



TEACHERS CONTRACT BY END OF YEAR?

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MASTER PLAN INCLUDES RIVERWALK.

PAGE 5

OVER 2,000 GO PURPLE WITH A PURPOSE.

PAGE 9



OUR 124TH YEAR

Andover Townsman

Issue No. 6

OCTOBER 6, 2011

75 CENTS

CENTER OF ATTENTION: FOCUS ON ANDOVER'S DOWNTOWN

Businesses adapt as tough times hit home

By DUSTIN LUCA
STAFF WRITER

The state of the economy has been a significant factor influencing everything from how money is spent at home to how much that home is worth. The widely documented results also affect the smaller stores and restaurants that make up downtown Andover.

"Right now, the economy is just out of control," Kay Demaso, owner of jewelry store Quiet Pleasures, said. "It's a challenge."

For restaurants, ingredients may become more expensive. For retail stores and smaller shops, the cost to ship products gets pricier and customers become more likely to shop at larger chain stores with greater buying power.

But where shoppers save a dollar or two, they lose much more, argue Demaso and other shop owners.

"One of the best things about small businesses is that we're going to remember our customers' birthdays, anniversaries. We'll remember if they just had a baby," Demaso said. "That is one of the things about small businesses that you can't get in chain stores or national stores."

With businesses making less and spending more to receive their products, other efforts or events decline or go away. Take, as an example, Bazaar Days — an event where businesses took to the sidewalks and offered significant discounts on their

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Surprise, Dad's home



COURTESY PHOTO

An emotional scene unfolded at High Plain Elementary School when Henry Delima returned home a day earlier than expected from his Army tour in Afghanistan and surprised two of his daughters, Arianna and Elianna, at the school. Their teachers tell the story, page 9.

December vote likely for youth center

AYF says it could lose \$1.5M, decade-old donation

By DUSTIN LUCA
STAFF WRITER

SELECTMEN: ARTICLE SHOULD BE PRIVATE

With a \$1.5 million donation possibly at risk, the private Andover Youth Foundation will collect 200 signatures to call a Special Town Meeting in December to determine the fate of a planned youth center.

In front of a packed room, selectmen on Monday asked the foundation, the driving force behind the planned youth center, to put together at least 200 signatures of registered Andover voters to call the Special Town Meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for Dec. 5. Residents will be asked to spend \$2 million to build a \$4 million scaled down center, with AYF saying it will contribute the other \$2 million.

During a discussion on the project, Andover Youth Foundation Chairwoman Diane Costagliola said the vote must come before the end of the year, because "there is at least \$1 million plus that is in jeopardy at this point."

Leading up to the meeting on the youth center, selectmen were prepared to take an advisory position on whether selectmen or the private Andover Youth Foundation should call the meeting that will ask residents to spend \$2 million for the youth center.

At Monday's meeting, Chairman Brian Major opened the discussion by asking the other four selectmen if they wanted the Andover Youth Foundation to call the meeting and write the warrant article. Each of the selectmen indicated AYF should do so. There was no official vote.

"We've lost pledges because it has taken so long to get the project off the ground," Costagliola said. "We've lost a \$750,000 pledge towards this project because of the fact that we changed sites. ...

See YOUTH, Page 2

McGarry Morris' new 'Light' runs on girl power

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
STAFF WRITER



LIGHT FROM A DISTANT STAR

Andover author Mary McGarry Morris' new book Free reading, signing Thursday, Oct. 6, 7 p.m. Andover Bookstore, 89R Main St. 978-475-0143

When famed Andover author Mary McGarry Morris was thinking of her latest book she knew a heroic girl would tell the story. She even wrote the words "courage" and "heroism" on a slip of paper and pulled them out when she began working on the book, "Light from a Distant Star."

"I really enjoyed writing

this one. It's the point of view of a young girl," McGarry said. Morris said. Nellie Peck is an

See BOOK, Page 2



A rendering of the proposed \$4 million Andover youth center.

Letter from the publisher

Dear Reader,

Did you notice that your newspaper feels a little different? If you did, you were correct. If you didn't, it wouldn't surprise us.

The newspaper is not as wide today after what is called in our business a "web-width reduction." What that means is that we trimmed each page of the newspaper by an inch and a half.

The paper may feel

different, but it doesn't look all that different. We have kept our old type sizes and will keep giving you the same numbers of stories on each page. Other than tightening up a few things, everything stays the same, with the exception of the width.

This change allows us to save on the cost of newsprint while still bringing you the local news every day. Your local newspaper is certainly

not alone in this change as newspapers across the country, including national newspapers like USA Today, have made the same change. In general, readers find the paper easier to handle and fold, so it is a win-win.

The part of the new look and feel we are most excited about is our Classified Advertising section, which is now renamed Marketplace. The new six-column format is

much easier to read than the old 10-column format. And if you place an ad, the format will make it look fantastic and offer some features to bring attention to the items you want to sell.

Watch for more news in October as we expand our print and online offerings in Marketplace. Soon you will be able to design great looking ads that will run in the paper, online or both. You

will have complete control as you place the ads online.

Our team is always working to make your reading experience more enjoyable. And as you may already know, you can read us in print and online.

We always want to hear your feedback and suggestions. Please write to me at agetler@eagletribune.com.

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Publisher

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In Brief

Preschool screening third Friday of month

The Andover Public Schools will be conducting a screening for 3- and 4-year-old preschool children in the community on the third Friday of every month. The screening is completely voluntary and available to parents who have a concern about their child's development. The screening is conducted by members of the special education staff and provides information about a child's functioning in the areas of speech and language ability, fine and gross motor skills and overall cognitive growth. Screening results help to indicate whether more specific information or evaluation in a particular area of development is needed. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call Mary Kay at 978-623-8850.

QUOTE, UNQUOTE ...



Because we went to mediation so quickly, my sense is that we didn't form that personal relationship. When you're in separate rooms and the mediator is going back and forth, it sort of makes it difficult because you're describing motivations to people that may or may not be true. Because you don't know who they are or what their philosophy is, I just feel after having done this and been on bargaining teams several times,... I think that contributed to the length of time this has taken.

Kerry Costello, teachers union president, on the amount of time it has taken to agree on a new contract with the School Committee. Story in Education, page 13.

Of all the stories I have done, this one was so complicated and so emotional. It really was daunting for me.

Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Barbara Walsh on her new book, "August Gale: A Father and Daughters' Journey into the Storm," which tells a story that affected her father and grandfather. Story in Arts, page 11.



Homes for Our Troops dinner Oct. 15 event to help build home for injured vet

One event in town next Saturday will help build a new specially-adapted home for a war veteran confined to a wheelchair after serving his country. The national charity Homes for Our Troops, which has built over 100 specially-adapted homes across America for totally disabled veterans at no cost to the veterans, is building a home for Marine Sgt. Joshua Bouchard, an injured Massachusetts veteran. A dinner, live auction and silent auction at the Andover Country Club will help raise a net total of \$100,000 to cover the cash cost of Bouchard's new home. The event is organized by Blueberry Hill Road resident Jay French, former board chairman on HFOT. Bouchard was on his second deployment when he lost his left leg, broke his back, and suffered traumatic brain

injury after his vehicle drove over a pressure-plated improvised explosive device in Helmand Province, Afghanistan on July 8, 2009. At present, his laundry is located in the cellar, his hallways are too narrow for his wheelchair, and much of his home is simply inaccessible to him. But soon, that will no longer be the case. "Receiving this home from Homes for Our Troops will give me new sense of freedom and take away the worry about where I will live and if my home is accessible to me," Bouchard, who lives near Granby, said. The dinner will be attended by Honorary Co-Chair Bob Lobel, longtime Boston sportscaster. Live auction items will include vacations, golf with former Red Sox Dwight Evans, flights

in a restored World War II bomber. Silent auction items include dinners, spa treatments and a winter of driveway plowing. For more information or to attend, visit homesforourtroops.org; click "Events" tab; advance calendar to October; click "Merrimack Celebration" in the Oct. 15 box; and click "Event Details" at end of the short description. The event page includes a "Click here to purchase tickets and sponsorships" link. Project Makeover, an effort to empower military wives that involves some Andover businesses, will also join forces with Homes For Our Troops for this evening, and for an event at Saffron Bistro in Nashua, N.H. on Nov. 14. For more information, visit the Homes For Our Troops website.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Class of '76 hosts 35th reunion

Andover High School Class of 1976 will celebrate its 35th reunion on Saturday, Oct. 15 from 8 p.m. to midnight. The event is at the Andover Old Town Hall, also known as the Town House, 20 Main St., in Andover. It is open to classes 1974-78. For more information contact: Tim Shea at 978-479-9668 or send an email to ahs1976reunion@comcast.net.

Food Addicts informational session

Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous (FA) is a 12 Step Program for individuals suffering from food obsession, overeating, under-eating and bulimia. There will be an informational meeting in Andover on Saturday, Oct. 15 at 10 a.m. at Christ Church, 25 Central St. Hear how FA works and ask questions. There are no dues, fees or weigh-ins with the group. Everyone is welcome, including those who think they may have a food problem or are concerned about someone who may. For more information, visit the group's website foodaddicts.org.

Pingree School admission open house

Meet current students, teachers and coaches and learn about Pingree School at an admission open house on Saturday, Oct. 22 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the school, 537 Highland St., South Hamilton. Pingree is a coeducational independent day school for grades 9 through 12. For more information, visit pingree.org or call 978-468-4415.

Volunteer group helps stock homes

Project Home Again, a program affiliated with Temple Emanuel of Andover, provides people in need with donated household goods free of charge. Project Home Again's warehouse, where people can drop off goods, is located at 439 South Union St., Lawrence. Items can be dropped off on Tuesdays from 11 a.m.

to 1 p.m., Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon and Thursdays from 1 to 3 p.m. The website for the organization is www.phama.org.

Replacing flags for Andover veterans

On Sunday morning, Oct. 16 Andover veterans, cadets, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brownies and interested citizens will meet at 11a.m. at Spring Grove Cemetery on Abbot Street to replace 3,600 flags on the graves of deceased Andover veterans. The process takes about 90 minutes and affords an opportunity to see parts of Andover's history up close. In case of inclement weather, the flags will be placed on graves at 11a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 23. For more information call the Veterans Office at 978-623-8218.

Hearing aids at Topsfield fair

Quota International, District 29 will hand out free packets of hearing aids on Monday, Oct. 10 at 3:30 pm at the Arena Figure 8 Race/Demolition Derby at the Topsfield Fair. Quota International is a non-profit organization whose focus is to champion the education of hearing-impaired children in the Merrimack Valley area. Members from the Andover, Lawrence, and Manchester and Dover, New Hampshire chapters will be represented at the fair. Quota is a worldwide organization. Call Mary Montbleau, Lt. Governor of District #29, for information, 978-423-8424.

Big Brother, Sister collections on Monday, Oct. 10

The Big Brother Big Sister Foundation is in need of the public's support through donations of lightly used clothing and small household items. They ask, while

you clean out your closets to consider donating your lightly worn clothing to the foundation. The Foundation will be collecting donations door to door in Andover on

Monday, Oct. 10. To schedule a free curbside pick up, call 1-800-483-5503 or email donate@bbbsfoundation.org. Donations are tax deductible.

