry of Motor Vehicles is updating several online services, beginning with the change of address function, to make internet service more customer friendly and eliminating delays in processing transactions. The latest changes follow a two-year effort to build a full service virtual branch that has resulted in a 36 percent increase in customer internet traffic.

Before these programming changes, customers had to wait up to 48 hours before their new address was entered in their record. That prevented customers from performing other internet transactions such as renewing a license or vehicle registration, ordering specialty plates or requesting a driving record.

Since July 2007 the RMV has developed eight new online services at [www.mass.gov/rmv](http://www.mass.gov/rmv) that allow

customers to view their license, registration, title and driving records as well as renew a Massachusetts ID, become an organ donor and now change their address instantly.

The RMV was the first vehicle administrator in the country to offer customer conveniences online. The website, which now offers more than 18 transactions, serves more than 1,864,106 customers a year up from 1,192,981 customers in 2007.

In addition, as part of Governor Deval Patrick's reform plan to make transportation agencies more accountable to commuters, the Registry of Motor Vehicles is reinstating courtesy notices for driver's license and MA ID renewals that were discontinued last December. The RMV partnered with a private Massachusetts electronic messaging firm to develop a secure notification service

at no cost to the taxpayer that will alert customers a month before their license expires by email, phone or text message.

"RMV customers will be alerted well before their license or MA ID expires," said Jeffrey B. Mullan, who will take over as Secretary and CEO of the new Massachusetts Department of Transportation on November 1, 2009. "The RMV Reminder Service utilizes innovative technology that protects a person's most important identity document against fraud and abuse."

Registrar Rachel Kaprielian said customers will have an opportunity to join the new service through [www.mass.gov/rmv](http://www.mass.gov/rmv) and choose what method they want to be notified. The RMV Reminder Service, which will be powered by Sendza, Inc. will be free of charge to customers and the Commonwealth because the notifications will be sponsored by Massachusetts businesses.

In developing the reminder service, the RMV also built an IT infrastructure that can be

expanded in the future to other registry services including registration and vehicle inspection renewals.

In order to be eligible for notification, a customer must sign up for the service at least 45 days prior to the expiration of their driver's license or MA ID. They will receive an electronic message by the method of their choosing at least 30 days before the expiration date and will inform the customer whether they can renew their license or MA ID online or must visit a branch. Customers will also be notified if their license is in non-renew status because of an outstanding parking ticket or excise bill and must be cleared before they can renew. The notification service includes a strict privacy policy to protect the information and data customers provide to the RMV.

For the latest information about Massachusetts transportation, visit the blog at [www.mass.gov/blog/transportation](http://www.mass.gov/blog/transportation) or follow them on twitter at <http://twitter.com/massdot>.

## Christmas Eve and Day services at Andover houses of worship

### BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

South Church, in the Chapel  
41 Central St.  
Tuesday, Dec. 22  
7 p.m.

Service for those who have suffered a loss and have difficulty celebrating a joyous Christmas. The meditation subject is "take my yoke upon you," with the John Zehring preaching. Music will be by Harmonic Regression and the Accidental Divas.

### UNITED METHODIST

Ballardvale United Church  
23 Clark Road  
Christmas Eve

5:30 p.m.: Family Service, candlelight and carols

### EPISCOPAL

Christ Church  
25 Central St.  
Christmas Eve

4:30 p.m.: Family Holy Eucharist with pageant  
7:30 and 10 p.m., : Festival Holy Eucharist  
Christmas Day  
10 a.m.: Holy Eucharist

### LUTHERAN

Faith Lutheran Church  
360 South Main St.  
[www.faitn-andover.org](http://www.faitn-andover.org)  
Christmas Eve

Services at 2, 3:30, 5, 7:30 and 10 p.m.  
All offer Holy Communion and a special message for children

### CONGREGATIONAL

Free Christian Church

■ 31 Elm St., Andover  
Christmas Eve  
Services at 4, 6 and 11 p.m.  
■ 1600 Osgood St. (Lucent Building), North Andover  
Christmas Eve  
■ 5 p.m. with guest recording artist Jaime Jangochian

### BIBLE CHAPELS

New England Bible Church  
60 Chandler Road  
978-475-4381  
[www.nebible.org](http://www.nebible.org)  
Christmas Eve

6 p.m.: Candlelight service

### CATHOLIC

St. Augustine Parish  
Christmas Eve

■ St. Augustine  
43 Essex St.  
4 p.m. Mass and 4:05 p.m. Mass in St. Rita Hall (downstairs)  
6 p.m. Mass  
9:45 p.m. Musical Presentation prior to 10:30 p.m. Mass

■ St. Joseph  
20 High Vale Lane, Ballardvale  
4 p.m. Mass  
6 p.m. Mass with Children's Live Gospel

■ Collegiate Church of Christ the Teacher, Merrimack College  
4:30 p.m. Mass  
Christmas Day

St. Augustine Church: 9:30 and 11 a.m.  
St. Joseph Church: 10 a.m. Mass  
Reconciliation schedule includes Dec. 17 at 12:30 and 7 p.m. and Dec. 19 at 11 a.m.

St. Robert Bellarmine  
198 Haggetts Pond Road  
Christmas Eve

4 p.m.: Church - Ladies Schola (Mass begins when church full)  
6 p.m.: Youth choir  
Midnight: Adult choir  
Christmas Day  
10 a.m.: Cantor and organ

### UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

South Church  
41 Central St.  
Christmas Eve

3 p.m.: Lessons and Carols, the Rev. Jonathan Drury leading  
5 p.m.: Family Worship Service and Pageant  
11 p.m.: Communion candlelight service with message "Do not be Afraid"; music prelude begins at 10:45 p.m.

West Parish Church  
129 Reservation Road  
Christmas Eve

5 p.m.: Family candlelight service  
10 p.m.: Candlelight service

### UNITARIAN

Unitarian Universalist congregation

6 Locke St.  
Christmas Eve

7 p.m.: Candlelight service with music, traditional readings, and carols.



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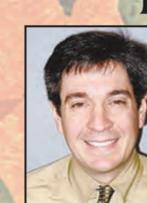
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# Best Holiday Wishes

## From the Staff of Your Hometown Paper

  
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# Andover Townsman

33 Chestnut St., Andover, MA 01810  
(978) 475-7000

# Opinion

## Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus

*Editor's note: The following editorial, among the most famous ever written, appeared in The New York Sun in 1897 and remains appropriate for this holiday season 112 years later.*

### Is there a Santa Claus?

We take pleasure in answering at once and thus promptly the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun:

*Dear Editor! I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun it's so." Please tell me the truth: Is there a Santa Claus?  
Virginia O'Hanlon.  
115 West Ninety-Fifth Street*

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias.

There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal life with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernatural beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.



KATE GLASS/Staff photo

Ruth Schreiber, left, and Erin Beirne, both 10 and of Andover, shovel the path outside Beirne's home on Sunday afternoon. Although the path was cleared earlier, the two were playing in the snow and had accidentally covered it again.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Remembering Christ at Christmas

Editor, Townsman:

I wanted to share the piece entitled "Mary's Dream," written by an unknown author:

*I had a dream, Joseph. I don't understand it, not really, but I think it was about a birthday celebration for our Son. I think that was what it was all about.*

*The people had been preparing for it for about six weeks. They had decorated the house and bought new clothes. They'd gone shopping many times and bought elaborate gifts. It was peculiar though, because the presents weren't for our Son. They wrapped them in beautiful paper and tied them with lovely bows and stacked them under the tree.*

*Yes. A tree, Joseph, right in their house. They'd decorated the tree also. The branches were full of glowing balls and sparkling ornaments. There was a figure on the top of the tree. It looked like an angel might look.*

*Oh, it was beautiful. Everyone was laughing and happy. They were all excited about the gifts. They gave the gifts to each other, Joseph, not to our Son. I don't think they even knew Him. They never mentioned His name. Doesn't it seem odd for people to go to all that trouble to celebrate someone's birthday if they don't know Him?*

*I had the strangest feeling that if our Son had gone to this celebration He would have been intruding. Everyone was so beautiful, Joseph, and everyone so full of cheer, but it made me want to cry.*

*How sad for Jesus - not to be wanted at His own birthday celebration. I'm glad it was truly a dream.*

*How terrible, Joseph, if it had been real.*

MARY CARBONE  
Cyr Circle

### Softball league needs field of its own

Editor, Townsman:

In regard to the town's plans for the Blanchard Street property, one league in town is the most desperate for a playing field of its own.

That league is the Andover Girls Softball League. This league currently uses the town's freshman, junior and senior fields at Andover High School and supports over 300 girls each spring and early summer season.

Neighboring towns such as Tewksbury, Chelmsford and Lowell, have softball field complexes that house three fields or more and have used these facilities to hold softball tournaments resulting in added funds for their respective town's softball association. These are returned in lower registration fees for the in-town players. We at AGSL would use these funds in the same manner, reducing fees and enabling a better experience for players

### LETTERS POLICY

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

Mail to:  
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Box 1986, Andover, Mass. 01810

Fax to: 978-470-2819  
E-mail: Neil Fater at nfater@andover-townsman.com. Please include the letter in the body of the e-mail, not as an attachment.

both in the Intown and Travel programs.

To designate one of these fields for baseball/softball use would be valuable and a generator of revenue going forward.

Every spring and early summer the softball Board of Directors struggle with scheduling, even renting fields outside of the town to accommodate practice for the wide number of teams who participate each year.

MICHAEL BURNS  
2 Suffolk Circle  
AGSL Board of Directors  
Let there be streetlights again

### Protections from underperforming utilities

Editor, Townsman:

Last month, the Legislature, led by the legislative delegation from Fitchburg, Ashby, Townsend and Lunenburg, unanimously passed landmark legislation that protects consumers in the event of severe power outages by increasing the accountability of public utilities to those they serve.

This legislation comes on the heels of the devastation that occurred in North-central Massachusetts after last December's ice storm and Unital's complete mismanagement of its response. The communities that were affected by this utility's failure to uphold their obligation to provide safe and reliable service lived through a nightmare - some individuals and business were without power for as much as two weeks, right in the middle of the holiday season.

Crucial protections for our communities have been lacking for far too long - and this legislation provides much-needed safeguards for our communities. If a utility company is severely underperforming, this legislation gives the state the authority to put a receiver in place to run the company temporarily and hire, fire or reorganize management. It deters future negligence by utilities by giving the Department of Public Utilities the ability to impose financial penalties in the event of their failure to uphold their obligation to provide safe and reliable service.

The majority of problems surrounding Unital's response to the storm were caused by a failure of

higher management. Unital failed to implement an emergency-response plan, failed to quickly restore services, and threatened the health, safety and welfare of its customers. What's worse is that in the months following the destruction in North-central Massachusetts Unital did not recognize this failure and change their leadership; instead they gave their CEO a performance-based bonus. With the passage of this legislation, we have put management on notice that their jobs are not guaranteed if they are not performing.

Given the depth of destruction that resulted from the extended outages and the disregard for emergency response which is so crucial to protect consumers, the delegation from that area: Reps. Jennifer Benson, Robert Rice, Robert Hargraves, Stephen DiNatale and Sen. Jennifer Flanagan have all made it a priority this year to be sure that action was taken to prevent a failure like this from ever happening again.

This is New England - an ice storm of the magnitude that happened last December in Fitchburg, Lunenburg, Ashby and Townsend could happen anywhere in our state. We can deal with the weather, but we should not have to deal with negligence by utility companies. We are pleased that the Department of Public Utilities will now have the tools it needs to hold utility companies accountable for their actions, and that our constituents won't be left in the dark again.

REP. BARRY FINEGOLD

Stirling Street

### Let there be streetlights again

Editor, Townsman:

Regarding the decision to shut off street lights in town: we're told that the "safety officer" has reviewed all the lights and deems the areas to be safe enough without them. How is it safe to turn off the lights on a cul-de-sac with homes that back up to a dark, densely wooded area?

Has anyone noticed that it gets dark at about 4:30 these days? The fact is, not having street lighting reduces the visibility of people, including children walking from school or after-school activities in the dark. Did the selectmen consider the fact that a vast majority of streets in Andover don't have sidewalks outside of town center? We don't live in a rural area - this is a town with over 20,000 residents. What kind of safe environment do we have with snow reducing the walking space available and pushing people further into the streets?

Has anyone thought about the fact that street lighting is a major inhibitor to crime and has been proven to have a positive affect on reducing criminal activity in any area where a study of street lighting has been done? Google "street lights and crime" for

more information on the safety of having the lights on. The evidence, both anecdotal and otherwise, would strongly suggest that we're better off with the lights on.

Finally, the unilateral vote by selectmen to turn off the lights is in conflict with the best interests of the taxpayers of Andover who had a right to take this to Town Meeting due to the dangerous impact in public safety.

For \$0.23 per day per light we're putting ourselves at needless risk. What will it take to wake up the selectmen, a major accident costing someone's life, or a series of break-ins? It shouldn't come to this and we shouldn't accept this noxious mandate.

If the town isn't going to turn the lights back on then it should follow there should be more police patrolling the streets to ensure a higher level of safety. Why not, the town has increased our safety risk; the least we should expect is a higher level of care for the taxpayers paying the bills.

Here's another idea. If the town is so focused on cost savings, and, on a neighborhood by neighborhood basis, we're willing to chip in to help pay for our own lighting, give us the opportunity to do so - I think we can afford the \$0.23 per day per light. Why not introduce an "Adopt A Light" program?

Here's a final thought to the selectmen: where the reduction of street lighting was a substantial and contributing cause of personal injury, death, or the loss of property, the town of Andover will find itself at extensive legal risk. One action could wipe out any possible savings and perhaps cost the town even more. Did anyone on the board seek legal counsel before voting?

Elections will come and memories are long - we want competent town management able to think on their feet and use their heads. Turn the lights back on! A mistake was made, and it needs to be corrected.

