

HANDS FOR HAITI: YOUTH BUILD PROSTHETICS PAGE 16



HOLIDAY GUIDE: NUTCRACKER DANCERS AND MORE PAGES 11 -13



OUR 123RD YEAR

Andover Townsman

Issue No. 15

DECEMBER 9, 2010

75 CENTS

Voters support fields, new school

Next: Special election for new school Jan. 25

By DUSTIN LUCA
STAFF WRITER
Andover residents will head to the ballot box next month to decide whether to support a \$44 million replacement for Bancroft Elementary School.

Voters at Special Town Meeting on Monday gave the initial approval for the new, 106,486 square foot school that would be financed through a debt-exclusion override of Proposition 2 1/2. Because this would raise property taxes above the level allowed under state law specifically to pay for the project, voters must

give another approval at a special election scheduled for Jan. 25. Voters approved four articles at Special Town Meeting, also paving the way for a larger sports complex on Blanchard Street. A total of 612 of the 885

residents at the meeting supported buying a 1.08 acre lot of land at 3 Blanchard St, with 180 voting against the purchase. Supporters represented just over 77 percent of the vote, roughly 10 percent more than the two-thirds

needed. Prior to the vote, Cyr Circle resident Mary Carbone challenged the idea that safety played a role in considering the purchase. Noting Town Meeting voters previously approved buying 12 other acres of property at 15 Blanchard St., Carbone said, "I'm hearing a lot about safety

issues to purchase this parcel of property. Nothing was mentioned about safety issues when we purchased the 12 acres." Wayne Loosigian, owner of the 3 Blanchard St. parcel, said he couldn't think of a better use for the property than to have it join the other 12 acres that his

Please see VOTE, Page 7

FOOD FIGHT



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

Doherty Middle School is battling West Middle School to see which can collect the most can goods for Neighbors in Need in Lawrence. Eight-graders representing their schools, Meaghan Johnson (left), of the Doherty Middle School, and Natalie Hartel, of West Middle School, challenge each other as their classmates gather around them and some donated cans.

Schools battle over who can collect more for Neighbors in Need; loser to clean winner's school

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
STAFF WRITER
A long-running rivalry between Doherty and West middle schools is heating up like lights on a tree this holiday season. Students are competing to see which school can collect the most pounds of canned goods for Neighbors in Need in Lawrence.

Doherty Middle School had a new announcement last week, reminding students and staffers that 25,490 families from greater Lawrence will be served by Neighbors in Need this Christmas season. "Don't forget to bring in cans for the canned food drive so we can help these families," Meghan Johnson, 14, and an

eight-grader and student council member reminded listeners. "Please help." Across town, her rival heard about the jingle, but there was no mean girls attitude there. "Doherty even has a jingle committee, we don't," sighed Natalie Hartel, 14, and

Please see FOOD, Page 2

More commuter trains for town? MBTA rebuilding second line removed 25 years ago

By DUSTIN LUCA
STAFF WRITER

The path is being cleared for more Andover commuter trains to and from Boston. A second set of railroad tracks will return to Andover allowing passenger trains in both directions at the same time from Wilmington to Haverhill for the first time in 25 years, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority has announced officially. The second set of tracks will run parallel to an existing line, according to officials with the MBTA. "This project is really designed so we can pass two trains at the same location," John Ray, MBTA's director of Railroad Operations, said. "What we're doing is really to benefit the passenger operation, not the freight

operation." Currently, the railroad line running through Andover is used by both passenger and freight trains. Trains using the line run in both directions, but because a single line of track exists for such a long distance, trains often idle where the track splits into two lines between Poor Farm Road and Haverhill Street in Andover. "The service at Lawrence today is constrained because of that single track. There's no place to bring a commuter train up and hold it while an outbound or inbound train comes in the opposite direction," Ray said. Though trains will still need to idle with the proposed changes, they will now idle in a different location, Ray said. "The problem is still going to be there. It's just going to be

Please see TRAINS, Page 2

Adams' campaign financing under review

State looking at source of \$50,000 in loaned money

By DUSTIN LUCA
STAFF WRITER

The state Office of Campaign and Political Finance is reviewing \$50,000 raised by Andover State Representative-Elect Paul Adams during his victorious race to determine where it came from and whether any state election laws were violated. The review was started following calls for an investigation into the source of the \$50,000 by the Massachusetts Democratic Party, according to a press release from Adams. Adams declined to field questions on the situation at this time. "Out of respect for the orderly OCPF review, I have decided to

wait until that review is complete to answer additional questions," Adams said. John Walsh, chairman for the Mass. Democratic Party, who called for state agencies to investigate Adams' campaign contributions, could not be reached for comment. According to the Electronic Filing System Web site, made available through the Office of Campaign and Political Finance, the money in question includes three instances of \$10,000 loaned from Adams on March 23, July 8, and Aug. 8 of this year. Another \$5,000 was loaned to the campaign from Adams on Aug. 27, and a pre-election loan of \$15,000

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TRAIN: Second line coming

Continued from Page 1

down further," Ray said. "In fact, it's going to be in more of an industrial area."

In addition, a future project being developed by representatives of the Amtrak Downeaster commuter service may add a second set of tracks from Ballardvale to Wilmington Junction, Ray said.

"That's exactly what you want, because then there's no reason to ever stop out here," Ray said. "The freight trains can continue all the way down, and make their turn in Lowell Junction and head over to Lowell, while the passenger trains can go down (to where) the double track will split. One track will take you to Reading, and the other track will take you to (the Lowell line)."

Amtrak representatives were not able to return a call on deadline.

A double set of tracks previously ran through Andover until roughly 25 years ago, when the second line

was removed, "cannibalized" to create new rail elsewhere, Ray said.

Such a process is not expected to happen again after the second line is restored, according to Ray.

Work to add the second line is expected to begin this winter, with track being laid between grade crossings — where the road and railroad track crosses — whenever heavy snowfall isn't interfering with construction, according to Ray.

Throughout the rest of next year, grade crossings and signals will be constructed. The line is expected to be completed and in use by December 2011, according to Ray.

CROSSINGS

A double track will come through the following areas in Andover: Burnham Road, Harding Street, Main Street tunnel, Pearson Street, Essex Street, Private crossing for St. Augustine's Cemetery, over Shawsheen River, Central Street bridge



DUSTIN LUCA/Staff Photo

The opportunity for more commuter trains through Andover is being laid, as a railroad track cannibalized a quarter-century ago will soon return, running from Ballardvale to the Lawrence train yard. The second line will be laid in the same place it used to be: next to the existing line that runs today.

ADAMS: Loan to candidate's campaign under scrutiny

Continued from Page 1

from Adams was submitted on Oct. 14, according to the Web site.

Including the \$50,000, Adams raised more than twice what his Democratic opponent Pat Commane raised during the campaign for the 17th Essex representative seat, according to the Web site.

In a press release, Adams said the \$50,000 comes from "tax-exempt gifts from my immediate family members."

"Any errors in the financial reporting or disclosure of those monies, assuming, without admitting, that there were such errors, were, at the end of the day, the result of political inexperience, nothing more," Adams said.

According to Massachusetts General Laws that govern elections, specifically the disclosure and regulation of campaign expenditures and contributions, any individual contributing to a specific campaign or candidate "shall not exceed the sum of \$500

(in contributions) in any calendar year."

Adams' release said he welcomes the review, is fully cooperating with it and that he will "have plenty more to say on this subject once the review is complete."

Attention to the \$50,000 followed articles published in The Eagle-Tribune that also looked into and challenged prior claims regarding Adams' work and education history, challenges that Adams vehemently disputed in

the release.

Walsh, in a statement to the press, said a review of Adams' finances is necessary.

"(The Eagle-Tribune story) raises serious questions that deserve clear and unambiguous answers," Walsh said in the statement. We are preparing appropriate letters of complaint to state agencies, including the Office of Campaign and Political Finance (OCPF) and the State Ethics Commission, and will file them as early as next week."

FOOD: Canned goods drive friendly competition at schools

Continued from Page 1

an eighth-grader and student council member at West Middle School. "But it's OK. We put the message on Facebook."

There is more at stake in this friendly competition than pride.

"Whichever school collects the most canned goods will not only get bragging rights over the other school, but the losing school will have to clean up the other school's hallways and classrooms," Meghan said.

"We're really motivated because it's Doherty, our rival school," Natalie said. "Kids are

pumped because of that and they really like the community service idea. We want to help."

So, the collection boxes are out in the lobbies of both schools and the gloves are off. The canned good competition has started and will continue through Dec. 17 when the final school bell rings. Doherty Middle has a slight edge with 25 more students than West (565 versus 540) but West Middle is not fazed.

"We just have so many kids that want to help," Natalie said. "I'm not worried."

Doherty seems to be seriously

strategizing.

"We are using our power of numbers to help our community," Meghan said. "This friendly competition will show parents and the town what is going on in the middle schools and how we help. Doherty kids are responding to that."

Meanwhile, the executive director of Neighbors in Need already has a packing crew in place to deliver the food.

"These kids are helping so many families," said Linda Zimmerman of Andover. "I'm just so excited."

Andover schools are no stranger to assisting Neighbors in Need. Zimmerman said Shawshen and Pike schools have held canned food collections and the Andover High School football team faithfully unloads trucks on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving each year.

"I call it the 'last chance workout,'" Zimmerman said.

Now, two middle schools are lending their support to thousands of local families this holiday season.

Zimmerman said it doesn't matter which school wins this friendly food fight — food pantries stocked by Neighbors in Need are the clear winners.

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In Brief

PAST & PRESENT



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDOVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THEN: In the 1930s the building at 26 Essex St. was home to a post office and a grocery store.



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

NOW: A look at 26 Essex St. today

At the forefront of healthcare

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Health Howard K. Koh, the Andover resident and doctor picked to be President Obama to be the Surgeon General's boss, unveiled Healthy People 2020 goals and objectives, the

nation's health promotion and disease prevention agenda, on Thursday, Dec. 2. The event also launched a technology applications challenge for integrating Healthy People 2020 measures and data into health improvement initiatives.

Crystal Ballroom this Sunday, Dec. 12

The Crystal Ballroom at the Townhouse was a great success on Nov. 14th as people danced to the tunes of the Comeback Kids Orchestra at Andover's Old Town Hall, also known as the Town House, 20 Main St. according to Tom Rando, TAVAH Marketing Committee member.

The ballroom event is sponsored by The Andovers Village at Home (TAVAH) and the Andover

Senior Center and takes place from 6 to 10 p.m. on the second Sunday of every month, with dance instruction during the first hour. The Crystal Ballroom returns this Sunday, Dec. 12 with the music of The Fred Manzi Trio, which plays music from Big Band era. Tickets are available at TAVAH (978-623-0070), the Senior Center (978-623-8321) or at the door.

December clinics

The Andover Health Department will offer mini clinics on Monday, Dec. 13 from 2 to 3 p.m. at Andover Commons, and on Monday, Dec. 27 from 1 to 2 p.m. at Frye Circle. Senior-center clinics will be held 2 to 3 p.m. each Wednesday, Dec. 8, 15, 22 and 29. No appointment is necessary.

Project Home Again warehouse open Dec. 12

Project Home Again, a warehouse staffed by Temple Emanuel volunteers, will be open on Dec. 12 from 10 a.m. to noon for donations to be dropped off. The warehouse is at 439 South Union St., Lawrence. Call 978-270-9878 upon arrival and volunteers will come unload your car. For more information, visit phama.org.

QUOTE, UNQUOTE ...



This is a chance to directly transform someone else's lives. They go from having something at the end of their arm they can't do anything with to being able to carry a bucket of water or ride a bike.

Andover resident Richard Benedict, on a school program where middle school students build prosthetic hands that are then shipped overseas to places where prosthetics aren't nearly as available. Story in Education, page 16.

Singing in the class is not doing them any justice.

Mark Mercer, Andover High's music program director, on having chorus students sing at the Rockingham Mall. Story in Arts, page 5.



Holiday bonus: 15 Andover residents due IRS refund

The Internal Revenue Service is looking for Massachusetts taxpayers who are missing more than 2,000 refund checks totaling more than \$3.4 million that were returned to the IRS by the U.S. Postal Service due to mailing address errors. Including on this list are 15 Andover households.

"We want Massachusetts taxpayers to get this money as soon as possible. If you think you're missing a refund, take a few minutes to go to IRS.gov or call the toll free IRS refund hotline," said Peggy Riley, IRS Spokeswoman. "The web site is

open 24/7 to help you get your check."

All a taxpayer has to do is update his or her address once. The IRS will then send out all checks due, it reports. Massachusetts undeliverable refund checks average \$1,673 this year, compared to \$1,262 last year. Some taxpayers are due more than one check.

The vast majority of checks mailed out by the IRS each year reach their rightful owner. Only a very small percent are returned by the U.S. Postal Service as undeliverable, according to the IRS.

Taxpayers can update their addresses with the "Where's My Refund?" tool on IRS.gov. The tool enables taxpayers to check the status of their refunds.

Taxpayers checking on a refund over the phone will be given instructions on how to update their addresses. Taxpayers can access a telephone version of "Where's My Refund?" by calling 1-800-829-1954.

According to the IRS, Andover residents missing a refund check are:

- Manuel Ceide Vazquez
- Matthew P. Figueiredo
- Michael C. & Christine M. Galatis

- Ramonita Gerena
- Leticia Gonzalez Ortiz
- Brenda L. Himmer
- James S. & Sharon C. Hopkins
- Nieves E. Lajara Pichardo
- Sagheer & Mumtaz Nawaz
- Maricelly Pena
- Jose Roman Ramos
- Rivka P. Saklad
- Yaritza Salas
- Charles Smith
- Regina Tayag

North Andover residents are:

- Virginia A. Gilbert
- Donny Hernandez
- Louis J. & Lorraine E. Nazzaro Jr.
- Francisco Ramos Camacho

NEWS IN BRIEF

Town Census going out

The Annual Town Census will be mailed to residents at the end of December 2010.

Anyone who is leaving town for an extended period of time and at risk for not receiving the census during December 2010-January 2011 should contact the Town Clerk's office at 978-623-8255 so that they will not be dropped from the voter or census rolls.

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

The Town Census provides vital information that supports services in your community.

Mitten/hat collection

The Andover Department of Community Services is sponsoring its annual mitten and hat collection program that benefits children and adults of Andover, Lazarus House in Lawrence, Merrimack Valley schools and the YWCA FINA House. T

The following locations in Andover have agreed to participate in the program by displaying the snowman and providing a candy-cane or treat for those who bring new or gently used hats, gloves and mittens of all sizes to the snowman: Town Offices, senior center, Memorial Hall Library, SHED (Shawsheen

Extended Day Program), Bancroft, Shawsheen, and High Plain elementary schools.

The Christ Church Children's Center has visited the Town Offices for over 10 years to participate in a sharing lesson. Three preschool groups walk up from the school with teachers and parents to learn first-hand about giving to others in need.

To make donations, simply go to one of the locations before noon on Friday, Dec. 17 and drop off your mittens, hats, and scarves and pick up a candy cane.

NECC students will calculate your footprint

Find out your personal carbon footprint at Northern Essex Community College's student presentation, "What's Your Footprint? Green Your Day! A Celebration of Students' Works on Sustainability," on Wed., Dec. 15, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Technology Center on the Haverhill campus.

What's in it for you?

- find out your carbon footprint
- check out some phenomenal projects students have created
- meet students, faculty and staff involved in sustainability
- meet people from the community involved in sustainability
- learn more about the theme across the curriculum events
- lunch and door prizes

Sponsored by the NECC Learning Communities Initiative, The Sustainability Committee, Service Learning, this event is

free and open to the public. For more information, contact Trish Schade at pschade@necc.mass.edu.

LLL Preschool open house Jan. 10

L.L.L. Preschool will hold its annual open house on Monday, Jan. 10, 2011, between 9 and 11 a.m. Parents and children are welcome to visit. Teachers and parent volunteers will be available to answer questions and describe the programs. Applications for the 2011-12 school year will be available.

Info session for students interested in nursing

High School students interested in becoming nurses are invited to an information session hosted by Northern Essex Community College on Tuesday, Dec. 14. Free and open to the public, the session will be held on the Haverhill Campus, 100 Elliott St. in the Technology Center, Room 103. The program starts at 4 p.m. but those attending are asked to arrive 10 minutes before 4 p.m.

Pat Demers, assistant dean of health professions designed this event to give students a glimpse into the daily life of a nursing student. This presentation is geared toward the specific issues facing students entering NECC's program directly out of high school. Issues such as admissions standards and the rigorous pace of the program will be discussed. This is a perfect opportunity for students

and their parents to hear what is required for a high school student to be successful in the nursing program and to ask any questions they may have.

Northern Essex offers a Certificate in Practical Nursing and an Associate of Science Degree in Nursing. Both programs are offered on the college's Lawrence campus. For more information about the programs, visit the website necc.mass.edu/programs/health/index.php.

For more information on this event, call Alicia Grande at 978-556-3726 or Brandi Thomforde at 978-556-3716 or email admissions@necc.mass.edu.

Chamber events

The Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce together with Andover Country Club and The Savings Bank will present "Happy Holidays" Business Networking Mixer on Wednesday, Dec. 15 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Andover Country Club, 60 Canterbury St., Andover. The cost is \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members.

The Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce's Human Resource Association will present "Addressing Ways to Reduce Stress and Improve Morale in the Workplace" sponsored by the Holy Family Hospital on Thursday, Dec. 16 from noon to 1:45 p.m. at Joe Fish Seafood Restaurant and Bar, 1120 Osgood St., North Andover. The cost is \$25 for members and \$35 for non-members.

For more information on either event, call 978-686-0900.

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Taylor Cove review halts denial

By DUSTIN LUCA
STAFF WRITER

Plans to build the Taylor Cove affordable housing community may be moving one step closer to receiving conservation approval, as the developer is agreeing to a site review coordinated with the Andover Conservation Commission.

The review will look at how wetlands and a nearby river could affect a residential community built in the area, according to Donald Cooper, chairman of the Conservation Commission.

"This is a project that, under our rules, would require a peer review," Cooper said. "We will re-specify what we want them to do, what a peer review will do, and they have indicated that they will agree to that."

Taylor Cove has been a controversial project. Andover officials have worked to prevent the construction — which was previously permitted under a separate plan by the Conservation Commission years ago — from starting.

But work to clear the property and start building under an expired permit recently continued, due to a new, pro-development state law that extends expired permits two

more years.

At a meeting Tuesday, Dec. 7, a motion was made and seconded to deny Taylor Cove plans "based on lack of information" because developer Todd Wacome and his associates would not agree to pay for a review to locate and identify wetlands on the property.

But Taylor Cove's proponents softened their position on the review, which caused the commission to continue discussion on the plan to its next meeting, on Dec. 21, when an agreement regarding the review can be drafted and signed by both parties.

Cooper said the commission hasn't made a decision on Taylor Cove yet, and because of the possibility for a review, whether it will approve or deny Taylor Cove is unknown.

Wacome's lawyer, Donald Borenstein, challenges the claim that a river runs near the property, but he said "we agree with the concept of them hiring a consultant to tell us where that river is."

"I am glad that we are both still trying to compromise, to keep the Conservation Commission going through," Borenstein said. "I think that this was a good example of that."

Room at the arch: West Parish puts on annual outdoor Christmas pageant

Andover parishioners and some live animals are getting ready for an outdoor performance of the biblical Christmas story.

West Parish Church 32nd Annual Outdoor Christmas Pageant will be on Saturday, Dec. 18 at 5 p.m.