The foundation also offers special pick ups for electronics recycling and car donations. Contact them for more information or visit www.bbbsfoundation.org.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on North Street Friday for Northfield Commons, the town's first major subdivision to open in several years. Posing, from left, are developer David Murray, Marlene Hoyt of financier Enterprise Bank, developer assistant David Murray Jr. and Lillian Montalto, broker at Lillian Montalto Signature Properties. The subdivision will feature 32 new single family and other units starting at \$519,900. Eight units have sold.



DUSTIN LUCA/Staff Photo

Agent: First development of its kind in a decade opens

A new subdevelopment on North Street celebrated its grand opening last Friday, Sept. 30, with the completion of three model homes and another 29 coming soon. Northfield Commons, a new 32-home community, will consist of six single-family homes and 26 duplexes when completed. Eight of the properties already have reservations placed on them, according to Lillian

Montalto, of Lillian Montalto Signature Properties, broker and owner of Northfield Commons. "We are in the age of the baby boomers, and there is a lot of people who want to stay in this town, but not in their big house," Montalto said. It is the first subdevelopment of its kind to come to Andover in over a decade, Montalto said. Most of the homes haven't been built yet. "We're going to build as

we sell, but we will always keep a few units available for people that need quick occupancy," Montalto said. Prices for the homes start

at \$519,900 for a 2,100 square-foot duplex, \$539,900 for a 2,500 square-foot duplex and \$639,900 for a 3,000 square-foot single-family home.

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DUSTIN LUCA/Staff Photo

Firefighters Bob Dalton and Brian Wright stand with Joey Miller, an 8-year-old Haverhill resident diagnosed with muscular dystrophy, during Friday's Fill The Boot donation drive to support the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Also pictured are Scott Silva, Joey's cousin (at far left), and (at far right) Dena Miller, Joey's mother.

Firefighters fill boots for MDA

BY DUSTIN LUCA
STAFF WRITER

Members of Andover's Fire Department took to the streets last week in its fifth-annual Fill the Boot campaign to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Firefighters stood at the entrance to Shawsheen Plaza and at two locations along Main Street in downtown Andover last Friday, Sept. 30, and Saturday, Oct. 1, collecting money. On Friday afternoon, firefighters in the downtown were joined by 8-year-old Joey Miller, a Haverhill resident with the neuro-muscular disease, and his family.

"They're just very nice," Joey, a student at Haverhill's Pentucket Lake School, said of those donating to the

campaign. "Giving even a tiny bit of some money, it can save a kid's life."

Dena Miller, Joey's mother, praised the firefighters and their efforts.

"These guys go out and risk their lives for strangers every day, and then they get behind families like mine who are struggling to keep it together," she said.

Brian Wright, a firefighter who stood by Old Town Hall with a boot full of donated money, said many neuro-muscular diseases can be cured through donation-supported research.

"(Families like Joey's) deal with this every night and every day of their life," Wright said. "Why wouldn't I volunteer two days of the year of my life?"

■ POLICE LOG

COMPILED BY DUSTIN LUCA
dluca@andvertownsmen.com

The following items were taken from Andover police logs for Tuesday, Sept. 27 through Monday, Oct. 3:

ARRESTS

Tuesday, Sept. 27 — At 12:07 p.m., Thomas Holloway, 22, of 61 Haverhill St., Andover, was arrested on Beacon Street and charged on a warrant for operating a motor vehicle while unlicensed.

At 2:22 p.m., Raiffi Castillo, 22, of 17 Forest St., Lawrence, was arrested on River Road and charged with receiving stolen property over \$250, operating a motor vehicle while unlicensed, attaching the wrong plates to a motor vehicle, driving an uninsured motor vehicle or trailer and driving an unregistered motor vehicle.

Thursday, Sept. 29 — At 4:11 a.m., Deborah Kelly, 36, an Andover resident, was arrested at her home and charged with assault and battery on a household member. This call originated after Kelly called 911 to report that a man, who police identified as a 21-year-old, had invaded the home. The man was pinned down by Kelly's husband. After a police investigation prior to the arrest, it was determined that the man was there to see someone else who lives in the home, according to police.

At 11:50 a.m., Joseph Bowman, 34, of 55 Summer St., Haverhill, was arrested on North Main Street and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, subsequent

offense, and a warrant for driving with a suspended license.

At 9:01 p.m., Kenneth Hoff, 52, an Andover resident, was arrested at his home and charged with assault and battery on a household member.

Friday, Sept. 30 — At 12:13 p.m., Carol Provost, 49, of 121 Lake Drive, Plymouth, was arrested on North Main Street and charged on a warrant for breaking and entering at night with intent to commit a felony, tampering with a fire call box and a false fire alarm charge.

At 1:10 p.m., Leah Mullen, 35, of 5 Lancelot Court, Salem, N.H., was arrested on River Road and charged with distribution of a class B drug.

Saturday, Oct. 1 — At 8:55 p.m., Seungwoo Hoo, 48, an Andover resident, was arrested at his home and charged with assault and battery on a household member.

Sunday, Oct. 2 — At 3:26 a.m., Peter Fleming IV, 21, of 44 Webb St., Weymouth, was arrested on River Road and charged with a marked lanes violation and operating under the influence of liquor.

At 10:22 p.m., Simba Masiywi, 38, an Andover resident, was arrested at his home and charged with assault and battery on a household member and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

CAR CRIME

Tuesday, Sept. 27 — At 11:47 a.m., a theft of a dirt bike was reported to police.

Saturday, Oct. 1 — At 2:42 p.m., a truck and attached

trailer was reported stolen from Lupine Road.

BREAKS

Friday, Sept. 30 — At 10:28 a.m., a caller at a company on Connector Road called police to report that a company-owned storage trailer "has been broken into some time since June and their lock has been cut and replaced."

THEFTS

Tuesday, Sept. 27 — At 4:22 p.m., a theft of a bicycle on Summer Street was reported to police.

Wednesday, Sept. 28 — At 9:48 a.m., a theft of a GPS from a motor vehicle on Sparta Way was reported to police.

Sunday, Oct. 2 — At 1:18 p.m., a case of shoplifting was reported Railroad Street.

At 5:09 p.m., a theft of tools was reported on Arundel Street.

INCIDENTS

Tuesday, Sept. 27 — At 1:46 p.m., a pedestrian flagged down an officer on Park Street because of a suspicious package. After an investigation, the suspicious package was determined to be "an empty garment bag."

At 7:02 p.m., a Haggetts Pond Road resident called police reporting that someone had used her doorbell, and when she asked what they wanted, nobody answered. "She has a security camera, and she was unable to see anyone in the area," according to police reports. An officer checking the area found a FedEx package that had been recently dropped off at the home.

Wednesday, Sept. 28

At 1:20 p.m., a shotgun was turned in at the police station.

At 1:53 p.m., a case of identity theft was reported to police from Peach Tree Path.

At 7:06 p.m., a case of assault was reported on River Road.

Friday Sept. 30 — At 10:43 a.m., a caller on Main Street called from his car, parked in a parking space along Main Street, to report that "his yellow lab was taken from his car" while it was parked. An officer on the scene reported that the "dog was in the back of the car lying down."

At 4:25 p.m., police were called to a business on Main Street on a report of three youths who "keep riding the elevator up and down and are throwing chairs around."

At 5:52 p.m., police were called to Shawsheen Plaza on a report of "a suspicious suit case sitting alone in front of Marshalls." An officer at the scene was able to locate the owner of the bag.

Saturday, Oct. 1 — At 3:28 p.m., police were called to a cemetery on Central Street, on a report of four "kids in the cemetery ... who looked like they were checking out the graves to see how sturdy they are." Responding officers reported no issues, "just people and employees walking around."

Sunday, Oct. 2 — At 12:31 p.m., an Andover motorist called police to report "she was teaching her son how to drive and he stepped on the gas instead of the brake and crashed." No property damage was reported.

At 2:26 p.m., a caller on Elm Street reported "15 females standing in the middle of Rock Ridge Road who are yelling and screaming." As an officer was being dispatched on the call, another officer who was working detail in the area reported that "the road is closed off with cones and the girls are part of 4,000 other people cheering the participants of a Walk-a-Thon, including a band."

Monday, Oct. 3 — At 1:41 p.m., a case of identity fraud was reported on Dawn Circle.

At 3:50 p.m., a case of fraud was reported on Maple Avenue.

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Protect your family from fire

Fire can be our friend or our worst enemy. When we use fire to cook our food and warm our body, it is our friend. When fire burns down houses and destroys property, it is our enemy.

Know how to protect yourself and your property from fire. National Fire Prevention Week is a great time to review fire prevention tips and your fire escape plans.

The Kid likes fire drills at school. If fire threatened the school, the Kid would know how to get out safely.

The Kid's family also practices their fire escape plan. They have a set location where they meet outside. No one goes back into the house once they are out.

Here are some other tips the Kid learned:

- Cover your mouth and nose with a moist towel or a piece of clothing while getting
- Check electrical appliances to make sure they have no frayed cords or loose wires.
- Check outlets to make sure they are not overloaded.
- Use light bulbs that are the right wattage for the fixture. Make sure lamps and night lights do not touch drapes or bedspreads.
- Do not run electrical wires under rugs.
- Cooking is the leading cause of home fires. Make sure there is an adult in the kitchen while cooking, even if it is just in the microwave.
- Never play with matches or lighters.

National Fire Prevention Week Oct. 9-15

out of a burning building.

- Crawl under the smoke to safety.
- Touch a doorknob to see if it is hot before opening it; if so, find another exit.
- Never stop to take special belongings or pets or make a phone call when trying to get out.
- If your clothing catches on fire, remember to stop, drop and roll to extinguish the fire.

Here are some things your family can do to keep your home safe:

- Twice a year, test and change the batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.


Cross Five
Place the six words in the crossword grid

				E

Ashes
Essay
Other
Smoke
Start
Tarry

				N
M				

Ample
Apple
Elect
Place
Plans
Sleet



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CENTER OF ATTENTION: FOCUS ON ANDOVER'S DOWNTOWN

Master Plan: Riverwalk, tourism among goals

By DUSTIN LUCA
STAFF WRITER

What can the town do to expand its tourism potential? Should it build a town-wide walking path along the Shawsheen River? Should it protect what few farms remain from Andover's agricultural past?

One document in town plans what Andover will look like decades down the road, Andover's Master Plan.

An earlier version of the Master Plan was created in 1992, and an updated version is moving through its final draft with the Planning Board and other community groups. In it, goals for 20 years of protecting land, growing Andover and more are laid out for the town to consider.

Specifically identified in

the Master Plan this time around is the need to protect natural resources, with new focuses on sustainable energy, stormwater management and regulations surrounding land use — all areas of attention that have grown in the last two decades.

"This Master Plan has additional sections within each category, sustainability and looking at natural resources differently than 20 years ago," said Lisa Schwarz, town planner.

One of these things is the plan to establish a "Riverwalk" — a pedestrian path that runs along Andover's entire portion of the Shawsheen River. The ongoing project has less than a decade to go before people can hit the trail, according to Bob Douglas, conservation

director.

"(Paul Materazzo, planning director) called it 'a community connected by water,'" Douglas said. "The goal would be to acquire or get access to as many of these properties (along the Shawsheen River) as we can to put together a walkway everybody can enjoy."

The Riverwalk could be ready to open within five to ten years, according to Douglas.

Development and preservation

An overwhelming majority of Andover's land has already been developed, according to the Master Plan. There is a sense that open space and property like farm land — which is becoming harder to find every day

— needs to be protected, and this Master Plan addresses that, Schwarz said.