HARRY MILLER  
12 Standish Circle

**Editor's note: In his original letter, the writer questioned why some of those involved in the decision did not have lights shut off on their streets. Selectmen Alex Vispoli, Brian Major and Jerry Stabile and Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski do not have any lights on their streets. Added Stapczynski, "The reason is that we don't require street lights on streets with underground utilities. The subdivision control rules and regs that went into effect in the late '60s or early '70s removed the street light requirement. We have added very few street lights in the past 20 years, and our records show that only three street lights have been added in the past nine years. The selectmen actually have a policy on street lighting and it requires a review by the Police Department to determine the public safety need." Some lights were shut off on the streets where selectmen Mary Lyman and Ted Teichert live.**

## WEB QUESTION

### Scuba snafu

On Monday, Dec. 14, the School Committee denied a request to allow a group of Andover High School students to go on a February school trip to scuba-dive in Cozumel, Mexico, fearing liability issues. Three days later, the committee reversed their decision, approving the trip on Dec. 17.

Last week, before the decision was reversed, we asked you if you thought the students should be allowed to go. With 309 responses, the majority was an overwhelming "Yes," with 89.32 percent of votes. "No" received 9.39 percent and "I'm not sure" received 1.29 percent of responses.

**This week's question: Buzz's report card**

On Monday, Dec. 21, the Board of Selectmen released their annual review of Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski. The board gave him mostly high marks; their lowest score for Stapczynski was in the area of collective bargaining.

In your opinion, what does Buzz Stapczynski, Andover's Town Manager since 1990, do best?

- Budget preparation and administration
- Planning, vision and leadership
- Negotiations/collective bargaining
- Administrative/managerial skills
- Recruitment, selection and supervision of staff
- Board and committee appointments
- Current and planned projects
- Projects involving town boards or subcommittees
- Communication (with residents, media, legislators)
- None of the above
- All of the above

To cast your vote, go to www.andovertownsmen.com and scroll all the way to the bottom of the page. For different or lengthier answers, email Editor Neil Fater at nfater@andovertownsmen.com

## Andover Townsman

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## Snow cancels West Parish church's nativity play

For the second year in a row, winter weather has canceled the West Parish nativity play.

The church's outdoor re-enactment of the Christmas story, which includes a cast of adults, youth and children, as well as a stable of live animals, was canceled as a storm roared through town on Sunday, dumping several inches of snow in Andover.

The play was originally scheduled for Dec. 13, and was bumped to Dec. 20 because of inclement weather on the first date.

Although the pageant is canceled for this year, folks are welcome to join the church for two candlelight services on Christmas Eve at 5 and 10 p.m., said Betsy Collins, who works in the church office.

On the bright side, costumes and props from the play are set and ready to go for next year, noted Collins.

West Parish is at 129 Reservation Road; for more information, visit [www.westparishchurch.org](http://www.westparishchurch.org)

—Bethany Bray

### Volunteers needed for Elder Services

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 reimbursement. 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.



COURTESY PHOTO

Conservation Commission Special Projects Manager Bob Decelle and Andy Girdwood of the Andover Village Improvement Society look over a beaver dam on the Skug River that was breached this month to prevent flooding. The dam, just north of Salem Street, was flooding a nearby residence's septic system and a "beaver deceiver" flow-through device was put in the dam. Water can be seen flowing through the beaver dam at the lower right.

## Battling the beavers

### Conservation Commission approves breaching Skug River dam

By BETHANY BRAY  
STAFF WRITER

For more than five years, a group of beavers on the Skug River has been doing what beavers do best: building a dam.

This month, the dam grew big enough to flood out the septic system of a resident on Delhi Circle, causing the health department to issue an emergency order to breach the dam.

Over the weekend of Dec. 12, a "beaver deceiver" flow-through device was placed in the dam, located north of Salem Street on

the Skug River. On Tuesday, Dec. 15, the Conservation Commission voted to make the breaching of the dam permanent.

A beaver deceiver allows water to flow through a dam and the animals are not able to dam the device, said Bob Douglas, Andover's conservation director.

Flow-through devices have already been placed, with Conservation Commission approval, on beaver dams down and upstream from the Salem Street dam on the Skug River.

"We will now see more even

and consistent flow through the length of the Skug River," said Douglas. "This is seen as a good compromise by everybody. We can still use the trails, and a ponded area will remain, but not as large. The beavers can stay where they are and not be trapped out."

Several trails run along the Skug River near the beaver dam, including on town-owned conservation property and land owned by the Andover Village Improvement Society (AVIS). Over the years, trails and boardwalks have been relocated to higher

ground twice to escape the beaver's flooding, said Douglas.

Because beavers are a protected animal, special permission must be obtained to breach a dam, he said, and fines run up to \$25,000 for tampering with beaver dams.

"We recognize that it's all natural, the flooding cycle," said Douglas. "It takes a very unique set of circumstances for someone to (legally) alter a dam. It's governed by the board of health, and it's usually a substantial threat to property, health or safety."

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**Grant will expand 'Big Friends Little Friends' program**

Family Service Inc. of Lawrence, has received a grant from the Massachusetts Service Alliance to expand its "Big Friends Little Friends" program, which matches 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-confidence 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."

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](mailto:lferoce@familyserviceinc.com).

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# Arts & Entertainment

## Local art prodigy has worldwide reputation

BY JUDY WAKEFIELD  
STAFF WRITER

With waist-length dark hair, hip sneakers, a passion for shopping and trouble accepting her parents "no cell phone" rule, Victoria Yin seems like a typical 12-year-old girl in Andover.

She is anything but. Victoria is a truly gifted young artist. She's a prodigy, her mom, Eva Xu, said, and many art reviewers and collectors worldwide seem to agree, admiring her surrealistic paintings.

Pieces by this West Middle School eighth-grader have sold for as much as \$28,000, according to Xu. In fact, one British art collector purchased five of Yin's pieces.

Yet, there's such a small town girl way about her. That prodigy label is hard to believe until you see her painted pieces.

She giggles when complimented on her art and throws one of those "oh, mom" looks when Xu brags about her gifted child.

It's refreshingly clear that in spite of her first professional art-related appearance at age 8, she's very grounded.

That first appearance was at the International Artexpo Las Vegas and gallery owners and art agents subsequently swarmed in to sign her on. She eventually signed with ImaginArt in California.

"The money and all the traveling is great, but it's really about my art ... I just love to do it," Victoria said. "I'm just flattered when someone buys one of my pieces."

Her style is "futuristic with geometric shapes," she said. Her style is all about the future as technology, cloning and geometric objects are typically on her mind when she sketches ideas.

ArtExpo magazine said her

art "captures her fascination with science, mythology, religion and the future of civilization in a surrealistic motif that follows in the footsteps of great artists throughout history, from Michelangelo to Salvador Dali."

It could be her father's influence, as he is a bio-medical scientist with a doctorate degree in bio-medicine. Xu has a master's degree in architecture and landscape architecture. Xu owns and manages two restaurants in town on Railroad Street - Mootone and Teatone.

Victoria has a younger sister, Zoe, who is just 8 and also already a promising artist, according to the family. She's been at Andover's Art in the Park event for the past three years.

For years, artwork by both girls has adorned the walls at Teatone.

"Now, Victoria is called 'child prodigy' and is one of the most talked about new young artists in the world," Xu said. "It began just after her first birthday when she would always pick up pens and crayons to draw. ... She amazed her pre-school teachers with her geometric shapes ... now this."

Victoria's portfolio is up to 100 pieces of large, original paintings and she said she has no plans to stop.

She gets lots of support from West Middle classmates which she said "is really cool."

A high honors student who skipped the second grade, she said her international success has not changed her. Rather, she simply sees herself as someone lucky enough to "get her foot in the door."

For the future, she says she is leaning toward fashion design.

"Having models on a runway wearing clothes designed by me would be really cool," she said.



"Dawn of the New Civilization - The Seed of Wisdom"



### More online

To see other art pieces by Victoria Yin of Andover, visit [www.ImaginArt.com](http://www.ImaginArt.com).

Artist Victoria Yin, 12, of Andover has been saluted for her "surrealistic motif that follows in the footsteps of great artists." Here, she shows a book that includes some of her paintings at Rolling Ridge Retreat during "Fall Arts and Sounds" last month.

JAN SEEGER/Staff photo



"Sculpting Innocence"



"Tempting Mist of Green"

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## EVENTS CALENDAR

### TUESDAY, DEC. 29

**FAMILY FUN HIKE**, hosted by Mass. Audobon Society, discover which animals stay active in winter, how they survive, and where they find food, 1 to 3 p.m., appropriate for families with children 4 years and older. Advance registration is required; 978-887-9264.

### WEDNESDAY, DEC. 30

**NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY**, 7 to 9 p.m., Atria Marland Place, 15 Stevens St., Andover; 978-475-4225, ext. 110.

**FAMILY FUN HIKE**, hosted by Mass. Audobon Society, venture along the sanctuary trails in search of birds that overwinter in our area, including chickadees, nuthatches, juncos, and others. Bring a treat for the birds (nuts, fruit, popcorn, or seedpods) and we will decorate a tree for them. Bring binoculars, too, 1 to 3 p.m., appropriate for families with children 4 years and older. Advance registration is required; 978-887-9264.

### THURSDAY, DEC. 31

**FAMILY FUN HIKE**, hosted by Mass. Audobon Society, look for beaver lodges, dams, chews, and scent mounds. Learn how a lodge is made and how to recognize a beaver's favorite trees, 1 to 3 p.m., appropriate for families with children 4 years and older. Advance registration is required; 978-887-9264.

### SATURDAY, JAN. 2

**EXTREME SKI FILM**, Warren Miller's DYNASTY: 60 Years of Extreme Skiing, Firehouse Arts Center, One Market Square, Newburyport, 3 and 7 p.m., \$8-10; 978/462-7336, [www.firehouse.org](http://www.firehouse.org).

### MONDAY, JAN. 4

**CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH CLASSES**, Memorial Hall Library, 10 a.m. to noon, for students who have studied formal English and would like to practice their speaking and listening skills; Carolyn Fantini, 978-475-4602 to register.

**RISKS AND TEEN BEHAVIORS TALK**, with Dr. Stephen Lyng, originator of Edge-work Theory. Panel of experts explore the links between risky adolescent behaviors, the seductive nature of pursuing risk and defining boundaries and their connections with video gaming and other technologies. Hosted by Parent to Parent, moderated by Stacy Andes, Director of Villanova University's Office of Health Promotion, 7:30-9 p.m., Kurth Auditorium, Lawrence General Hospital, free and open to the public; <http://andoverp2p.com>

### TUESDAY, JAN. 5

**CHESS SESSIONS BEGIN**, monthly Chess Club at Memorial Hall Library begins, 4 p.m., free, for ages 8 to 108, held first Tuesday of the month. Participants should be familiar with chess rules but do not need to be chess experts. Participants should bring a chess set to play against others, Memorial Hall Library, 2 North Main St., Andover; [www.mhl.org](http://www.mhl.org), 978-623-8401, ext. 31 or 32.

### FRIDAY, JAN. 8

**NEW EXHIBITS OPEN**, The Essex Art Center, "The Vase in Winter 2010," ceramic vases filled with flowers by Mary Barringer, Hayne Bayless, Scott Goldberg, Paul Heroux; "Waking with you," embroidery drawings on antique linens and photography by Joetta Maue, through Feb. 19, opening reception, 5-7 p.m., 56 Island St., Lawrence; [www.essexart-center.org](http://www.essexart-center.org), 978-685-2343.

### SATURDAY, JAN. 9

**FIBER ART DEMONSTRATION**, and workshop by mixed media collage fiber artist Robin Martel, 1 p.m., \$30 for members of TCA, \$35 for non-members, sponsored by the Tewksbury Community of Artists; [www.tewksbury.info/tca](http://www.tewksbury.info/tca). Register by making check payable to Tewksbury Community of Artists, P.O. Box 385, Tewksbury, MA 01876; **LIVE ACAPPELLA**, with Ball in the House,

Please see **CALENDAR**, Page 10

## Are movies becoming silent? A series at Memorial Hall Library

What is the fate of the movie industry? Will movies fade into the sunset in light of the current economic recession? Are On-Demand and the Internet replacing the cinema movie-going experience? Memorial Hall Library invites you to learn about the fate of the movies—then and now—at a new series this January.

This celebration of movies will begin with a silent movie show on Tuesday, Jan. 12, at 7 p.m. Enjoy Buster Keaton in the silent romantic comedy, "The General" (1926), with live piano accompaniment by Richard Hughes. This 75-minute movie features Johnny Gray (Keaton) in a one-man war to reclaim his stolen locomotive, the General,

from Yankee spies. This event is suitable for movie lovers, families, and anyone who enjoys the quick-paced slapstick style of silent film classics.

Silent movie pianist Richard Hughes will provide live piano accompaniment throughout this "trip into the past" when films flickered in black and white and people listened

to the piano play exciting "Mood Music" of the 1920s. His research includes classical and popular music and "Mood Music" used by arrangers and pianists during the 20s to enhance movie scenes and entertain audiences.

For a more modern exploration of the movie industry, visit Memorial Hall Library on

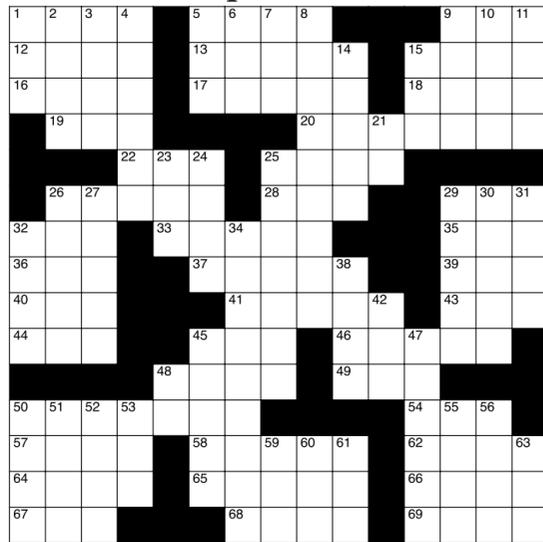
Tuesday, Jan. 26, at 7 p.m. for a program titled, "Does Film Have a Future?" with Boston Globe film critic Ty Burr.