Amy Bush and Stephen Sergeant will play the parts of Mary and Joseph as the historic West Parish Garden Cemetery Arch once again becomes the entrance to Bethlehem. This annual

reenactment of the Christmas story includes a cast of children, youth and adults and a stable of live animals. Through drama, narration and carols the audience shares in the miracle of Christmas as Mary and Joseph arrive in Bethlehem, the shepherds seek out the manger, and the wise men bring their gifts. The biblical account of Jesus' birth and modern-day stories such as the "Littlest Angel" and the "Little Drummer Boy" are included in the reenactment.

Over its 31 years, many past and present Andover families have been involved with the pageant. Blake Martin will portray Basil, the innkeeper, and Jim Olson is the narrator.

The public is invited to attend the free half-hour performance of gospel narration and choral accompaniment. After people are welcome to photograph the living Nativity scene and to enjoy refreshments in Fellowship Hall. The Ministry of Outreach will be accepting non-perishable food

items at the archway prior to the pageant. These will be donated to local food pantries.

West Parish Church, United Church of Christ, an open and affirming church, is located at 129 Reservation Road, Andover at the intersection of Route 133, Lowell Street and Shawsheen Road, approximately two miles east of Interstate Route 93. For more information call the church at 978-475-3528 between 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at or visit westparish-church.org.

■ POLICE LOG

COMPILED BY DUSTIN LUCA
dluca@andovertownsm.com

The following items were taken from Andover police logs for Nov. 30 through Dec. 6:

ARRESTS

Tuesday, Nov. 30 — At 10:28 a.m., Gabriel Rivera, 30, of 83 E. Haverhill St., Lawrence, was arrested on North Main Street and charged on a warrant.

At 10:43 a.m., Alexis Rivera, 31, of 157 Salem St., Lawrence, was arrested on North Main Street and charged with driving without an inspection sticker, driving a motor vehicle with a

suspended license and warrants for a number of charges, including three counts of operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, two counts of operating with no inspection sticker, driving an uninsured motor vehicle and a miscellaneous equipment violation.

Friday, Dec. 3 — At 8:25 p.m., a 14-year-old female from Andover was arrested on River Road and charged with assault and battery on a household member.

Saturday, Dec. 4 — At 11:03 a.m., Justin Navarro, 18, of 19 Durham St., Lawrence, was arrested in Methuen and charged with receiving or buying a stolen

vehicle and driving a motor vehicle while unlicensed.

At 2:46 p.m., and 3:08 p.m. respectively, Monnie Miner, 46, of 529 Andover St., Lawrence, and Barbara Scott, 47, of 13 Silvestri Circle, Derry, N.H., were both arrested on River Road and charged with possession of a class B drug.

Sunday, Dec. 5 — At 6:35 a.m., Huan Thien Dang, 22, of 12 Stevens St., Lawrence, was arrested by North Andover police on North Main Street and charged with disorderly conduct. North Andover police transported the individual to the Andover Police station for holding.

At 10:54 a.m., Timothy Merchant, 25, of 50 Colonial Drive, Andover, was arrested on South Main Street and charged with operating a motor vehicle while unlicensed and driving an unlicensed motor vehicle.

BREAKS

Saturday, Dec. 4 — At 3:13 p.m., a River Road resident called to report that someone tried breaking into her garage.

At 8:26 p.m., a burglar alarm was triggered on Bartlet Street. Police found that a back door on the property appeared to have been pried open. Entry couldn't be gained to offices inside, according to police, but access to some packages in the area could be made.

THEFTS

Wednesday, Dec. 1 — At 2:26 p.m., police received a telephone call from a business on Railroad Street reporting a young female who had been caught stealing on camera previously. Police brought the juvenile to the police station, and a court summons was issued against the juvenile for shoplifting.

Friday, Dec. 3 — At 3 p.m., an individual from Lowell Street reported a possible theft.

AUTO CRIME

Wednesday, Dec. 1 — At 2:12 p.m., an individual at New England Park reported an unwitting hit-and-run that damaged his car.

Thursday, Dec. 2 — At 10:20 p.m., police towed a truck from the parking lot of Rugged Bear, on Park Street, for trespassing.

Saturday, Dec. 4 — At 9:13 a.m., a Burton Farm Drive resident reported that items were taken from his or her motor vehicle overnight.

Sunday, Dec. 5 — At 12:18 p.m., a caller on Shipman Road reported that somebody broke into his motor vehicle overnight and stole a GPS from inside the vehicle.

Monday, Dec. 6 — At 7:07 a.m., police received reports of a broken window on a car on Tech Drive. The car was registered

with New York license plates.

INCIDENTS

Tuesday, Nov. 30 — At 7:16 a.m., police received reports of a large coyote in a yard on Sutherland Street.

Wednesday, Dec. 1 — At 1:39 p.m., a business on River Road reported that it had received counterfeit \$20 bills from somebody who was there the night before.

Thursday, Dec. 2 — At 12:33 a.m., a death from an illness was reported on Launching Road.

Friday, Dec. 3 — At 6:40 a.m., a caller on South Main Street called about a dog lying on the roadside that appeared to have been hit by a car. Police determined it was a coyote, and that it appeared to have been deceased.

At 7:27 a.m., police received a report from another caller regarding the same expired coyote on South Main Street.

At 12:08 p.m., an organization in town requested a well-being check on a 90-year-old North Main Street resident. Police reported she was fine, and that she was eating and reading the paper.

At 3:47 p.m., police received reports of something in the road on Central Street that was causing vehicles to swerve out of their lane. Police responding to the scene found a dead bird in the road.

At 9:30 p.m., police were notified of an alarm sounding on Chandler Road. The alarm was accidental, caused by people setting up Christmas decorations.

At 10:30 p.m., a caller on William Street called about noises in her basement. Officers said that it appeared "it was just an animal."

Saturday, Dec. 4 — At 9:59 a.m., police received reports of a brook that keeps flooding on Prospect Road behind somebody's house "due to someone pumping water into it at night."

Sunday, Dec. 5 — At 2:24 p.m., police towed a vehicle on Lowell Street and issued a criminal complaint application against the car's driver for operating a car while unlicensed. Police transported the whole family from the car to McDonalds in Tewksbury.

Monday, Dec. 6 — At 2:15 a.m., police found an overturned porta-potty on Lovejoy Road.

At 10:35 a.m., police received reports from River Road of an ATV leaving the Deer Jump reservation "with a deer on the back" of it. The ATV was then placed in the back of a pickup truck that left in the direction of Tewksbury.

At 1:59 p.m., police assisted a Chestnut Street resident with a squirrel in her house, and gave her a trap for the squirrel.

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— Ernie, Atria resident

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Arts & Entertainment

Andover boy stars in opera 'Amahl and the Night Visitors'

An Andover boy has the title role in a local production of Gian-Carlo Menotti's Christmas opera "Amahl and the Night Visitors" this weekend.

Andover resident and boy soprano Benjamin Meyer-Idzik plays the role of Amahl, in Young Opera Company of New England production of the opera about a poor crippled boy who dreams of traveling with the magi to give the gift of his crutch to the Christ child.

The opera is being presented at The First Parish Congregational Church of Wakefield on Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 12 at 3 p.m. The Young Opera Company of New England, founded by Marie Stultz, is making its first appearance at this church founded in 1644 and overlooking the shores of the Quannapowitt Lake.

"Celebrate the season with a joyous performance that will

inspire you throughout the remainder of the holidays," encourages a release from the Young Opera Co. of New England. "All the young performers in the company have amazed audiences for six years with their fine acting and superb singing."

Carols of the season and carol sing-a-long will conclude the concert. All tickets are \$15. For tickets or reservations call the church at 781-245-1539 or the opera company at 978-664-4705.

The company made its first appearance at New England Conservatory's historic Jordan Hall this past summer with Mozart's Magic Flute to rave reviews. For more information about the company, visit youngoperacompany.org. Young singers and actors are always welcome by arranging an audition. The second half of the season will boast performances of Brundibar, Pirates of Penzance and Classic Broadway.



DUSTIN LUCA/Staff photo

More than three dozen members of the high school's concert choir performed two sets of Christmas carols at the Mall at Rockingham Park in Salem, N.H. on Saturday, Dec. 4.

EVENTS CALENDAR

THURSDAY, DEC. 9

LIVE THEATER, The North of Boston Arts Center (NOBAC) presents its third youth-cast production, *The Tale of the Oysta: A Seafaring Whoops!*, Pingree School, 537 Highland St., Hamilton, 7 p.m.; 622-228-0033, thenobac.org. Shows also happen on Dec. 10, 11 and 12.

LIVE MUSIC, local orchestras and other musicians perform in celebration of the 80th birthday of composer and multi-instrumentalist David Amram, 7:30 p.m., free, Durgin Concert Hall, UMass Lowell South, 35 Wilder St., Lowell.

OPEN HOUSE, 5-8 p.m., Sense of Wonder, 99 Turnpike St., N. Andover, through Dec. 15 collecting donations of new women's bathrobes, slippers and pajamas, as part of annual Sleepwear Donation Drive for Lazarus House; 978-686-6500.

FRIDAY, DEC. 10

LIVE HOLIDAY MUSIC, The Phillips Academy Music Department will sponsor its 23rd annual holiday concert featuring excerpts from Handel's oratorio, 7:30 p.m., \$5, in Cochran Chapel, 180 Main St., Andover, featuring the Phillips Academy Community Chorus and the Academy Chamber Players made up of students, faculty and staff. Special soloist guests are soprano Barbara Kilduff-O'Farrell, mezzo-soprano Krista River, tenor Allen Combs and bass-baritone Donald Wilkinson, benefits Neighbors in Need; 978-749-4263, music@andover.edu.

VIENNA BOYS CHOIR HOLIDAY CELEBRATION, Lowell Memorial Auditorium, 50 East Merrimack St., Lowell, 7:30 p.m.; 978-454-2299, lowellauditorium.com.

LIVE THEATRE, Northern Essex Community College will present its 11th annual production of Charles Dickens' classic "A Christmas Carol," Chester W. Hawrylcw Theater on the third floor of the Spruk Building on the Haverhill campus, 100 Elliott St., 7 p.m., \$6-10; MVArts.info, Susan Sanders, 978 556-3374.

SATURDAY, DEC. 11

FREE INTRO TO YOGA, 9:30-10:30 a.m., UnionStudio Yoga, 305 North Main St. (Rt. 28), Andover. If you are new to yoga but not quite ready to jump into your first class, Intro to Yoga is the class for you. This free one hour class teaches principles of correct alignment, guidelines for breathing, and basic poses for

strength, flexibility and balance. A relaxation practice promoting calm mind and body completes the practice. Instructor Connie Glore, unionstudioyoga.com, 978 886-7944.

COOKIE COMPETITION, participate in the fun competition among Brush Artists and Board Members by sampling cookies from the Brush family recipe box. Cast your vote for your favorite cookie before you leave. Printed recipes will be available, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Brush Gallery & Artists Studios, 256 Market St. (behind the National Park Visitor Center), Lowell; 978-459-7819, thebrush.org.

LIVE MUSIC, The September Quartet, 8 p.m., Crossroads Coffeehouse, top floor in the Old Center Hall, directly across the street from the North Parish Church and around the corner from the Top of the Scales restaurant in North Andover; 978-687-3960.

LIVE HOLIDAY MUSIC, Katfish 4, Ms. Moonshine and Left Hand Blue perform at the Cool Yule Holiday Concert, 2-4 p.m., \$5-10, Kismet Wellness Center, 204 Andover St., Andover. Deb Angelosanto of Andover plays rhythm mandolin, guitar, bodhran and sings, wide array of yuletide tunes with a theatrical opening inspired by Dicken's Christmas Carol planned. Closing the show will be Left Hand Blue, an up and rising Andover teen band, lead guitar and lead vocals is Matt Minigell, who is also the band's main songwriter, on bass guitar and background vocals is Carissa Johnson and Greg Johnson, on drums; 978-289-4155, \$2 off admission for items donated to the Lazarus House in the Kismet lobby.

LIVE MUSIC, New England Brass Band concert, a 30-player British style brass band that has become an annual favorite, 7 p.m., free, Free Christian Church, 31 Elm St., Andover; jsoderberg@freecatholic.org.

CHRISTMAS OPERA, Gian-Carlo Menotti's famous "Amahl and the Night Visitors," with the Young Opera Company of New England, founded by Marie Stultz of Andover. Boy soprano is Benjamin Meyer-Idzik of Andover plays Amahl, The First Parish Congregational Church of Wakefield, 7 p.m. Carols of the season conclude the concert, \$15; 781-245-1539, 978-664-4705.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA, 8:30-9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. seatings, \$10 for Y members and \$15 for the community, Andover/North Andover YMCA, Haverhill Street, Andover; 978-685-3541.

LIVE THEATRE, Northern Essex Community College, 3 and 7 p.m., see Dec. 10 listing.

Please see CALENDAR, Page 6

Rocking the Rockingham

Andover High singers treat mall's holiday shoppers

By DUSTIN LUCA
STAFF WRITER

Two performance groups from Andover High School's chorus performed at the Mall at Rockingham Park this weekend, a holiday shopping hot-spot, three weeks before Christmas.

Crowds surrounded the school's Concert Choir and Show Choir. The singers performed on the mall's first floor, by its entrance to Sears, as observers lined the railing on the second

floor to listen.

"It was great," Mark Mercer, director of the school's music program, said.

Along with allowing the chorus to spread holiday cheer in one of the more chaotic places in the area during the holiday season, the performances gave the two groups of singers a much-needed break from the familiar territory of their classroom.

"I definitely value getting them out of town and in the public when performing," Mercer said.

"Singing in the class is not doing them any justice."

In agreement, 16-year-old Bobby Hawes, a junior, enjoyed performing in public.

"The big thing is spending time outside town," Hawes said. "Some people on the way to Sears chilled out a little bit. It was kind of nice, made us feel like cool cats."

According to Emily Hoang, marketing director for the Mall at Rockingham Park, the chorus' performance was one of the

mall's larger performances this season.

"The Andover High School group was quite large, and they carried a following with them," Hoang said. "We tried to book them for two days, but their schedule was pretty booked already."

While the students now are preparing for upcoming competitions in January, Mercer said he hopes the performance groups will return to the shopping mall next holiday season.

RIDE ALONG

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang stars several from town

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
STAFF WRITER

Six months ago, the Broadway musical script for "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" was released to community theater groups. Acting Out! is the first local drama troupe to stage the classic story about the adventures of an eccentric inventor, Caractacus Potts, and his family in their flying car.

"This is the very first production in the Merrimack Valley of the Broadway musical version - just released this June for licensing - and we wanted to get the word out to as many people as possible," according to Director Linda Schoonmaker of North Andover. "We're very excited."

Key roles feature Andover actors, including lead children Jeremy and Jemima, and

CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG

WHO: By ACTING OUT! Theatre

WHEN: Opens Friday, Dec. 10 at 7 p.m.

Dec. 11 at 2 and 7 p.m., Dec. 12 at 3 p.m.

WHERE: North Andover High School, 430 Osgood St., North Andover

COST: \$15 in advance/\$18 at door

■ Tickets at Ye Olde Pepper Company, Rennies Florist, both in North Andover; 978-208-9132, actingouttheater@comcast.net

■ Andover cast members include Emma Koral, Abby Goldman, Matthew Beetham, Max Currie, Jeremy Moses, Jeff Ashworth, Conor Moses, Maggie Norris and Ben Katz

Grandpa Potts. Four cast members stopped by the Townsman on Monday afternoon with their review of the show which requires a British accent for every cast member.

"[It's] funny and everyone will laugh and we know audiences like to laugh," Abby Goldman, 11, and a sixth-grader at West

Middle School, said. She plays Jemima with Emma Koral, 11, a classmate at West Middle.

"We've worked really hard and it's a funny show," added Matthew Beetham, 10, and a fifth-grader at High Plain Elementary School.

He plays Jeremy and shares the role with Max Currie, 12,

a sixth-grader at West Middle School.

Jeff Ashworth of Andover, was thrilled to land the kooky Grandpa Potts role, as Chitty Chitty Bang Bang is one of his favorite movies from childhood.

"I knew all the lines. This character is so funny," Ashworth said.

His only gripe is the show-required beard. He has grown one for the role, but it's been a tough adjustment for him. The role makes it worth the itchinness, he said.

Yes, there is a car in this show, but this group of actors from Andover was mum on whether the car flies. The car is homemade, has a metal frame and cast members said it's pretty cool. But does it fly?

"You'll have to see the show," Ashworth said.

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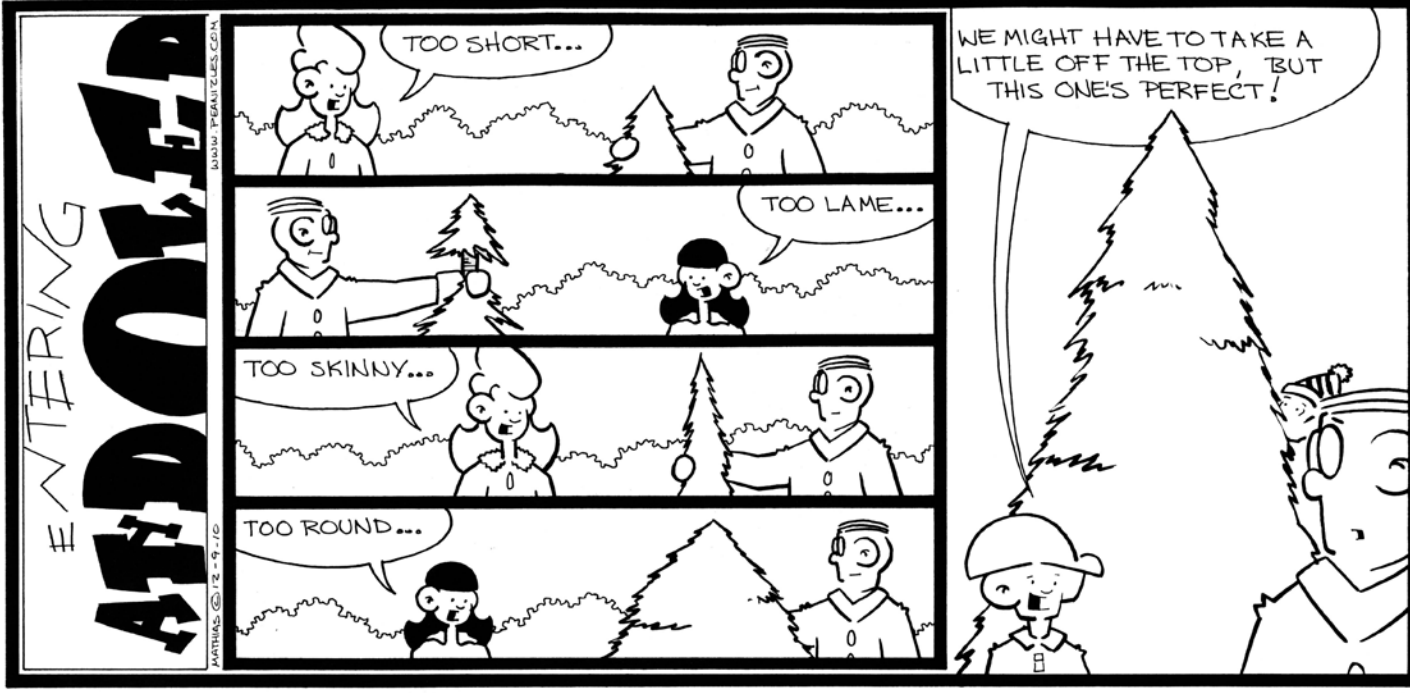
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ENTERING ANDOVER by Don Mathias



ACT Andover theater company has new home in Lawrence

Andover Community Theatre has relocated to a permanent home at the Mill Building on 250 Canal St., Lawrence.

The approximately 2,000 square feet of general space will be used primarily for rehearsals, costume design, set construction for upcoming shows and storage for past productions, according to ACT Andover.