"At one time, Andover was the mill, the hill and the till," Schwarz said, highlighting the industrial, Phillips Academy-based educational, and agricultural history Andover was once known for. "There is not a whole lot (of farms left), but we do have a few out towards West Andover."

A few excerpts from a recent draft of the Master Plan. Several ideas could affect the downtown:

- Removing potential regulatory barriers to mixed-use development, including parking and dimensional requirements;
- Developing a written policy assigning the role and responsibility of the design review process to the Preservation Commission, the

Board of Selectmen, the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals, in addition to the Design and Review Board;

- Relocating the Town Yard from the downtown to a more appropriate site;
- Expanding the tourism potential of Andover;
- Encouraging the preservation of remaining farmland to ensure that future generations can enjoy Andover's agricultural heritage;
- Reviewing and considering opportunities to appropriate available town land for alternative energy generation, in a way that generates cost savings without impacting open space;
- Promoting an increase in affordable housing;
- Encouraging that new housing developments should advance a walkable,

bikeable community;

- Purchasing parcels of conservation-approved land using the town's Conservation Land Fund;
- Restricting the use of land along the Shawsheen River, from Lawrence to Tewksbury;
- Creating "pocket parks" or community gardens in dense neighborhoods;
- Strengthening the woodland trail system throughout town to connect neighborhoods and schools;
- Continue planning a Riverwalk, a recreational walking path, along the entire length of the Shawsheen River;
- Maintaining existing, and creating new, sports fields; and
- Supporting Memorial Hall Library as "the cultural heart of the community."

Center's safety needs don't end with new crosswalks

By DUSTIN LUCA
STAFF WRITER

Standing behind her jewelry display case, Quiet Pleasures owner Kay Demaso has a prime view of people rushing about the downtown.

"One person. Two people. That's three people who just entered the crosswalk without looking," she says as three pedestrians, all of whom are walking alone, cross Barnard Street at its intersection with Main Street. Two of the people are looking into their cell phones, while the third is just facing forward.

"People don't pay attention to this," she says. "They just assume they have the right of way - and motorists think (motorists) have a right of way."

For many people, staying safe in downtown Andover may amount to nothing more than making sure they don't run a red light while driving through the area. But for others, including Andover Police Safety Officer Chuck Edgerly, there is a lot more involved.

"No matter how many signs you put in, no matter how many bump-outs you put in, no matter how many crosswalks you put in, everybody is in a rush," Edgerly said. "The biggest issue is getting folks who are driving to slow down and pay attention, and to get pedestrians to cross where they should cross and when they should."

Two of Andover's downtown intersections feature crossing areas that are controlled by traffic lights. Through them, a white lit-up image of a man walking tells pedestrians to cross, while a red hand tells people not

to cross. Broadcast audio recordings also provide cues for when to walk or not to walk. But many people ignore the signals, and town bylaws basically treat the "Do Not Cross" order as more of a suggestion than a rule.

"We don't have a jaywalking bylaw, so there's no enforcement action we can take at this time against a pedestrian," Edgerly said.

And in other places, people cross where they never have the right of way — in the middle of the street.

"It is frustrating to me that the town spent all this money to put in all these brick sidewalks, and people will be 30 to 40 feet from the crosswalk, and they will walk into traffic," Edgerly said. "The person that is the pedestrian can't expect to walk out in front of a moving vehicle and expect them to stop on a dime."

For this, Edgerly said he will soon be issuing two-sided cards with safety tips, with one side addressing drivers and the other pedestrians.

But other improvements are expected, including on Park Street, which could get an additional crosswalk in the area of frozen treat shop Orange Leaf and toy store Learning Express and an expanded sidewalk, which will eat into the space taken up by the one-way road.

"By expanding the sidewalk and narrowing the travel way, you will: A, have a lot more space for pedestrians; B, You'll have a visual cue for the driver that the road is narrower so you will slow down; and C, you will have the correct amount of space to install the crosswalk," Edgerly said.

DOWNTOWN: Economic downturn hits locally

Continued from Page 1

products or services, sometimes giving things away.

"It was very wonderful," Enzo Fossella, owner of Enzo of Andover in Olde Andover Village, said. "Every business participated, and it brought a lot of people."

Today, things like Bazaar Days are less likely to take place because businesses can't afford to participate. (Andover Day is its successful replacement.)

"That has diminished. It doesn't have that strong interest of all the businesses that we had then," Fossella said. "Now, there is Andover Day. But it isn't Bazaar."

The condition of the economy isn't the only thing that impacts businesses and their ability to operate. Things like weather do too, especially for a downtown community.

"When it's nice out, people will park and walk, then they'll go to a bunch of other businesses," Lisa Schwarz, town planner, said. "When it's raining, they'll just visit the one business they came to visit."

During the winter, it can be even worse.

"If we have a few days of snow, that's a few days of sales they don't have," Schwarz said. "And they still have to pay rent."

Individually, businesses have changed. Some, like lingerie store Night and Day, have closed this year.

"In 2008, I just really started noticing a change in traffic," said Merit Tukianen, owner of the store. "It became pretty apparent in the last year that people mostly had been coming to us for bra fitting, but I have enough evidence to support fairly comfortably that I lost the repeat business to retail stores and online stores."

"Between that and the slowdown, in order to stay afloat, I would have had to invest a lot of money in advertising, which I had planned to scale down," Tukianen said. "The numbers just didn't make sense anymore. ... I would pretty much lose everything that I created it for, so I closed it."

Others have been more fortunate and found ways to change their model. Fitness Together, located at the intersection of North Main Street and Railroad Street,

changed its entire service delivery model to better serve clients and their financial difficulties.

"I opened here in 2005," Lisa Swanson, who co-owns the studio with her husband Steve, said. "We did great. It worked until the economy started tanking."

Where they previously worked with one-on-one physical training, they have renovated their business to serve multiple clients at once. The change required them to purchase new equipment and rearrange their studio, but they will now serve multiple people in one session — and at a lower price, too.

"People come in here and say, 'I love what you have and I want to do this, but I can't afford it,'" Swanson said. "The thing here is, 'be part of the pack, but not lost in the crowd.' They can come in at half of the price of the personal trainer."

In some ways, tough economic times can lead to future growth and positive change, according to Tom Carroll, broker and owner of Remax Partners on Park Street. Options that may not

have been considered in better times, perhaps acted on in desperation, could lead to further growth or get businesses to try new things because the ways of the old is no longer profitable.

"Necessity becomes the mother of invention," Carroll said. "An economy like this might force some changes that make sense. I think it takes an economy like this to get thinking along those lines."

Whether it changes or not, the downtown community still provides tax revenue to the town, and can affect overall real estate values. Those are reasons its supporters give for residents to continue supporting downtown businesses.

"You, in essence, end up supporting the values and the assessments of real estate downtown. That should be the community's interest," Tukianen said. "In order to support your downtown, you have to shop there. Otherwise, it will be gone."

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

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Senator honored for anti fraud efforts

Insurance Fraud Bureau of Massachusetts recognized former state Sen. Susan Tucker this summer for her landmark legislative efforts to lower insurance rates for her constituents. Tucker was among 43 people honored by the IFB "for outstanding and invaluable contributions toward the fight against insurance

fraud in Massachusetts" as the group observed its 20th anniversary with an awards ceremony in Boston.

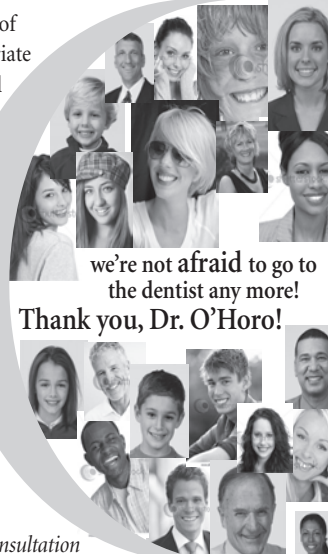
Tucker was the architect of the state law passed in 2002 which made auto insurance fraud a felony.

Tucker also was a key author of the so-called "anti-runner law," which made it illegal for people to act as or hire "runners" - independent contractors who stage accidents and

provide clients for lawyers, chiropractors and other professionals for phony insurance claims. Rather than take an easy political way out by blaming others for the problem, Senator Tucker reached out an offered her

assistance in any way she could. She sought avenues to firm up the laws of the Commonwealth in this area," the group said in honoring the senator.

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Obituaries

Priscilla Wile, 88

Mrs. Priscilla (Johnson) J. Wile of Methuen, Janice Wile, a longtime resident of W. Long of Rowley, Marilyn Andover and beloved wife of W. Holmes of Andover; siblings, Elizabeth and her husband William Wass of Melrose, Mildred Mueller of New Port Richie, Fla.; eight grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, four great-great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. She was also the mother of the late Barbara J. Wile; and grandmother of the late Scott S. Grant.



ARRANGEMENTS: Her funeral services will be private. Donations in Priscilla's memory may be made to the Merrimack Valley Hospice House, 360 North Ave., Haverhill, MA 01830, American Cancer Society, Spleen Street, Framingham, MA. The family wishes to thank the staff of the Nevins and the MVHospice House for their compassionate care given their mother. For additional information, please visit www.burkemaglozzi.com.

Due date for extension filers

The deadline for Massachusetts individual taxpayers who requested an extension to file their 2010 tax returns is Oct. 17.

Some taxpayers can wait until after Oct. 17 to file, including those serving in Iraq, Afghanistan or other combat zone localities and people affected by recent natural disasters.

Following Tropical Storm Irene, the president declared Berkshire and Franklin

counties in Massachusetts federal disaster areas. Individuals who reside or have a business in these counties, may qualify for tax relief from the IRS.

The declaration permits the IRS to postpone certain deadlines for taxpayers who reside or have a business in the disaster area. Certain deadlines falling on or after Aug. 27, and on or before Oct. 31, have been postponed to Oct. 31, 2011.



Andover Stories

Tom Adams,
Andover Historical Society

Conjure up the image of an 1800s school house and you'll likely picture something small and pastoral. In your mind's eye, you'll see how an Andover school appeared 200 years ago. Ours was largely a community of farms. It was a sober, hard scrapple life. From dawn to dusk, parents and children toiled together side-by-side. They plowed, planted and harvested together. Their very survival depended on it.

The Andover school system reflected a town then comprised of neighborhood districts. By 1866, there were 12 school districts and 14 schools - the North, Bailey, Abbott, Osgood, West and Centre/Chandler schools, Frye Village's Richardson School, Phillips' Central and later, Stowe schools, Centre District's South Centre and Jackson schools, Ballardvale's Bradlee School, and the Abbott Village, Holt, Scotland and Indian Ridge schools. The school houses were often overcrowded and poorly maintained. The School Committee referred to the North District School as a "medium looking hen house."

The school day differed radically from what today's Andover adults experienced

Recalling school days past



The former Richardson School.

growing up and from what children experience today. There were no school buses, no car pools, and "after school activities" simply meant more work on the farm. Most schools had but a single teacher earning \$4 to \$10 a month. Until Punchard High School opened in 1902, children from 3 1/2 to 18 years of age were in the same classroom often working together on a single subject. Each morning, a hand bell signaled the beginning of class. Lessons followed in history, oral reading, memorization and recitation, mental arithmetic and figuring on slates, a spelling bee, and penmanship using ink and quill pens.