Learn what's happening to movies and where they're going. Burr has worked as the chief video critic for Entertainment Weekly and has covered film, music, theater, books, and the Internet. Burr is the author

of three film books including, "The Best Old Movies for Families: A Guide to Watching Together" (Anchor, 2007), "The Hundred Greatest Movies of All Time" (Time-Life, 1999), and "The Hundred Greatest Stars of All Time" (Time-Life, 1998). He has also written articles on film

Please see **MOVIES**, Page 10

# Crossword puzzle



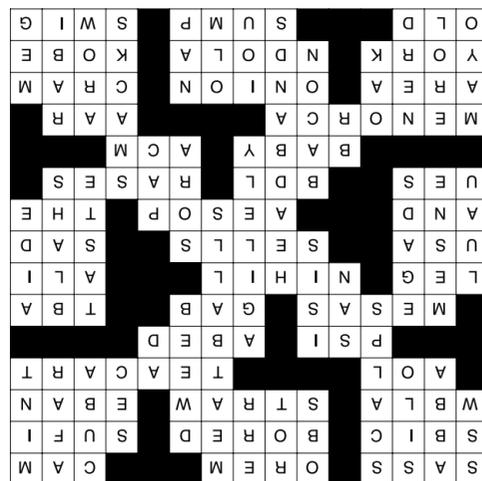
### CLUES ACROSS

1. Back talk
5. WordPerfect's home
9. Cambridge river
12. Invests in little enterprises
13. Dull and weary
15. Muslim mystic
16. 1440 AM Elizabethtown, NC
17. Dried stalks of grain
18. Abba \_\_\_\_, Israeli politician
19. 1st big internet server
20. Small handcart for food service
22. 23rd Greek letter
25. In bed
26. Plateaus
28. Talk
29. Don't know when yet
32. Lower limb
33. Nothing (Latin)
35. 4th Caliph of Islam
36. 50 state republic
37. Exchanges for money
39. Unhappy
40. Connective word
41. Greek fable author
43. One and only
44. Z \_\_: Greek god
45. Package, abbr.
46. Tears down
48. Youngest family member
49. Asbestos containing material
50. No. Balearic island
54. Swiss river
57. A particular region
58. Allium vegetable
62. Fill too tightly
64. Fergie's Duchy
65. City in N. Zambia
66. LA Laker Bryant
67. Not new
68. Cesspit
69. Quick draught

### CLUES DOWN

1. Point midway between S and SW
2. "Mama Mia" group
3. Cylindrical storage tower
4. Head skin coverings
5. \_\_tetrics: midwifery
6. Decay
7. Stray
8. Often served with spaghetti
9. Largest West Indies island
10. From a distance
11. Coin manufacturer
14. Ridiculed student
15. Time unit
21. In the year of Our Lord
23. Diego or Francisco
24. Egyptian goddess
25. With quickness and ease
26. Legal term for middle
27. Mild exclamation
29. Small amount eaten
30. Boredom
31. Military assistant
32. Hawaiian feast
34. Taenias
38. Porzana carolina
42. Political action committee
45. Breakfast meat
47. Slaps
48. Atomic #35
50. BLT condiment
51. Fald \_\_: gimcrackery
52. Geek
53. Acorn tree
55. Beside one another in a line
56. 3rd or 4th Islamic month
59. Informal debt instrument
60. Proteus anguinus
61. Short sleep
63. Actress Ryan

### Solution



Seventeen local students of the Andover School of Ballet at 14 Park St. have performed in several area productions of the popular holiday ballet *The Nutcracker*. They are, back row, from left: Sarah Feinberg, Emily Pisacreta, Gwyneth Miner, Rebecca Yeh, Kristin Sikora, Erin Walsh; middle row: kneeling, Shelby Romansik; standing, Katelyn Tsai, Darya Lee, Anna Lang and Anna Zdunczyk; kneeling, Zenia Bhatena; front row: Emma Brown, Elise Miner, Samira Sayan, Olivia Raza and Amanda Brooks.

## School of Ballet students in local productions

Seventeen local students of The Andover School of Ballet at 14 Park St. are gearing up to perform in several area productions of the popular holiday ballet *The Nutcracker*. Every week these students rehearse their *Nutcracker* roles, as well as continuing their usual schedule of dance classes at The Andover School of Ballet, according to Kristina Liveridge, director.

To be cast in these productions, each dancer went through an audition and then waited for a telephone call to tell them if they were chosen for a role. Now, they will have the opportunity to perform on stage in one of the world's most popular ballets and learn first hand about the life of a professional dancer.

■ **Emily Pisacreta**, 10, performed as a Mouse in the Albany Berkshire Ballet production at the Collins Center

for the Arts at Andover High School on Dec. 5

■ **Gwyneth Miner**, 12, and **Elsie Miner**, 8, performed as Party Children for the Winchester Ballet Arts Centre production at the McCall Middle School Auditorium in Winchester on Dec. 5 and 6.

■ In the New England Civic Ballet production at the Rogers Center for the Arts, Merrimack College on Dec. 11, 12 and 13 are:

**Katelyn Tsai**, 8, performing as a Party Child

**Kristen Sikora**, 11, performing as a Party Child

■ In the Northeast Youth Ballet production at Lynn Memorial Auditorium, Lynn, on Dec. 10 - 13 are:

**Zenia Bhatena**, 8, performing as a Cherub

**Amanda Brooks**, 8, performing as a Cherub

**Sarah Feinberg**, 10, performing as a Party Child and as a Soldier

■ In the Dance Prism production at the Collins Center for the Arts at Andover High School on Dec. 19 and 20 - where students perform in a touring cast at venues in Andover, Concord, Littleton & Worcester, MA OR in a local cast which performs their parts only in the Andover performances - are:

**Emma Brown**, age 8, performing as a Caroler

**Anna Lang**, age 8, performing as a Caroler

**Darya Lee**, age 8, performing as a Caroler

**Olivia Raza**, age 9, performing as a Caroler

**Shelby Romansik**, age 8, performing as a Caroler

**Samira Sayan**, age 8, performing as a Caroler

**Erin Walsh**, age 11, performing as a Cupid

**Rebecca Yeh**, age 12, performing as a Cupid

**Anna Zdunczyk**, age 9, performing as a Caroler



ABOVE: Yujin Lee, 15, left, and James Roselle, 17, sing holiday music in the Andover High School Choir for the students at West Middle School. The choir performed at all the schools in the district on Tuesday



AT RIGHT: Samantha Hall, 15, sings holiday music in the Andover High School Choir for the students at West Middle School.

## EVENTS CALENDAR

Continued from Page 10

Crossroads Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., doors open at 7:30 p.m., \$18, Crossroads Coffeehouse of the North Parish UU Church, 3 Great Pond Road, 2nd floor, North Andover; www.crossroads-coffeehouse.org with PayPal. Tickets can also be purchased in person at Shoppe on the Common in North Andover's Old Center; 978-687-396, www.crossroads-coffeehouse.org.

### SUNDAY, JAN. 10

**LIVE EASTERN EUROPEAN JEWISH FOLK MUSIC**, with The Yiddisheit Klezmer Ensemble, 2 p.m., free, vocalist and pianist Brian Bender and clarinetist Dena Ressler featured, Memorial Hall Library, 2 North Main St., Andover; www.mhl.org, 978-623-8401, ext. 31 or 32.

### MONDAY, JAN. 11

**FREE TALK FOR BUSY MOMS**, local chapter of Holistic Moms' Network hosts, "No More Sugar Blues: How Busy Moms Can Conquer Their Cravings," 7 p.m., at Caron Family Chiropractic, North Andover (office in rear of building behind Bella Vita on Route. 125); www.holistic-moms.org.

### TUESDAY, JAN. 12

**SILENT MOVIE SHOW**, 7 p.m., free, featuring Buster Keaton in the silent romantic comedy, "The General" (1926), with live piano accompaniment by Richard Hughes, Memorial Hall Library, 2 North Main St., Andover; www.mhl.org, 978-623-8401, ext. 31 or 32.

### THURSDAY, JAN. 14

**EMPTY BOWLS DINNER PARTY**, handmade, one-of-a-kind bowls created by students may be purchased to fill with soups donated by local restaurants, food shops, \$10 donation per bowl, proceeds benefit Haven from Hunger in Peabody, 6 p.m., St. John's Preparatory School, Memorial Dining Hall on the school campus, 72 Spring St., Danvers; www.stjohnsprep.org.

### TUESDAY, JAN. 22

**BOOK SALE**, The Friends of Memorial Hall Library Winter Book Sale will be held on Jan. 22-24, Memorial Hall Library, 2 North Main Street, Andover; www.mhl.org, 978-623-8401, x31 or 32.

### TUESDAY, JAN. 26

**"DOES FILM HAVE A FUTURE?,"** with Boston Globe film critic Ty Burr. Burr has worked as the chief video critic for Entertainment Weekly and has covered film, music, theater, book, the Internet and is the author of three film books, 7 p.m., free, Memorial Hall Library, 2 North Main St., Andover; www.mhl.org, 978-623-8401, ext. 31 or 32.

### SUNDAY, JAN. 31

**AVIS RAFTON X-COUNTRY SKI/HIKE**, 10 a.m., park on High Plain Road near leaf composting area, beginners welcome, no pets, rain cancels; Burt Batcheller, 978-475-3665; David

## MOVIES: January offerings

Continued from Page 9

and other subjects for the New York Times, Spin, the Boston Phoenix, and other publications.

Other January programs at Memorial Hall Library: Conversational English winter session at Memorial Hall Library will begin on Monday, Jan. 4, from 10 a.m. to noon. These classes are for students who have studied formal English and would like to practice their speaking and listening skills. Contact Carolyn Fantini at 978-475-4602 to register.

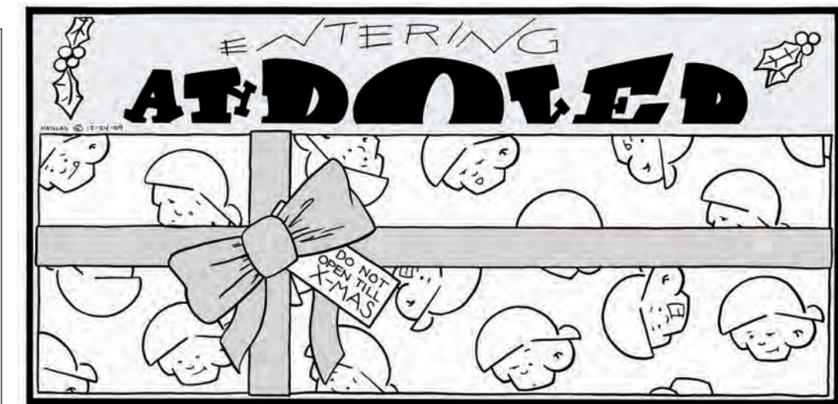
Monthly Chess Club at Memorial Hall Library begins on Tuesday, Jan. 5, at 4 p.m. Players ages 8 to 108 are invited to join a monthly chess club on the first Tuesday of the month. Participants should be familiar with chess rules but do not need to be chess experts. This group is for playing chess and will not include formal instruction.

Participants should bring a chess set to play against others. The Yiddisheit Klezmer Ensemble will perform on Sunday, Jan. 10, at 2 p.m. Enjoy an afternoon concert of traditional Eastern European Jewish Folk Music featuring vocalist and pianist Brian Bender and clarinetist Dena Ressler.

The Friends of Memorial Hall Library Winter Book Sale will be held on Jan. 22 to 24. Stock up on books, movies, and CDs for all ages! Preview Night: Wednesday, Jan. 20, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., \$20 per person (free for Friends members). Book sale hours are Friday, Jan. 22, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 23, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, Jan. 24, 1 to 4:30 p.m.

All programs are sponsored by the Friends of Memorial Hall Library. Programs will be held at Memorial Hall Library, 2 North Main St., Andover. For more information, visit www.mhl.org or call 978-623-8401, ext. 31 or 32.

## ENTERING ANDOVER by Don Mathias



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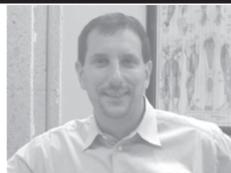
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# Townspeople

## GIVING SPIRIT ALL YEAR

### End of 1959 was also near the end of 'Old Andover'

Bill Dalton



The town was "old Andover" in December 1959, rural with plenty of farms. The downtown, and Ballardvale, and Shawsheen,

were busy, but still the town as a whole had the feel of being "small-town New England." Yet, there were indications that it was in the process of becoming "new Andover" - what it is today. A town manager form of government was new and the town was about to be drawn and quartered by Routes 93 and 495, which would bring industry and more people to Andover.

In the United States, President Dwight Eisenhower was entering his last year in office. Peace and prosperity had been the hallmarks of his administration. The former five-star general, who successfully led the war in Europe, remained popular, although his heart attacks worried the nation. Locally, the leaders to welcome back "Ike" (who'd been on a peace mission abroad) were two businessmen: Edmund Leland III and Mason Arnold. Leland and Arnold proposed that people fly their flags on the day of the president's return and leave their lights on all night when the president was expected to fly over Andover on his way back to Washington, D.C.

The idea of "Christmas Season" was strong. The first two pages of the Dec. 24, 1959 edition of the Andover Townsman were devotional words from the New Testament followed by a wishes for a "Merry Christmas" from the employees of the paper. Christmas parties were held at businesses and private homes throughout town. The Townsman noted that Mr. and Mrs. Karl Haartz held a "very delightful pre-Christmas party" at their home

Please see DALTON, Page 12

### ALL THOSE YEARS AGO

COMPILED BY SUSAN MCKELIGET

100 years ago  
Dec. 24, 1909

A skating party composed of Andoverites took advantage of the fine condition of the ice and went to Martin's Pond Tuesday evening, where a good time was enjoyed.