Charles Gracy, artistic director and co-founder of ACT, said in a release that it is extremely important for him to keep community-theater entertainment available to all. Gracy said he plans to offer classes in all theater disciplines in the near future.

Mark Gracy, executive producer and the other founder of ACT, reported his satisfaction with the group's new space, adding, "I am also happy that ACT will be part of the enhancement to the quality of life for residents of Lawrence as the city continues its economic revitalization."

ACT Andover is a nonprofit theater organization. Its stated mission is to entertain, educate and enrich the community through the dramatic arts.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Continued from Page 5

SUNDAY, DEC. 12

CHRISTMAS HIGH TEA, with one-woman play featuring Olivia Woodford telling the story of Jesus' birth from the points of view of 5 different women, 2:30 p.m., West Parish Church, 129 Reservation Road (at Route 133), Andover. All proceeds benefit the International Justice Mission (www.ijm.org) to help put an end to slavery, human trafficking and other forms of violent oppression throughout the world. Tea, hot chocolate, desserts and play, \$25 or \$175 for a table of 8; 978-475-3528.

BALLARDALE TREE LIGHTING, and Carol Sing, 5 p.m., Ballardvale Common, Andover.

LIVE HOLIDAY MUSIC, presented by Joyce Painter Rice on the Grand Organ, with Andover High School Chamber Singers, to benefit Neighbors In Need Food Pantries, 3 p.m., \$10, Methuen Memorial Music Hall, Methuen; 978-685-8321 between 8 a.m. and noon, NeighborsInNeed@verizon.net.

LIVE MUSIC & DANCING, Upstairs at Old Town Hall, 20 Main St., Andover, 7-10 p.m. Dance instruction from 6-7 p.m., \$10-20; TAVAH 978-623-0070 (call ahead), Andover Senior Center, 978-623-8321.

TOY DRIVE, to support the Lazarus House of Lawrence, North Reading Chiropractic accepts toy donations of new, unopened, unwrapped Toys, through Dec. 20, Please 352 Park St., suite 103, North Reading, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

COOKIE COMPETITION, see Dec. 11

MONDAY, DEC. 13
LIVE THEATRE, Northern Essex Community College, 3 p.m., see Dec. 10 listing.
CHRISTMAS OPERA, 3 p.m., see Dec. 11 listing.

TUESDAY, DEC. 14
BALLET FUN & READING, North Reading School of Ballet takes center stage at Flint Memorial Library, 3-4 p.m., with author David Ira Rottenberg reading his new picture book, "Gwendolyn," and a mini-dance lesson by the dancers, free, 147 Park St., North Reading; 978-664-0812.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 15
COMMUNITY HIKE, Harold Parker State Forest, every Wednesday at 10 a.m., free, meet at the headquarters, 305 Middleton Road, North Andover. This is a moderately paced walk appropriate for all ages. Wear walking footwear; bring water and sunscreen; (617) 828-1728, mass.gov/dcr.

MERRIMACK VALLEY TEA PARTY MEETING, 7 p.m., VFW Hall, 32 Park St., North Andover. Guest Speaker is Tom Weaver who will speak on the Constitution; Mike Mosca, 978-681-1890.

THURSDAY, DEC. 16
TREE FESTIVAL, 20 decorated Christmas trees on display, "An Andover Christmas Academy," businesses from the Andover community decorated including Andover Fire Rescue personnel, Memorial Hall Library, Andover Historical Society

listing.
LIVE HOLIDAY MUSIC, The Treble Chorus of New England Holiday concert, 7 p.m., South Church, 41 Central St., Andover. Come join as they sing "A Touch of Baroque;" treblechorus.org, Anna Choi 978.794.4600.

THE NORTH POLE EXPRESS, a magical train ride for the entire family, hosted by Saint Michael School PTO, North Andover. Trains leave from the Newburyport MBTA Train Station. Train Times: 11:35 a.m., 1:15, 3:15, 5:30 p.m.. \$20 per person; saintmichael.com, 978-686-1862. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Cor Unum Meal Center in Lawrence. Donations of new hats, mittens, scarves and sweaters (for all ages) will gladly be accepted at the train station.

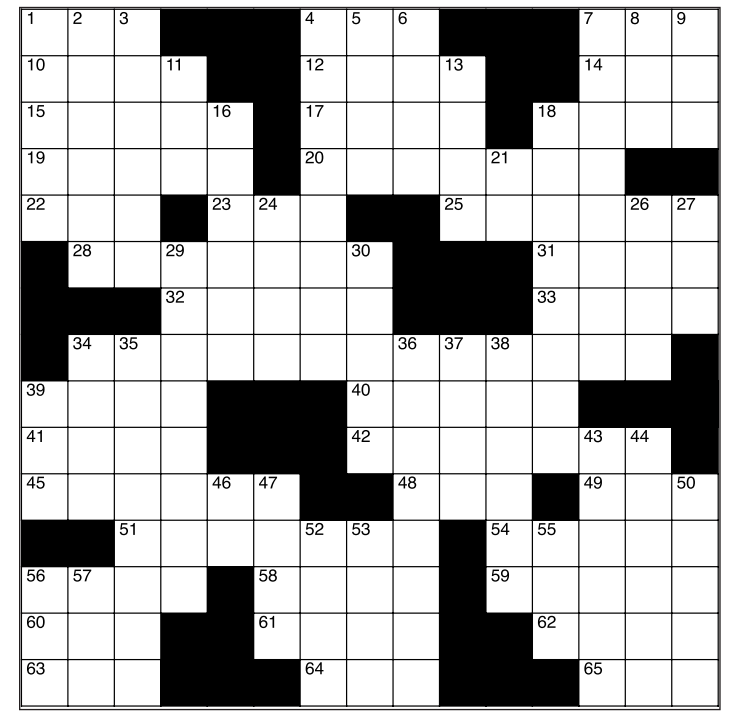
LIVE HOLIDAY SHOW, "God With Us: An Unexpected Christmas Experience," 7 p.m., Brookridge Community Church, 232 Main St., Haverhill. For both adults and children, free, but reservations needed at <http://www.brookridge.org/arts/>.

GENEALOGISTS MEETING, the Essex Society of Genealogists, featuring Judith Lucey, Assistant Archivist, NEHGS, on Highlights of the New NEHGS Website: AmericanAncestors.org, 1 p.m., Centre Congregational Church, Summer Street, Lynnfield; esog.org.

SUNDAY, DEC. 19

HOLIDAY SHOW, "God With Us: An Unexpected Christmas Experience," music, storytelling, 7 p.m., free, Brookridge Community Church, 232 Main St., Haverhill; <http://www.brookridge.org/arts/> for free ticket.

Crossword puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

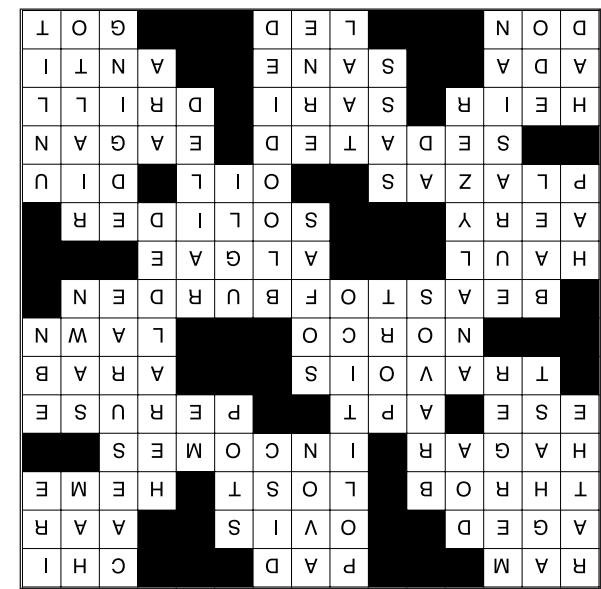
- Dodge truck model
- Launch, note or mattress
- 22nd Greek letter
- Elderly
- Sheep genus
- Swiss river
- Pulsate repeatedly
- Not gained or won
- Red organic pigment containing iron
- Mother of Ishmael
- Financial gains
- Point midway between E and SE
- Strikingly appropriate
- Examine with care
- Indian for carrying sling
- Saddle horse
- 92860
- A field of mowed grass
- Animal for heavy loads
- Transport, usually in a truck
- Protocist
- An eagle's nest
- More massive & firm
- Public squares
- Type of paint base
- Daman and ___
- India
- Anesthetized
- 55120
- A person who inherits
- Indian frock
- Training by multiple

CLUES DOWN

- Ripening early
- Struck with fear or dread
- Combination of two companies
- A person active in party politics
- River in England
- Flat circular plate
- Pause in a line of verse
- The thigh of a hog
- Wrath
- Arrived extinct
- Opposite of go
- Shouts of approval
- Hailed

- Of I
- Opposite of starboard
- Past participle of "saw"
- Point that is one point N of due E
- One who examines methodically
- Davenport
- Aegle marmelos fruit
- About Eurasia
- Stained with blood
- Tangelo fruit
- Vituperated
- Come to pass
- Outer border strip
- Island in Venice
- In the year of Our Lord
- Impertinence
- Not set afire
- Afrikaans
- European sea eagle
- Macaws
- Birthered
- Tokyo

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SCHOOL: New building overwhelming passes at Special Town Meeting

Continued from Page 1

parents previously owned. "This house has been in my family for more than 80 years, so I have some mixed emotions about its pending sale. However, I can't think of a better use for the property," Loosigian said. "If my parents were still living, they'd be delighted to know that the entire 14-acre farm, including the 3 Blanchard St. parcel, was being used for Andover youth sports."

While the initial vote for the first article wasn't clear enough to determine a majority by hand count, requiring the town to manually count the number of votes for and against the purchase, the vote for building the new Bancroft Elementary School was much more universal. When it came time to vote on the new school, an overwhelming majority of hands shot up from the crowd.

"It looked like around 90

percent of the people there were voting in the affirmative," Joe Piantedosi, acting director of Plant and Facilities, said. "I am greatly pleased by the result, and the voter confidence, we got from the town for the project."

Prior to the vote, York Street resident Donald Robb emphasized the need to replace a school that many officials have said runs the risk of being closed due to safety concerns if it isn't taken care of soon.

"We now have a plan that seems to make sense for eliminating those problems," Robb said. "We also have a plan that will eliminate the need for sending all those 600 children to other schools for a period of time while we do something with a defective building."

These plans informed his vote, Robb said.

"At some point, the state is going to require us, for safety reasons, to close that relic,"

Robb said. "What I think we're faced with right now is: A, this is the right time; B, this is the right plan; and C, this is the right thing to do for the children of Andover."

West Knoll Road resident Hammond Barnes, who was opposed to the project, called for residents to look into the project before the second step in approving Bancroft takes place.

"An affirmative vote tonight will bring us to the ballot box in January," Barnes said. "I ask all of you to listen to what you've heard tonight, and I've also ask you to research and understand what we are about to undertake."

"We are about to undertake building the largest elementary school, newly built, that the MSBA has approved since 2009," Barnes continued. "By all measurements — enrollment, square footage, cost per square footage, both project and construction

— this is the most expensive and the largest (school). Do not take these decisions lightly."

The topic of Bancroft's debt exclusion vote — a vote to raise the level of taxing done by the town to finance specific projects — has left some thinking that, while the town approved Bancroft at the Special Town Meeting, a no-vote on the debt exclusion will kill the project.

As Town Manager Buzz Stacpzynski said, the town needs the vote to finance the new school.

"(Not passing the vote) would force us to go back to the drawing board," Stacpzynski said. "We need the debt exemption vote."

Although ballot votes to override Proposition 2 1/2 are usually more difficult than Town Meeting votes, Piantedosi indicated he isn't concerned about losing the vote in January. *The town will hold the debt-exclusion vote*

on Jan. 25 at the Andover High School Field House from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

"If you look at the number of people who showed up on Monday night, when a pretty demanding Patriots game was on television, with over 800 showing up to support it, it shows a lot that there is a lot of interest in making this project happen," Piantedosi said.

Even with the final vote still ahead, work on starting the new Bancroft project has already begun. This week, officials are beginning to lay the ground work for the project, according

to Piantedosi.

"We are going forward anyway, so we don't lose time, but the contracts will not be signed before the construction is approved (by the debt exclusion vote)," Piantedosi said.

At Special Town Meeting, town residents voted in support of all four warrant articles on the table, which included applying for and accepting a state grant to help pay for land at Foster's Pond, and granting an easement for property at Bancroft from the Board of Selectmen to the School Committee.



ALLEGRA BOVERMAN/Staff photo

A plan for a new Bancroft Elementary School building easily received the two-thirds majority it need to pass Special Town Meeting, held at Andover High School on Monday evening. The new-school plan must also be approved at the ballot box, which is typically a tougher challenge.

What comes next for Bancroft?

Now that the town has passed a new Bancroft Elementary School through Special Town Meeting, all that remains for the town is a debt exclusion vote in January.

From there, if the town approves the debt exclusion, the following steps will be taken to build the school, according to Annie Gilbert, School Committee member:

Winter 2011: The project would enter design development, contracts relating to the design and construction of the project would

be signed and other pre-work items that must be completed would be taken care of.

June 2011: At the end of the academic year, early site work would begin. This work includes the creating the project's staging and construction area on the north side of the property and an extension south to West Knoll Road. Due to the staging area, the soccer field at Bancroft Elementary would go offline at this time.

Summer 2011: Once that process is completed, an estimated two

years of construction would begin.

Fall 2013: The building would open for the beginning of the school year, if all goes according to plan.

Fall 2013-Spring 2014: Once the new building opens, the existing Bancroft Elementary School will be demolished over the following six to nine months, with that process completed by the spring of 2014.

2013-2014: The larger, new elementary school building probably will carry only its current

population for its first academic year, because limited outdoor space would prevent redistricting of Andover's elementary school students until the 2014-2015 academic year.

Fall 2014: Officials have talked about the Shawsheen School's K-2 population moving to Bancroft and student populations in High Plain, Sanborn, South and West elementary schools being redistricted to address congestion issues in classrooms throughout the town.

Andover Little League Baseball Spring Registration 2011



Little League is available to girls and boys who will be between the ages of 6 and 18 (K-12th grade) on April 30, 2011

Walk-in registration for the Spring 2011 Little League season will take place at **South Church** (41 Central St.) in Fellowship Hall on the following dates and times:

Saturday, December 18, 2010

from 9:00 am to 11:00 am

Saturday, January 22, 2011

from 9:00 am to 11:00 am

If this is your child's first year in Andover Little League, please bring a copy of his or her birth certificate as this is required to register your child.

Registration is also available online at
www.andoverlitttleleague.com

Registrations received after February 27, 2010 will be assessed a \$35.00 late fee.

Mandatory Tryouts/Evaluations for the Major, Junior, and Senior Leagues will take place in March. Dates and times are posted on the website.

Registration questions can be sent to
ALLRegistrar@gmail.com

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added convenience, you can call ahead for take-out service, and delivery is available anywhere in Andover for only \$2.00, with no minimum order required.

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Manager David Kiu says that they are happy to fill special requests for extra spicy dishes, orders without MSG, and vegetarian entrees. They are skilled at preparing and delivering meals for large or small groups. Surprise your colleagues at the next office meeting with something out of the ordinary or give your guests a special treat at your next party.

Peking Garden offers 10 different combination meals throughout the day. Lunch specials are served between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

Peking Garden is located at 36-36A Park St. in downtown Andover. They are open seven days a week: Mon.-Tues. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. and Wed. - Sun. 11 a.m. - 1 a.m. Telephone: 978-749-9919 and 749-9922. You may fax an order or request a menu by fax: 978-749-9958.

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Obituaries

Harold M. Aznoian, 79



Harold M. Aznoian, 79, of Andover, passed away peacefully on Monday, Dec. 6, 2010.

He was the beloved husband of Marlene (Nazarian) Aznoian and the son of the late Peter and Sarah Aznoian. Raised in Methuen, Harold graduated from Searles High School, served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War, and received a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry from Northeastern University. During his career he worked as a chemist for CBS Corp. AVCO, Raytheon, Stone & Webster, and the city of Lawrence. He was an accomplished musician, playing the drums for several American and Middle Eastern bands. Harold was also a small business owner, managing real estate in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. His greatest accomplishment and joy in life was spending time with his family during the summertime at Seabrook Beach.

Harold is survived by his wife, Marlene Aznoian. He also leaves behind his children, Harold M. Aznoian Jr. and wife Karen of North Andover, Shari Wilson and husband Jack of Andover, Peter Aznoian of Andover, Stephanie Aznoian of Andover; his sister, Alyce Aznoian; five grandchildren, Nathan and Noah Aznoian, Garrison, Kaleigh, Jillian Wilson; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother, Nicholas Aznoian and his sister, Marguerite Gogjian.

ARRANGEMENTS: Family and friends were invited to call on Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2010 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Cataudella Funeral Home, 126 Pleasant Valley St., Methuen. A funeral service will be held on Thursday, Dec. 9, 2010 at the Cataudella Funeral Home at 11 a.m. Burial will be private. Donations may be made to St. Vartanantz Armenian Church, 180 Old Westford Road, Chelmsford, MA 01824 or to St. Gregory Armenian Church, 150 Main St., North Andover, MA 01845. For directions and online condolences please visit www.cataudellafh.com.

Donald E. Marcoux, 63



Donald E. Marcoux, 63, a resident of Andover, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 2, 2010 at his residence.

Born in Lawrence, Donald was educated in the local schools. He had worked for 18 years at Dolce's Restaurant on Common Street in Lawrence, and worked for the Lawrence General Hospital for five years. Donald then went on to work for the Pike School and worked at Univex in Salem, N.H. He had worked at C.L.A.S.S., Inc. for the last few years of his life.

Donald was a member of the Fidelity House Social Club and also bowled for the club. He was a member of the Lawrence Lodge of Elks, B.P.O.E. 65, and was a former attendant of St. Robert Bellarmine Church in Andover. Donald was a current parishioner of St. Michael's Church in

North Andover.

The son of the late Ernest D. Marcoux, members of Donald's family include: his mother, Bertha C. (Stone) Marcoux of Andover; a brother, Jeffrey A. Marcoux of East Hampstead, N.H.; a sister, Mrs. Robert (Nancy C.) Nunnery of Houston; an uncle, Francis R. Stone of Lowell; two nephews, Jeffrey L. Marcoux and Lance Nunnery; a niece, Allison Marcoux, and a step-niece, Leean Nunnery; as well as several cousins and many very supportive neighbors and friends.

ARRANGEMENTS: A funeral Mass was celebrated on Monday, Dec. 6, 2010 at 10 a.m. in St. Michael's Church in North Andover. Burial followed in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, also in North Andover. Family and friends called on Sunday, Dec. 5, 2010 at the John Breen Memorial Funeral Home, Inc., 35 Merrimack St., North Andover. Memorial contributions may be made to Class Inc., 1 Parker St., Lawrence MA 01843. To send an online condolence or for more information, please go to www.breenfuneralhome.com.

Helen M. Bixby, 88



Helen M. (Murphy) Bixby, 88, of Andover, died Saturday, Dec. 4, 2010 at The Wingate of Andover.

Helen was born on Feb. 15, 1922 in Lawrence, to the late Francis and Ellen (Donovan) Murphy. She was a graduate of North Andover High School, Class of 1939 and also graduated from the Mary Brooks School of Business in Boston.

Helen was employed as a Service Coordinator in Human Services for the Department of Defense for 20 years until her retirement.

She was a member of the United States Airforce Officer's Wives

Club, the Women's Auxiliary Corps during World War II, as well as The Junior Philomatheia Club of Boston College.

The widow of the late Lt. Col. Kenneth E. Bixby Jr., Helen is survived by her daughter, Susan B. Walsh and her husband Peter of Andover; as well as her two granddaughters, Kelly and Kathleen Walsh, also of Andover.