Courtesy and good manners ruled the classroom throughout the 1800s. Children were expected to dress to a certain standard - often cotton pants and flannel shirts for boys; long skirts and cotton blouses for the girls. The teacher maintained order and quiet. Pupils spoke when called upon or they requested permission before speaking by raising their hand. They

were required to stand when speaking to the teacher or to the class. Titles of respect - Miss, Mister, Ma'am, or Sir - were always used when addressing the teacher. Students were required to speak correctly.

Each district created its own rules of decorum. Corporal punishment, detention, suspension and even expulsion were not uncommon. At Indian Ridge, pupils recall the rattan cane; others remember the rod which was recommended, "if necessary," by the School Committee. At the Richardson School, the committee further admonished that "no teacher shall be allowed to carry any club or any other deadly weapon into the school for the discipline of the school."

Beyond discipline and decorum, there were also opportunities for enrichment including bird-watching, flower and tree identification, learning the life-cycle of salmon on the Shawsheen River, planting and tending a victory garden and membership in the Junior Red Cross.

dictatorial teacher began to ebb in the years following the Civil War. Earlier conceptions of strict discipline and even brutal punishment gave way to a more empathetic view of the child. An increased awareness of childhood as a definitive period of development between the age of physical dependence (e.g. one's infancy) and adulthood gained wide acceptance. The growing sense that children were vulnerable and needed protection from the harsher aspects of life brought about significant cultural change. There was a fresh focus of the rights and needs of children. Legislation was passed restricting child labor and, for the first time, books other than those for school were being written expressly for children. As the 20th century dawned, the schoolroom continued to evolve becoming more and more what children experience today.

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

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Opinion

A GARDEN GROWS

Youth center will come down to grassroots support

Those involved with the youth center effort should know by now that if there is going to be a youth center plan approved this year it will be because of a grassroots effort. The youth and their supporters will need to carry the fight, and consider any support from appointed and elected leaders as an added bonus.

We wrote in this space back in July that "It is time for the town leaders to say in clear terms whether a youth center is a real priority." It's a difficult economy, and there are a lot of demands for taxpayer dollars. Where does the youth center rate?

Since then, the private Andover Youth Foundation has come to selectmen, looking for them to call a Special Town Meeting to ask residents to contribute half of the \$4 million needed for the current youth-center plan. AYF says it expects to lose most of its donations if it does not get approval this year, since the bulk of the money it has raised has been sitting in its bank account for 10 years. On Monday, selectmen did not take a vote either way on whether the issue deserves a Special Town Meeting. Each selectman simply indicated to Selectmen Chairman Brian Major that they thought the private group should collect 200 signatures and call a Special Town Meeting itself.

This fit neatly into the history of the youth-center effort since the Andover Youth Council came up with a plan to build a youth center at Recreation Park off Abbot Street in 1995. Town officials have given verbal support for the idea of a youth center, but little more. In 1995, selectmen had the youth present their first youth-center plan to voters. Selectmen and other town leaders did not present the idea themselves. Selectmen recommended approval, but "with no town funds to be appropriated." The youth tried, but some neighbors didn't like the idea of the increased noise and traffic at Recreation Park and another group said it wanted to create an environmental park. With little support from selectmen, the 1995 article failed to attain the needed two-thirds vote by 63 votes. Sixteen years later, the project is still bumping along.

This year, it will be up to the private Andover Youth Foundation to lead the charge to have a youth center built behind Doherty Middle School. Its argument will be that it will contribute \$2 million, while \$2 million comes from the town coffers. The argument is that there is great "bang for the buck." The selectmen will not take a vote on the idea until later this fall, and they may support the plan. But we suspect that if the argument is to carry the day, it will be because of grassroots support and effort. Selectmen, the town manager and other town leaders have never been willing to lead this charge.

Walks show town's heart

Looking for a reason to feel good about your community? Those out and about in Andover on Sunday, saw plenty of reasons.

Thousands were walking to show support for and raise money for others in need. During that one day there were three charity walks in town, the Walk to End Alzheimer's that started at Brickstone Square, the Hike for Hope that began at Merrimack College to help a transitional housing program, and the Trot for Special Tots at the Professional Center for Child Development.

Each supported a worthwhile cause. And they were in Andover because people elsewhere know that Andover residents are often generous with their time and donations.

WEB QUESTION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

What local issue is currently the most important issue for town to address?

■ The postponement of Bancroft Elementary School construction.

■ The potential vote for the Cormier Family Youth Center.

■ Contract talks between the teachers and School Committee.

■ The development of the school district's Strategic Plan.

■ A new Ballardvale Fire Station.

■ The need for more playing fields.

■ Moving and/or expanding the town yard.

■ Real estate values and how the declining market affects them.

■ The ongoing investigation and court action at the Water Treatment Plant.

■ The development of the Master Plan and its future use.

■ Other (fill in your own answer).

■ **LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS**

Last week's questions was "Should the town use Special Town Meeting to decide the

future of the Cormier Youth Center?" With 169 people responding, the answers were:

■ Yes, because critical funding could be pulled if the project isn't moved forward by the end of the year: 72 votes, 42.60 percent

■ Yes, because this project has waited too long as it is: 47 votes, 27.81 percent

■ Yes, because Special Town Meetings aren't as unique as many people say they should be: 1 votes, 0.59 percent

■ Yes, for another reason: 4 votes, 2.37 percent

■ No, because Special Town Meeting can result in a "stacked deck" in favor of a project: 18 votes, 10.65 percent

■ No, because Special Town Meeting should only be used for emergency situations: 13 votes, 7.69 percent

■ No, because the Youth Center can wait until next year's Annual Town Meeting: 10 votes, 5.92 percent

■ No, for another reason: 0 votes, 0.00 percent

■ I don't know, or I have no opinion: 0 votes, 0.00 percent

■ Other: 4 votes, 2.37 percent



MARY SCHWALM/Staff photo

Volunteer Gerry Casaletto helps plant fabric flowers at the start of the Walk To End Alzheimer's in Andover.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

150 messages to the troops

Editor, Townsman:

The Andover community offered wonderful support of our troops at Andover Day on Saturday.

At the South Church booth we had over 150 families and individuals stop and write a postcard or draw a picture to send to the troops. It was great to see people of all ages take the time to offer gratitude and support for our brave service members overseas. I am sure all the mail will be much appreciated.

EMILY STRONG
Burnham Road

teachers in the Andover Education Association, I certainly can identify the power behind this "bold" move. Teachers do not oppose some changes to our pension entitlement for future teachers. We do oppose unilateral changes that will require them to not only fully fund their reduced pensions, but also contribute an additional 3 percent (tax) to the state. The current bill needs revisions as the House of Representatives now takes it up for debate.

KERRY A. COSTELLO
President
Andover Education Association

Red Sox and Rays provide lesson

Editor, Townsman:

(Dateline: 2011, the day after) -- Baseball is "only a game." It has deeper psychological currents that I find intriguing, but mostly it's a slow moving drama that sits nicely in the background while I read the newspaper or work on other projects.

Over the last month, however, the game was more visibly about character. This season, the Tampa Bay Rays were built almost from scratch with a low budget and a creative manager. The Boston Red Sox were assembled with lots of proven talent, the third highest budget in baseball, and smart but somewhat libertarian management. The Sox play to wildly supportive crowds almost everywhere including many fans in all the cities where playoff games will be played. The Rays routinely play to small crowds in their own eccentric ballpark.

The final games in Baltimore and Tampa were emblematic of the entire month. Statistically, it was nearly impossible for the Sox to lose: The Red Sox were matched against a weak have-not team and were playing at what many Sox fans regard as Fenway South. The Rays played the tried-and-true Yankees. Even more perfectly, the Rays were down 7-0 in the 8th inning while the rain-delayed Sox watched with a late inning 3-2 edge.

Then the guys who spent the entire season building respect stepped up, and the more entitled did not. As surprising as it was to most, game 162 arrived at the obvious conclusion. The Red Sox will be playing golf in October.

Many of us in Andover, even devoted Sox fans like myself, who come from somewhere else and have built successful lives from scratch can relate with admiration to the Rays. Our kids may be more like the Sox. There may be an interesting lesson here. Or maybe baseball is only a game.

BRUCE EARNLEY
103 Ballardvale Road

Imagine how a center could help youth grow

Editor, Townsman:

Youth helping youth grow. This is what Andover Youth Services does for kids of our town.

AYS counselors made my three teenagers' summer vacations just awesome. That line up included: Red Beard, Afton, Brock, Joslin, Loral, Brett, Chris, Steph, Kyle, Nora and Stags.

The 17 trips they attended could not have been better, from Tubing Down the Pemi River, Tours of Fenway and Red Sox Games, Pirates of The Spit, Franconia Falls, Learning to Surf and Golf Lessons just naming a few fun experiences my kids had. I can't tell you the laughs and good times they had with their friends and these counselors this summer.

This team of young adults makes a great impression on our youth. Imagine that? Youth helping youth grow. AYS offers superb programs. Our town is lucky to have its offerings. The staff of AYS from Bill Fahey on down have demonstrated this year after year.

Think of what a real AYS Center could do for Andover. My kids had only six weeks with these counselors. Imagine kids being able to stop by a center after school to play a game of hoop, take art class or get help with your homework. No more "Xbox bottoms" sitting in your basements. Instead, you'd have kids being kids because they have some place to go -- and that does not include CVS on Friday afternoons.

Camaraderie is huge in life. We all know that. Why not take a gamble on our town youth and build that proper youth center. The bridging of programs would be phenomenal. Let us not forget that Andover Youth Services is part of the Andover organizational chart. Just like public works, elder services, plant and facilities, fire and police. Our town needs to match the public funds already donated to build the youth center. A Special Town Meeting will bring this proposal to the voters. I ask everyone to vote yes in support of building our new youth center and seeing the progress of our town.

KELLE SUTLIFF
One Carter Lane

No spending, no jobs

Editor, Townsman:

What are we doing about creating new jobs in the Merrimack Valley? I see politicians and show hosts running around blaming taxes, burdensome regulations, the president, and progressives as the causes of our economic malaise. The Congress has essentially ignored the issue for many months, focusing instead on

the national debt and budget cutting. But Americans have known all along what the problem has been: no spending means no new jobs. Since nearly 70 percent of the US economy is driven by consumer spending, our current troubles will not go away until new jobs are created.

A recent national survey of businesses cited insufficient demand for products and services, not burdensome taxes and regulations, as the major factor preventing new private sector job creation. Moreover, a 2008 survey of state and local tax burdens compiled by the Federation of Tax Administrators ranked Massachusetts 43rd in the country in the percent of personal income paid. No overwhelming tax burden exists here.

What are we doing about creating new jobs? Not enough. President Obama's 2009 Stimulus Package has been roundly criticized by many as a complete failure. Not true. The Stimulus Package was a rousing success at creating new jobs, reducing tax burdens, and keeping the US from falling into a 1930s style economic depression. The stimulus program didn't go far enough to create more new jobs.

From an historic perspective, President Roosevelt also stimulated a very depressed economy by ramping up spending on public works and conservation projects in the early 1930s. The result was an economy that strengthened, with unemployment levels going from more than 20 percent to the mid-teens, but not enough to end the bad times. It took the economic stimulus effect of World War II get the country back on track.

So, here we are in 2011. Obama has submitted an Economic Stimulus Plan to boost hiring and jolt a stalled economy. And Congress again criticizes and complains, but does nothing to turn the economy around, except to say lower taxes and less regulation will be the answer. Really? I guess they have been sleep-walking through the past three years and have missed the impacts of lower taxes and less regulation on the US economy—the most horrific economic slowdown since the 1930s.