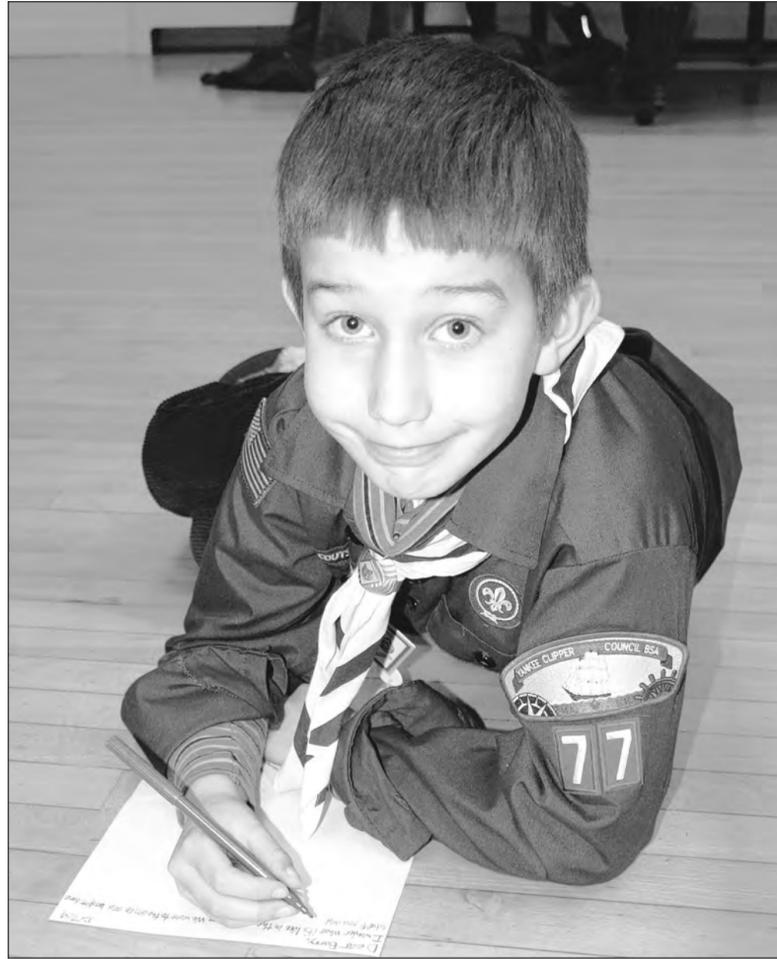
Frank P. Higgins, the well-known local baker, has installed a lunch counter in his shop which will be a great convenience to all, especially to those who are in the habit of waiting for the trolleys.

The Metropolitan will be open Saturday morning until 11:00 o'clock for the benefit of those who may have forgotten to make necessary purchases.

The macadamized road is one of the blessings of modern times. It is also we fear, one of the curses. Not in the summer, when the watering cart or some other form of dust-laying keeps the surface down, but just as the ground is frozen and the grinding of the horses and the wheels of vehicles have begun their deadly work, then begins the deadly work of the dust from the macadamized road.

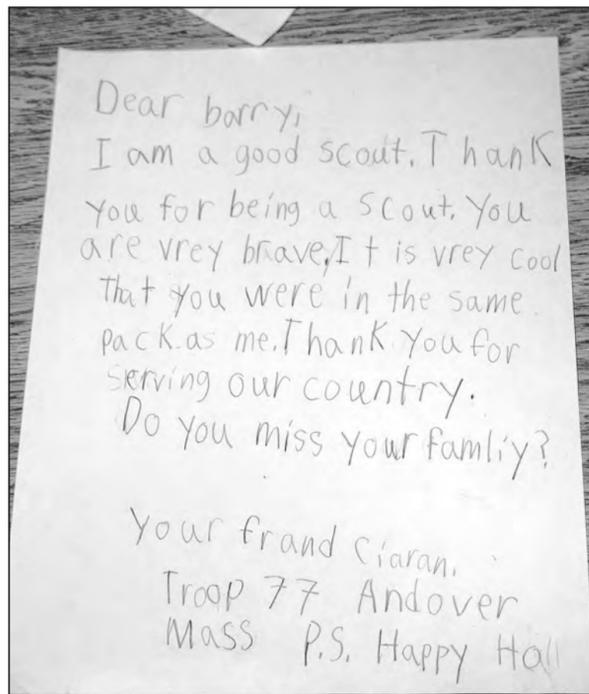
Advertisement: A handsome souvenir free at Allen's Drug Store while they last. With any purchase of Christmas goods amounting to 50 cents or over,

Please see YEARS, Page 12



COURTESY PHOTOS

Third-grade Cub Scout Michael Inero works on a letter for a soldier stationed in Iraq. Pack 77 recently shipped care packages and handwritten notes to an Army unit in Iraq. One of the soldiers in the unit, Sgt. Barry DuBois, is an uncle to Ethan Fillion, one of the Scouts in Pack 77. DuBois, 33, grew up in Andover and is an alum of Pack 77.



A note from Andover Cub Scout and second-grader Ciaran Walsh to Army Sgt. Barry DuBois, who is stationed in Iraq.

### Scouts send care at Christmas

A little bit of Andover is on its way to Iraq.

Cub Scout pack 77 spent an evening this month writing letters and putting together care packages for a U.S. Army unit stationed in Iraq. What makes the project even more special is the packages are going to the unit of Sergeant Barry DuBois, 33, the uncle of pack 77 Scout Ethan Fillion.

DuBois, the son of Cornelia DuBois of Andover, grew up in town and is an alumnus of pack 77.

At the Dec. 7 meeting, Ethan, a Bancroft Elementary fourth-grader, showed photographs of DuBois, explaining why his uncle is in Iraq. The Scouts, who range in age from 6 to 11, wrote letters to DuBois and his squad and compiled snacks and other care package items they collected into 12 boxes to be mailed overseas.

Pack 77 Cubmaster Len Kamlet, Den Leader Chris Smith and other parents assisted in the project. West Parish Church sponsors Pack 77.

- Bethany Bray



Andover native Barry DuBois, 33, is serving as an Army sergeant and is stationed in Iraq. He is the son of Cornelia DuBois of Andover.



Cub Scout Pack 77 recently shipped care packages and handwritten notes to an Army unit in Iraq.

## Andover girl raises cash to feed 500 children

By COURTNEY CASPER  
CONTRIBUTOR

When the sun beats down during the summer, most 13-year-olds are off enjoying lemonade or ice cream. Meera Bhan, an eighth-grader at the Pike School, was finding a way to raise money to feed 500 poverty-stricken children in India.

While skimming through an Indian magazine, Meera came across a description of Akshaya Patra, an organization that bases its work off of the belief that no child shall be deprived of an education because of hunger. Its president and CEO is Andover resident Madhu Sridhar.

In India alone, 21 million

primary-school-age children are not attending school. Of those who do attend, 40 percent drop out before reaching the fifth grade. Additionally, one-third of malnourished children across the globe are Indian.

Akshaya Patra is the largest organization in the world of its kind, said to feed 1.2 million children daily, with 17 different kitchens throughout India. The kitchens are technologically advanced gravity flow systems that prepare fresh, hot meals in an exceedingly hygienic and cost-effective manner with very little human intervention, according to Sridhar. For a mere \$14, a hungry child receives a meal every day for an entire

school year, approximately 230 days. The meals are driven from the kitchens around the country to the schools daily, where the children line up and are given one, two, or even three helpings. For some children, this is their only complete meal for the day. For many families, Akshaya Patra's system serves as an incentive for families to allow their children to go to and remain in school, according to Akshaya Patra.

"I was just so inspired," Meera recalls. "By receiving an education every day, these kids have a chance at escaping that entire cycle of poverty. The benefits of

Please see FUNDRAISER, Page 12



COURTESY PHOTO

Meera Bhan spent the summer raising money to send to India.

## Look Who is Serving Andover...

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Colin Callahan  
President

# DALTON: As year closed in 1959, changes were coming

Continued from Page 11

on High Plain Road. Most everyone unabashedly used the greeting, "Merry Christmas." The Andover Firemen had another successful Christmas Parade, one that continues today as the "Santa Parade" and is still paid for by the firefighters. In 1959, many people enjoyed clubs, and there were many clubs to choose from. In that December, among the stories about Andover's clubs in the Townsman were the following. The "Andover Garden Club," through its president, Mrs. Milton J. Meyers, announced the winners of its door-decorating contest. The "Andover Young Adults" planned a hay ride for couples and singles. The "Shawshen Women's Club" had its annual "President's Night." The "Garden Club" met to discuss "Birding in Andover." (One of the discussed matters may have been the sighting of two new species

in town: a goshawk and rufous-sided towhee were seen by Winthrop Newman and Al Retelle.) "A.V.I.S." (Andover Village Improvement Society) elected Al Retelle as its president. The "Ballardvale Knitting Club" held its annual Christmas Party. The "Andover Grange" Christmas party highlighted a hat parade, where everyone wore brightly colored hats. Several people were honored with awards. Bowling was in its prime, with alleys at the "Rec" (Recreation Center) on Park Street and many more alleys in South Lawrence. Pictures of two women's bowling league groups were in the Townsman. A big news story at the end of 1959 was Arthur Collins' attempt to build a three-building sports center at the site of the Golden's farm. At the end of a struggle for a permit, Mr. Collins withdrew his application, saying that opposition from people on the west side of Main Street made the project

too difficult. (The Golden Farm location is now the Shawshen Plaza shopping center just south of Washington Park.) I knew and worked with Mr. Collins; he was a fine gentleman and man of his word. The Andover Savings Bank, on the northwest corner of Main and Chestnut streets, ran a full page advertisement to celebrate its 125th anniversary and to wish everyone a Merry Christmas. In other news in December 50 years ago, there was a photo of Dr. Claude M. Fuess, headmaster emeritus of P.A., signing his new book, "Andover, Symbol of New England." A large estate was left by Mrs. Abigail F. Curran. It was almost \$8,000,000. And a young attorney, one of the most exceptional men I've ever known, Bob Zollner, announced his candidacy for school committee. Mr. Zollner's work on various town committees was already noteworthy. (If I were to list the most important people in Andover, in my

lifetime, Bob would be in the top five.) Finally, the dump was too busy. The selectman extended its hours of operation. An ad in the Townsman said that a new downtown apartment with wainscoted living room, pine breakfast nook, and bath with dressing room could be rented for \$80 a month. The average utility bill would be about \$20. One could call Greenleaf 5 1964 for details. Howard Johnsons ("Landmark for hungry Americans") had available rooms for parties. It was located "at the Bypass Andover." The front page headline of the Dec. 31, 1959 edition of the Townsman read: "Sound Finances Steady Growth Predicted in 60." Andover and America were on the verge of historical cultural change, but no one knew it. Bill Dalton writes a weekly column for the Andover Townsman. He can be reached at bill-dalton@andovertownie.com.

## ALL THOSE YEARS AGO

Continued from Page 11

you will receive a handsome glass calendar free.

### 75 years ago Dec. 21, 1934

A decision to drop the revised plans of the Boston architects [for the new junior high school] was made this week by the building committee, which it is understood intends instead to affect some savings in the original plans of Perley F. Gilbert. The facades will not be changed, nor will the size of the buildings, it is understood. A public whist party will be held at the Square and Compass club this evening at 8:00 o'clock by the British war veterans. Twelve Christmas baskets will be given away. The house and about four acres of land of Miss Lila M. French on Porter Road have been sold to Henry C. Sanborn of four Morton Street through Frederick E. Cheever. Advertisement: A final suggestion for last minute Christmas

shopping -The Balmoral Spa offers an unusually attractive line of very desirable gifts for men, women, and children.

### 50 years ago Dec. 23, 1959

The Selectmen considered three department budgets at their meeting Monday night. The total tentative Assessors' budget stands at \$20,560.; the Planning Board tentative budget was \$7,131, and the estimated total for the Fire Department was \$177,084. Another "top" year has been recorded at the post office as Christmas mail exceeded last years' by over 2,000 cancellations. Postmaster Stephen A. Boland tallied the cancellations at 533,782 compared to 531,077 in the same period last year. The Andover Playhouse presents "The Big Circus" with Victor Mature and Rhonda Fleming; "Littlest Hobo" with Buddy Hart and Wendy Stuart; "A House on the Haunted Hill" with Vincent Price and Carol Ohmart, on Friday and Saturday.

## SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES

By KAREN PAYNE-TAYLOR  
SENIOR CENTER STAFF

The Andover Senior Center at 30 Whittier Court, behind Town Offices at 36 Bartlet St. can be reached for information by calling 978-623-8321. Upcoming activities include:  
**New Year's Eve Afternoon Celebration:** Dec. 31, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., \$5. Come ring in the New year, with food, fun and entertainment from Russ McQueen. Tickets available now - advance only.  
**New, Beginner's Tai Chi:** Tuesdays, Jan. 12 to March 9; 11:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m., \$32, at Old Town Hall. Registration has begun for this class.

**Adaptive Home Equipment Forum:** Jan. 8, 10 to 11 a.m. Hear about and see some of the equipment that helps us stay safe in our homes longer. Hosted by Letourneau's Pharmacy. Call us to hold a spot for this free forum.  
**Soup's On - The ABC's of Getting Published:** Jan. 12, lunch at noon, lecture at 12:30; \$4. Learn from local publisher, the Cheshire Group, which will tell us the process of limited run publishing and hear about local writers who fulfilled a life-long dream of publishing their writing.  
**Men's Breakfast:** Jan. 15, 8:30 a.m., \$4. Travel back in time from 1790 to the present day to

learn the history of our modern-day U.S. Coast Guard. Join naval historian and writer Joe Ponti as he shares his research and experience on this crucial element of our Homeland Security.  
**Lunch Box Café:** Our deli-style café is open for lunch weekdays for reasonably priced wraps, hot panini, freshly made salads and daily specials all priced under \$5. Call ahead and we'll have it ready. Daily full lunch by reservation to all 60 and older residents for a suggested price of \$2.75. Stop by for menu.  
**Free Blood Pressure Clinic:** The Andover Board of Health holds a free blood pressure and

wellness clinic at the center every Wednesday from 2 to 3 p.m. The clinic is open to all Andover seniors on a first come, first served basis.  
**Snow Policy:** When Andover Public Schools are closed for weather-related issues, the center is also closed for all programs, lunch and Meals on Wheels. Call our info line at 978-623-8377 for specific classes that may be affected by weather. There is still availability in most aerobic, strength-training, tap and yoga classes now in session. All classes may be audited one time, pending available space. Call the Andover Senior Center at 978-623-8321, or drop by for a tour.