ARRANGEMENTS: A funeral Mass was offered on Tuesday, Dec. 7 at St. Augustine's Church in Andover. Burial followed in Spring Grove Cemetery, also in Andover. Family and friends called on Monday, Dec. 6 at the Conte Funeral Home, 28 Florence St., Andover. To offer online condolences please visit www.confeterialhomes.com.

Harry E. Hoyt, 88



Mr. Harry E. Hoyt, 88, of Andover, died Thursday, Dec. 2, 2010 at Lawrence General Hospital.

Born and raised in Lawrence, son of the late Carl P. and Marie (Foucher) Hoyt, he attended Lawrence public schools and Lawrence High School.

Mr. Hoyt served in the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps during World War II, and was a recipient of the Good Conduct Medal, The World War II Victory Medal, The Asiatic Pacific Theater Campaign Ribbon with Bronze Service Arrowhead, and The Philippine Liberation Ribbon with 1 Bronze Service Star.

Employed as a materials handler for Tyre Industries for 25 years before retiring, he was also formerly employed at Weiner's Furniture in Lawrence.

Mr. Hoyt enjoyed woodworking and furniture building and reading.

He is survived by his wife, M. Cecile (Boucher) Hoyt; brothers, Varnum Hoyt of Salem, N.H., Porter Hoyt of Montana, and Armand Dallaire of Salem, N.H.; a sister, Shirley Harbinson of Kingston, N.H.; and several nieces and nephews.

ARRANGEMENTS: His service was on Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2010, in Brookside Chapel & Funeral Home, 116 Main St., Route 121A, Plaistow, N.H. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations to Sad Cafe, P.O. Box 1051, Plaistow, N.H.

Joanne Lindmark, 54



Joanne (Jenkins) Lindmark, 54, of Andover, died Saturday, Dec. 4, 2010 at Sawtelle Hospice House in Reading after a four year battle with ovarian cancer.

Joanne was born in Atlanta, on Aug. 25, 1956. Her family roots in Georgia and North Carolina date back to the 1700s, where King George issued land grants to her family tree. More recently she was raised as an IBM upper New York family where she skied weekends and camped on the great lakes of Canada during the summers. Joanne was a graduate of the University of New Hampshire earning her BS in Mathematics and also a graduate of the University of Massachusetts with her Masters in Mathematics and then she received her MBA from Boston University. She was a member of St. Augustine's Church in Andover. After raising her three children Joanne worked as a teacher at the Doherty Middle School in Andover where she also assisted in after school programs inspiring and assisting students to develop math skills. Joanne was a devoted mother, wife and mentor to her students.

She enjoyed jogging, skiing, Sudoku, and music; as well as

watching her children participate in their chosen sports.

Joanne had a warm Southern charm and was friendly and loved by all. She made many friends within the schools district with teachers, parents and students. She was also employed as a Software Analyst at Verizon for more the 12 years.

She is survived by her husband, Paul Lindmark of Andover; her son, William Lindmark of Boston; her daughters, Rachel Lindmark of Greenwich, Conn., and Rebecca Lindmark of Andover. Joanne is also survived by her mother, Maybell (Reeves) Park of Jessup, Ga.; as well as her sisters, Lucy Jenkins of Salt Lake City, Barbara Jenkins of Flagstaff, Ariz., and Julie Jenkins of San Antonio. She was predeceased by her father, Robert Jenkins.

ARRANGEMENTS: A funeral Mass will be offered on Saturday, Dec. 11 at 10 a.m. at St. Augustine's Church in Andover. A private committal service will take place at a later date. Family and friends may call on Friday, Dec. 10 from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Conte Funeral Home, 28 Florence St., Andover. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to MGH Cancer Center Charity, Yawkey Center, 7B, Boston, MA 02114 or to Merrimack Valley Hospice, 360 Merrimack St., Lawrence, MA 01843. For directions or to offer online condolences please visit www.confeterialhomes.com.

Nancy Burns McArdle, 90



Nancy Burns McArdle, a long-time resident of Andover, died peacefully at her home of 54 years on Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2010. She was 90-years-old and was the beloved

wife of the late Dr. John J. McArdle, Jr.

Born in Andover on June 5, 1920, she was the daughter of the late David and Florence (Soutar) Burns. Nancy was educated at St. Augustine's Parochial School in Andover and at Abbot Academy, which is now part of Phillips Academy Andover. She then enrolled at Smith College and she graduated with a degree in biology. After Smith, she attended the Prince Program in Retail Management at Simmons College. Her studies were cut short when she was offered a job in the retail training program at Bamberger's (owned by Macy's) in New York City. She lived in New York City from 1943 until she married in 1946. She and her husband returned to Andover in 1947 when Dr. McArdle opened his medical practice and they started their family.

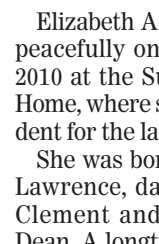
In addition to being a wife and mother, Nancy also was active and generous in her volunteer work. She was a member of the Lawrence General Hospital Auxiliary and became its President. From there she was asked to join the

Ladies Committee at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, where she served a term as its Chairman. When Nancy volunteered, she did so wholeheartedly. She loved meeting and working with people and addressing new challenges.

She will be sorely missed by her loving children, Nancy Schofield Worthen and her husband Frederic P. Worthen Jr. of Newnan, Ga., John J. McArdle III and his wife Joan Creamer McArdle of Reading, Susan McArdle and her husband David Koelle, M.D. of Seattle, and Peter S. McArdle and his wife Cynthia Lee McArdle of North Hampton, N.H. She is also survived by three grandchildren, Frederic P. Worthen III, Sarah Worthen Harter, and Samson J. Koelle; two great-grandchildren, Isabel Harter and John B. Harter II; her sister-in-law, Janet Young Burns; and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her sister, Florence Burns Bowen and her brother, David Burns, Jr.

ARRANGEMENTS: A funeral Mass was held on Friday, Dec. 3, 2010 at St. Augustine's Church, Andover, with interment at Spring Grove Cemetery in Andover. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Nancy's memory to Schepens Eye Research Institute, 20 Staniford St., Boston, MA 02114. Funeral arrangements were under the direction of the Kenneth H. Pollard Funeral Home, 233 Lawrence St., Methuen. To send online condolences, please visit www.pollardfuneralhome.com.

Elizabeth A. Melnikas, 90



Elizabeth A. Melnikas, 90, died peacefully on Thursday, Dec. 2, 2010 at the Sutton Hill Nursing Home, where she had been a resident for the last several years.

She was born Aug. 30, 1920, in Lawrence, daughter of the late Clement and Julia (Donahue) Dean. A longtime resident of the Town of North Andover, she was married to Andrew J. Melnikas for 62 years. Andrew predeceased her in 2002.

Elizabeth's life was always centered around her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She enjoyed surprise visits and get-togethers at the holidays, and was especially proud of her son, Andrew, who recently became the Fire Chief of North Andover. Her hobbies were gardening, taking long motorcycle rides with her husband, and taking care of her many pets.

She is survived in this life by her brother, Edwin and his wife Mary Dean of Andover; brother-

in-law, Vito Melnikas of North Andover; sister-in-law, Monica Dean of Pomfret, Conn.; sons, John and his wife Cynthia of Venice, Fla., Bruce and his wife Barbara, of Wells, Maine, and Andrew and his wife Theresa of North Andover. In addition, she leaves many grandchildren, Deb Melnikas, Bangor, Maine, Donna Melnikas, Ocala, Fla., Beth Melnikas, North Andover, Andrea Melnikas and her husband Aaron Wark, Brooklyn, N.Y., Ryan Melnikas, Medford, Jennifer Burke, Jillian Burke, and Julia Burke, all of North Andover. Also great-grandchildren, Paige Yenke and Nathan Yenke, Mililani, Hawaii, Tyler Kerns, Aidan Kerns and Ethan Rubin, all of Ocala, Fla.

ARRANGEMENTS: Those wishing to make donations in her name should do so to the North Andover Senior Center, 120 Main St., North Andover, MA 01845. To sign the family guest book, visit www.confeterialhomes.com.

John D. Sampson, 81



John "Jack" Donald Sampson, of Andover, passed away at the Lahey Clinic on Tuesday evening, Nov. 30, 2010. He was 81-years-old.

Mr. Sampson was a devoted husband, father and veteran. At the age of 17, Mr. Sampson joined the United States Marine Corps and proudly served his country with distinction in both World War II and the Korean War. He had a long and distinguished career with Bay State Gas Company, including his role as Vice President and General Manager of the former Lawrence Gas Company.

He also served his community and was an active member in many Merrimack Valley business groups, including the

Greater Lawrence Chamber of Commerce, where he held the position of President, the Lawrence Rotary Club, and the Lanam Club. Among his many interests, he enjoyed watching his grandsons play sports most.

He will be sorely missed by all, including his wife of 51 years, Lorraine (Ripley) Sampson of Andover; his brother, Lloyd Sampson; his sons, Mark Sampson of Andover, and Keith Sampson of San Francisco; and grandsons, John and William Sampson.

ARRANGEMENTS: His funeral was celebrated in St. Augustine Church, 43 Essex St., Andover, on Monday, Dec. 6, 2010. Calling hours were held in the Burke-Magliozi Funeral Home, 390 North Main St., Andover, on Sunday, Dec. 5, 2010. Interment was in the VA National Cemetery, Bourne. For additional information, please visit www.burkemagliozi.com.

John P. Sangermano, 82



John P. Sangermano, 82, of North Andover, passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2010, surrounded by

his loving family after an extraordinary battle with cancer.

He was born in Lawrence on Sept. 30, 1928 to Anna and John Sangermano. He lost his father when he was only four years old and together with his mother and siblings, he struggled to make his way in depression-era Lawrence. The Y.M.C.A. was a source of great refuge in his younger years. He became a competitive swimmer and worked many summers as a Waterfront or Athletic Director at camps around New England.

John was a proud recipient of a full scholarship to Central Catholic High School and received his B.S. degree in Pre-Med from Merrimack College in 1952 and a Master's in education from Boston University in 1957. He studied Marine Biology at Bowdoin College, Biochemistry at Brandeis University, Genetics at Salem State College, and Ecology at Boston University. John had a long and highly regarded career as a high school science teacher starting in Billerica and then Everett High School. He began teaching Biology at Masconomet Regional High School when it opened in 1961 and retired after teaching many levels of biology over 30 years. Education was paramount in his philosophy of life and he was a life-long teacher and learner. He received many academic and professional awards over his career as well as serving on numerous boards and committees. He was a key member of the Masconomet Teachers Association and was an active alumnus of both Central Catholic and Merrimack and treasured those life long relationships.

John proudly served in the United States Navy during the Korean War years and was awarded the National Defense

Medal. Having worked as a physician's assistant during his civilian life he eagerly trained in Bainbridge, Md. to become a Hospital Corpsman.

As well as being an avid Civil War buff, he was a talented wood craftsman and do-it-yourselfer and he was not intimidated by any size project. John was also famous for his "green thumb" and love of gardening. Each season, he had bountiful gardens and many prolific beds of flowers and herbs. He was famous for his apple crops and abundant produce and his hot peppers were not for the weak. A devoted husband, father and grandfather his life-centered around God and his family and the two were entwined in every facet of his life.

He is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Cecelia (Abdo) Sangermano; a daughter, Diane Carney and her husband John of North Andover; a daughter, Marie Goodwin and her husband Joseph of Browns Mills, N.J.; a daughter, Debra Kelleher and her husband Steven of Kensington, N.H.; a son, John Sangermano and his wife Bridget of Middletown, N.J.; his brother, Joseph Sangermano of Andover; his sister, Virginia Campagna of Gillette, Wyo.; a brother-in-law, Kamil Abdo and wife Mary of Methuen; seven wonderful grandchildren, Sara (Carney) Imparato and her husband Joseph, John Carney, Zachary and Brooke Kelleher, Steven, Sharon and Daniel Sangermano; and a number of nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and nephews. John was predeceased by his sister, Rose Sangermano Cahill.

ARRANGEMENTS: Donations may be made to St. Michael's Church, 196 Main St., North Andover, MA 01845 in memory of John Sangermano. Family and friends attended calling hours on Friday at the Conte Funeral Home, 17 Third St., North Andover. A funeral Mass was celebrated on Saturday in St. Michael's Church, North Andover. Burial followed at Ridgewood Cemetery in North Andover. For online condolences, please visit our website at www.confeterialhomes.com.

Watershed group relocates to Lawrence

The Merrimack River Watershed Council has relocated its offices to Belltower Square in Lawrence, after a decade on the University of Massachusetts Lowell campus.

The new office is nestled appropriately near the Merrimack River on the North Canal, at 60 Island St., Lawrence, Suite 211E. The renovated mill space features an

environmentally sensitive atmosphere conducive to the purpose of the MRWC. Additionally, several nonprofits are located in the building, which also includes event space, educational classrooms, and plenty of free parking.

Supporters and friends are invited to visit the new offices. Questions or concerns may be sent to info@merrimack.org.



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Connections

with
John G. Albert, MBA, FACHE
President and CEO

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Recently, Home Health VNA was named among the 2010 "Home Care Elite" — the top 25 percent of home health agencies across the United States that demonstrate the highest quality of care, and quality improvement scores from mandated reporting data. That recognition was quickly followed by being named a Pinnacle Award finalist by the Visiting Nurse Association of New England, which honors home care agencies with the highest levels of patient satisfaction.

To be recognized for a job well done is flattering and certainly a reason to be proud of the agency's accomplishments. To be recognized twice in as many months, both nationally and regionally, for high quality care and patient satisfaction is cause for celebration.

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Opinion

Holiday Happenings puts us in the spirit

Businesses are in business to make money, of course. But the Andover Business Center Association's Holiday Happenings did more than just attract people to stores last Friday night, Dec. 3. It helped build a bit of community.

Scores of families packed the downtown to meet Santa and Frosty the Snowman, watch the lighting of a tree outside TD Bank, listen to carolers, take horse-drawn hayrides and, yes, shop.

The event was well done and helped infuse a bit of Christmas spirit into the first week of December. If it also encouraged more people to spend their Christmas dollars in town, all the better.

Good time to slay Gerry monster

If Democratic leaders on Beacon Hill are serious about wanting to repair their tattered image, they could start by appointing an independent panel to oversee the redrawing of congressional and legislative districts next year. Final tabulations from the 2010 Census are due at the end of the month and people expect Massachusetts will lose one of its 10 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. Populations shifts are also likely to require a redrawing of state Senate and House districts. In almost half the states now, the task of redistricting is assigned to a bipartisan panel. But in others, including the Bay State, the theory remains that to the victor belongs the spoils - including the right to redraw those districts to maximize one party's chances in elections. This leads to the drawing of bizarre geographic districts, such as the 18th Essex state representative seat that includes Andover precincts 1, 7 and 8, plus precinct 2 of Boxford, precinct 2 of Georgetown; precincts 1 and 2 of ward 2, precinct 2 of ward 5, and precinct 2 of ward 7 in Haverhill; precinct 7 of Methuen, and precincts 7 and 8 of North Andover.

Extreme examples such as this - and worse - are described as gerrymandering after Marblehead's Elbridge Gerry who devised it as a means of protecting friends and fellow partisans in post-Revolutionary War Massachusetts. Though still employed today, games such as those Gerry devised are the antithesis of good government. One might also note that the 18th Essex went Republican this year.

WEB QUESTION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

If commuter train service was increased as a result of the new MBTA rail being added, which could create additional train capacity, would you use commuter trains more often?

- I already use commuter train service, and I do not think my use of it would change.
- Yes, because it is a more convenient way to travel to popular area destinations.
- Yes, because it is a cheaper alternative for traveling out of the area.
- Yes, but for other reasons.
- First, get us more commuter-rail parking.
- No, because the current transit I use is appropriate or cheaper.
- No, because I am opposed to the idea of more trains moving through the area.
- No, for other reasons.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Last week's questions was "Will you be going to the Special

Town Meeting, and why?" With 247 responses (people could select multiple options) the answers were:

- Yes, to support the Blanchard Street article: 19.84% (49 votes)
- Yes, to support the Bancroft Elementary article: 30.77% (76 votes)
- Yes, to oppose the Blanchard Street article: 6.07% (15 votes)
- Yes, to oppose the Bancroft Elementary article: 7.29% (18 votes)
- Yes, because voting at Town Meeting is my civic duty: 22.67% (56 votes)
- No, because I am not interested in participating: 2.02% (5 votes)
- No, because I am not aware of the issues on the table: 1.21% (3 votes)
- No, because I have other plans: 3.24% (8 votes)
- No, for other reasons: 6.88% (17 votes)

LETTERS POLICY

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

Mail to:
33 Chestnut St.,
Box 1986, Andover, Mass. 01810
Fax to: 978-470-2819
E-mail: Neil Fater at nfater@andovertownsmen.com. Please include the letter in the body of the e-mail, not as an attachment.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dalton's column proves Bartlett Street should have two TTs

Editor, Townsman:

I enjoyed reading Bill Dalton's compelling and detailed article in this week's Townsman. From time to time over the past 31 years that I've lived in Andover I have wondered whether or not this street name should be spelled with double Ts at the end.

When I was an elementary school student in Haverhill the curriculum highlighted William F. Bartlett. He was one of three iconic, historic figures associated with that city. The other

two legendary locals were Hannah Dustin, the brave woman who defended her family in a close contact Indian attack, and John Greenleaf Whittier, the noted abolitionist Quaker poet. Bartlett was the Civil War "Superman" for all Haverhill sixth graders. He should also be recognized in Andover for his immense courage.

Once and for all, Dalton's article should put to rest this matter of the correct provenance and spelling of Bartlett Street. I have appreciated many of his interesting and well written articles over the years.

STEVE HIRSHBERG
6 Blueberry Circle

SANTA SKATES IN



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

The annual Breakfast with Santa was held last Saturday at the Free Christian Church in Andover. The event helps raise money to support the Andover High School girls' hockey team, which is getting ready for its 10th season. Maksim Curreri, 2, plays with AHS hockey players, sophomore, Morgan Manning (middle) and freshman, Louisa "Weezie" Gross.

League of Women Voters celebrates 90 years



Andover Stories

Karen Wakeling
Andover Historical Society

The Suffragists won the right to vote in 1920. Women were finally to have a voice, but it needed to be an educated and an up-to-date voice. The Suffrage Association that had worked so hard now had a new mission and, to that end, needed a new name - The League of Women Voters of Andover.

Winifred Brigham (referred to Mrs. Frank L. Brigham in publications of the time) would be the League's first president, helping to steer the League in "promoting the success of democracy by helping the individual citizen to understand and accept responsibility for his government...The League works for governmental actions representing no special or party interest, but in the public interest."

Many of the early members of the Andover League were college-educated faculty wives from Phillips Academy. These women were very familiar with



Virginia Cole, former LWW president

the concept of study groups and paper writing, and thus in the years from 1920-1930 the League would begin using a format that would become their trademark. Study groups were started, small discussion meetings were held and public meetings with expert speakers were arranged. Members listened, they argued, they learned, sought more information and became prepared to cast their educated vote.

The study groups or research groups would be the heart of the process. Members, then and now, work hard to understand legislation, raise questions and participate in town matters. Many topics have been researched over the years. In

the beginning studies were on issues close to the members: child labor laws, women's prison reform, education and environmental concerns. In the 1920s, the League was instrumental in town zoning, public kindergarten, libraries in the schools and formulating the town charter.

The town charter failed the first time it went to vote, but the League women were determined. Members knocked on doors and went to people's living rooms to explain the need and the provisions in the charter. At the next election, the charter passed. The League has always taken credit (or blame) for this success.