I suggest Congress take off their ideological blinders and really take a look at how things are going outside the Beltway. People are hurting. People want jobs, they want to do what's best for their families, and they want to move the country forward. Congress needs to demonstrate some courage and leadership and support Obama's Plan. We don't need another war; but we do need a Congress willing to take a big political risk, for the sake of the country, and to work with the president to get people back to work.

JOHN F. ZIPETO
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TOWN TALK

Opt out or student info will be sent to Armed Services

Information about Andover High School juniors and sophomores, including their phone numbers, soon will be sent to the U.S. Armed Services for recruiting purposes unless parents request the school refrain from doing so by today, Thursday.

In an email to parents, Andover High School Principal Tom Sharkey said the school plans to send the information on Oct. 11, "so please e-mail us before Oct. 7 if you wish to have your son or daughter removed from the list." Sharkey told parents the school is required to send this information by the No Child Left Behind Law. "The No Child Left Behind Law requires all high schools to provide the Armed Services with the names, addresses, telephone numbers and grade of all 11th and 12th-grade students. They use this information for recruiting purposes," an email from Sharkey reads. "There is a provision in the law that permits an 'opt-out' if you, as parents, specifically request that we do not send this information."

Parents who wish to exercise this opt-out should send an email to school secretary Cindy Pilla requesting that the school not send the information. Her email address is: cpilla@aps1.net.



Father Peter Gori blesses Bambi for owner Lauren Pineda while Christian Andersen waits for his guinea pig, Coco, to be blessed during the Annual Blessing of the Pets at St. Augustine School in Andover.

AMY SWEENEY/Staff photo

Old-time picnic at Serio's Grove

An old fashioned picnic will be held on conservation property known as Serio's Grove in the Ballardvale section of Andover on Sunday, Oct. 9 at 1 p.m. All families wishing to attend should contact the Andover Historical Society.

In 1911, folks would bring their picnic lunches and beverages in hampers and baskets and sit by the river

and enjoy the outdoors. The Andover Historical Society is again asking folks to bring picnic lunches to the grove and enjoy the scenic Shawsheen River. There are picnic tables or people can place a blanket on the ground on soft pine needles and enjoy their lunch. Music will be provided by Bill Burtles from Andover starting about 2.

In days gone by, there were several boat houses on the

river where one could rent a canoe. In keeping with the idyllic days of the past, the Shawsheen River Watershed Association has offered to provide canoes during the picnic for those who would like to paddle on the river.

Serio's Grove was the site of public outings into the 1950s. To reach it, take River Street in Ballardvale to Lowell Junction Road, cross the rail line and follow the signs to Serio's Grove.

Get personal at Feaster Five

This year's Feaster Five Road Race through Andover on Thanksgiving Day will allow runners and walkers who sign up before Oct. 30 to personalize their running

bibs. They can include a name, nickname, special message or team name on the bib they attach to their shirt.

"We've already had a great response to this new, creative feature," Tom Licciardello of the Merrimack Valley Striders running club, said in a release. "Runners are given 16 characters and some are definitely 'characters' - XIORLI, Joe Cool, Go Dan, Krayola, 62 Years Young, Z-Money and Team Turkey are a few so far. It's all done online - but must be done by Oct. 30."

Registration for the road race is now open at FeasterFive.com. This is the 24th year for the Feaster Five.

Gospel benefit concert Oct. 22

The Missions and Music Ministries of Andover Baptist Church will host a benefit concert on Saturday, Oct. 22 from 3 to 5 p.m at Andover Baptist Church, 7 Central St.

This concert - "Gospel On High: Music with a Mission" - will benefit the Habitat for Humanity of Merrimack Valley and will feature local gospel and contemporary Christian artists. For more information, call 978-475-0166.



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

During the football game against Haverhill Friday night, the Andover High School Warriors Marching Band entertained the audience at half time along with members of the color guard, from left, Emily Granoff, sophomore; Summer Breeze LeCain, senior and Katherine O'Kelly, sophomore. The band will have a fundraising bottle and can drive on Oct. 29

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Deals are only available within 72 hours of the start date. Restrictions apply see website for complete details.

Townspeople



MARY SCHWALM/Staff photos

Logan Durocher stands in the middle of a flower garden at the start of the Walk To End Alzheimer's in Andover.

Flowers and families

Community turns out for Walk to End Alzheimer's

The Alzheimer's Association held the 2011 Walk to End Alzheimer's in Andover on Sunday, Oct. 2 at 100 Brickstone Square.

Andover residents and others from around the region walked either 1-mile and 3-mile routes to raise money, bring attention to the issue and pay tribute to those who have experienced or are experiencing Alzheimer's. In total, 2,700 attended the walk, said organizers, and about a thousand flowers bloomed

in the promise garden. New this year, "promise flowers" were given to all registered walkers who could write a personal note, making a commitment to fulfill their promise to care, and to fight Alzheimer's disease. Participants were welcome to stroll through the garden after the walk, read each other's stories and take their promise flowers home.

The walk also was held at 11 other locations throughout Massachusetts and New Hampshire.



Participants make their way through the balloon arch at the start of the Walk To End Alzheimer's in Andover.



Corbin Walsh holds up a flag from his stroller as he participates in the Walk To End Alzheimer's in Andover.



Participants stretch at the start near 100 Brickstone Square.

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COURTESY PHOTOS

Henry Delima returned from Afghanistan and surprised his daughters Elianna and Arianna by showing up at High Plain Elementary School.

Surprise! Army Dad is home

Visits daughters at school

BY JUDY WAKEFIELD
STAFF WRITER

Arianna Delima's first-grade school journal said it all.

"Tomorrow I think my dad is coming. I can't wait to see him," Arianna, 6, wrote about her father's coming home on leave from his Army assignment in Afghanistan.

Less than an hour after writing that journal entry and drawing a picture of her smiling self and her smiling dad to illustrate her words, Henry Delima was in a classroom at High Plain Elementary School. It was early last Wednesday morning, Sept. 28, and he was waiting to surprise his young daughter.

Dressed in his Army fatigues, he tightly hugged Arianna and her sister, Elianna, 7 and a second-grader at High Plain Elementary, when his girls arrived. The trio hugged tightly and then Henry Delima took them out of school for the rest of the day.

It was an emotional scene as the young sisters seemed shocked to see their dad while he was clearly overcome with joy. Teachers and staffers dabbed their eyes and clicked their cameras as the scene unfolded. Classmates also witnessed the surprise visit and said it was pretty cool.

"She misses her daddy so much so to see this...it's just wonderful," said first-grade teacher Helen Waller.

"I was just about crying," said Arianna's teacher



Henry Delima and his daughters, Arianna and Elianna look thrilled to be reunited.

Cynthia Girard. "Arianna was so excited about seeing her daddy."

Girard helped to set up the surprise visit. She said she received an email the day before from the girl's grandmother, who is caring for them while their dad is away. The girls also have an older sister, Isis Jimenez, who attends Wood Hill Middle School. The Delima family could not be reached and did not return messages prior to deadline.

"He didn't give the girls a specific day (when he would be home) because the travel plans are not always exact. He has been gone since January and has 15 days leave," according to Girard.

She teamed up with Elianna's teacher, Susan Farquhar, and told her class they were going to sing September songs with the second-graders. Then, Arianna, Elianna and their classmates filed into the room where Henry Delima was waiting.

And the secret mission was happily accomplished.

We were skunked

Bill Dalton



I was skunked the other night and so was my wife.

At 3 a.m. Little Dog, a Boston terrier, asked to go out, so I let her out and she took off like a shot, disappearing from view. I figured she'd seen the local tomcat that likes to spray close enough to

our house to annoy the dogs. Soon, the dog trotted back, quicker than usual, and I let her in. She carried a smell that assaulted my nose and throat, and she was rolling on the rug. She'd been blasted by skunk spray and the stink was spreading through the house. Coming to my senses, or rather, overcoming my senses, I did what most red-blooded American men would do, and I woke my wife.

My wife is always prepared, an attribute I don't ascribe to myself, and within seconds she had

elbow-length rubber gloves on -- perfect for such an emergency -- and was straight-armed carrying Little Dog to the bathtub while telling me where the tomato juice was. From dead sleep to the tomato juice order was 30 seconds; my wife was moving fast, having been skunked before, as had I.

For you with no experience being skunked, the tomato juice wasn't to make bloody Marys, although that would have been welcomed. No, tomato juice has somewhat mystical properties when it comes to skunk

spray, not perfectly mystical but sufficiently mystical that no remedy I've used or seen used is nearly as good at skunk-smell mitigation.

Little Dog was covered with the tomato juice, which was being kneaded into her fur, and not only was she not fond of that, she was also suffering -- and that's the correct word -- from a direct skunk spray hit. Her eyes were watering profusely, she was drooling excessively, her breathing was fast, and, worst of all for a

See DALTON, Page 10

ALL THOSE YEARS AGO

COMPILED BY
SUSAN MCKELIGET

100 Years Ago Oct. 6, 1911

The Andover Home for Aged People will benefit not a little by the bequests of the late Abiah Gunnison, as it is announced that she left to the society \$1,000 and a gift which will probably amount to \$7,000 more, making a total of \$8,000.

Robert Price and family have moved into H.W. Barnard's house on High street, recently vacated by Leonard J. Brown. Mr. Price is an engineer for Smith & Dove M'fg. Co.

The elite millinery shop on Barnard street held its opening on Tuesday of this week. Many attractive shapes and styles were displayed.

75 Years Ago Oct. 2, 1936

The political rally on national issues is to be held in the town hall by the Andover League of Women Voters. The public is invited, admission is free. This is an excellent opportunity

to hear men of distinction develop the ideas of the party to which they belong and learn how and why they differ from each other.

The opening game of the Merrimack Valley Soccer League will be staged on the Andover playstead Sunday afternoon at 2:30 when the Andover eleven will meet Peabody, a newcomer to the League.

Art lovers of Andover and vicinity have thronged to the Addison Gallery this past week in order to see the exhibition which is being held under the auspices of the New England Museum association to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Winslow Homer's birth.

Three new numbers have been added to the Andover fire alarm system, the new Townsman Tell-Tales which are now available for the distribution show.

50 Years Ago Oct. 5, 1961

The continuing hold-up on Rogers Brook is threatening a Main Street commercial

See YEARS, Page 10

■ OCTOBER EVENTS AT MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY

Residents will have the opportunity this month to enjoy a variety of programs, from music to movies to games at Memorial Hall Library, 2 North Main St.

Autumn Music Harvest: Performance at Memorial Hall Library on Oct. 16 at 2 p.m., by pianist Joe Reid, mezzo soprano Sara Bielanski and clarinetist Todd Brunel, who will "take you on a musical journey through some of the most beautiful places in the

classical and jazz repertoire. The three musicians will boldly cross the threshold from classical music with a program featuring the works of Ives and Copland and into the world of Benny Goodman and Duke Ellington." Sponsored by the Friends of Memorial Hall Library.

Memorial Hall Library Game Night: On Oct. 20 at 7 p.m. join a fun night of board games including chess. Bring a game, or play one of the

library's.

Free Community Shredding Event: Safely shred confidential documents, and help prevent identity theft at Memorial Hall Library's parking lot on Saturday, Oct. 22 from 9 a.m. to noon (or until the truck is full). Bring a bag or a whole car filled with old files and papers. Staples, paper clips, and folders do not need to be removed. Mobile shredding truck provided by Proshred Springfield.