# FUNDRAISER: Money will feed 500 children

Continued from Page 11

attending school are huge." At the beginning of the summer, Meera sent out a letter to her family and friends asking them to help her make a difference in the lives of other children overseas. But it wasn't just any letter to Meera. She slaved over it. "I kept asking myself, 'How can I tell people about this organization so they will truly understand its greatness?'" Through donations and by giving up her entire years' allowance, Meera raised \$7,000, the cost of feeding 500 children for an entire year. Since its establishment, Akshaya Patra has received attention both nationally and globally. Harvard University has conducted a case study on its kitchens, and more recently, the foundation received the Microsoft-sponsored Tech Award in the category of Education. Sridhar, President and CEO, has

stated that Akshaya Patra's new goal is to be feeding five million by the year 2020. "The main goals of our new U.S. office are to raise awareness, eradicate hunger while simultaneously promoting education, and raise funds for this important cause," Sridhar said. In celebration of its 1 million mark, Akshaya Patra held a banquet to honor a job well done and welcome the challenge of more to come. By personal invitation from Sridhar, Meera delivered a speech to more than 400 guests on her experience with the organization and her firm belief in the cause. The young student was hardly nervous. "I just figured I had nothing to lose. Here, \$7000 hardly seems to make a difference. But over there, it is all the difference in the world," she said. Courtney Casper is a student at Andover High School. For more on Akshaya Patra's cause, visit [www.foodforeducation.org](http://www.foodforeducation.org).

## TOWNSPEOPLE

The 2009 Pan-Massachusetts Challenge has contributed \$30,384,200 to adult and pediatric cancer care and research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute through its August cycling event. Seventy-three PMC cyclists,

who reside in Andover, raised \$391,407 of the \$30.4 million. The PMC's 30th year marked a total of \$270,000,000 in funds raised for cancer research and treatment at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The contribution represents 100 percent of every

rider-raised dollar, a charity pass through rate nearly unparalleled within the \$3 billion athletic fundraising event industry. This PMC fundraising gift is the single largest contribution made to the Jimmy Fund in 2009, representing 50 percent

of the charity's annual revenue. The funds raised by the 4,937 cyclists of the 2009 PMC brings the organization's 30-year total Jimmy Fund gift to exactly \$270 million. The organization had set the

Please see TOWNSPEOPLE, Page 13

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# Kwanzaa celebrates African American roots

Do your parents and grandparents talk about your family's heritage? Some families have holiday traditions that go back to a time before the family came to America. Kwanzaa is a time to remember cultural traditions. It is one of the holidays celebrated on stamps this year. The first Kwanzaa stamp was issued in 1997. Kwanzaa is not a religious holiday. Instead, its purpose is to preserve and promote African American culture. This year Kwanzaa is Dec. 26 through Jan. 1. Dr. Maulana Karenga, professor of Africana Studies at California State University, created Kwanzaa. The word Kwanzaa comes from the phrase "first fruits" in Swahili. Swahili is an African language. Kwanzaa teaches Seven Principles. They are Unity, Self-determination, Collective Work and Responsibility, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity and Faith. Artist Lloyd McNeill of New York City created this year's Kwanzaa stamp. McNeill spent time with the famous modern artist Pablo Picasso. McNeill is also a jazz musician. His bold symbolic stamp includes the colors of Kwanzaa. Green represents growth. Red stands for blood. Black represents the African people. The field of green around the borders symbolizes growth and a bountiful harvest. The stamp also features a family. The mother, father and girl represent unity. The girl holds a hoop, which also means unity. Kwanzaa decorations include art, fresh fruits and colorful African cloth. A Kwanzaa ceremony may include music, drumming and a reading of the "African Pledge." A feast follows each ceremony. The Kwanzaa greeting is "Habari Gani," which means "What's the News?" According to its creator, Kwanzaa does not take the place of people's religious celebrations. Instead, it is a time to celebrate a common ground of African culture and history. The United States Postal Service printed 30 million Kwanzaa stamps.

Artist Lloyd McNeill

Stamp courtesy of USPS. Photo of the artist by Jules Allen

### Word Scramble

Unscramble these words associated with Kwanzaa

CAFRIA REGEN  
RUPSEOP TRIFU  
TRELUCU NIUTY

### Newspaper in Education activity

Search your newspaper for words that begin with each letter of Kwanzaa. Write a holiday greeting using the words you found in your newspaper.

K  
W  
A  
N  
Z  
A  
A

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LOCKS OF LOVE



COURTESY PHOTO

In the spirit of the holiday season, Madison Ros, 7, donated 10 inches of her hair to Locks of Love. Her family is very proud of her for doing this.



COURTESY PHOTO

Kaleigh and Aine Stuart recently cut and donated their hair to Locks of Love. Kaleigh is 9 years old and goes to High Plain Elementary and Aine is 4 years old and goes to preschool at Temple Emanuel. This is Kaleigh's second time donating her hair.



COURTESY PHOTO

Twin sisters Katie and Kendall McCullom of Andover each cut off 10 inches of their hair at Snip-its in North Andover and donated their hair to Locks of Love. This charity uses human hair to create wigs for children who have lost their hair as a result of sickness or treatment for diseases such as cancer. The twin sisters are 6 1/2 years old and are in the first grade at the Pike School.

Marathon runners needed

Ironstone Farm of Andover is seeking both unqualified and qualified runners to participate in the 2010 Boston Marathon.

Businesses also are being sought to help add financial support.

Selected unqualified runners must raise in exchange for their waiver into the race, a minimum of \$3,250. Qualified runners are also welcome to join the team for a minimum fundraising effort of \$500 per member.

Participants will receive personalized coaching and course advice, fundraising tips, organized training runs, team uniform, luxury bus to the start on race day, involvement with other charity programs and their runners, pre race pasta party, and more, according to the non-profit organization on Lowell Street, Route 133.

They bill running the marathon as a way to help Ironstone Farm while keeping active this winter by training for the April 19, 2010 edition of the Boston tradition.

Interested in applying to join a team? Contact program coordinator Susan Hurley at 978-852-7891 or visit Ironstone Farm's Web site at www.challengeunlimited.org for an application.

TOWNSPEOPLE

Continued from Page 12

fundraising goal \$30 million." Exceeding our fundraising goal in this troubled economy is a tribute to PMC riders' commitment to raising money for cancer research and care," said Billy Starr, PMC founder and executive director. "It also shows that people understand the necessity of funding research for this deadly disease."

The ceremonial check was presented to Dana-Farber President Edward J. Benz, Jr., MD, at the House of Blues Saturday night at a party attended by some 800 PMC cyclists and volunteers.

This is the third straight year the PMC has been able to contribute 100 percent of every rider-raised dollar to the cause. The results were possible due to presenting sponsors the Boston Red Sox Foundation and Overstock.com who, along with 200 other corporate sponsors, underwrite the cost of producing the event and provide in-kind contributions of goods and services. In addition, 3,000 volunteers work throughout the year and during PMC weekend, fulfilling many roles that are typically paid positions.

"The money the PMC raises is critical to our work. It enables us to invest in major new patient care and research initiatives that could otherwise go unfunded," Dr. Benz said. "In this economy, when non-profit organizations

are seeing a decrease in private, corporate and federal funding, we are extremely appreciative of the PMC's extraordinary support." Dana-Farber is one of the top cancer research and treatment institutes in the country. The PMC is among Dana-Farber's largest funders.

In 2009, the PMC attracted 4,937 cycling fundraisers from 36 states and eight countries. Each cyclist was required to raise a minimum of between \$1,000 and \$4,200 to participate, depending on the route chosen. Routes ranged from 47 to 190 miles over one or two days. More than 90 percent of PMCs raised more than their respective fundraising minimum, according to Starr.

Founded in 1980 when 36 cyclists rode across Massachusetts and raised \$10,200 for the Jimmy Fund, the PMC is known today as the "gold standard" of athletic fundraising events, due to the unprecedented sums it raises and its consistently efficient charity pass-through rate. In 30 years, 61,606 cyclists have ridden in the PMC and 36,269 people have volunteered to make the PMC such a successful and well-supported event.

The PMC was among the very first athletic fundraising events in the nation and it was a pioneer in the way it focused on raising money for charity. While a handful of walks and rides were held

to raise awareness about a cause, the PMC had always put fundraising first.

The 31st annual PMC is set for Aug. 7 and 8, 2010. Registration opens online on Jan. 12 for alumni and Jan. 19 for newcomers. For more information about the Pan-Mass Challenge visit www.pmc.org.

Hospice of the North Shore's newest volunteer, Karen Maistrellis of Andover, has completed a five-week training program. She "will be serving her community by helping to enrich the lives of terminally ill patients and their loved ones," according to the organization.



Karen Maistrellis

For more information about becoming a volunteer for Hospice of the North Shore and the many types of volunteer opportunities available, contact the volunteer department at 978-774-7566 or visit www.hns.org.

The Merrimack Valley YMCA honored its outstanding volunteers at the organization's 130th Annual Meeting held on Friday, Dec. 11, at the Wyndham Andover Hotel. More than 150 members of the business community were on

hand to hear about the YMCA's accomplishments during 2009.

Board chairman James Kapelson of Andover congratulated the YMCA's 700 volunteers for their work to partner with YMCA staff to ensure that YMCA programs, services, and membership are available to all in the community.

YMCA President/CEO presented plaques to outgoing chairs of the branch Boards of Managers: Andover/North Andover YMCA Board Chair Karen Bailey of North Andover; Camping Services Branch Chair Edward Meagher of Amesbury; Methuen YMCA board Chair Thomas Hajj of Methuen; and Lawrence YMCA Board Chair Jennifer Rogers-Burke of Andover.

Honored during the YMCA's annual meeting for exemplary volunteer service in 2009 were:

Carl Berger of Andover, YMCA Corporate Board of Trustees and Board of Directors member;

Joseph Alwan of Andover, Andover/North Andover YMCA Board of Managers member;

Edward Meagher of Amesbury, Chair of the Camping Services YMCA Branch Board of Managers;

Leslie Clark of Lawrence, volunteer in the Methuen YMCA's child care program; and

Jennifer Abdulla of Methuen, Lawrence YMCA Board of Managers member.

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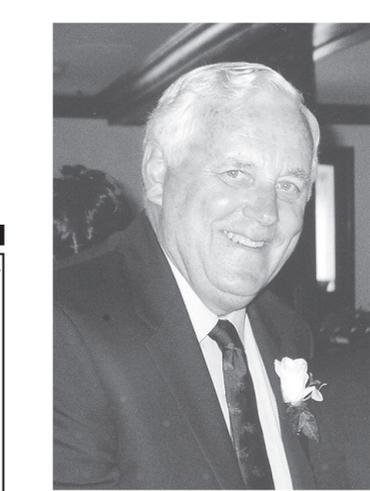
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# Education

## Andover youth hangs out with anti-drug crowd

By ERIC BRYDEN  
WHAT'S UP CONTRIBUTOR

### 15-year-old Andover boy chosen to appear on poster in schools

Fifteen-year-old Hemang Kaul of Andover hopes a poster of him hanging in public schools will make a difference in the lives of adolescents.

Last spring, Hemang was one of 10 students in Massachusetts selected to be featured on a "Picture Yourself: Alcohol and Drug Free" poster. The poster, which displays him kicking a soccer ball, also contains his comment: "I don't need alcohol or drugs to fit in. Being a part of a team keeps me focused and inspires me to do better. I can't imagine

my life without soccer."

During winter of last year, Hemang and other students at Wood Hill Middle School, submitted their names, activities they did, and why they would be good candidates for the anti-drug posters. After being chosen as one of three students from Wood Hill Middle, Hemang was then interviewed to narrow the number selected in all of Massachusetts to only 10.

"It was a very cool experience," said Hemang, who felt proud to be chosen knowing the process was "very selective."

Hemang confirms that soccer helps him stay drug- and alcohol-free.

"Soccer takes up a lot of time", said Hemang. "There's no time to sit down and get high."

Additionally, Hemang says that such illicit activities would negatively impact his school work. Now enrolled at Phillips Academy, Hemang is a member of the student government as well as the soccer team. As one who characterizes himself as an achiever, Hemang said that "drugs would ruin my self-perception."

While soccer is Hemang's primary "anti-drug", he believes there are many ways to avoid drugs and alcohol.

"Kids should find something they really love, like a hobby," he said. Their avoidance of drugs can be fueled by "thinking about what harm drugs could do to that hobby." He contends that "people who you can relate to are a huge influence," and recommends youth not surround themselves with those who put on pressure for others to do drugs.

Hemang said his family serves as "backing support" and is a

barrier between himself and drugs.

"If I didn't have such a caring family, I would not feel pressure to avoid drugs," he said. "[If] one barrier is knocked down, it's not hard to break another barrier. It's the domino affect."

For Hemang, it is gratifying "knowing that one person might not do drugs because of my poster," he said. "Just being a part of [the anti-drug campaign], knowing my potential impact on the community, makes me feel a little better about myself."

Hemang said he can envision

a student "walking through the halls, on the edge of doing drugs, and he'll see [the] poster, relate to it, and choose not to."

"I hope a situation along these lines does happen," he said sincerely.

The anti-drug campaign aims to educate others and reduce the number of underage alcohol and drug users in the country.

"I can't say for sure if my poster will make a positive influence," said Hemang. "But I really hope that it does."

*Eric Bryden is an Andover High School student writing for the Townsman as part of a school-sanctioned internship.*

## Banking on art



COURTESY PHOTO

A display of ceramics created by Dolores Dunning's art classes at Andover High School are on display at Citibank in Elm Square this month. Students Evan Price, left, and Margaret Christoforo are pictured displaying pieces in the AHS art room, readying them for the bank exhibit.

## Coach of character leads Marilyn's Mermaids

Ken Seifert



There are many advantages to living in a town for 40 years. You get to know and appreciate many fine, talented

and caring people. Andover has more than its share. It also allows you to see people over a long period of time, and therefore see their true character. Probably the biggest bonus is to see how a person can impact so many people in a positive way. It is most impressive when those affected are children and young adults. I would like to highlight such a person and the group she affected.

You could call the group the Andover High Swimming and Diving Sorority. You could call them Coach Marilyn's Mermaids. They are the sleekest, fastest and most precise water wonders in the entire state.