In 1933, 150 members attended the Annual Meeting where regulation of public utilities and unemployment were on the program. The 1930s also saw the discussion of the 'Town Meeting Warrant.' These warrant meetings were held at the Puncard High School and were open to the public. In 1936 there were extensive meetings to discuss the junior high school format - the addition of home economics, shop, art and music classes. There were discussions about why the public was not allowed at School Committee meetings and whether married women should be hired as teachers.

The League's study topics

have grown over the years, with members concerning themselves with more than just local topics. During wartime, foreign affairs, government and its operations, and immigration would be added to the list. Every decade of Andover's history had new concerns to be reviewed.

The 1950s saw welfare and penal reform, the 1960s concern was for open space and special education, the 1970s the Central Business District, and the 1980s studied parking and traffic, emergency medical services and the town's master plan. From the 1990s to the present, members have studied such topics as recycling, youth services, affordable housing, pay-as-you throw trash collection, domestic violence and the workload of the appointed boards. The topics are broad and never ending - creating enough work for the League of Women Voters to have stayed in "business" for 90 years. As Virginia Cole (LWW of Andover president, 1957-59, 1992-94) said in February 1999, "The work of educating voters and getting them to vote is as important as it was in the beginning. The League cannot stop for a minute."

"Andover Stories" is a weekly column about interesting local people and events, told in anticipation of the Andover Historical Society's 100 anniversary in 2011.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Questions remain on 'new Bancroft'

Editor, Townsman:

The Special Town Meeting rewarded the School Building Committee's commendable efforts to procure significant State funding for the new Bancroft Elementary School with approval to proceed. The committee made the point that the present design is a step toward the final design. The "Five School" versus six elementary schools decision was accepted without question. Nor was there significant discussion in response to questions related to design and cost. The committee's initial planning and presentation were commendable.

The construction of a three-story building at the Bancroft site or any residential Andover neighborhood would not be fair to abutters. It can be avoided by locating the gym underground. There are additional facilities that do not require windows that could also be located in basement areas. By doing so one or two stories of space of the gym will be available and end the need for a third story.

As complete as the committee's report appeared regarding the Bancroft School there remain major questions regarding future plans and costs that should be addressed:

- What is the expected life of the South, Sanborn and West school buildings?
- What is the potential for increasing the number of classrooms at each of four other

elementary sites?

- What are the expected elementary school population growth by school district?
- What is the effect on bussing costs of, the planned Bancroft School and, alternative additions at the four remaining elementary schools?

NORMAN VIEHMANN
16 Martingale Lane

Near accident gives mother pause

Editor, Townsman:

This is a note to the mom of the girl who ran out between cars on School Street at the pick up point for St. Augustine's School a few Thursdays ago.

I almost hit your daughter. Again, I almost hit your daughter! I've skidded on ice and have not known where I would end up, but this is the first time I've looked someone in the eyes *right in front of me* who was fortunately skedaddling backwards up the street but not out of the lane. Thankfully she didn't freeze, or she would have hit the hood of my car, and you and I would forever be connected so negatively.

Funny thing, I was on the way to pick up my own daughter at Doherty Middle.

I'm writing because my 17-year-old son who was in the car, and is on his way to getting his license, said after our episode, he will wait awhile before continuing. We were so shaken.

The message here is: new and old drivers, beware. New and

old pedestrians: always look twice, and in this case, at least look. Always engage the eyes of a driver when crossing against them to see if they see you.

My harrowing experience kept me up that night wondering about if my brakes hadn't held, and all the bad possibilities. That's why I'm writing in, because on a normal suburban street, we may have had a tragedy.

CHARLOTTE LYONS
4 Seten Circle

Land conservation defines Andover

Editor, Townsman:

We are indeed fortunate to have the scholastic, economic and historic benefits to which a recent letter writer referred ("Top 10 reasons to live in Andover," Nov. 25), but there are even more items worthy of note: Andover's rich natural resources and the ongoing land conservation efforts to preserve and maintain them.

A true measure of the livability of an area is the wealth of natural resources available. Any quick trip through Andover or casual glance at a town map quickly provides ample evidence of our diverse, accessible and protected outdoor assets. We regularly host many out-of-town guests who quickly ask about the abundant brown and gold signs that read "AVIS." We explain that the Andover Village Improvement Society (founded 1894) is not only one of the country's oldest land conservation groups, but one of the most successful ones

as well. What's even more impressive is that AVIS is just one of several groups helping to preserve Andover's natural beauty for perpetual use. The Andover Conservation Commission and the Andover Trails Committee help to ensure the pristine and natural state of our town. The Trustees of Reservations manage impressive Holt Hill within the Ward Reservation, and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation take care of beautiful Harold Parker State Forest.

Important too are our many citizens including such wonderful people as Jack Brady of Shawsheen River Watershed Association, Alan French of the Bay Circuit Alliance, and those numerous individuals who've donated land and time to groups such as AVIS over the past century. Our town would not be what it is today without them.

When an area rich in natural resources is combined with over 100 years of active advocacy, the rewards are self-evident and the quality of life for all residents is enhanced. For those of you who may not be familiar with what Andover has to offer, please check out all of the organizations we referred to above. More importantly, though, you can enjoy many of these resources any time of year. You may be even surprised to find that many of them are only steps away from your back door.

ROB & LAURA CIAMPA
53 Pine St.

Andover Townsman

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Ballardvale Tree Lighting an old-fashioned affair, Dec. 12

The annual tree lighting on the BallardVale Green will be held on Sunday, Dec. 12 at 5 p.m. Local residents are invited to join with neighbors and friends for some holiday fun and singing. As always, Christmas carols and holiday songs will be sung by candlelight, and hot chocolate and

treats will be provided by neighbors and the BallardVale Historic District Commission.

Guests are encouraged by organizers to "dress warmly and bring your singing voices and holiday spirit. Dogs are welcome, but please bring them on a leash."

TOWN TALK

Hello, it's Santa!

Some 96 youngsters in town will get a surprise call from Santa tonight, Thursday. Enterprise Bank opens its doors to 10 couples from town who operate the phone connections. Once connected, Mrs. Claus asks for the child, then turns the phone over to Santa.

Department of Community Services handled the sign-ups for families with kids ages 3-8.

— Judy Wakefield

Still vacant

With Special Town Meeting now behind the town, no replacement for former Finance Committee member Steve Stapinski has been named. Town Moderator Sheila Doherty appoints members to the nine-person board and said she is still "listening and talking with" several interested candidates.

"There is a lot of talent in Andover and many qualified people want to give back," she said.

Stapinski, who owns Merrinack Valley Engineering in

Andover, resigned Oct. 30 after Doherty asked him to. He's had a series of recent business and legal problems in Lawrence. Doherty suggested he take some time off to clear his name and he did.

— Judy Wakefield

I-93 widening project

State officials are considering widening Interstate 93 from around exit 41 — the Route 125 interchange in Andover — all the way to exit 47, located in Methuen.

According to a "Notice of Project Change" filed with the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs at the end of November, already-existing plans to widen I-93 because of existing Lowell Junction Interchange plans have now been extended to the New Hampshire line.

This would effectively replace the capacity to travel in the breakdown lane along this stretch of highway once the highway goes from three to four lanes, according to the document. To generate the space,

the program may use existing space in the median between the north-bound and south-bound sides of I-93 if it comes to fruition, the document said.

The Notice of Project Change document also lists the project as now going under a different name: The "I-93 Safety Improvements and Tri-Town Interchange Project." Methuen has joined Andover, Tewksbury and Wilmington as municipalities affected by the project.

— Dustin Luca

North Pole diet

Wondering how Andover Selectman Brian Major dropped 50 pounds since last Christmas?

"Weight Watchers and I go to the Y every day," said Major, who is rarely seen with Santa during Holiday Happenings.

He had to double up his pillow stomach for last weekend's Holiday Happenings event. But, he sounded thrilled about that.

"I just had to do it," he said, smiling.

— Judy Wakefield



CARL RUSSO/Staff photos

The hockey team gathers around Santa Claus for a photo.

Breakfast with Santa

The annual Breakfast with Santa was held last Saturday at the Free Christian Church on Elm Street. The event is held to help raise funds to support the Andover High School girls hockey team, which is getting ready for its 10th season.

Free games are provided for children, and pictures with Santa raise money to pay for the girls hockey team's equipment and other expenses.



Ben Adelaide, 6, of Andover, carefully thinks about what gifts he would like Santa to bring him for Christmas.



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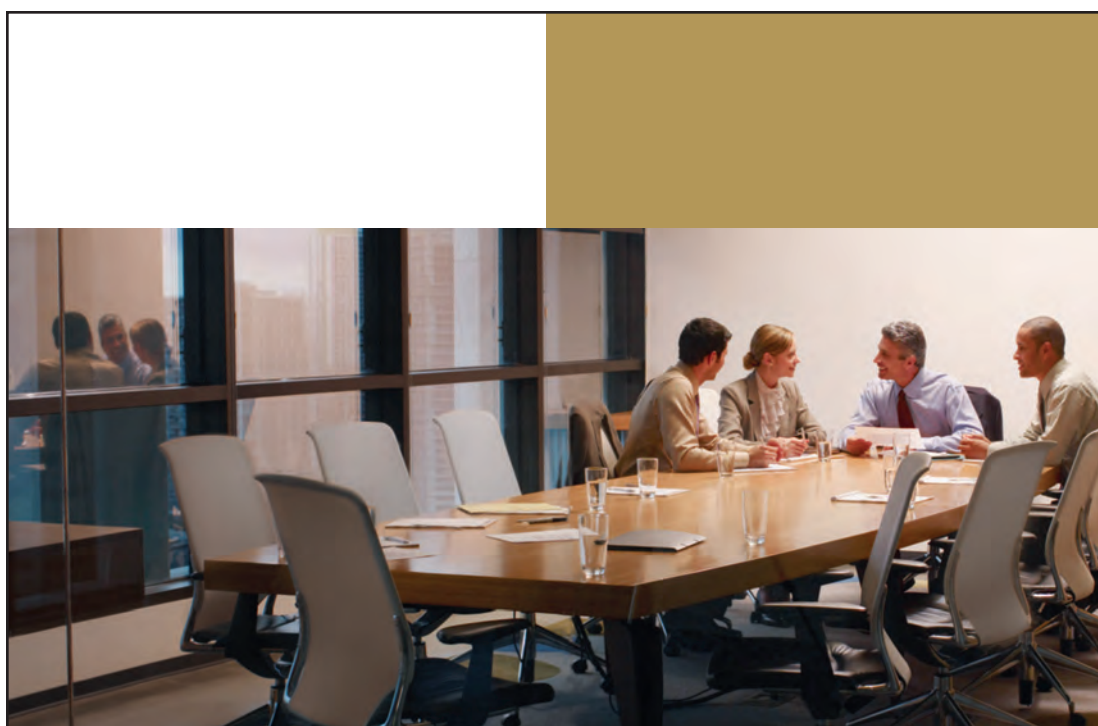
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GIFT GUIDE

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS ATTRACTS CROWDS

The growing downtown tradition of Holiday Happenings brought out thousands of people to Main Street last weekend, according to the Andover Business Center Association.

Main Street was closed from Elm to Punchard streets last Friday, Dec. 3, from 5-9 p.m., to make way for the festivities, which included two horse-drawn wagons that attracted many. Carolers and musicians performed on street corners as shoppers visited businesses. Children were able to say hello to costumed snowmen and



Andover Business Center Association held its annual Holiday Happenings event on Friday night. Main Street was closed from Elm to Punchard streets to make way for Santa, carolers, hayrides and the lighting of a Christmas tree. Krochmal Farms in Tewksbury provided hayrides up and down Main Street using four Percheron draft horses and two wagons.

elves.

Captains from Andover High School's championship football and field hockey teams flipped the

switch around 6:30 p.m. to light the official town Christmas tree, located outside TD Bank.

Please see **HAPPENINGS**, Page 13



Special guests on hand to help Santa light the Christmas tree were the captains of the Andover High football team and the state champion field hockey team. From left: Football captains Connor Clancy, Lyle Baker and Ned Deane; field hockey captains Jillian Manning, Laura Cahill and Laura Dimitruk.



The Andover Business Center Association held its annual Holiday Happenings event on Friday night, and hundreds flocked to Main Street, which was closed in the heart of the downtown for the event.

CARL RUSSO/Staff photos



Two-year-old Andover twins Nate and Zoe Heinen wave their colorful glow sticks while waiting for Santa to arrive. The sword-shaped items were a favorite among the younger set.



A number of stores stayed open late and had a good amount of traffic from people attending the event. Some stores also provided refreshments for customers. Here, shoppers visit the General Goods store on Main Street, near where people lined up to board the horse-drawn hayrides.



Santa talks to David Bickel of Andover and his son, Caden, 4, following the lighting of the downtown Christmas Tree outside TD Bank at the annual Holiday Happenings event on Friday night, Dec. 3.



The Andrews family of Andover - Steve and Lisa and their daughter, Jessica, 7 - are dressed for the occasion, wearing Santa hats as they sing Christmas carols with the Free Christian Church choir.

Slew of 'Christmas Academy' programs at Historical Society

An unusual exhibit of "history inspired" trees provides the backdrop for a month of holiday programming at the Andover Historical Society.

"An Andover Christmas Academy" has at its heart a special exhibition of 20 decorated Christmas trees, each of which was inspired by an object or series of historical objects from the society's collections and decorated by individuals, groups, and businesses from the Andover community including Andover Fire Rescue Personnel, Memorial Hall Library, Andover Historical Society Volunteer Guild, Wingate at Andover, Girl Scouts Shawshen Service Unit, Marland Place and Cub Scout Pack 79.

"Not Just Reading, Writing, and 'Rithmetic," this year's exhibit, highlights the other side of education in Andover. Visitors

can explore the exhibit as they progress hourly through different classes, school festivities, clubs, and extracurricular activities with trees decorated with the following themes, such as:

- Morning Farming Chores - see an apple picker and fruit press
- Home Economics Classes - examine an 1870s sewing machine
- Lunch Hour - reminisce about the plastic trays and long lines
- Girl Scout and Cub Scout Meetings - compare uniforms from the 20th century
- Band Practice - imagine the sounds made by the instruments
- Senior Prom - picture yourself getting ready for the big

Please see **ACADEMY**, Page 12

Fresh take for NECB's 15th year dancing Nutcracker



Andover residents performing in the New England Civic Ballet's Nutcracker on Dec. 10 to 12 at the Rogers Center are, front row: Erica Nork, Elaina Ventre, Grace Conway; and back row: EB McCarthy. Missing from the photo is Courtney Naughton. NECB is a non-profit dance company with a school component that prides itself on holding open auditions to seek out talented dancers from many different studios.

For 15 years, New England Civic Ballet has been performing its popular production of Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" to sold-out crowds at the Rogers Center for the Performing Arts at Merrimack College. In celebration, NECB is mounting its anniversary production with new costumes, new choreography, and many new cast members who are set to take the stage and delight the audience once again.

Over 80 dancers, hailing from

■ Many local dancers star in Nutcracker performances. Stories, photos on page 12.

various dance studios throughout the area, have rehearsed their roles and choreography under Phyllis George and Roshni Pecora, the NECB Company and School Directors, respectively.

Performances will take place

Please see **NUTCRACKER**, Page 12

'NUTCRACKER' IN A NUTSHELL

The Nutcracker Ballet follows young Clara who, after her family's holiday party, dreams that the Nutcracker doll she received from her mysterious Uncle Drosselmeyer comes to life as a valiant Cavalier who saves her from mischievous mice. She reciprocates by rescuing him from the Mouse Queen and they travel through an enchanted snow forest to meet the Sugarplum Fairy at the Palace of Sweets. Clara is entertained by dancers representing delights from throughout the world and awakens back in her home with her beloved Nutcracker doll. Was it a dream or was it real?

ACADEMY

Continued from Page 11

night
The history-inspired trees were viewed by over 2,000 people during the past two years. The trees will be on display until Dec. 22 and can be viewed during all of the Andover Christmas Academy programs.

In addition to visiting the trees, the historical society says "Andover residents are invited to add their own stories to our display by bringing a family holiday photo and telling us the story behind the picture. The Andover Historical Society will add the photographs or digital copies and the stories to our collection, allowing us to continue preserving the stories of Andover."

For more information about events and to purchase tickets, visit the Andover Historical Society online at andoverhistorical.org/holiday.

For further information about the historical society, call 978-475-2236 or visit andoverhistorical.org.

SEASONAL SELECTIONS

The calendar of events for "An Andover Christmas Academy," a series of programs offered by the Andover Historical Society, 97 Main St., includes:

TEDDY BEAR TEA PARTIES

■ Thursday, Dec. 9, 10 to 11 a.m.
■ Sunday, Dec. 12, 1 to 2 p.m.
\$10 children, \$7 per accompanying adult programs.

COLONIAL AFTERNOON TEA

■ Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2 to 4 p.m.
\$30 per person

SAMANTHA AMERICAN GIRL TEA

■ Thursday, Dec. 16, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
\$20 children, \$15 per accompanying adult

BEHIND THE SCENES TOURS

■ Friday, Dec. 10, 1 to 2 p.m.
■ Friday, Dec. 17, 1 to 2 p.m.
Free admission

SATURDAY CRAFTS

■ Saturday, Dec. 11, 1 to 2 p.m.
Make a Christmas craft
■ Saturday, Dec. 18, 1 to 2 p.m.
Make a Christmas craft

PAJAMA STORY WITH SANTA

■ Wednesday, Dec. 22, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
\$6 children, recommended ages 3-6

You better not pout, holiday stress relief coming to town

ANDOVER SENIOR CENTER STAFF

During the holiday season, there are so many things to do, places to go and people to see, stress levels often go up while enjoyment levels plummet. This month the Andover Senior Center hopes to help change that with its "Season of Feeling Good" programs coming to town, Thursday, Dec. 9 through Tuesday, Dec. 21.

These programs are offered to help residents replace stress with joy and make the most of the holidays by learning to negotiate and communicate more persuasively, sleep better, even manage pain and cope with loss more effectively.

Program Schedule

Negotiations 101: Today, Thursday, Dec. 9, 1:30 p.m., cost is \$3. Your ability to negotiate, communicate, influence, and persuade is absolutely indispensable to everything you accomplish in life. Learn the top 10 negotiating techniques and 15 rules for a successful negotiation. Pre-register.

Coping With the Holidays: Friday, Dec. 10 at 9 a.m. Strategies and support given for those coping with the loss of a loved one during the holiday season. On-going grief support group meets monthly, fourth Thursday at 1:30 p.m. Pre-register, free

Ouch - Chronic Pain: Thursday, Dec. 16, 1:30 p.m., cost is \$3. Meditation and relaxation techniques taught to immediately start to improve your life. On-going pain-management support group meets third Monday of each month at 1:30 p.m. Pre-register.

Say 'Goodnight' to Insomnia: Tuesday, Dec. 21, 9:30 a.m., cost is \$3. Sleep better and feel better after this two-hour experiential technique-based workshop. Pre-register.

Also, all exercise classes are free the first time, and all Andover residents are invited. Call the Andover Senior Center for information: 978-623-8321 or visit andoverseiorcenter.org.

Dance Prism at Collins Center Dec. 18, 19

Dance Prism has begun its 28th season of the Nutcracker and its tour of the greater Boston area will come to Andover on Dec. 18 and 19. Andover performances are Saturday, Dec. 18, at 2:30 and 6:30 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 19, at 2:30 p.m. at the Collins Center

for the Performing Arts, on the right hand side of Andover High School, 80 Shawsheen Road.

Tickets are priced at \$16 for children and seniors, \$22 for adults, with group discounts. Order tickets online at danceprism.com or call 978-371-1038.

Andover dancers enhance Nutcracker shows

Fifteen 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 talented and dedicated students rehearse their Nutcracker roles, as well as continuing their usual schedule of dance classes at The Andover School of Ballet," according to a release from the school. "To be cast in these productions, each dancer went through an audition and then anxiously waited to hear if they were chosen for a role. Now, these gifted dancers 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."