Monday Movie: On Oct. 24 at 7 p.m., join Memorial Hall Library's monthly movie night for adults. Attend the movie, and enter to win the DVD after watching it. Sponsored by the Friends of Memorial Hall Library.

All programs will be held at Memorial Hall Library, 2 North Main St., in Elm Square. For more information, visit mhl.org or call 978-623-8401, Ext. 31 or 32.

ALL THOSE YEARS AGO

Continued from Page 9

project which could net the town over \$10,000 in real estate taxes annually. Samuel M. Glazerman of Hidden

Way, who owns all the property on the west side of Main Street, from Hill Hardware to the Merrimack Valley National Bank, is anxious to construct a \$400,000 building

there. It would provide some 40,000 feet of mercantile space, plus a second floor for offices.

A water trench caved in on Sherbourne street Tuesday

morning sending two men to the hospital after being buried to their chests. A third workman also buried remained on the job.

DALTON: Dog vs. skunk, a very long battle to clean

Continued from Page 9

prideful Boston terrier, she knew she has been bested by what looked like a cat. The skunk, a cat look-alike, all cute and furry, turns tail when it sees any dog, but doesn't run; it holds its ground and sprays an oily substance designed to attach itself to a tormentor and disable it. Foxes, as nocturnal as skunks, and a predator of them, gets the better of a skunk by moving quickly away from the skunk's backside and attacking from another side. Dogs don't have this in-bred knowledge and believe the cat-like animal will either fight or flee. Little Dog would have seen the cat-like skunk turn its back and wonder simultaneously why the cat-thing wasn't running and what that spray was that was coming from its butt-end. And a second later

Little Dog wouldn't know what hit her.

Back to the tub: Little Dog managed one shake, and one was enough to spatter the bathroom walls and my wife with tomato juice laden with skunk smell (and make it look like a crime scene). Meanwhile, Big Dog, a tall, strong, 90-pound American bulldog, only nine months old, was acting as you'd expect: stupidly and stubbornly getting in the way, curiously sniffing and inserting himself into the action, while I was struggling to drag his muscular foolishness away.

Forgotten was my wife's asthma, which is set off by an aggravating agent, which skunk spray is. She maxed out on her asthma medicine and used steam to help clear her lungs, then took Benadryl to sleep. Yet even when deep in sleep she was coughing and breathing

hard while I sat next to her in bed, worrying and listening and certainly not sleeping.

The skunk attack stole our agenda for two days. The first day, my wife, breathing better but not perfectly, slept the morning away and deserved to, but the skunkiness of the house was in full bloom, continuing to aggravate her asthma. I stayed awake, perhaps napping for short periods, but mostly searching the Internet for ways to deal with a skunky house and ridding ourselves of the skunk neighbors, which we suspected were living under one of our porches.

The aftermath involved store visits to purchase expensive skunk-smell remover for the remaining smell on Little Dog, but the product didn't work much; cleaning agents to remove the smell from the walls and

cloth surfaces touched by Little Dog; lots of incense to mask the remaining skunkiness; and holiday lights to string around the undersides of the porches to bother skunks, if they are there -- that was an Internet idea, possibly a stupid one, but we were desperate. Like Dracula, light is their enemy.

We keep the windows open, run fans, and have washed the dog with dishwasher cleaner (another Internet idea), keep on all outside lights from dark to dawn, and are learning to live with skunkiness that my wife and I both know will take months to fully abate. With the all the lights and incense you might think you are near a '60s party; you're not. We worry that we might be a bit skunky ourselves and know that's for others to decide, because our communal olfactory sense is dulled.

Bill Dalton writes a weekly column for the Andover Townsman. His email address is billdalton@andovertownie.com

RELIGION

Cantor Thompson at Beth Israel High Holy Day

Congregation Beth Israel invites people to join it for High Holiday services Oct. 7-8. Cantor Stephen Thompson will join Congregation Beth Israel of the Merrimack Valley for y services as their cantorial soloist.

Thompson was a member of the Zamir Chorale of Boston for many years and has served as a congregational cantor and educator for almost 40 years in eastern Massachusetts, just retiring from his many duties this year.

CBI is located at 501 South Main St., Andover.

For more information on service times or to purchase tickets for the High Holy Day services, call Amy Sherr at 978-474-0540 or email office@BethIsraelMV.org or visit BethIsraelMV.org.

Meeting with new assistant rector

Christ Church Women's Group will meet on Monday, Oct. 17 for a conversation with the congregation's new Assistant Rector Kit Lonergan.

All women in the parish are welcome. The group will gather in the Central Street church's meeting room from 7:30-9 p.m.

Celebrations expo at Temple Emanuel

Temple Emanuel of Andover will host the second annual Celebrations Expo on Sunday, Oct. 16, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dozens of vendors will showcase their products and services, and the event is public and free.

"We have a great array of vendors from caterers and catering halls to entertainment companies, photographers, invitation specialists and much more," said Debi Marrow and Cheryl Marcus, co-event directors. "We invite all those planning events in the Merrimack Valley, including weddings, b'nai mitzvah's, Sweet 16s or corporate events to mark their calendars and join us." Temple Emanuel is located at 7 Haggetts Pond Road. For further information, visit templemanuel.net or call the office at 978-470-1356.

South's 300th

South Church's 300th anniversary celebration arrives on Oct. 16. It begins with a procession to church down School Street at 9:45 a.m., with people wearing various historical costumes. The worship service begins at 10:30 and will be a one-hour historical re-creation of a 1711 worship service.

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Arts & Entertainment

Pulitzer-winner to talk about her works

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
STAFF WRITER

A journalist who broke open the infamous Willie Horton story will be at Andover Bookstore next week to talk about her new memoir and first children's book.

A nasty part of the political lexicon now, Willie Horton was a prison inmate serving life for stabbing a young gas attendant from Lawrence to death, when he was given a

Who: Author Barbara Walsh
What: "August Gale: A Father and Daughters' Journey into the Storm" and her children's book, "Sammy in the Sky"
When: Thursday, Oct. 13, 7 p.m.
Where: Andover Book Store, 89R Main St., Andover, 978-475-0143

Massachusetts weekend furlough pass in 1987. He did not return from his furlough, and committed assault, armed robbery and rape in Maryland. He is now serving a life

sentence in Maryland. Many believe Horton's release and the reaction to the news by Michael Dukakis, governor of Massachusetts and the Democratic



Barbara Walsh
Presidential nominee at the time, ruined Dukakis'

presidential aspirations. Dogged coverage of the story earned The Lawrence Eagle-Tribune the top journalism prize in 1988 — a Pulitzer Prize. Behind the 175 stories written on the furlough issue was reporter Barbara Walsh. (Reporter Susan Forrest shared that Pulitzer. She died in 2001.) Walsh stayed in newspaper journalism for several years after. Marriage to Eric



See **AUTHOR**, Page 12

Discover 300-year-old roots at South Church Cemetery

As part of its 300th anniversary celebration, South Church of Andover will give a historical tour of the South Church Cemetery at 41 Central St., on Columbus Day, Oct. 9, at 10 a.m.

People are asked to wear comfortable shoes and dress appropriately for the

weather. This fast-paced tour, titled "Andover, Discover Your Roots," is recommended for children in the third grade and older because the tour reflects US history.

For additional information, email cemetery@south-church.com.



MARY SCHWALM/Staff photos

Andover cheerleaders warm up the crowd with a cheer before the 12th annual Hike for Hope at Merrimack College on the Andover/North Andover border.

EVENTS CALENDAR

THURSDAY, OCT. 6

LOCAL AUTHOR READING, Mary McGarry Morris of Andover, will read from her new novel, "Light From a Distant Star." A young girl, Nellie, is at the center of the story. Her family is going through difficult times, and when violence occurs, the wrong person is accused. Nellie knows who the murderer is, but she is silenced by fear and threat of scandal, 7 p.m., free, Andover Bookstore, 89 Rear Main St.; 978-475-0143.

MEMORIES TALK, about community involvement that allowed Northern Essex Community College campus to be launched, with Dr. Jorge Santiago, NECC professor and director of the Institute for Community and Workforce Development; Katharine "Kathy" Rodger, retired director of Lawrence campus; and Richard Padova, NECC alumnus and history, government and geography professor, both of Andover; free.

EXHIBIT OPENING, "Another View," through Oct. 14, Buttonwoods Museum, 240 Water St., Haverhill; info@haverhill-history.org, haverhillhistory.org. Reception is Saturday, Oct. 8, 2 to 4 p.m.

LIVE MUSIC AT TOPSFIELD FAIR, features Sean Kingston, in a free show (with fair admission) in the grandstand, 7 p.m., Fairgrounds, Rte. 1 North, Topsfield. Fair closes Oct. 10; topsfieldfair.org.

FRIDAY, OCT. 7

ROTARY'S BREAKFAST MEETING, a proposed new Youth Center in Andover is the topic, with Diane Costagliola, Andover Youth Foundation chairwoman, Lanam Club, 260 N. Main St., \$15 for breakfast buffet, 7:30 a.m.

ARTISTS RECEPTION, "Distressed," (through Oct. 30), 6 to 9 p.m., The Loading Dock Gallery at Western Avenue Studios, 122 Western Ave., Lowell. "Distressed" is an exhibit of artwork by Karen Bettencourt and David Hogan. Bettencourt focuses on digital and material collage, assemblage, and fiber while Hogan works with drawing, painting, assemblage, and printmaking; theloadingdockgallery.com, Maxine Farkas, 978-349-8069.

OKARI BENEFIT, nine women (seven from Andover), recently traveled to the Margaret Okari School in Kenya with 650 pounds of t-shirts, shoes, underwear, etc. to help. They will sell the Okari children's artwork, Kenyan soap stone, photos of the school and its students, First Friday Art Walk, Mohr-McPherson, South Boston, 5 to 9 p.m., 460 Harrison Ave., Boston; Luan Giannone at 978-837-1991.

CASTLE OF FEAR OPENS, Winnekenni's Annual Halloween event, Friday, Saturday & Sunday nights, through Oct. 30, begins at 7 p.m., \$18, \$10 kids age 12 & Under (Not Recommended for Children Under Age 8), Winnekenni Castle, Kenoza Avenue, Haverhill.

NATURE AND WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY WEEKEND

begins at Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, 6 Plum Island Turnpike, Newburyport, with On the Wild Side!, a narrated slide presentation by veteran nature photographer Jim Fenton, 7 to 8 p.m. More, daytime events on Oct. 8 and 9. Call 978-465-5753.

SATURDAY, OCT. 8

FREE CAR SEAT SAFETY CHECK, Andover Public Safety hosts, 10 a.m.-noon, Memorial Hall Library parking lot. By appointment ONLY, 978-475-1281 ext. 4010 to make appointment. Plus, Andover Fire Rescue hosts open house, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 32 North Main St., Andover.

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT, Andover/North Andover YMCA, 5 to 8 p.m., kids enjoy a fun night of crafts, mat room activities, sports, dinner and a light snack, for ages 4-12. Y members is \$10 per child; \$20 for the community. Pre-register at the Welcome Center, 165 Haverhill St., Andover.

HAM & BEAN SUPPER, First-Calvary Baptist Church, corner of Route 125 and Mass. Avenue, 586 Massachusetts Ave., North Andover, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., \$7, \$4 children 4-10, children under 3, free.

TUESDAY, OCT. 11

MOVIE NIGHT, Memorial Hall Library, 7 p.m., watch a classic movie by Alfred Hitchcock; mhl.org.