For the last dozen years or so this group has been part of something special thanks to the work of Marilyn Fitzgerald. The girls all know it and appreciate that privilege. Yes, the banners will hang in the field house and the young ladies and the community will see them for years to come. The more significant memories will be the memories of the pursuit of excellence and how they came closer to the bull's eye. They will have realized that excellence is a journey and not a destination. They will have realized we all make a bigger contribution to ourselves and others when we try together.

They understand this today but these things will have greater meaning in the years to come. It wouldn't surprise me if they established the Coach Fitzgerald Alumni Association. For sure they should all remain in communication with each other to see where their paths have led. This will be after the swimming and diving meets are history. It is a unique era in our history. The present will fade but life's lessons will survive.

How do these things happen?

It is because a person committed to a positive philosophy is willing to live it and share it with others. John Wooden, a retired UCLA basketball coach, was one of the first I witnessed. His NCAA record will last for years. His players talk about what he did for their personal development and not the games they won.

Coach Fitzgerald is in the same Hall of Fame. It is called the Coaches of Character Hall. Here are the requirements: You should know the fundamentals of the sport you are coaching. You should know the most effective strategies that will enable your athletes reach their fullest potential. You must, by your behavior, show your athletes you practice what you preach. You must display grace under pressure, adversity and even defeat. You must always give best effort no matter the score.

The most significant requirement of such a coach is the most valuable lesson of all. The biggest challenge in sports and life is to coach a person to realize you never know who you are or successful you can become until you push your potential to the limit. The competition is not against your opponent. It is narrowing the gap on where you are today and where you could be tomorrow. How can I be better tomorrow and work on it today? That is the competition. Too many people waste time and energy worrying about the opponent. Focus on the best you can be. Coach Fitzgerald could write the book on this lesson and has instructed her athlete's accordingly.

We do not know when this chapter in our history will end. We have a tradition in our town where many understand the values of good coaches and character development. If Coach Fitzgerald does not win another swimming meet, it does not matter. Character will prevail.

Coach, on behalf of we who have been, or maybe never were athletes, we salute and thank you.

Ken Seifert is a 40-year resident of Andover and former superintendent of schools.

## International education speaker at Collins Center

The Andover, Hamilton-Wenham, Methuen, and North Andover public school districts will host international speaker Dr. Willard R. Daggett on Wednesday, Jan. 6, at the Collins Center in Andover.

Daggett is president of the International Center for

Leadership in Education and is recognized worldwide for his proven ability to move educational systems in their efforts to focus on the skills and knowledge students will need to be successful in the technological, globally driven world in which they will live and work.

On Wednesday, January 6, Dr. Daggett will meet with administrators from Andover, Hamilton-Wenham, Methuen, and North Andover from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Following that presentation, he will meet with the community from 6 until 8 p.m. The Collins Center is located at Andover High School,

80 Shawsheen Road. Daggett speaks on a variety of topics including preparing students for the 21st century, rigor and relevance for all students, bringing focus and effective practices to our classrooms, and leadership components of school excellence.

### ON CAMPUS

Recently Karen Chretien was initiated into Lambda Pi Eta, the nationally recognized honor society for undergraduate students in the field of communications,

at Endicott College. Karen is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Chretien of Andover.

Lambda Pi Eta honors excellence in the field of communication. Its

purpose is to recognize, foster, and reward outstanding scholarship; stimulate interest in the field of communication; promote and encourage professional

development among communication majors; provide opportunity to discuss and exchange ideas in the field of communication; establish and maintain close relationships and mutual understanding between faculty and students; and explore options for further graduate education.

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# Business

## Goode Salon's closes first year with strong finish

Goode Salon opened its doors in Andover center in the fall of 2008, a difficult economic time for most small businesses. However, despite the economic challenges of the past year, this full service hair salon has flourished under the leadership of mother and daughter team, Donna and Katie Goode.



Donna and Katie Goode of Goode Salon.

"It was the culmination of my lifelong dream. I always wanted to have my own salon and to share the experience with my daughter has made it that much sweeter," stated Donna Goode, owner.

Goode Salon is in the North Mall of Olde Andover Village on 89 Main St., Andover. It provides the full range of hair care services for men, women and children including color, color foiling, Japanese hair straightening, Simply Smooth Keratin treatments and hair extensions.

"Our salon provides customers with a smaller, more intimate environment for their hair care needs. We provide all the same services as larger salons except clients receive more personalized treatment in a warm, comfortable setting. We offer upscale services at affordable prices which has been very attractive to clients during these difficult economic times,"

added Donna.

"I grew up watching my mother style hair and knew I wanted to be a hairstylist at a young age. After high school I followed in her footsteps," said stylist Katie Goode. At the time, Donna was the assistant director of education for Blaine School of Hair design and both her daughters, Katie and Colleen, attended as students.

"It's been a fabulous first year and we have aspirations to expand our location, but right now this intimate location suits us just fine. It allows us to really get to know our clients' needs, which is something clients have come to value," stated Donna.

To schedule an appointment, call 978-470-8884 or email goodosalon@verizon.net. Visit their Web site at www.goodesalon.com.

## Y receives grant for basketball league

The Merrimack Valley YMCA is pleased to announce that it received a \$8,000 grant in support of the Youth Basketball League at the Andover/North Andover, Lawrence and Methuen YMCA branches. This will support the YMCA's financial assistance program which allows needy and deserving children to participate in this YMCA program.

"Physical activities that foster positive values and personal growth are needed now more than ever. We are proud to partner with Philips to make YBL accessible to nearly 1000 youth in

our community. Together we are making healthier lives achievable for everyone," said Stephen C. Ives, President/CEO of the Merrimack Valley YMCA.

The Merrimack Valley YMCA works to help combat childhood obesity and the lack of physical activity among youth and teens as it gives all children the opportunity to get moving and be healthy, regardless of ability to pay.

Through its health and wellness programs, the YMCA is able, in part, to fulfill its mission to strengthen kids, families and

the community through quality and affordable programming. Access to various health and recreational activities at the YMCA directly links to Philip's core focus on the overall health and well being of its communities as the programs help to increase youth and teen participation.

The YMCA's Youth Basketball League is a co-educational program that recruits children between the ages of 5 to 18. The program consists of weekly practices where various health, fitness and nutrition topics are addressed and weekly games

to develop team-work through friendly competition.

The goal of the program is to create opportunities for younger children to learn the basic skills of basketball; to build awareness of the importance of physical activity in order to establish lifelong health behavior patterns to encourage non-active children, many of low-to-moderate income, to participate in physical activities to build children's self-esteem to foster relationships with adults to encourage family involvement to ensure inclusive play.

## Andover man honored at UMass Lowell

They have succeeded in business, advocated for women's rights around the world, pioneered experiential teaching models and overcome personal struggles to fulfill the American dream.

Seven honorees — alumni, retired faculty and one community member — were recently recognized for the pride and honor they have brought to the university through their accomplishments at the Francis Cabot Lowell Alumni Awards and Honors Fellows Gala at the UMass Lowell Inn and Conference Center.

Honorees included Lawrence J. Ardito '69 of Andover president of Toscano & Ardito PC of North Andover and Portsmouth, N.H., who was honored with the Francis Cabot Lowell Award for Outstanding Achievement in Business.



COURTESY PHOTO

Shown at the Francis Cabot Lowell Alumni Awards and Honors Fellows Gala are Chancellor Marty Meehan, far right, with the honorees, from left: former U.S. Ambassador Swanee Hunt; Peter O'Connell, retired director of the Tsongas Industrial History Center; Mary Kramer of Chelmsford, retired UMass Lowell English professor; Lawrence Ardito '69 of Andover, president of Toscano & Ardito P.C.; Claire Chamberlain of Chelmsford, retired UMass Lowell faculty member in physical education, physical therapy and exercise physiology; Ehud David Laska '75, president and CEO of Pelion Financial Group; and Diana Tran '02 of Lowell, founder and owner of Diana's Hair Fashion and Design.

## Andover man inducted as fellow by dental society

An Andover resident and local orthodontist Dr. Joseph P. Giordano was inducted as a Fellow of the International College of Dentists at its 80th annual convocation in Honolulu, Hawaii on Oct. 2.

An honorary organization for the recognition of outstanding and meritorious service

to the profession and community, the College presented Dr. Giordano with a membership plaque, a gold lapel pin and a gold key symbolic of this Fellowship for conspicuous service rendered the art and science of Dentistry.

Dr. Giordano's practice is located in Lawrence.

### BUSINESS IN BRIEF

Devine Millimet, a law firm serving the Merrimack Valley for more than 25 years, announces that Peter J. Caruso Sr., Esq. has joined the firm as a shareholder. The firm, with three offices in northern New England, offers full-service legal counsel from more than 80 attorneys on staff.

Caruso, the former managing partner of Caruso and Caruso, LLP, in Andover, brings extensive experience in all facets of the law, including family and business planning, real estate,

asset protection, estate planning, as well as in newspaper, privacy, defamation, advertising, media and internet law, and copyright and publications law. Caruso and Caruso served clients throughout New England since 1975.

Caruso holds a juris doctor degree from Suffolk Law School. His bar admissions include Massachusetts, the U.S. District Court, District of Massachusetts, the United State Supreme Court, and the United States First Circuit Court of Appeals. He is also

a member of the American Bar Association and its Forum on Communications Law. He was media counsel in the Willie Horton, Pam Smart and Alan Eagle-son cases. Caruso has argued cases before the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, Appeals Court, and U.S. Court of Appeals.

He has been involved extensively in civic activities in the Merrimack Valley for more than 30 years, including as current chairman of the Merrimack

Valley Community Foundation section of the Essex County Community Foundation, and President of the Berkeley Retirement Home. Other community groups for which he volunteers include the Lawrence Boys and Girls Club, the Merrimack Valley Conveyancers Association, Rotary Club of Andover, Lawrence Family Development Education Fund Charter School, and Greater Lawrence Habitat for Humanity, Inc.

Caruso is a resident of Andover and lives there with his wife Gayle, and has two sons and three granddaughters.

The Danversbank Charitable Foundation has awarded a \$25,000 grant over five years to Merrimack College, specifically for the renovation of O'Reilly Hall, home to the College's Francis E. Girard School of Business and International Commerce.

Merrimack College is upgrading classrooms in the Girard

School to better reflect professional settings. This year, two business classrooms were completely renovated to include state-of-the-art technology conducive to collaborative learning.

"We are extremely grateful to the Danversbank Charitable Foundation for their generosity and recognition of the importance of the need for classrooms that reflect learning in the 21st century," said Merrimack College President Ron Champagne.

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Franchising since 2006, **elements therapeutic massage** is growing rapidly with 75 open studios nationally, and 25 more expected by the end of the year. There are currently 10 locations in Massachusetts. The Andover studio was the top performing studio in the country two months in a row in August and September 2009.

"With each new location, we are in a better position to help people live a better quality of life through the healing benefits that therapeutic massage offers," said Michele Merhib, Founder of the **elements therapeutic massage** business model in 2000 and also a massage therapist. "It is important in today's fast-paced society that people take a regular mini-vacation, with a massage that can rejuvenate the mind and body."

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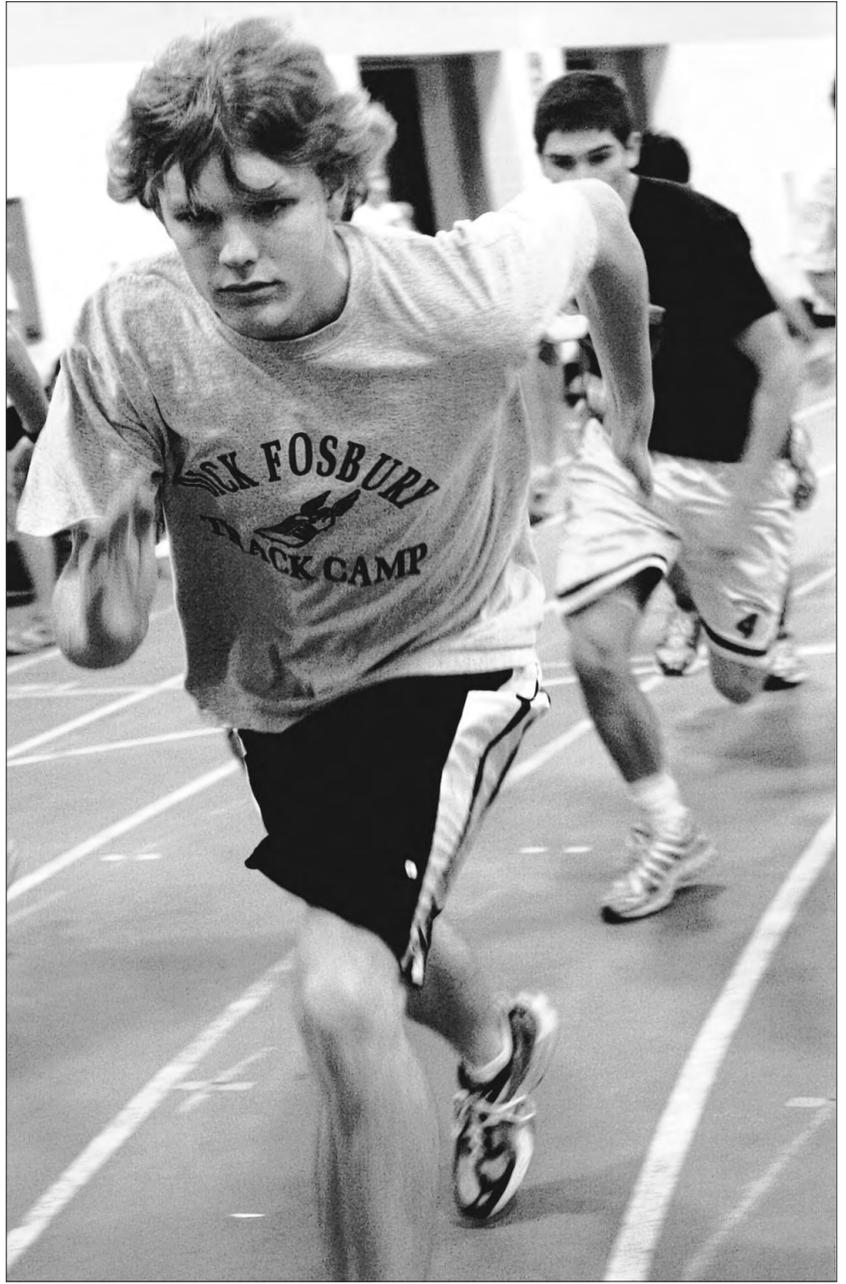
# Sports

## TRACK PREVIEW



Andover's Kayla Baldwin, center, has become familiar with leading the pack after a breakout junior year in outdoor track. That season inspired her to forgo her senior season of gymnastics to compete in indoor track.