■ **Sophie Colby**, age 6, performed as a Reindeer in the Albany Berkshire Ballet production at the Collins Center for the Arts at Andover High School on Dec. 4.

■ **Emily Hitchcock, Sharlow Hitchcock and Abigail Jankowski** all will perform in the Boston Dance Company production at the Collins Center for the Arts at Andover High School on Dec. 12 and 13. They will also be in performances at the Strand Theatre in Dorchester and at Bridgewater State College.

Emily and Sharlow, both age 13, will both perform as a Chinese Dancer, an Angel and a Candy Cane.

Abigail Jankowski, age 8, will perform as a Soldier.

■ Eleven young Andover residents will be part of the Dance Prism production at the Collins Center for the Arts at Andover High School on Dec. 18 and 19. In this production, the students



Andover School of Ballet dancers in Nutcracker performances are, back row, from left: Erin Walsh, Emily Hitchcock, Sharlow Hitchcock and Julia Jennings; middle row: Sara Beth Boese, Olivia Raza and Brigid Misage; kneeling: Abigail Jankowski, Sophie Colby, Sydney Raza and Kate Zdunczyk. Missing from the photo are Samira Sayan, Darya Lee, Anna Lang and Sophie Jeffery.

perform in a touring cast at venues in Andover, Concord, Littleton and Worcester, or in a local cast which performs their parts only in the Andover performances. The young performers in this show are:

■ **Sara Beth Boese**, age 9, performing as a Caroler;

■ **Sophie Jeffery**, age 9, performing as a Caroler;

■ **Julia Jennings**, age 12, performing as a Cupid;

■ **Anna Lang**, age 9, performing as a Caroler and as a Peppermint;

■ **Darya Lee**, age 9, performing as a Caroler and as a Peppermint;

■ **Brigid Misage**, age 8, performing as a Caroler;

■ **Olivia Raza**, age 10, performing as a Caroler and as a Peppermint;

■ **Sydney Raza**, age 7, performing as a Caroler;

■ **Samira Sayan**, age 9, performing as a Caroler and as a Peppermint;

■ **Erin Walsh**, age 12, performing as a Cupid; and

■ **Kate Zdunczyk**, age 7, performing as a Caroler.

Two town cherubs dance in Jose Mateo's Nutcracker

Andover residents Emma Rosenfeld and Jessica Keenan are performing in Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre's The Nutcracker in the role of Party Girl, Cherub and Polichinelle. Emma and Jessica join the professional cast in this holiday favorite with performances at the Spingold Theater at Brandeis University in Waltham and the Duxbury Performing Arts Center.

Emma Rosenfeld is in the sixth grade and attends the West Middle School. Jessica Keenan is in third grade and attends Sanborn Elementary School.

Now in its 23rd season, José Mateo Ballet Theatre's The Nutcracker has become a holiday tradition for New England audiences since 1987.

"Choreographed by Artistic Director José Mateo, this original production of The Nutcracker distinguishes itself from all others by its focus on the dancing rather than the usual mime and theatrics associated with other productions. This is especially true of the 200 children like Emma and Jessica,



Emma Rosenfeld and Jessica Keenan

who join the professional cast as Party Children, Mice, Soldiers, Polichinelles, Cherubs, Attendants, Angels and Clara," according to a theater-company release.

José Mateo Ballet Theatre is

presenting the Nutcracker at the Spingold Theater at Brandeis University in Waltham through Dec. 19. Call 617-354-7467 or visit BalletTheatre.org to order tickets in Waltham.



Talia Carpinteri

Under the Collins Center lights

Andover resident and West Middle School student Talia Carpinteri, age 11, is excited to be performing in the Boston Dance Company's production of "The Nutcracker" this season.

Talia, along with many of her fellow dancers at J & D Dance Academy in Reading, has been working hard since October in preparation for the performances on Sunday, Dec. 12 at 6 p.m. and Monday, Dec. 13 at 10 a.m. at the Collins Center auditorium, Andover High School, 80 Shawsheen Road, according to a dance-academy release.

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NUTCRACKER: New England Civic Ballet

Continued from Page 11

tomorrow, Friday, Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 11 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 12 at 2 p.m. Tickets may be purchased online at newenglandcivicalballet.org or by calling the dance studio at 978-975-0289. Ticket prices are \$25 for adults; \$22 for children 12 and younger,

and seniors 65 and older. Group rates are available for groups of 20 or more attending the same performance.

For more information regarding the ballet, performances, and other information, contact Director Phyllis George at the New England Civic Ballet studios at 978-975-0289 or snewenglandcivicalballet@verizon.net.

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Hope and a home-cooked meal

Andover residents are leaders in a host of nonprofit and service organizations that benefit people throughout the Merrimack Valley.

The Andover Townsman has started a new opportunity. Periodically, it will offer some space to these groups to tell residents about themselves, in part by sharing success stories. Great Women to Know, a mentoring group, has contributed already, and for the next few weeks Family Service Inc. will share stories that should fit with the hopeful spirit of the holiday season.

Stories of Hope

Family Service Inc.

Do you ever wonder about the most vulnerable among us? Members of Family Service Inc. do, and have since the organization was created on Christmas Eve, 1854.

That night, a group of prominent citizens from Lawrence gathered to discuss the formation of a relief society to assist poor farm girls who had arrived to work in the city's mill industry. The Provident Association was formed, later called the

Lawrence City Mission and known today as Family Service Inc.

Since its beginning 156 years ago, Family Service has helped the most vulnerable people in this area, which today includes babies born addicted to drugs, your own teen who is withdrawn, young parents who have no support system, or elders who are forgotten.

Children in foster care have someone to stick up for them through the group's Court Appointed Special Advocates program. The best way to understand their work is to hear just one of their stories, shared by Executive Director Kay Frishman.

He is 12 and, through no fault of his own, has been in and out of foster care. He's a good kid by all accounts, stays out of trouble, and has been working hard to do well in school. Recently, a volunteer from Andover, who works with Family Service's CASA program was assigned to advocate for him in court, as his parents are called to answer to a judge for their abuse and neglect of him and his siblings.

After hearing his history and before beginning to sort through the next steps to help this young man, the volunteer advocate asked this boy "What is one wish you have?" The boy thought for a while and said, "I would like a home-cooked meal." In his 12 years, he had never had a home-cooked meal. "Now that is something we can do for you right away," she said and made arrangements to grant this boy his wish.

The boy will enjoy home-cooked meals over the coming holidays. He is in a loving foster home, monitored by the CASA volunteer.

Family Service is known to many as the "agency of hope," and we believe such stories provide hope. This article is the first in a series. As we wind ourselves out of the recession and continue to move toward more jobs for all, it is good to remember there is still hope, even among the most vulnerable of us.

Family Service has evolved from a small mental health clinic with seven staff in the mid 1980s to a large and dynamic organization with a staff of more than 50.

Today, with over 500 volunteers, the comprehensive social service agency in Lawrence continues reaching almost 3,000 families in the Merrimack Valley. Clients come mostly from Andover, Lawrence, Methuen and North Andover. However, Family Service's reach extends as far north as Newburyport and west to Dracut. Volunteers come from these towns, as well as southern New Hampshire.

Family Service's mission is to help people live positive and productive lives through some 20 different programs. Samaritans, CASA, Big Friends Little Friends (formerly Big Brothers Big Sister of Greater Lawrence), Stand & Deliver, parent education programs, a mental health counseling center and an Employee Assistance Program are all part of its mission.

Family Service believes in the positive potential in every person; that everyone has the ability to succeed personally and professionally.

For more information, contact: Lori Howe, Family Service, Inc.; 430 North Canal St., Lawrence, MA 01840

All aboard!

School offers trip on 'North Pole Express'

Families with young train lovers, take note. Next Saturday, Dec. 18, Saint Michael School PTO of North Andover will present "The North Pole Express," which they call a magical train ride for the entire family. This is the seventh year Saint Michael School PTO is holding this event to support its school and local charities.

Trains leave from the Newburyport MBTA Train Station at 11:35 a.m., 1:15 p.m., 3:15 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale from 9 a.m. to noon at Saint Michael School, 80 Maple Ave. North Andover. Tickets are \$20 per person.

Parents and children will hear the holiday classic "Twas The Night Before Christmas," sing Christmas carols, warm up with hot cocoa and cookies, and enjoy a special visit from Santa Claus and his friends when the train reaches the North Pole.

A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Cor Unum Meal Center in Lawrence. Donations of new hats, mittens, scarves and sweaters for all ages will gladly be accepted at the train station.

For more information visit saintmichael.com or call 978-686-1862.

Make the season bright, for Y child

The Lawrence YMCA is seeking assistance in making Christmas memorable for families who do not have the means to provide their children with Christmas gifts.

Children range in age from toddlers to 18-year-olds. Each year, through the generosity of YMCA members, staff, and the community-at-large, the YMCA helps parents make sure that the holiday season is a special time of year for all. Last year, the YMCA helped over 275 children during the holiday season. People can choose to sponsor child and the Y will provide a child's name, age, clothes and shoe size and a toy they would like. The Y asks that all donations are dropped off by Wednesday, Dec. 15, to give ample time to distribute the gifts to the families. The other option is to donate money and have the Y do the shopping.

Those who can sponsor a child or a family can contact Michelle Becotte at 978-686-6191. Financial contributions for the YMCA to purchase gifts and gift wrap are also appreciated. The Lawrence YMCA is located at 40 Lawrence St.

'Spectacular' connection

Andoverites at local studio involved with Rockettes

Andover's Michaela McIver and other dancers from Nancy Chippendale's Dance Studios are on the USA Tap Team and are traveling to Riesa, Germany this month to compete for the World Tap Championships.

Andover residents, including Aissatou Thiam, a fourth grade student at Bancroft Elementary School, are members of the team. They earned a place on the team by competing in Connecticut in June. The World Championships are organized by the International Dance Organization and approximately 27 countries will be represented.

In addition, 39 dancers from Nancy Chippendale's Dance Studios are on the USA Tap Team and are traveling to Riesa, Germany this month to compete for the World Tap Championships.

Andover residents, including Aissatou Thiam, a fourth grade student at Bancroft Elementary School, are members of the team. They earned a place on the team by competing in Connecticut in June. The World Championships are organized by the International Dance Organization and approximately 27 countries will be represented.



A group of Andover youth went up to New Brunswick to cut and load some of the Christmas trees for sale by Andover Youth Services. They are, from back left, Kasey Hughes, Bella Caruso, Rose Cross, Sam Vano, Corine Rosenberg, Chris Byrne, TJ Tiberii and Dallas Castle.

Christmas tree lot benefits Andover youth

Andover Youth Services has transformed its renovated state park behind West Middle School on Shawshen Road into its annual AYS "Lot of Trees," selling Christmas trees, wreaths and other seasonal items.

The lot is now open featuring balsam trees from New Brunswick and North Carolina fraser fir trees, decorated and undecorated wreaths of all sizes and shapes, ornaments and kissing balls. The lot is open Monday through Friday 3:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 9 to 9. The lot will stay open until Dec. 22.

"Continuing in its seventh season, the 'Lot of Trees' is powered by the whole community, from the AHS student volunteers who meet and greet all the customers and help pick out the perfect tree, to your favorite Andover

sports coaches giving their time to the AYS cause, to the jolly Youth Services employees (also volunteering their time) carefully tying your purchases to the top of your vehicle," Glenn Wilson, AYS assistant director, said in a release. "The wreaths, centerpieces, cemetery baskets, and kissing balls are decorated by an army of skilled helpers working away the night hours."

Even the tips that are generated by the lot go to a worthy cause, the 12th Annual Holiday Gift Drive, which purchases holiday gifts and meals for over 150 children in Andover each year, said Wilson.

People interested in volunteering, donating to the Holiday Gift Drive, or who need more information, can visit andoveryouthservices.com or call AYS at 978-623-8241.

Season for Giving: USMC, MSP Kick Off Toys for Tots Campaign

The 2010 Toys for Tots campaign marks the 26th year that the Massachusetts State Police have partnered with the Marine Corps for the administration of the Toys for Tots program in Massachusetts.

Those wishing to donate new, non-violent, unwrapped toys for boys and girls ranging in age from newborn to 18 years may drop the toys off at any Massachusetts State Police barracks. There is a state police facility in Andover, on Route 125 near the Gould Road intersection.

Donors may also choose to send monetary donations to: Massachusetts State Police, Toys for Tots Coordinator, 124 Acton St., Maynard, MA 01754. All checks shall be made out to "Toys for Tots."

Last year, the Massachusetts State Police collected

approximately 42,000 toys while also collecting more than \$4,000 in donations. The toys were provided to area charities. The money was also provided to charities to assist with toy purchases and holiday meals for families served by those organizations. Once again, difficult economic conditions leave many families in need of assistance this holiday season.

"Toy donations in 2009 were down approximately 30 percent from 2008, while financial donations fell almost 50 percent in the same time period. Now, more than ever, the Toys for Tots program needs the assistance of those who can help provide support to families that will otherwise go without this holiday season," according to a release from the Massachusetts State Police.

HAPPENINGS

Continued from Page 11

Brian Major wore two sets of pillows under his special red suit to this year's Holiday Happenings event on Main Street as he is 50 pounds thinner than he was at last year's event. Selectman Major helped Santa kick off the season downtown in true Andover style.

"There were so many people, people of all ages and that was great," Major said.

ABCA President Elaine LeBlanc-Baker said downtown businesses reported customers stopped and shopped, then bought.

"It really was a great event. I would say thousands attended," she said.

There were still lines of people interested in the hayrides when it was time for the wagons and horses to make their way home. Holiday Happenings, a young tradition sponsored by ABCA, is held every first weekend in December.

- Judy Wakefield

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Townspeople

Early days of winter sparkle

Bill Dalton



It was pretty, a day that went white to white. Early on, the yard was covered with hoar frost, and

the sun turned the ice crystals into sparkling lights. A small blue spruce was covered with colored Christmas lights that were made subtle by the sun's brightness, but the little color in the middle of the icy white lights was pretty.

Hoar frost isn't common. It must be humid when the temperature drops to freezing for hoar frost to appear. When you first see hoar frost you might think it snowed, but then you see it's prettier than snow; it's like a fairyland.

I admired the beauty, then went to work in the wood pile, splitting and stacking logs. Light snow was coming, and I wanted to get tarps over my three cord of wood to keep them dry. Here in New Hampshire, where I live, folks don't add an "s" to cord to make the word plural. For example, I'd say, "That's about three cord of wood."

A cord of wood is 8 foot long, four foot high, and four foot deep. Folks here also don't use the word "feet" as the plural of the measurement "foot." They'd say you have shoes on your feet but when talking about measuring anything they'd say, "That's about eight foot long."

A cord doesn't sound like much until you've split and stacked one. A friend of mine says that a New Hampshire man gets insecure unless he's got three cord in his yard. He's right. We heat our log cabin with wood. Like most people around here, wood is our primary heat source because it's cheap. (Did you know there are more trees in New England today than a hundred years ago? That's because there was so much pastureland then.)

Splitting wood, I got warm enough that I was down to my T-shirt. Those small moths that live into early winter were flying around me, and while I was wondering what their story was, I saw that wispy cirrus clouds covered the sun and made it feel cooler. An hour later, snow clouds came in and the sun was gone. The short December day was going to be shorter.

I decided it was time to pull the last radishes and carrots from my garden. They don't grow when it's cold, but the carrots were planted in mid-summer and the radishes in late September, so they were good-sized. I used a shovel to break the frost to get them out. The only growth left in the garden now are small dill plants that stay green and edible until the snow covers them.

As it got dark, the temperature dropped and snow flakes fell. I have a lot of good memories about first snowfalls. One is the last time my mother, father, brothers and I all went out to eat together and were greeted by the season's first snow when we left the restaurant. We were happy and laughing. I did the same thing then as I did today: stared up to watch the flakes that would hit my face, especially my eyes.

The flakes covered the yard just before dark, and it looked a lot like it had in the early morning. The day started white and ended white for two different reasons. That doesn't happen much.

I love New England weather. For 12 years I lived in the South where it was hot in the summer and cool and cloudy in the winter. I didn't love New England weather before I moved south, but I sure do now.

(PS. If you were expecting something profound in this column, I'm sorry. Sometimes it's fun to write about simple things.)

Bill Dalton writes a weekly column for the "Andover Townsman" and enjoys receiving e-mails at billdalton@andovertownie.com.

TWO ANDOVER TEAMS WIN HESELTINE TOURNAMENT

ANDOVER MITE 1 TEAM: A DIVISION CHAMPIONS



The Andover Mite 1 team won the A Division during the 28th Heselstine tournament. They are, first row, from left: Jack Patten, Sam Murray, Drew Fietze, Andrew Macdonald, Luke Vaccaro, Matthew Devaney; second row, from left: Cole Rinklin, Brady O'Brien, Stephen Ingram, Evan rpin, Matthew Taylor, Shane Lachance, Foster Rose and Anthony Previte. The coaches, from left, are Rich Devaney, Chris Patten and Craig Taylor. Coach Scott Lachance is missing from the photo.

ANDOVER MITE 3 TEAM: C DIVISION CHAMPIONS



The Andover Mite 3 team took home the C Division Championship at the 28th Annual Heselstine Tournament with a 4-0 win over the Newton Tigers. Front: Conan Keefe; first row, from left: Mikey Dutton, Brady Quin, Tommy Tavenner, Nathan Conforti, Lauren Fraser, Ryan Allard, Sara Carleo; second row, from left: Ryan Rigazio, Trevor Ring, Jake Brezner, Aidan Lareau, Zoe Katz, Timmy Kobelski. Coaches: Glenn Allard, Paul Fraser, Jim Rigazio, Pat Keefe.

Nephew of tournament's namesake plays for Conn. team

Two Andover teams, the Mite 1 and Mite 3 squads, returned trophies to Andover with their play during the 2010 Scott Heselstine Mite Tournament at the Phillips Academy.

Over 200 Mite hockey players - those 7 and 8 years old - competed Thanksgiving weekend in what has become an 28-year-old Andover Hockey Association tradition. Started in 1982, the tournament is held in memory of Scott Heselstine, an Andover student athlete who had a passion for the game of hockey.

This year had particular meaning, in that a young Heselstine was on the ice competing. Scott Heselstine, son of George Heselstine, and nephew to the tournament's namesake, participated as a member of the Wallingford, Conn., Hawks. This was the second time one the grandsons of George Heselstine Sr. played in the tournament. Young Scott's cousin, Chas, played for the Andover Mite 1 team in 2003.

The Andover Mite 1s were undefeated in all five games that they played in the tournament. Andover had not won the tournament since 2007, losing the last two years to Wakefield. The Andover Mite 1s beat Wakefield 3-1 in the finals to bring the trophy back to Andover. The Andover Mite 3 team took



DAVID LE/Staff Photo

Andover's Sam Murray carries the puck up ice during Andover Mite 1's Satir dau game against Reading during the tournament at Phillips Academy.

home the "C" Division Championship with a 4-0 win over the Newton Tigers.

In addition to the Wallingford team, the Andover Mite teams competed with teams from Reading, North Andover, Burlington, Wakefield, North Reading and Newburyport, among others. The teams played on Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning of Thanksgiving weekend at the Phillips Academy rink, with championship games on Sunday afternoon.



DAVID LE/Staff Photo

Andover's Luke Vaccaro fires a shot on net.

ALL THOSE YEARS AGO

COMPILED BY SUSAN MCKELLIGET

50 Years Ago Dec. 8, 1960

Santa Claus is mysteriously hiding in a mail box in front of the fire station. Don't believe it? Then just walk up to the mail box and call "Hi Santa" and hear his jolly answer. That's what many local boys and girls have already done and Santa's always there to answer their call and talk to them about their gifts. He'll be there until Christmas, if other youngsters want to chat with him.