SHADE GARDENING, with C.L. Fornari, "Gardening on the Shady Side of the Street," 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 57 Peters St., North Andover, hosted by The North Andover Garden Club, free and open to all; northandovergardenclub@yahoo.com, Lisa, 978-689-9318 or Ginny, 978-208-7908.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 12

OUTDOOR MEETING, the Shawsheen River Watershed Association meets, 7 to 9 p.m., Serio's Grove in Andover. Depending on the weather, gather around a camp fire or meet under the pavilion.

THURSDAY, OCT. 13

BOOK READING, by Eagle-Tribune's Pulitzer prize winning reporter Barbara Walsh, from her new book, "August Gale: A Father and Daughter's Journey into the Storm," free, 7 p.m., about the deadly 1935 Newfoundland hurricane and the lives of schooner fishermen. Andover Bookstore, 89 Rear Main St.; 978-475-0143.

FRIDAY, OCT. 14

ANTIQUÉ CARS & COCKTAIL PARTY, benefits the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence, 6 to 9 p.m., Woodworth Motors, 339

See **CALENDAR**, Page 12



Rosie is joined by her owner Amelia Fisher, 7, of Andover and her friend Sofia Schwarz, also of Andover, before the start of the Hike for Hope.

THOUSANDS TAKE A HIKE FOR HOPE

More than 2,000 walkers had fun while also hiking five miles to help end poverty in the Lawrence area by attending the 12th Annual Hike for Hope on Sunday. Money raised at the Hike benefits Capernaum Place, a transitional housing facility operated by Lazarus House.

Andover Choral Society open to new members

The Andover Choral Society invites new members to join the group as choral singers for its 82nd season. It is open to all voices.

The group holds its rehearsals on Mondays, from 7:20 to 9:30 p.m., at Christ Church, 25 Central St., Andover.

Past performances have included Verdi's "Messa da Requiem," Handel's "Messiah," J. S. Bach's "Mass in B-Minor," Beethoven's "Missa Solemnis," as well as works by other masters.

The Andover Choral Society's January 2012 concert will feature Brahms' "German Requiem." The concert will highlight soloists and an orchestra. The spring 2012 concert will be a gala performance of Viennese Masterworks by Mozart. The concerts are performed at the Rogers Center for the Arts on the campus of Merrimack



File photo

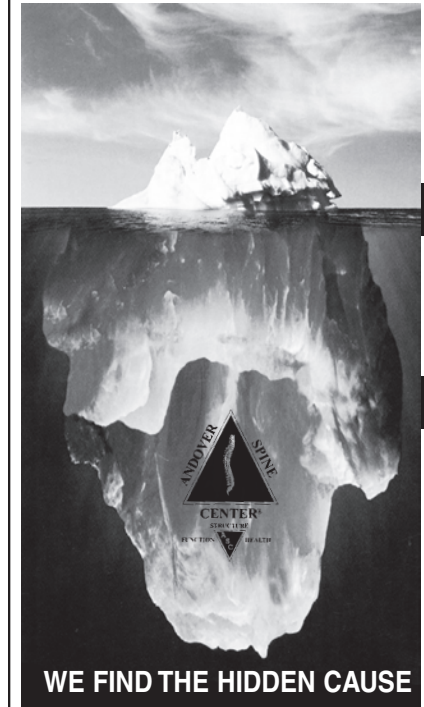
Allen Combs conducts the Andover Choral Society and Orchestra during its 2009 performance of "Elijah" at the Rogers Center for the Arts.

College. Both concerts will be conducted by Music Director Allen Combs, who is in

his 22nd season with the ensemble. For more information, call 978-682-0196.

The Andover Choral Society is sponsored in part by a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

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Outdoor activities for all ages at wildlife refuge

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge has a host of events planned for October, including "Behind the Scenes" refuge tours, where people can join a ranger for special tours on Thursday, Oct. 13 at 1 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 22 at 9:30 a.m.; and Wednesday, Oct. 26 at 1 p.m.

Tour will be conducted via brief van, with several brief "drive by" stops along the way. "Each tour will present an up close and personal look at the refuge through the multiple lenses of the cultural history of Plum Island and the Great Marsh, native wildlife and their habitats, and the role of refuge management in the conservation of these precious natural resources,"

according to a release. Participants will visit areas on the refuge otherwise closed to the public. This guided two-hour program is most appropriate for adults, according to the refuge. Binoculars and/or a camera are recommended but not required. People should meet the ranger in the lobby of the refuge visitor center. Each session is limited to 10 participants. Advance registration is required, as enrollment is limited.

Other activities include: "On the Wild Side!": Join veteran nature photographer Jim Fenton for a narrated slide presentation featuring his amazing images of local wildlife and equally wild landscapes on Friday,

Oct. 7 from 7 to 8 p.m. Hear the story behind many of his pictures, while learning about his approach to image-making.

This program is appropriate for all ages and will be conducted in the refuge visitor center auditorium. Pre-registration is not required.

Bird Photography 101: Join Nancy Landry, avid bird photographer, for a walk along one of the refuge's trails, during which she will share tips for finding and photographing birds, on Saturday, Oct. 8 and Sunday, Oct. 9 from 8 to 9:30 a.m.

This program is suitable for adults and teenagers 14 and older with an interest in

See **PROGRAMS**, Page 12

AUTHOR: Walsh reads from new book at Andover Bookstore

Continued from Page 11

Conrad, and keeping up with her two daughters, Emma, 13 and Norah, 10, and a newspaper job at the Portland Press in Maine, have kept her busy over the years. But, she always wanted to write a book. Finally, she has, quitting her job to do the research.

The result is "August Gale: A Father and Daughters' Journey into the Storm," (\$24.95, Globe Pequot Press). Just released, the book is about a deadly Newfoundland hurricane in 1935 and the lives of the region's schooner fishermen. Those men relied on God, prayers and the wind to carry them home.

"They had Ash Wednesday wood and holy water, things like that. That's where they turned when the bad weather descended on

them," said Walsh, who now lives in Winthrop, Maine.

"It's their own 9-11," Walsh said of how the hurricane affected village life. "It was a devastating time."

There is also a personal revelation in the book. Walsh's grandfather, Ambrose Walsh, was a mystery man in her life for years. Readers learn his connection to the August Gale story.

Walsh has interviewed killers, bad cops and crooked politicians in her career, but getting her father, Ronald Walsh of Pelham, N.H., to open up about his father has been the most challenging story of her lifetime, she said. Ronald Walsh, who worked at Raytheon in Andover and Digital, preferred not to talk about his father's abandonment.

"We just didn't talk about it. Asking him was just not done. I thought my

grandfather died and that was that," she said.

But Ambrose Walsh was alive when that deadly hurricane hit and killed 40 people on the schooner, including his brother. The real story is that Ambrose Walsh never wanted the fishing life in Newfoundland so he abandoned his young family in search of something else. Walsh's father was just 11 years old at the time.

One reviewer said Walsh has "plucked a historical event out of time and filled it with an emotional breadth rarely found in memoir writing."

But, the only review that truly matters to Walsh is from her father. He helped with the research and traveled to Newfoundland with his daughter. Most importantly, he opened his heart.

"It took me nine years to write this and when he said

he liked the book I was so happy, so relieved," said Walsh who has always been attracted to stories of the sea, with "Perfect Storm" leading her list of favorites.

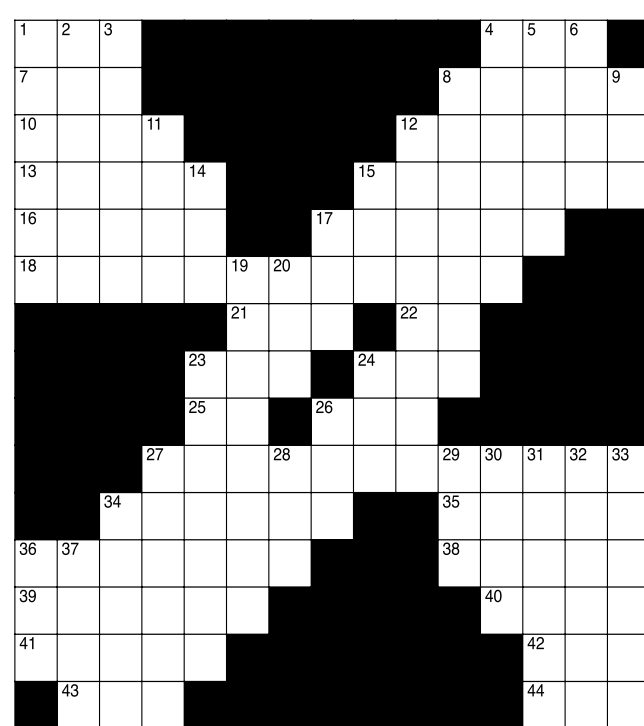
"Of all the stories I have done, this one was so complicated and so emotional," she said. "It really was daunting for me."

Coincidentally, Walsh's first book, "Sammy in the Sky," came out just seven weeks ago. A children's book, it's a story about losing a beloved family dog. It's also a memoir of sorts as it's based on her family dog, which died of cancer, leaving her two young daughters devastated and asking lots of questions.

"I remember thinking 'this is a book,' when they asked all those questions," Walsh said.

Walsh also will have that children's book at her Andover signing.

Crossword puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

1. Expresses surprise
4. Reciprocal ohm
7. Be obliged to repay
8. An accumulated store
10. Spikenard
12. A district of Manhattan
13. Danish toast
15. Young ladies
16. Reddish brown hair dye
17. An armless couch
18. Failing to accomplish a result
21. Appropriate
22. Atomic #77
23. Failed 27th amendment
24. Records brain currents
25. Pa's partner
26. Complete
27. Reconfirming
34. A ceremonial procession

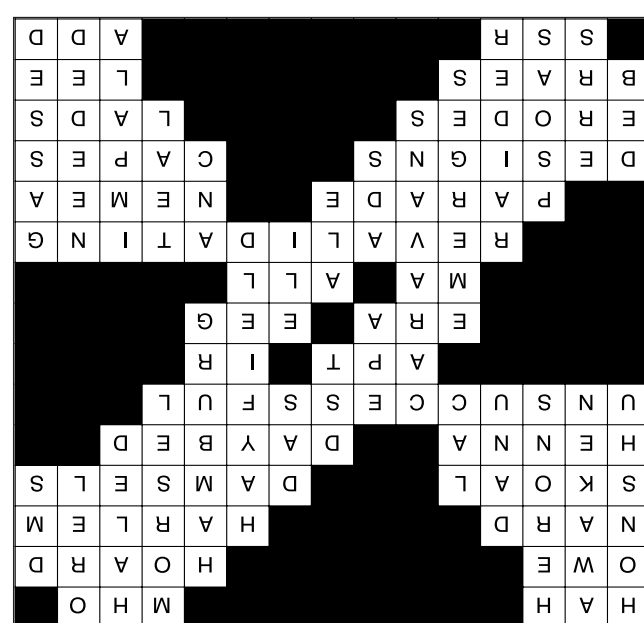
CLUES DOWN

1. Japanese mainland island
2. Release from sleep
3. Grey or white wading birds
4. A small quantity of food
5. Compelled to go
6. Pitcher Hershiser
8. No. German port city
9. Data Memory System

CLUES ACROSS

11. Irish mother of gods
12. Meadow
14. Shellac resin
15. Cony
17. Fall back
19. Processions of travelers
20. Environmental Protection Agency
23. Comes out
24. Lilly drug company
26. Brew
27. Surprise attacker
28. Promotional materials
29. Mandela's party
30. Blue-green color
31. African antelope
32. Necessitated
33. Slang for drunk
34. 2 muscles of the loin
36. Young woman making debut
37. Makes a mistake

Solution



PROGRAMS: Get outdoors

Continued from Page 11

the subject.