ALLEGRA BOVERMAN/Staff photos



Andover's Andrew Osborne sprints through a drill last week. That hard work has made the senior a star jumper and sprinter and potential All-Scholastic. He is a three-sport standout and ranks in the top 10 percent of his senior class.

### Baldwin looks to test skills indoors

By DAVID WILLIS  
STAFF WRITER

ANDOVER — While many competitors are attempting to block out the rest of the world, Andover's Kayla Baldwin works to keep herself relaxed before a race.

"It's very important to stay focused," said Baldwin. "But if I focus the whole time during a meet I panic and stress out. So I listen to music, I joke with my friends and try to have fun. Then, right before my race, I get myself pumped up."

Following a breakout campaign in spring track, senior Baldwin will test her skills for the first time with the Andover High indoor track team that was scheduled to open the season on Tuesday by hosting Chelmsford.

It was her stellar 2009 spring season that drew Baldwin to winter track. For the previous three years she was a member of the Golden Warriors' gymnastics team.

"I was really new to track as a sophomore and only did OK," said Baldwin. "Then, as a junior, I did exceptionally well, and went to New Englands and Nationals. And I basically made the decision then to stay with it."

But Baldwin did not make the decision to switch sports without plenty of soul searching. This year, she was a captain-elect for

the gymnastics team.

"I thought about it every day for a long time," said Baldwin, also a cheerleader in the fall. "The girls were great to me and I owe so much to the (gymnastics) coaches. It killed me. But, in the end, I didn't want to go off to college and wonder, 'What if I had done winter track?'"

The Andover track coaching staff is certainly thrilled to have Baldwin on board for the winter.

"We are so excited to have Kayla here," said sprint coach Scott Price. "She had a breakout through spring. She has a lot of speed and a great attitude. She has a lot of assets that make a good sprinter. She's very flexible, very strong and has a lot of natural ability. We will be putting her in the 50 dash and hopefully she'll be one of the best in the state."

Baldwin did not try track until her sophomore year, and that turned out to be a lackluster campaign as she battled inexperience and a quadriceps injury. But last spring she made the jump to an elite performer.

After winning the 100 meter dash in four of Andover's final five regular-season meets, she won the event at the Merrimack Valley Conference Meet with a 12.87. But her real damage was done as the first leg of the 4x100 relay.

Baldwin teamed with Melissa Knapp, Vanessa Singleton and

fellow former gymnast Eve Bishop to take first at the MVC meet (51.38), third at the EMass. Division 1 meet (49.97), sixth at All-States (49.78) and fourth at New Englands (49.52). The squad also competed at Nike Outdoor Nationals.

"When I'm in the blocks I'm just thinking, 'Got help me do well,'" she said. "You're blocking everything else out except you and the track."

But the winter season presents a new challenge. Instead of the 100, an event only in outdoor, she will be running the ultra-quick 50-yard/55-meter dash.

"In the 100, if you're halfway through and someone is beating you, you still have another half to catch up," she said. "In the 50, it's over in the blink of an eye. You have to just get out of the blocks and go."

The Golden Warriors will also be looking for her to fill a valuable role on the 4x200 relay. Baldwin said she is considering running in college, and is looking to study nursing.

"I was so thrilled to find out she is doing winter track," said Golden Warriors head coach Peter Comeau. "The fastest (girl) in the school is back doing track. Having her skills here gives us a legitimate chance to compete for a title."

Please see **GIRLS**, Page 17

### Osborne jumps into big season

By DAVID WILLIS  
STAFF WRITER

ANDOVER — Andover sprint coach Scott Price did not hold back his expectations for senior Andrew Osborne.

"He could be sitting on an All-Scholastic year," said Price. "He's a legitimate competitor."

The multitasking Osborne will be counted upon to help lead the Golden Warriors as they attempt to repeat as Massachusetts All-State champions. They were scheduled to open the season on Tuesday by hosting Chelmsford.

"There's not a ton of pressure after last season," said Osborne, whose squad won the indoor All-State title for the first time in school history last winter.

"But we have some big shoes to fill. We have a core group of really good competitors, and I think this could be another great season. Hopefully we'll win it again."

An ace in the classroom — he said he ranks either in the top five or 10 percent of his Andover High senior class — that intelligence has helped him to become a standout in one of track's most complex events, the high jump.

"It's a lot different than most events because it's more about finesse than speed," said Osborne. "You want good speed, but you also need to be in control because you have to get your last steps correct. You have to run in

a perfect 'J.' In addition to that you have to get all of your in-air form correct to get over the bar and be successful."

Osborne has used that analytical approach to be successful all over the track. His top event is the high jump, where he holds a stellar personal best of 6 feet, 3 inches. He has also taken his skills to the long jump, with a personal best of 20-4.

"It can be hard to go from the long jump to the high jump," he said. "The long jump is a sprint where you're trying to get as much horizontal distance as possible. If you do that in the high jump you'll run right into the bar."

But Osborne does not limit himself to jumping. He also holds a personal best of 5.6 seconds in the 50-yard dash and an 8.5 in the hurdles.

"Andrew is a stellar jumper," said Price. "And now we are looking for him to be our second-best 50/55 dash runner (following All-Scholastic Christopher McConnell)."

Price also noted that Osborne will be counted upon for another key role. He will be asked to join the 4x200 relay team that took first at All-States (1:31.70) and at New Englands (1:31.08) and placed sixth at Nike Indoor Nationals on the way to earning All-Scholastic honors.

He will be expected to fill the void left by 2009 graduate Brendan Crawford, and run alongside

returners McConnell, Kerrick Stevens and Mark Vetere.

Osborne credited much of his success to his work as a three-sport athlete. Osborne is a two-year starter at goalie for the soccer team, and excels as an outside hitter for the volleyball team that finished 19-3 and advanced to the North finals last season before bowing out to St. John's Prep.

"I think playing all three sports is one of the most important things that I do," he said. "Doing the same thing repetitively can cause injuries, and by playing different sports I can work out different things differently. In volleyball I am always working on my vertical skills, and in soccer I improve lateral movement and my conditioning."

Free time is at a premium for Osborne. He is currently enrolled in four Advanced Placement classes (statistics, physics, chemistry and English) while still applying to colleges. But he continues to dedicate himself to track. That includes his favorite challenge, the state pentathlon in which he must compete in the high jump, long jump, shot put, hurdles and 1,000. He placed ninth a year ago.

"Andrew just scores in any even we put him in," said Andover head coach Peter Comeau. "He's very focused, very mature and multitalented."

Please see **BOYS**, Page 17

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JUSTIN NAZAR

#### ► Roundup

## Freshman Dowden helps Andover hoops to 3-0 start

#### BOYS HOCKEY

##### Berthiaume continues to shine

Andover's Kyle Berthiaume continued to carry his hot finish to last season into the start of this year, making 18 saves for his first shutout of the season, a 2-0 victory over Arlington on Saturday. Matt Swett and Michael Cahill each scored a goal for the winners.

Andover jumped out to a two-goal first-period lead and went on to best Coyle Cassidy

3-1 in the season-opener last Wednesday. Alex Driscoll, Alex Patti and Matt Swett each scored a goal and Kyle Berthiaume made 20 saves in the victory.

#### GIRLS HOCKEY

##### Oteri opens season with a bang

Sarah Oteri continued her hot start, scoring twice to make it five goals in two games as Andover beat Waltham 7-6 on Saturday. Jill Manning and Nicole Giroux each added two goals

and Meagan Keefe chipped in with the final goal for the winners.

Sarah Oteri, Andover's leading scorer the last three years, opened the year with a bang by scoring a hat trick, but Andover lost to Acton-Boxboro 7-5 last Wednesday. Lea Macheras added a pair of goals and Jill Manning had two assists for the Warriors.

Please see **ROUNDUP**, Page 17

ROUNDUP

Continued from Page 16

WRESTLING

Chartier, Jackson shine in defeat

Joe Chartier won at 171 by pin in 52 seconds, but Andover fell to archrival Central Catholic 59-18 last Wednesday. Paul Jackson chipped in with a victory by pin in 1:25 for the Warriors.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Boudreau, Warriors off to fast start

Nicole Boudreau drilled four 3-pointers on her way to a game-best 22 points as Andover easily dispatched Methuen 75-42 last Thursday. Dianna Bill added 12 points and Natalie Gomez-Martinez chipped in with 15 points for the Warriors.

Natalie Gomez-Martinez (19 points, 7 assists) and Nicole Boudreau (17 points, 6 steals) picked up where last season ended, each starting as Andover cruised past Tewksbury in its season-opener, 65-26 last Tuesday. Devon Cavenny chipped in with 12 points for the winners.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Freshman Sam Dowden delivered a breakout performance, scoring a game-high 16 points as Andover bested B.C. High 78-45 on Friday. Battling an ankle injury throughout the preseason, Joe Bramanti scored 12 points for the winners.



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

Andover's Joe Bramanti drives to the basket for a layup over 6-foot-5 Haverhill star Noah Vonleh. Bramanti is nearly back to full speed after an injury slowed him in the preseason.

Jimmy Johnson used his football toughness to drive to the basket with regularity, scoring a game-high 15 points while guarding 6-foot-5 Haverhill freshman star Noah Vonleh as Andover topped the Hillies 66-43. Spenser Rose hit three 3-pointers and D.J. Fazio chipped in with seven points for the Warriors.

D.J. Fazio knocked down a trio of 3-pointers on his way to a team-high 14 points as Andover cruised to a season-opening 71-33 victory over Tewksbury last Monday. Craig Luschnat and Spenser Rose each hit a pair of 3's on their way to eight points each for the winners.

Karate Kids



Merrimack Valley Martial Arts Academy students recently competed at one of the largest tournaments in the region. Pictured with their trophies, from left, are Michael Buhner, 11, of Andover, first place, purple belt; Vincent Greco, 11, of North Andover, third place, green belt; Zachary Johnson, 14, of Andover, third place, brown belt; Ben Johnson, 10 of North Andover, second place, blue belt; Derek Naehle, 12, of North Andover, fourth place, purple belt; Trisdan Ahuna, 11, of Andover, fourth place, blue belt, and Geena O'Mahony, 12, of North Andover, first place, purple belt. The winners are pictured with their instructor, Merrimack Valley Martial Arts Academy owner, Sensei Louie Rodriguez. Merrimack Valley Martial Arts Academy is located on 200 Sutton St. in North Andover.

BOYS

Continued from Page 16

And he understands his role."

BOYS TRACK

2008-09 season: Massachusetts All-State Track and Field champions. Returning lettermen: Andrew Palotta, Sr., hurdles; Andrew Osborne, Sr., jumps; Patrick Morrow, Jr., jumps; Wilson Belbin, Sr., distance; David Daniels, Sr., distance; Chris Goodwin, Sr., distance; Nick Schumacher, Sr., distance; Ben Stacy, Sr., distance; Adam Vetere, Sr., distance; Scott Waller, Sr., distance; Matthew

Barnes, Jr., distance; Ryan Beaumont, Jr., distance; David Curran, Jr., distance; Tim Lyman, Jr., distance; Andrew Newcomb, Sr., distance; Will Ossiff, Jr., distance; Simon Voorhees, Jr., distance; Christopher McConnell, Sr., sprints; Connor O'Neill, Sr., sprints; Kerrick Stevens, Sr., sprints; Mark Vetere, Sr., sprints; Troy Cayon, Jr., sprints; Brian Knapp, Jr., sprints; Max Verrette, Jr., sprints; Kevin Anderson, Sr., throws; Tim Duffy, Sr., throws; Pete Theodorou, Sr., throws; Chris Warne, Sr., throws; Andrew Ladd, Jr., throws. Newcomers: Ryan Cooney, Soph., distance; Evan Gaj, Soph., distance; Charles Schleifer, Soph., distance; Mark Waller, Soph., distance; Michael Maldari, Frosh., distance; Kendrick McCarroll, Frosh., distance; Miller

Martin, Soph., hurdles; Jason Callery, Frosh., hurdles; Eric Wybenga, Frosh., hurdles; Nick Gentle, Soph., sprints; Jacob Donovan, Frosh., Sprints; Mark Zavri, Frosh., Sprints; Andrew Christopoulos, Frosh., throws; Adam Ladd, Frosh., throws. Captain: Chris Goodwin, Nick Schumacher, Adam Vetere, Scott Waller, Connor O'Neill, Kerrick Stevens, Mark Vetere, Tim Duffy, Chris Warne. Head Coach: Peter Comeau. Assistance Coaches: Art Iworsley, hurdles and long jump; Brenda Clark-Warne, distance; Scott Price, sprints; Mark Hathaway, high jump; Art McDermott, throws; Dick Collins, volunteer throws

GIRLS

Continued from Page 16

GIRLS TRACK

2008-09 season: Tie for third at Division 1 states. Returning lettermen: Kayla Baldwin, Sr., sprints; Vanessa Singleton, Sr., sprints; Chelsea Angelosanto, Jr., sprints; Eve Bishop, Jr., sprints; Rae Bronenkant, Jr., sprints; Sydney Eberth, Jr., sprints; Meaghan Molloy, Jr., sprints; Jessica Salley, Jr.,

sprints; Emily Shields, Jr., sprints; Molly Lynch, Soph., sprints; Alex Puccia, Soph., sprints; Abbey Pettoruto, Sr., jumps; Moira Cronin, Jr., jumps; Melissa Laracy, Jr., jumps; Julia Kasparian, Sr., distance; Molly Van Doren, Sr., distance; Elizabeth Carroll, Jr., distance; Rebecca Long, Jr., distance; Margaret Mullins, Jr., distance; Sarah Warne, Jr., distance; Alyssa Cummings, Sr., hurdles; Mary Rose Forster, Sr., hurdles; Emily Beluche, Jr., hurdles. Newcomers: Meghan McPhee, Frosh., distance; Haley Duncan, Jr., hurdles; Molly Cronin, Frosh., jumps; Lauren Nastari, Jr., sprints; Terra