A study committee to review garbage and refuse collections, and a new site for the town dump, will be requested at Town Meeting. Trash collection, a service not discussed for some time, will be studied, as will the various factors concerning the town dump. It was indicated, for example, that the town could not pick up and dump the material at the present dump. This can be done however, if a sanitary landfill process is used, rather than the open, burning dump the town now has.

No one can figure out what happened to Andover's census totals. Last summer the tentative figure stood at 17,045. Now it's officially 15,878 - a loss of 1,167. How come? The U.S. Department of Commerce Field office in Boston doesn't know. The people who took the census here don't know. And the latter group thinks it's mighty odd that the totals sent to Washington this summer have been reduced so drastically. It's doubtful whether anyone will ever know whether the unofficial total was correct or not.

75 Years Ago Dec. 6, 1935

The voters of Andover Tuesday evening will vote on the redistricting plan of the selectmen, drawn up last August. The plan in substance will change the town from four precincts to six, leaving the Hill alone, cutting Precinct one in three, creating a West Parish precinct, and lopping off part of Ballardvale and Shawsheen.

Andover was hit by the coldest weather of the current season this morning when the mercury at the police station dropped to five above at five o'clock, hovering there until after seven. On the day before, the temperature went down to six above at the police station.

Mrs. Grafton Abbott of Boston gave a most interesting and challenging lecture to the members of the November Club on Monday afternoon. Her subject was "Understanding Ourselves and Others." The youth of the present day must often live with several generations under the same roof, being confronted with the extreme confusion of our economic situation, many of them are taking on adult worries. It remains for the older generation to recognize their desire for appreciation, for affection, for family security, and for new experiences and to work with them intelligently toward the attainment of a happy normal life, she said.

100 Years Ago Dec. 9, 1910

The merry season of Christmas with its bustle and preparation and good cheer is upon us once again. For the attractive little novelties which always appear with the Christmas season, the Gift Shop is the place to visit. There are displayed with the usual charming taste of the proprietors many little articles in leather, brass, and linen, any of which can not fail to be acceptable. The store which would perhaps interest those who struggle yearly with the problem of what to give the male members of the family is Dean's. A Christmas specialty in the grocery department of T.A. and Co. is the "Educator Ark," an ark made from heavy tin, lithographed in twelve colors, containing animal crackers. At Allen's the purchaser can find manicure sets, perfumes, toilet waters, pipes, cigars, and other smoking supplies.

One of the constant attendants of Mrs. Mary G. Baker Eddy, whose death occurred this week, was Calvin A. Frye, formerly a resident of Frye village.

Final meeting



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo.

With 72 years of membership in the Holy Family Hospital Men's Guild between them, from left, Robert F. Kelley, Esq., of Andover, Northern Essex Register of Deeds, 35 years; Dan Kelley of Boston, Robert Kelley's son, 7 years; and Rick Kelley, Esq., of Andover, 30 years, attend the 61st annual and final membership dinner held last Thursday night at the Wyndham in Andover. This was the men's guild final dinner because the Methuen hospital, along with the rest of the Caritas hospital chain, has been sold to a private, for-profit company. Rick Kelley is the president of the Holy Family Men's Guild and Attorney Robert Kelley is a past president.

SENIOR CENTER

The Crystal Ballroom at the Townhouse: Sunday, Dec. 12, 6 to 10 p.m. second Sunday of every month at the Andover Townhouse on Main Street. Live music, cash bar and refreshments. \$12 single, \$20 couple. Purchase tickets at TAVAH call 978-623-0070 or the Senior Center.

Movie Matinee: Monday Dec. 13 at 1 p.m. Disney's "A Christmas Carol" with Jim Carrey, free.

Computer Users Group: Monday, Dec. 13 at 1:30 p.m. Topic email and browsers. Call to register and give your email for future groups. Held at Memorial Hall Library, free.

High Tea and History: Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2 to 3 p.m. Held at the Andover Historical Society, 97 Main St., Andover. "The Big Screen in Andover." Call 978-475-2236. Limited to 25, free.

New Year's Eve Afternoon Celebration: Thursday, Dec. 30. 1:30 p.m., cost \$5. Advance registration only.

West Parish Christmas tea, performance Dec. 12

With Christmas approaching, Andover's West Parish Church wants to raise money to help end slavery by sponsoring a Christmas Tea and Theatrical Performance.

West Parish Church, UCC, has invited professional actress Olivia Woodford to perform during an afternoon Christmas Tea on Sunday, Dec. 12 at 2:30 p.m.

All proceeds will benefit the International Justice Mission, a multi-national human rights agency engaged in rescuing victims of slavery, sex trafficking, and other forms of illegal, violent oppression.

Besides drinking tea and enjoying scones and sweet treats, participants will see a one-woman play performed by Woodford that brings to life the events leading up to the birth of Jesus through the eyes of five women who surrounded his mother Mary.

In "Faith and Hope: A Mother's Story," Mary's cousin Elizabeth describes her three-month visit with Mary. Anna, Mary's mother, handles the upset and criticism of local villagers in response to Mary being unwed and pregnant. Leah, a daughter of the House of David who studied with Mary at the temple, reflects on events as she travels to Bethlehem for the census. A shepherdess explains life on the hills outside the City of David, the message from the angel and her experience seeing Jesus lying in the manger. The play concludes with a depiction of a seeress in the temple who was the first to declare the true identity of the baby Jesus.

Tickets are \$25 or \$175 for a table of eight and can be purchased at the West Parish Church office, 129 Reservation Road at the intersection of Route 133, Andover.

ENGAGEMENTS



Katherine Schelzi and Mark Thompson

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Thompson of Andover are pleased to announce the engagement of their son, Mark J. Thompson, to Katherine G. Schelzi, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Schelzi of Concord.

Mark is a 2004 graduate of Brooks School in North Andover, and a 2008 graduate of the College of the Holy Cross. He is a financial advisor for Morgan Stanley in Boston. Katherine is a 2004 graduate of Concord-Carlisle High School, and a 2008 graduate of the College of the Holy Cross. She is a program coordinator for the National Educational Travel Council in Boston.

The couple plan a late summer 2011 wedding.

WEDDING

Jeffrey and WendyBeth Chiang

Atty. and Mrs. Robert D. Russo of Winchester are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter, WendyBeth, to Jeffrey S. Chiang, Esq., son of Dr. and Mrs. Yunn Hui Chiang of Andover. The ceremony was held on Saturday, June 12, 2010 at St. Mary's Church in Winchester, Mass. Father Richard Messina officiated the ceremony.

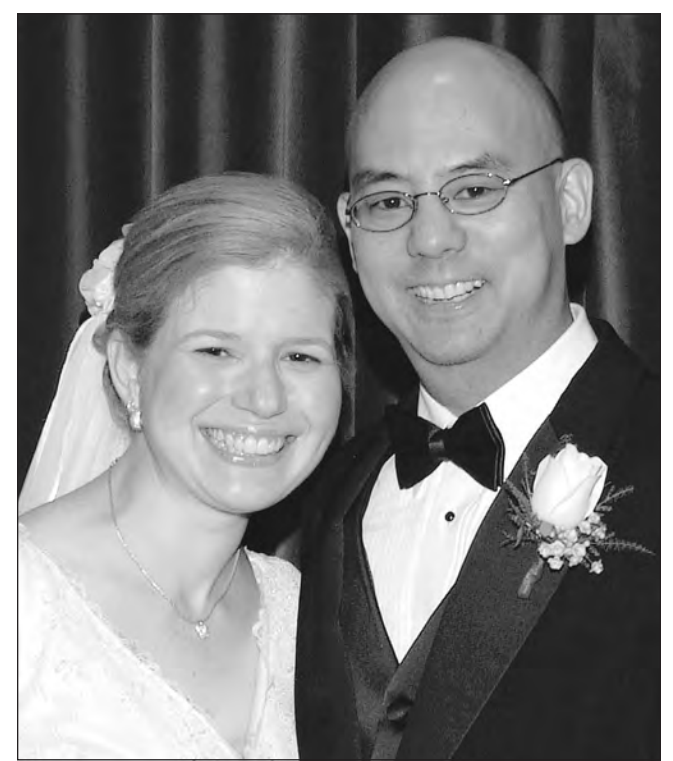
Presented in marriage by her father, the bride was attended by her sister, Dr. Cindy Leigh Russo, as her maid of Honor; the Groom's brother, Christopher K. Chiang, was the best man; and the attendants were Gregory M. Lanza, Stephanie Snow, Robert Prezioso and Dr. John Mapili.

An evening reception immediately followed at the Marriott Hotel in

Burlington. WendyBeth is a graduate of Winchester High School. She received her bachelor's degree in English from Suffolk University, her master's in English from Harvard University and her certificate in Paralegal Studies from Northeastern University. WendyBeth currently works as a paralegal at the Law Offices of Russo and Scolnick in Boston.

Jeffrey S. Chiang, Esq. is a graduate of Andover High School. He received his bachelor's degree in political science from Columbia University; and his JD from Suffolk University Law School. He presently works at the Department of Labor in Boston.

Atty. and Mrs. Jeffrey S. Chiang reside in Wakefield.



ENGAGEMENTS



Edie Muller and Ryan Snyder

Jim and Pam Muller of Andover, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Edie May Muller, to Ryan William Snyder, son of Faye C. Snyder of Hanover, Pa.

Edie is a 2002 graduate of Andover High School and graduated in 2006 from Bryant University with a bachelor of science degree in business administration. She is working

as an accountant at the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation in Boston.

Ryan is a 2002 graduate of Berklee College of Music and graduated in 2010 from Gordon College with a master's degree in music education. He is a music teacher at Boston Latin School in Boston.

The couple plan an April 2011 wedding at Zorvino Vineyards in Sandown, N.H.

RELIGION

NE Brass Band at Free Christian

New England Brass Band concert will perform live at Free Christian Church, 31 Elm St., Andover on Saturday, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m., free admission. This 30-player British style brass band is a musical event that has become an annual favorite. Compositions range from transcriptions of familiar classical and contemporary selections to Holiday favorites written for the British brass band structure.

Beth Israel minyan services

Congregation Beth Israel will host its Egalitarian evening minyan services for the month of December, Monday through Thursday, Dec. 13-16 and 20-23 at 13 Boutwell St., Andover at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.

Free Jewish books from The PJ Library

Jewish children ages six months to eight years are eligible to receive The PJ Library, a free Jewish book or CD-of the month club that is mailed home. Imagine their delight upon receiving a package every month with a special book or CD just for them!

The PJ Library is an international, award-winning Jewish

family engagement program created by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and funded locally by the Robert I. Lappin Charitable Foundation, Cohen Hillel Academy and the Grinspoon Foundation. PJ stands for "pajamas", a fitting name for a program whose organizers believe a bond is formed between children and their parents during story time before bed.

To learn more about the program or to register a child for The PJ Library, contact Phyllis Osher, Program Associate, at 978-740-4404 or email posher@rilcf.org. To register online, visit rilcf.org, and while you are there, read about the many free programs open to families of The PJ Library.

Retreat's Peacock earns certificate

At the national meeting of the International Association of Conference Center Administrators, Larry J. Peacock, executive director of Rolling Ridge Retreat and Conference Center was recognized with a Certified Conference Center Professional certificate. The recognition comes after completing six courses of study on management, marketing and administration and presenting a comprehensive review and plan for Rolling Ridge.

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ATTORNEY ELISE A. BRASSIL
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Attorney Brassil has twenty years of legal experience. She is an accomplished trial attorney, who represents people, municipalities, and businesses in a wide variety of matters including, but not limited to, employment discrimination, labor disputes, civil rights violations, business disputes, medical malpractice actions, family law disputes and personal injury matters.

Attorney Brassil is dedicated to providing each client prompt, effective and individualized representation. Her promise to each of her clients is to provide the best legal services available in an aggressive and attentive manner.

Attorney Brassil is a member of the Massachusetts Academy of Trial Attorneys, the Massachusetts Bar Association, and the Massachusetts Employment Lawyers Association.



If you would like to meet to discuss a legal matter affecting you or your business, she invites you to meet with her for a free one hour consultation. You may call her office (978-662-5116) for an appointment or send her an e-mail inquiry. She or one of her associates will get back to you within 24 hours.

Education

Starving for educational innovations

Ken Seifert



My favorite line in film Auntie Mame, starring Rosalind Russell and released on Dec. 27, 1958, is when she said, "Life is a banquet and most [people] are starving to death." With a little imagination, this thought can be applied to many things. It can be applied to one of our social institutions - education.

Education should be exciting for students, educators and parents. However we are still educating our children based on many traditional, non proven methods, delivered in a production-line fashion.

Since Sputnik circled the globe in 1957, there have been more meaningful research, ideas, suggested innovations, and prototype developments than in all the previous years combined.

Try a simple exercise. List some categories of human endeavor such as medicine, communication, transportation, technology, business practices and education. I am sure you could add to such a list. Now rank them from high to low regarding progress since Sputnik. Where does education appear on your list? I am sorry to say, it would not be high on mine. There are many reasons for this. Here are three:

Educators need to share what the research and needed innovations say should be in our schools. Each year, in every school and school district, we could ask a simple question, what would you suggest we do to make our schools better? It might reduce the negative comments that pervade our society today. They could be placed on a web site for all to see. Salaries, fringe benefits, and working conditions should be left at the negotiations table. They are most important, but they should not dominate public discussion.

Unless they have something

constructive to say, the politicians should stop pretending to be experts. They have cost the taxpayer billions of dollars with simple slogans that act as "grabbers" to the emotions, but produce very little. We need solutions and not slogans from Boston and Washington.

State boards of education and local school authorities need to examine the difference between a healthy and not so healthy organization. Knowledge of world trends, a strategic plan, priorities, successful practices, research and development, authentic community involvement and staff development based on plans might be a start. Data to show progress is almost non-existent in most organizations. Each could devise a model of a healthy organization and compare the model to their reality. They could even give themselves a grade. At least we would know what they are thinking.

There is not one group that should shoulder the dilemma we are in. We have a system that was effective in the 1920s and '30s. I think we subconsciously yearn for a return to the good old days, based on the early 20th century model. "New" school buildings are prime examples of the factory look and square boxes to accommodate a production line process in too many schools.

I am still optimistic. I believe we have about a decade to reinvent ourselves. If not, we have seen our finest hour. Two thoughts come to mind. In 1964, Bob Dylan wrote a song, "The Times They are a Changin'" and in the mid 1800s Charles Darwin warned, either you adapt to your environment or you perish. We have the brain power. We have the other necessary resources. What this country needs is a good dose of PIP (Passion, Imagination and Plans). I'm working on a sample prescription. Please notice that all of the suggestions can be achieved without the addition of one nickel to our tax bill.

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



Eighth-graders Kiera Gold and Sylvia Leung, right, work on making a prosthetic arm with their classmates at Wood Hill Middle School.

ANGIE BEAULIEU/Staff photo

WOOD HILL STUDENTS BUILD PROSTHETIC HANDS

New limbs go to international disaster victims

By DUSTIN LUCA
STAFF WRITER

Because of students at Wood Hill Middle School, the quality of life for some amputees overseas is about to improve dramatically.

Two classes of eighth-grade engineering students closed out the marking period Friday with a hands-on lesson in bio-medical prosthetics. Around 40 students built a number of prosthetic hands that will be sent overseas to places where prosthetics aren't nearly as available.

This term, the engineering classes have studied how prosthetic limbs work, how they're designed and how they're used, according to Laurie Farrell, Wood Hill Middle engineering teacher.

"This is the last day of the term, so it is a good close to the project," Farrell said.

The hands will be shipped to Afghanistan, Haiti and other countries, where adults and children affected by war and natural disasters face life as an amputee.

The prosthetics were donated to the classes after the students participated a dodgeball fundraiser, generating \$500 that was donated to Odyssey Teams, an organization in Chico, Calif.

Engineers Ellen and Richard Benedict, parents of one of the engineering students, visited the classes earlier this year and gave presentations on



ANGIE BEAULIEU/Staff photo

Eighth-graders work on making a prosthetic arm that will help someone overseas.

prosthetics, covering the technology's history leading up to how it's used today.

"The most recent thing is these giant, complex systems you see being used in the U.S.," Ellen Benedict, who works in the field of medical care, said. "They're really great, with lots of functionality, but also very expensive and complex."

That is where the students come in. The hands, in their constructed form, will be sent to places where a replacement limb is typically nothing more than a dream.

"Someone in Haiti or Vietnam will never see that technology," Ellen Benedict said. "Here's a chance for them to have a functional hand."

The hands can lift up to 60 pounds

and operate with a fine-enough level of control to pick up a piece of paper, write and paint, Ellen said.

"This is a chance to directly transform someone else's lives," Richard Benedict said. "They go from having something at the end of their arm they can't do anything with to being able to carry a bucket of water or ride a bike."

"Now, they're not the social pariah in their village," Richard added. "Now they have this high-tech thing, where they can do things and take care of themselves."

Grace Perigaut, a 13-year-old student in one of the classes, enjoyed the opportunity to make the hands.

"I think it is really interesting that we are helping kids in other countries who aren't as advantaged," Grace said.

"It is fun to make a prosthetic arm," Shannon Manuel, also 13, agreed. "It is going to someone in Haiti. ... It is good to know that someone is actually able to use it."

With Christmas only a few weeks away, for some students the holiday spirit worked with the lesson hand-in-hand.

"It is nice to know that we make a difference in somebody's life," Grace said. "I think it is better to give than to receive, and this really shows that."

For feedback on this story, or for other story-related inquiries, please email dluca@andovertownsmen.com.

103 Andover High students earn AP Scholar Awards

One hundred and three students at Andover High School have earned AP Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement on AP Exams, according to a release.

The College Board's Advanced

Placement Program provides willing and academically prepared students with the opportunity to take rigorous college-level courses while still in

Please see AP, Page 17

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Phillips Academy Skating Club is hosting a **"Toys for Tots" HOLIDAY SKATE**

Sunday, December 12th, 1:30-2:50 p.m.

Bring an unwrapped toy to be donated to the "Toys for Tots" organization and the daily skate fee will be waived. (One toy, one free skate, per person)
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AP

Continued from Page 16

high school, and to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams. About 18 percent of the more than 1.8 million students worldwide who took AP Exams performed at a sufficiently high level to also earn an AP Scholar Award.

The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on students' performance on AP Exams.

At Andover High School:

■ Three students qualified for the National AP Scholar Award by earning an average score of 4 or higher on a five-point scale on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams. These students are **Conan Huang, Sharada Sant and Andrew Wang.**

■ Thirty-four students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. These students are **Tyler Blake, Michael Buciuman-Coman, George Cheng, Kevin Dipasquale, Thomas Fuerst, Sean Gibson, Jeffery Hu, Shane Huggins, Philine Huizing,**

Julia Kasparian, Iha Kaul, Madhukar Kumar, Noah Kurinsky, Irena Kushner, Brenda Li, Matthew Liffman, Rebecca Marton, Sean Montgomery, Connor O'Neill, Andrew Osborne, John Perrone, Jennifer Quirnbach, Sharada Sant, Akira Sembomatsu, Maokai Shen, Charles Smith, Emma Sunberg, Kaleigh Timmins, Molly Vandoren, Andrew Wang, Kyle Wanzek, John Wurts and Aaron Yang.

■ Twenty-two students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. These students are **Awjin Ahn, Ryan Chan, Timothy Duffy, Christopher Goodwin, Olivier Jin, Shawn Jin, Elizabeth LeCain, Derrick Li, Spencer Li, Christian Lightner, He Liu, Clare Ma, Mirela Maier, Stephanie Marble, Alex Morrill, Madhumita Narayan, Emily Stidsen, Diane Sun, Colin Trepicchio, Barber Waters, Tommy Yang and Daniel Yuan.**

■ Forty-seven students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP Exams with scores of 3 or higher. The AP Scholars are **Peter Belanger, Noah Besen, Srijohn Bhunia, Brett Billings, Even Birenbaum, Eve Bishop, Theresa Cloutier, Zachary Deluca, Caroline Dykstra, Daniel Fisch, Abhiram Iyengar, Joshua Jacobs, Rebecca Kadima, Hyundoug Kim, Ron Kramer, Victoria Lee, Emily**

Lemay, Sandra Levis, Allyson Long, David Lyle, Andrew Mack, Rin O'Kelly, Nilesh Patel, Cameron Poole, Hannah Pratt, Michael Principe, Melissa Ragonese, Eunbyul Roh, Adam Rosenzweig, Kelly Rousmaniere, Zachary Silberman, Mitchell Slovin, Michela Smith, Coleen Steward, He Tian, Erick Van Andel, Andrew Wait, Ioannis Wallingford, Brendan Wang, Christopher Warne, Christopher Wu, Victor Xu, Pratiksha Yalakkishettar, Injoong Yoon and Victoria Yoon.

■ Of this year's award recipients at Andover High School 27 are sophomores or juniors: **Srijohn Bhunia, Even Birenbaum, Eve Bishop, Theresa Cloutier, Daniel Fisch, Abhiram Iyengar, Joshua Jacobs, Hyun Doug Kim, Ron Kramer, Victoria Lee, David Lyle, Nilesh Patel, Melissa Ragonese, Eunbyul Roh, Mitchell Slovin, He Tian, Erick Van Andel, Ioannis Wallingford, Brendan Wang, Kevin Wang, Awhin Ahn, Ryan Chan, Olivier Jin, Shawn Jin, He Liu, Alex Morrill, Barber Waters and Tommy Yang.** These students have at least one more year in which to complete college-level work and possibly earn a higher-level AP Scholar Award.

More than 3,800 colleges and universities annually receive AP scores. Most four-year colleges in the United States provide credit and/or advanced placement for qualifying exam scores.

SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS

Here's what is for lunch in the Andover public schools next week, Dec. 13-17:

Elementary schools

Monday: Soft shell chicken fajita and toppings, meatball sub, tuna wrap, oven fries, three bean salad and fresh fruit.

Tuesday: Fish sticks, coleslaw, roll, beef taco pie, beef stew in a bread bowl, rice pilaf, tabouli and fresh fruit.

Wednesday: Chicken parmesan, pasta, bread stick, veggie chili in a bread bowl, yogurt parfait, warm pretzel, garden salad, fresh fruit and gingerbread.

Thursday: Turkey potpie in a bread bowl, macaroni and cheese, bread stick, manager's choice, bean soup, veggie sticks and dip and mixed fruit cup.

Friday: Pizza, garden salad, veggie soup, fresh fruit.

Middle schools

Monday: Meatloaf, chicken teriyaki tenders, manager's choice, smashed red bliss, corn, dinner roll and fresh fruit.

Tuesday: Manager's choice, grilled hotdog, jumbo pretzel, yogurt parfait, macaroni salad, baked beans and chilled pears.

Wednesday: American chop suey, bread, crispy chicken sandwich with lettuce and tomato, pretzels, yogurt parfait, graham crackers, seasonal veggie, jello and topping and chilled fruit.

Thursday: Oven fried chicken, mozzarella sticks and marinara sauce, manager's choice, corn, potato salad, fruit cup and juice.

Friday: Grilled turkey, cheese panini, yogurt parfait, graham crackers, chicken scampi, italian bread, side of pasta, chilled fruit and juice.

Andover High School

Monday: Chicken parmesan, pasta, garlic bread, seasoned veggies, chilled fruit cup, meatball sub with sauce and cheese, grilled vegetable panini, chicken caesar salad and milk.

Tuesday: Ravioli, garlic bread, caesar salad, southwestern cheese panini, crispy chicken sandwich avocado and white bean wrap, fresh fruit and milk.

Wednesday: Build your own burger, onion rings, broccoli salad, manager's choice, buffalo chicken wrap, fresh fruit and milk.

Thursday: Spaghetti with

garlic and shrimp, roasted green beans, carrots, roll, Rib-A-Q on a roll, baked beans, veggie chili in a bread bowl, manager's choice, blueberry shortcake and milk.

Friday: Tuscan eggplant parmesan, garlic bread, garden salad, beef stew in a bread bowl, steak and cheese bomb, panini choice, fresh fruit and milk.

Also available a la carte daily at the elementary and middle schools: bottled water and 100

percent juice; low-fat ice cream and yogurt; bagel with light cream cheese; yogurt; fresh fruit of the season; and milk.

At Andover High School there is a wrap/deli bar with sandwiches made to order with favorite toppings, plus a daily sandwich offering, daily specials, and panini specials.

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

Special music makes holiday memories

'Tis the month before Christmas and all through the house, Every creature is stirring, including the mouse. It's the holiday season; there is work to be done. There are lists and shopping and lots of fun! There are stockings to hang and cookies to bake, My, oh my, there's no time for the lake. But don't you fret and don't even frown. There is music in the air, so turn on the sound!



The Kid is featuring holiday music this month.

One of our favorite Christmas songs comes from an unexpected source.

The United States has always been a refuge for immigrants seeking freedom. In 1893, a five-year-old Jewish boy convinced his parents to move from their home in Russia to New York. This young immigrant truly left his mark on America.

Irving Berlin was born Israel Baline in eastern Russia in 1888. His father was the cantor in the synagogue. He was one of eight children.

After the family moved to New York, his father died. At the age of eight, Irving took to the streets of New York City to help support his mother and family. He worked as a singing waiter and started composing songs.

Berlin could not read or write music. He played only the black keys on the piano.

"I came here as an immigrant from Russia in 1893, and whatever success I have had as a songwriter I owe to this country," said Berlin.



Irving Berlin (left) wrote the song, "White Christmas." It was performed in the 1942 movie musical "Holiday Inn" by Bing Crosby and Marjorie Reynolds (above).

He wrote the lyrics and music for more than 900 songs, 19 musicals and the scores for 18 movies.

During the holiday season, one of Berlin's songs is played on radio and television and sung by thousands throughout the world.

"White Christmas" was featured in the movie "Holiday Inn" starring Bing Crosby. It was a huge hit and the song quickly became traditional Christmas music.

Berlin knew he had a hit when he wrote the song. He told his secretary, "Grab your pen and take down this song. I just wrote the best song I've ever written ... I just wrote the best song that anybody's ever written!"

"White Christmas" won the Academy Award for best original song in 1942.

Berlin wrote another favorite, "God Bless America," in 1938.

"I've tried to express my feelings in 'God Bless America,' a song which is not alone a song but an expression of my gratitude to the country that inspired it," said Berlin.

Berlin gave the copyright to the God Bless America Fund, which has raised millions of dollars for the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Berlin died at the age of 101. He left behind his music and charity that will always play an important role in America.

Word Scramble

Unscramble these Irving Berlin songs:

THEIW TRISCHMAS

DOG SLEBS CRAIMEA

TEERSA REDAAP



Newspaper in Education activity

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Sports

Eighth-grade travel football teams post perfect seasons

If Andover High head football coach EJ Perry is wondering where his next group of talent may be coming from, he certainly doesn't need to look too far away. The Andover eighth grade travel football team finished its 2010 season in dramatic fashion with something that has never been done in the history of the Northeast Junior High Football League: Identical 11-0 records for both its Blue and Gold squads.

"No team has ever gone 11-0 for a season let alone two teams," reported head coach Kevin Lynch.

To participate in the league, towns must have both a varsity and junior varsity squad. The rule allows all kids to play regardless of size and ability. Andover Blue and Gold squads work as one team that practices together during the week.

"We do everything as a team. Practice as a team, travel as a team and win as a team. We only breakdown to Blue and

Gold on game day," Lynch said in a release. "[The] championship game day was no different as both teams won their respective games to finish their seasons as undefeated champions against Derry. The Blue team won 28-12, while the Gold team won 56-16."

Perry had some interesting words of wisdom to the team before the season started, according to Lynch. He basically wanted to congratulate the team in advance for their upcoming championship season.

"He wanted this team to think of themselves as champions before they even started their first season practice, a tradition he hopes will repeat itself in the coming years," said Lynch.

The Blue team ended its season outscoring its opponents by an eye opening 305 points, scoring a league record 413 points while only giving up 108. The Gold team was even more dominating as it outscored opponents by 319 points.

Andover set for Tsongas doubleheader

By BILL BURT
Staff Writer

LOWELL — For all intents and purposes, it's East vs. West ... as in East Merrimack Valley vs. West Merrimack Valley.

In terms of the particulars it is eight hours of basketball, called the "Holiday Hoop Slam" at the newly renovated Tsongas Center in Lowell on Saturday.

It will be a quadruple-header pitting Andover High girls and boys against Lowell High, then Merrimack College men and women against UMass Lowell.

"I think it's going to be awesome," said Andover girls star point guard Natalie Gomez-Martinez. "First we play, then we get to watch the boys play. It's going to be sweet. I have excellent memories of playing at the Tsongas."

It's a chance for the four local teams to take their rivalry to a five-star facility, which received nearly \$5 million in renovations the last six months, including an 18,000-pound high definition video scoreboard over center court.

The last time the Blue and Gold took the court at the Tsongas, the Golden Warrior girls bested

Central Catholic 55-43 in the 2008 Division 1 North final on the way to the state title game.

The girls will kick off the action at 1 p.m., a day after they open the season against Chelmsford. The Golden Warrior boys will play at 3 p.m. It is their season-opener.

"It's a little early to open against a team like Lowell, but when your players have a chance to play in a nice environment like this, you have to go for it," said Andover boys coach Dave Fazio. "This is a great day of basketball for the Merrimack Valley."

Fazio has another reason to be excited. He will get to catch his daughter, Ally, who is a standout guard for the girls team.

"I don't get to see a lot of her games, so that's a perk I'm looking forward to," said Fazio. "Merrimack-Lowell, Andover-Lowell ... I love this idea. For us and the fans, it doesn't get much better than this."

Tickets will cost \$10 ticket (\$5 for students).

"It is definitely going to be a lot of fun," said Golden Warriors superstar Nicole Boudreau. "The boys are really ready to go. I think it's going to be an excellent day."

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL

Dec. 11.....at Lowell.....3 p.m.
Dec. 14.....Haverhill.....7:30 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Dec. 10.....Chelmsford.....7 p.m.
Dec. 11.....at Lowell.....1 p.m.
Dec. 14.....at Methuen.....7 p.m.

BOYS HOCKEY

Dec. 14.....at Malden Catholic.....6:10 p.m.

BOYS INDOOR TRACK

Dec. 15.....BillERICA.....4 p.m.

GIRLS INDOOR TRACK

Dec. 15.....BillERICA.....4 p.m.

SWIMMING

Dec. 15.....Belmont.....4 p.m.

WRESTLING

Dec. 11.....Oliver Ames Tournament.....10 a.m.
Dec. 15.....at Central Catholic.....6 p.m.

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FILE PHOTO

Andover celebrated the Division 1 state title last season. Now, with four key players back from a season ago, the Golden Warriors face the pressure of being the favorites.

THE TEAM TO BEAT

Super-talented Andover girls relish role as favorites

By DAVID WILLIS
Staff Writer

The Andover High girls basketball team knows it — the pressure is on.

"We have the target on our backs this season," said Nicole Boudreau. "There is a lot of hype, and everyone is looking to bring us down. But we're excited to go out and prove ourselves again."

When the Golden Warriors kick off their season tomorrow night (Friday) by hosting Chelmsford, they do so with the eyes of the state on them.

Not only is Andover the defending Division 1 state champion, but the Golden Warriors return their top four scorers from last year's title team in All-Scholastics Boudreau and Natalie Gomez-Martinez along with Ally Fazio and Devon Caveney.

"We are happy that it's finally here," said Gomez-Martinez. "It is a lot of pressure because teams are coming for us. But we like it. We like the competition. I'd rather be the targeted team, because it means you have accomplished something."

The Golden Warriors surged to the Division 1 state championship a season ago, blasting East Longmeadow 73-37 in the title game. It was Andover basketball's second ever state title, also winning the crown in 2003.

So, with the talent returning, expectations are considerably high.

"Everyone is expecting us to go undefeated," said coach Jim Tildsley. "But we have to play the games first. We did play very well in our first scrimmage and we are very happy with the way things have gone so far. It doesn't hurt to have two Division 1 (college) guards."

The Golden Warriors' backcourt, of course, is the envy of any team in the region.

Boston College-bound Nicole Boudreau was named to the five-player All-Scholastic Super Team last season after averaging 19.8 points per game, 6.5 rebounds a game and knocking down a whopping

GIRLS BASKETBALL

2009-10 season: 25-3, Division 1 state champion
Returning starters (3): Natalie Gomez-Martinez, 5-7, Sr., guard; Nicole Boudreau, 5-8, Jr., guard; Ally Fazio, 5-7, Jr., guard
Returning lettermen: Mollie Maturah, 5-9, Jr., forward; Devon Caveney, 5-7, Soph., guard; Jackie Alois, 5-6, Soph., forward; Olivia Biles, 5-7, Soph., guard; Elon Beasley, 5-7, Sr., forward
Newcomers: Abbie Watts, 5-8, Jr., center; Bridget Thibadeau, 5-7, Jr., forward; Jaymi Cohen 5-6, Jr., guard; Danielle Boudreau 5-8, Jr., guard
Captains: Ally Fazio, Natalie Gomez-Martinez, Nicole Boudreau
Candidates in all four grades: 38
Returning leaders: Nicole Boudreau 19.8 ppg, area-best 88 3-pointers; Natalie Martinez-Gomez 16.0 ppg, 33 3-pointers; Devon Caveney 8.2 ppg 52 3-pointers
Returning honorees: Eagle-Tribune MVP Nicole Boudreau, Eagle-Tribune Super Teamer Natalie Martinez-Gomez
Head coach: Jim Tildsley (16th year, 306-52)
Assistants: Dick Muller, Leo Lafond (JV), Megan Pinksten (Frosh.), Kerri O'Dea (volunteer)

88 3-pointers for the second straight season.

She is joined by fellow 2010 All-Scholastic Gomez-Martinez. The dynamic Marist College-bound point guard averaged 16.0 points, 5.6 assists, 4.8 rebounds and 4.5 steals per game last season. She was never better than in the title game, scoring a game-high 25 points.

"Nicole and Natalie are obviously both standouts," said Tildsley, whose squad won the Hoops for Hope summer league title. "And it is Ally Fazio that keeps everyone involved."

Now a junior, Fazio enters her third year as a starting guard for the Golden Warriors. She averaged 6.2 points per game a season ago, including scoring 10 or more points in the final three tournament games. A clutch shooter, she hit 21 3-pointers.

Adding to the talented group back is sophomore sharpshooter Caveney, who averaged 8.2 points a game last season as a freshman, knocking down 52 3-pointers. She was especially good in the postseason, scoring a game-high 19 points in a Division 1 state semifinal win over Mansfield and 16 in a Division 1 North semifinal victory over Westford Academy.

"We've all heard that we should go undefeated," said Boudreau. "We're definitely concentrating on competing for another state title. We are excited to go back out there and play basketball. We know that Natalie, Ally, myself and Devon can put up points and shoot the basketball. But I feel like we have a good overall group."

Andover did lose its top two low-post players from a year ago in Dianna Bill and Alex Alois. But the Golden Warriors feel confident the new group will fit in.

"Everyone knows me and Nicole and Ally," said Gomez-Martinez. "But I think we have a lot of girls that will contribute. Girls like (guard) Olivia Biles and (forward) Jackie Alois, who will help down low."

Now, the Golden Warriors set their eyes on a possible repeat title, with each team targeting them.

"Our style is a little indescribable," said Gomez-Martinez with a laugh. "We are a running team and we are a very good shooting team."

"We are ready for the competition. I think it's crazy to think everyone is after us. But that's OK. Whoever wants to come at us. We'll just keep playing out game, and we'll be totally fine."

Shooting Stars U16 girls shut out national competition

A group of Andover girls helped their soccer academy's under-16 team shutout most of its opponents to win a recent national tournament.

The U-16 girls team of the Andover-based Shooting Stars Soccer Academy participated in the National Elite Women's Soccer Showcase tournament in Long Island, N.Y. on Nov. 27 and 28 and won the championship in its U16 division, winning all of its games. The team also shutout the competition in each of its three preliminary matches as well as the tournament final.

Players from Andover include Jackie Alois, defender; Meredith Anthoine, midfielder; Olivia Biles, goalkeeper; Sarah Brette, forward; Piper Curtis, defender; Michelle Gagnon, defender; Rachel Holzman, midfielder/forward; and Siobhan McDonough, midfielder.

The Shooting Stars Soccer Academy calls itself home to some of the top players in the state's northeast region. The Andover-based club says it "is committed to educating and developing youth soccer players with a training program that balances individual player



Front row, from left: Meredith Antoine (Andover), Holly Neimic, Jackie Alois (Andover), Kim Neyman, Sarah Brette (Andover), Olivia Biles (Andover) and Michelle Gagnon (Andover); back row: Siobhan McDonough (Andover), Katherine Zavez, Alyssa Chase, Nicole Chaet, Piper Curtis (Andover), Rachel Holzman (Andover), Alex Bischoff and Coach Cesar Gilbert.

development, sportsmanship and team performance." The Shooting Stars are registered with and sanctioned by the Massachusetts Premier League and the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association. The

club's teams participate in the MAPLE and the Massachusetts Soccer Conference and have played in the Northeast League of the Region 1 US Youth Soccer Program.

The National Elite Women's

Soccer Showcase is a college showcase on the East Coast, now in its seventh year. The Showcase structure involves four age groups, including U15, U16, U17 and U18. Within each age group, 32 teams compete.

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LOST CAT Black & White cat (named 'Byte') in Methuen near Pleasant Valley Animal Hospital.

LOST CAT Charcoal gray neutered male, (all grey w/ white markings), 3 yrs old. Scruffy tail on upper back; long tail. Last 11/23, Main St. Groveland. 978-373-9565

LOST CAT Orange female with white nose/chest/stomach/paws. Couscous is 11 years old, missing from Rockport since 8/18, may be in Broadway/Main St. area, \$500 Reward. 978-325-2189 anytime or 978-546-9373

LOST CAT recently shaved, gray/white, white chest, 7 yrs old, answers to Clumpy, may have taken a ride in customer's car. Lost without him. REWARD Please call from 978-683-9544 or 978-399-3025

LOST: CAT Sun, Nov. 28th, Centerville Area, Beverly Black & white Tuxedo cat semi-long beautiful black cat, white paws, black swish on face green eyes answers to Smudge (978) 979-7689

LOST: Red tabby long haired mole cat. Double paws. Resembles a lion. Lost in woods off of Emerson Dr., Fremont, NH. Simba is the Cat that sits on Santa's Log. Help bring him home before Dec. 24th. Call (603) 244-1771.

FOUND CAT 'Faded' Calico female, domestic long hair, very friendly. Found on Randall Lane, off Emerson Ave in Hamstead, NH. Call Ann Control / PD: 603-362-2211

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HAVERHILL, share house, \$125/wk includes everything, training, large rec room, both rooms and balcony, hardwood floors, central a/c & vac. Laundry, parking. Reply to: snbennett356@yahoo.com

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IPSWICH - Clean, courteous 25 yr. old female seeks roommate to share 1 Townhouse \$750/mo + utilities. 2nd floor bedroom with walk-in closet, window seat with storage, cable and internet. Shared living areas, kitchen, dining, living, large rec room, both rooms and balcony, hardwood floors, central a/c & vac. Laundry, parking. Reply to: snbennett356@yahoo.com

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