Organisiak, Soph., sprints; Hannah Osborne, Soph., sprints; Lauren Pien, Soph., sprints; Danielle Stevens, Soph., throws; Ryan MacRae, Frosh., throws. Captain: Molly Van Doren, Alyssa Cummings, Mary Rose Forster, Abbey Pettoruto, Moira Cronin, Vanessa Singleton. Head Coach: Peter Comeau. Assistance Coaches: Art Iworsley, hurdles and long jump; Brenda Clark-Warne, distance; Scott Price, sprints; Mark Hathaway, high jump; Art McDermott, throws; Dick Collins, volunteer throws

Brooks girls soccer led to semis by Andover pair

The Brooks girls soccer team completed a successful regular season with a record of 10-2-3, earning a No. 3 seed in the NEPSAC Class A tournament and advancing to the semi-finals. The team was led by co-captains Marina Moschitto and Alice Grant, who are both Andover residents and attended Pike School together from grades 6-8 before heading to Brooks for the last four years. Marina is the daughter of Larry and Linda Moschitto and Alice of Chris and Martha

Grant. Despite the school's small size, Brooks competes at the highest level of New England Prep School soccer. Brooks defeated No. 6 seed Westminster School of Simsbury, Conn., 2-1 in the first round of the playoffs on Nov. 18. Brooks lost to No. 7 seed Phillips Academy 1-0 in the semi-finals on Nov. 21. Phillips Academy won the tournament the following day, defeating Loomis Chafee School of West Hartford, Conn. 1-0,

beating the Nos. 1, 3 and 2 seeds in succession. Marina Moschitto was named co-MVP of the Independent School League, which consists of 13 private schools in New England. Marina will attend Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H. next fall. Alice Grant received the Amy E. Broadhead award from Brooks, recognizing her leadership, effort and team play. Alice will attend Hamilton College in Clinton, N.Y. next fall.

1-10 Announcements Happy Ads Celebrate Place a happy ad in this section to wish a special someone a Happy Birthday, Anniversary, Retirement, Thinking of You, or Just Wish Them a Nice Day. Only \$1.00 per line per day (5 line minimum)!!! Call today The Classified Connection 800-927-9200

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#### 55MA Rentals MA

**HAVERHILL:** Mt. Washington area, \$900/mo, 3 bedroom, 2nd floor, detached, laundry hook-up, 1 car parking, 1st & last. No pets. (978) 371-0114.

**HAVERHILL:** Victorian 1 bedroom, modern kitchen & bath, sunroom, dining room, wood floors, fans, parking... \$795. No utilities. (978) 618-4112

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**First Run**  
LAWRENCE - 3 bedrooms, 2nd floor, parking, \$950/mo, no utilities. Peabody Square, 978-914-0000. No dogs. (978) 885-0840

**LAWRENCE:** 4 bedroom, 2 full baths, 2 car parking, detached, 2nd floor, coin laundry, 531 Haverhill St. \$1030. Call Hermes, (978) 871-4514.

**LAWRENCE:** Andover line, 1 bedroom apartment, \$795 a month. Heat & hot water included. Parking. Laundry. Call (978) 694-9272.

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1 bedroom \$750  
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Modern 1 & 2 bedroom apartments. Professionally managed, friendly responsive staff. Laundry facility and parking on site. Convenient to 495 and 93. Rents start 1 bedroom \$695+; 2 bedroom \$910+ includes heat & water. For more details 978-970-2300

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LAWRENCE - Prospect Hill, 3 bedroom, 2nd floor, washer/dryer, off street parking. No smoking or pets \$950/month. Call 978-885-6060

**First Run**  
LAWRENCE - Renovated 3 bedroom apartment, 1st floor, parking, lead certificate. \$940 month. 1st, last & security. Call 781-383-8004.

**LAWRENCE, SO:** 2 bedroom, 1st floor, \$900. Includes heat, hot water, parking, coin-op laundry, Section 8 Approved. No pets. (978) 882-3333.

**First Run**  
LAWRENCE - Swan St. area, nice, 1st floor, \$900 + utilities. Station Realty, (978) 975-3713.

**LAWRENCE - Water St. area:** nice, large, 3 bedroom, 2nd floor, hook-ups, parking, \$875. No utilities. Call Joe, 978-837-1723.

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LAWRENCE - Wilmet St. 3 bedroom, 2 living rooms. No utilities, 1 car parking, \$950/mo. (978) 857-8998

**METHUEN:** 1 bedroom, 2nd floor heat hot water, parking, no pets. \$750. Gollant Assoc, (978) 686-7931

**METHUEN:** 2 bedroom condo near the Loop, heat & hot water included, new kitchen & bath. \$975. 978-373-3024 ext. 10

**First Run**  
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**METHUEN**  
ELM CREST ESTATES ALL UTILITIES INCLUDED 2 Bedroom - \$1,650 monthly 1 Bedroom - \$890 monthly Newly remodeled apartments with updated appliances. No pets. For more info go to www.fortent.com or call 978-682-4891.

**NEWBURYPORT:** 5 room, 2-3 bedroom 3 level high end, near downtown, washer/dryer hook-ups, \$1300 mo. + utilities. Call 978-470-2747

**NEWBURYPORT, MA:** and region.

**STATE STREET PROPERTIES**

4 ea. 1 bedrooms from \$700+ 5 ea. 2 bedrooms from \$975+ 3 houses from \$1,450+ State St. Prop., 978-462-7032

**NO. Andover:** 3 bedroom, detached, beautiful hardwood floors, renovated kitchen, bath, huge yard. Available now. \$1,300. (617) 680-9180

**North Andover:** East Mill Lofts, Studio, 1 bedroom, 2 bedrooms Available EMLLofts.com 617 625 8315

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**PEABODY:** large 2 bedroom, quiet street, yard, parking, 2nd floor, storage, basement laundry hookups, \$1100 includes all utilities. 978-317-1600

**ROWLEY**  
**Millwood Apartments**  
of the North Shore  
Tranquility fresh air & plenty of parking await you at our oasis in the woods. Spacious 2 bedroom apartments from only \$960-\$980 including heat/water. Professional 24 hr. on-site management plus many other amenities. Enjoy country living while only 30 minutes from Boston. Calls Okay. Call for details. CALL FOR INCENTIVES!!!

**978-948-2056**  
1 1/4 miles off Rt. 95 on 133 \*see our new online website\* millwoodapartments.net

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**DANVILLE:** Close to routes 107 / 125 / 111, 2 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, laundry hook-up, \$970, no utilities. Lewis Builders, 603-362-5333.

**DERRY:** 1 bedroom apartment. Heat & hot water, electric included. Free WiFi included. Available immediately. Cat ok. Security deposit required. 603-548-1898

**First Run**  
DERRY: 1 bedroom, freshly painted, new flooring, with basement storage, laundry hook-ups, no pets \$600/mo 978-423-3300, 603-329-0123

**DERRY:** 2 bedroom condo, heat & hot water included. Eat in kitchen with dishwasher, \$900/mo. + security. (978) 438-6272

**DERRY:** 2 bedroom, parking, significant storage, washer/dryer, \$979/mo. Studio \$299. 1 bedroom \$799. Studio and 1 bedroom include heat/water. Also, 2 bedroom \$899/mo. One Month FREE RED OAK. 603-668-8282

**DERRY, NH:** updated 1 bedroom in restored historical building, laundry hook-ups, central air, parking, fully equipped, \$840. 603-571-2724

**EAST HAMPSHIRE:** 1 & 2 bedroom apartments available starting at \$675/mo., including heat & hot water. Lewis Builders, 603-362-5333.

**FREMONT, Dec. rent free:** Townhomes, newly new 2-3 bedroom, 1.5 - 2 baths, washer/dryer, central air, garage, deck, pet ok. From \$1300/mo. Pater RE (603) 437-0771 paterre.com

**HAMPSTEAD, NH:** near Derry line, 2 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, laundry hook-up, \$1000/mo, no utilities. Lewis Builders, 603-362-5333.

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**LAWRENCE, MA:** furnished rooms. Drug Free. Starting at \$100/week. For details 978-794-3039

**LAWRENCE, MA:** furnished, utilities included. Free cable. Espanol. Call 978-686-8980

**LAWRENCE, SO.:** \$500 large bedroom for rent in single family home, quite safe area, all utilities included. Call (603) 339-2776

**PLAINSTOWN:** Roommate to share 4 bedroom townhouse with clean, non-smoker. No pets. \$225/mo. 978-571-5100.

**SALEM, NH:** female seeks same, private home, no smoking, furnished, sauna. All utilities, \$550. 603-898-3731

**SALEM, NH:** female seeks to share condo w/female, own large bedroom, parking, laundry, all utilities to 93. \$450 includes utilities. No pets 978-430-5333

**SANDOWN, NH:** Roommate wanted to share single family home - \$125.00 weekly. Non smoker, must like cats, off street parking. 978-994-0925

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#### 59MA Offices To Rent MA

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**SALEM:** Prime location, near courts, quality space. Large office suite or individual offices. \$300/mo. First month FREE. R. Luths 978-745-9233.

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**LAWRENCE:** Furnished rooms. Drug Free. Starting at \$100/week. For details 978-794-3039

**LAWRENCE, MA:** furnished, utilities included. Free cable. Espanol. Call 978-686-8980

**LAWRENCE, SO.:** \$500 large bedroom for rent in single family home, quite safe area, all utilities included. Call (603) 339-2776

**PLAINSTOWN:** Roommate to share 4 bedroom townhouse with clean, non-smoker. No pets. \$225/mo. 978-571-5100.

**SALEM, NH:** female seeks same, private home, no smoking, furnished, sauna. All utilities, \$550. 603-898-3731

**SALEM, NH:** female seeks to share condo w/female, own large bedroom, parking, laundry, all utilities to 93. \$450 includes utilities. No pets 978-430-5333

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#### 68MA Roommates/Housing To Share MA

**LAWRENCE:** Share 2 bedroom apartment, laundry, off street parking, off Rte 495, 4400+ utilities. 978-609-9933

**MARBLEHEAD:** Old Town Share 3 bedroom farm apt. with mature Neat non smoker \$500/mo. parking, backyard. References 781-706-3431

**NEWBURY:** Professional female seeks same to share single family house. Large room, private bath. Non smoker, dog may be OK. \$800 includes utilities. Available 1/10 (978) 417-9535

**NO. ANDOVER:** Share spacious house in historical district with professional. Large bedroom with private bath, 2 bedroom, central air, \$900/mo. Male or female, non-smoking. Theater room, gym, built-in pool, & game room to share. Available in Nov. 978-836-2625; 978-688-5515

**SALISBURY:** share townhouse with non smoking 50 year old female, 1 mile to beach, 3 miles to Newburyport, clean & quiet, \$150/wk, everything included. No pets. 978-465-6366 978-836-2625; 978-688-5515

**SWAMPSCOTT:** non-smoking gay white male seeking roommate to share 1st floor, 3 bedroom home with pool & 1/2 utilities. (978) 766-0085

**68NH Roommates/Housing To Share NH**  
EXETER, NH, share condo with older female; no pets or smoking. \$500 month - half utilities. Furnished room or not. (603) 502-2427

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**Resolution ready**

It's that time of year. New Year resolution questions are sure to pop up this week. How about this for an answer - 'I've applied for Andover's Extreme Makeover.' It's not too late. Six local businesses have teamed up and are offering \$10,000 worth of services. Winners - a man and a woman - get workout training, nutrition, massage, wardrobe, hair and makeup assistance. Entry forms must be submitted by Dec 31. Palmers will host contestant interviews on Wednesday, Jan.

6. An Oscar-like red carpet gala celebration happens at Palmers in April, said Rebecca Ingalls of Palmers.

To get an entry form, go to [www.fitnessstogether.com/andover](http://www.fitnessstogether.com/andover).

— Judy Wakefield

**Main Street's a-glow**

The holiday lights twinkling along Main Street this month are courtesy of Memorial Hall Library and Dunkin' Donuts. The two organizations donated money to pay for town employee overtime to string the lights as

well as the electricity to run them. Dunkin Donuts is paying for lights on two trees in front of Old Town Hall, and the library funded lights on trees in front of its building. Town Manager Buzz Stapeczynski thanked the two organizations at the Dec. 21 selectmen's meeting.

— Bethany Bray

**Drop-in Saturday coffee takes holiday break**

The drop-in visitor center open to the public at Old Town Hall on Saturday mornings will

take a two-week hiatus for the holidays. The weekly gathering with conversation, coffee and doughnuts will resume Jan. 9, 9 to 11 a.m. at Old Town Hall at 20 Main St.

— Bethany Bray

**Checking out**

With all the holiday lights and the annual display of decorated Christmas trees spread out on three floors, the mood is a bit less holidayish than you'd think at the Andover Historical Society. That's because Sarah Sycz is leaving. Sycz, an employee for

the past three years, has handled numerous events at the Society, including organizing the popular Andover Farmers Market in the summer months. Sycz is now the director of the public library in her hometown of Kingston, N.H. Her last day in Andover was Wednesday, Dec. 23.

— Judy Wakefield

**Also saying goodbye...**

Raspberries Eatery served its last lunches this week. Owner Dana Wilson of Andover is keeping his apron on, just heading north. Wilson has

been named executive chef at Loretta's Cafe on State Street in Newburyport. Raspberries has been an Andover institution as its longevity spans 25 years. It was previously located on Main and Barnard streets before setting up at its current location at the back of the Andover Spa on Elm Street. Wilson said it was simply time for him to do something else.

"Andover has been a fun place," he said. "Our lease is up and it's just time to do something different."

— Judy Wakefield

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You can find entry forms at any above business or online at [www.fitnessstogether.com/andover](http://www.fitnessstogether.com/andover) or [palmers-restaurant.com](http://palmers-restaurant.com). Entries must be postmarked by 12/31/09.

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