Program participants should have either a digital single lens reflex camera or a "point and shoot" type camera with a minimum 10X zoom lens. Binoculars and a birding guide are suggested but optional. Meet in the Refuge's Hellcat Trail parking area. Preregistration is required.

Point & Shoot Nature Photography: Matt Poole, refuge visitor services manager and avid nature photographer, will present a variety of practical tips and suggestions that will empower you to unleash the capacity for you and your camera to capture beautiful and compelling images of nature on Saturday, Oct. 8 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the refuge visitor center auditorium.

Attendees are welcome to bring their cameras, with manuals, if they have specific questions about their equipment. Pre-registration is not required.

Connecting Kids & Nature Through Digital Photography: For one week last July, ten local teens participated in the refuge's first-ever digital nature

photography day camp. Session attendees will have a chance to see images taken by and of the kids, while Camp Director Matt Poole provides an overview of the camp - its purpose, structure, and future - on Saturday, Oct. 8 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the refuge visitor center auditorium.

Preregistration is not required.

"What's in the Bag?": Spend an hour with Jim Fenton, veteran nature photographer, as he plays "show and tell" with his equipment bag on Sunday, Oct. 9 from 10:30 a.m. to noon in the visitor center auditorium.

Fenton will talk about the equipment he considers most necessary for his type of image-making and will answer audience questions.

Preregistration is not required.

For more information or to register for events, call 978-465-5753. Registrations are not confirmed until the registrant receives a phone call from a member of the refuge staff. Parker River National Wildlife Refuge is located at 6 Plum Island Turnpike, Newburyport.

Fashionable birthday party



Courtesy photo

Lyn Evans celebrated its first birthday Sept. 15 with a night of food, fashion and fun. Over \$700 and 100 items of adult toiletries were collected for Lazarus House Ministries. Yella Grille provided the food, Bliss Spa and Salon, Shift Your Style and LeBlanc's Fine Wine and Spirits all provided services and raffle items. Pipe Dream Cupcakes donated 100 cupcakes. Pictured are Danielle Berdahn, the owner of Yella, and Lyn Evans, who owns the store with her name.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Continued from Page 11

N. Main St., Andover, with Valet Parking, \$50 per person, hors d'oeuvres by Burtons Grill of North Andover, raffle tickets include a Boston Bruins game; Sarah Hogue,

shogue@lawrencebcg.com, 978-683-2747, ext. 128.
FALL FAIR, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church, 158 Main St., North Andover; 978-685-5038.

Merrimack Valley (ARMV), 6 to 9 p.m., Nevins Memorial Library, 305 Broadway (Route 28), Methuen. Formal, casual, or costumed attire, \$15 advance, \$20 door. Reserve at 978-374-7233, armv@armv.org.

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Education

Afflicted should climb above Status Quo Syndrome

Ken Seifert



After living over 40 years in Andover, I can say with confidence, we could become one of the finest communi-

ties in these United States. We have the basic ingredients, a good brain and a big heart. What is missing is the big picture of what is happening in the world and a need to examine who and what we are and what we wish to become. Here is my theory.

For the "big picture" we could adopt one major goal: *what can we do tomorrow to make Andover better than it is today?*

Andover adults fall into three categories, which I call Old Man River, Climb Every Mountain and those with Status Quo Syndrome (SQS), a bi-polar affliction. According to my undocumented survey, Old Man River contains 10 percent of the adults, Climb Every Mountain 30 percent and the remaining 60 percent suffer from SQS. Old Man River and Climb Every Mountain represent the two extremes with the largest group in the middle, creating a musical bar graph.

The Old Man River group is made of those who don't say nothing, but must know something; they just keep rolling along.

Members of the Climb Every Mountain group are willing to climb every mountain, ford every stream, follow every rainbow, until they find their dream.

Those with SQS have a bipolar condition. They have climbed every mountain in their hearts, but don't say nothing on the outside as they walk around the

town. On the other hand, some with SQS are just the reverse. They sing Climb Every Mountain on the outside but in reality are Old Man River on the inside. In either case, nothing productive ever happens as they walk around the town, and hold and attend meetings. Now if we could have enough people to Climb Every Mountain what a glorious day that would be in our town.

Sometimes we do things that seem to be counterproductive. For example some people propose we should operate our towns like big business. Isn't it ironic the business world used to give huge increases to the CEO based on the number of people he sent to the ranks of the unemployed? Now we are going to pay the same guy, or gal, money for the number of people he takes back (building jobs in America.) What have we gained? It reminds me of the quote our daughter Kim told us as she bartered in many African countries these past 20 years: "it may be good for you, but it is not good for me!" The goal is to make it good for you and good for me.

My theory is not intended to offend any person, group, capitalist or governmental agency. It is a retired school man's side of the story that we can really become a great town if we all tried to be better mountain climbers. What would be truly tragic for Andover is depicted in the final scene in Waiting for Godot. "Shall we go?" asks the one. The other replies, "Yes let's go." But neither moves.

A future article will be about the new Bancroft School: will it represent Climb Every Mountain, Old Man River or SQS?

Ken Seifert is a former superintendent of the Andover schools.



DUSTIN LUCA/Staff Photo

Students board their buses during dismissal at Bancroft Elementary School. A \$44 million project to replace the school has stalled as abutters appeal the drainage design to both the state DEP and in the state's Superior Court.

Lawyer: 'Could be months' before Bancroft decision

DEP decision on project expected soon, courts will take longer

BY DUSTIN LUCA
STAFF WRITER

A decision from the state's Department of Environmental Protection regarding the proposed Bancroft Elementary School project could come down within the next two weeks, but a ruling from the state Superior Court could take much longer.

A court battle is just beginning as a judge reviews the circumstances surrounding an Order of Conditions issued by the town's Conservation Commission that would have allowed the construction of a new \$44 million elementary school to begin. Some neighbors to the school have questioned how construction will affect the drainage and wetlands in the area. How long it will take the courts to rule on the project is unknown, according to Tom Urbelis, town counsel.

A motion relative to the case "will be in by the end of the month," Urbelis said. "Then, the court would set a hearing date on that. We're asking the court to speed it up, but it's totally up to the system. It could be months."

The Andover School Building Committee recently voted to suspend all construction of new Bancroft Elementary School until the state has ruled. The creation of an access road off the end of West Knoll Road was slated to begin this month before appeals to the Conservation Commission's order of conditions were filed.

STATE VISITS, EXAMINES NEW-SCHOOL SITE

On Thursday, Sept. 22, an environmental analyst with the state DEP came to Andover and met with

members of the School Building Committee, town officials and abutters who have appealed the Conservation Commission's order of conditions.

"We literally walked the site, so (the DEP official) could see where the repliated wetland is proposed to be, because that is really the scope of her jurisdiction," said Annie Gilbert, School Committee chairwoman. "The DEP will issue a superseding order of conditions. That will either affirm, reverse or change the Andover Conservation Commission's order."

Mark Johnson, School Building Committee chairman, said decisions from the DEP typically take around 30 days. The appeals were filed around three weeks ago.

"We're hopeful that we'll have a decision over the next ten days," Johnson said Tuesday. "I think DEP understood

the issues." Both sides of the dispute have submitted new documents regarding the project. For the town, a new report was submitted in response to abutters' filings the day before the site visit, according to Peter Flynn, an attorney representing two of the abutters. The new report came from Symmes Maini & McKee Associates, which has aided in designing the new school.

Flynn said his clients' response to this town report is forthcoming, and that the state has given him two additional weeks to respond, given what he termed in a letter as the "11th-hour" nature of the Sept. 21 report.

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

Teachers, town continue contract talks

By DUSTIN LUCA
STAFF WRITER

Talks between the town and its teachers continue as Andover's educators now enter their 14th month without a fresh contract.

Following a mediation session scheduled in the middle of September, two more meetings — Oct. 17, and Oct. 24 — have been established for the School Committee and Andover Education Association to continue working toward a new contract, according to Annie Gilbert, School Committee chairwoman. The teachers' contract expired Aug. 31, 2010.

"Both sides continue to find things to talk about and to move the process forward,



DUSTIN LUCA/Staff Photo

Two cars parked at Bancroft Elementary School have union "Contract Now" signs taped to their windows.

and that's why we've scheduled these additional meetings," Gilbert said.

Members of the AEA have frequently attended School Committee meetings and spoken during the meeting's citizens-only slot, each time with a sea of teachers holding blue and yellow

"Contract Now" signs. Some people have started hanging the signs, which also say that "Teaching Conditions Equal Learning Conditions," in their vehicles' windows.

Talks has dragged on because so much of it has taken place in mediation, where the two sides are in

separate rooms, said Kerry Costello, AEA president.

"Because we went to mediation so quickly, my sense is that we didn't form that personal relationship," Costello said. "When you're in separate rooms and the mediator is going back and forth, it sort of makes it difficult because you're describing motivations to people that may or may not be true."

Gilbert said she would like a signed contract by the end of this calendar year. "I certainly hope we can reach a contract by the end of the year," Gilbert said.

"As we speak today, it's week 57 without a contract," Costello said. "I don't even want to predict where this could go or how long it's going to take."

LOCAL SCHOLARS

Rooks selected for Citizenship Conference

Samantha Rooks from Andover High School, Class of 2013, was selected to attend the Massachusetts Youth Leadership Foundation's annual MassSTAR Citizenship Conference (Massachusetts Students Accepting Responsibility).

The Massachusetts Youth Leadership Foundation seeks to recognize and empower outstanding high school students across the Commonwealth. MYLF values the potential of young people as future leaders and provides them with the tools to create positive change in their schools and communities.

MYLF invites one sophomore from every Massachusetts-accredited high school to participate.

The MassSTAR Conference is an intensive three day event which presents

student delegates with the opportunity to partner with leaders across diverse fields that include business, politics, science and the arts as they mutually explore the true meaning of themes including Responsibility, Respect, Intentionality, Initiative and Collaboration.

Green joins foreign language honor society

Austin Preparatory School sophomore Anne Green, daughter of William and Margaret Green of Andover, was inducted into the school's chapter of the Societe Honoraire de Francais, the N.J.C.L. Latin Honor Society.


Students were selected on the basis of academic excellence, their commitment to extracurricular participation related to the languages, and service to others.

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Sports

Johnson erupts for four goals

BOYS SOCCER

Drew Johnson scored a stunning four goals and added an assist as Andover blasted Lawrence 6-2 on Saturday. Pat O'Sullivan and Demetri Kostakis each chipped in with single goals and Connor Merinder made seven saves for the winners.

Despite a goal by Drew Johnson, Andover fell to Chelmsford 3-1 last Tuesday.

GIRLS SOCCER

Cappello nets hat trick

Gabby Cappello scored a hat trick and Hannah LeBlanc added two goals of her own as Andover rolled over Methuen 9-0 last Tuesday. Devon Caveney, Virginia Duffy, Lindsey Vivian and Jodi Pollack chipped in with a goal each for the winners, and the Warriors did not allow a shot on goal.

GOLF

Krekorian earns two wins

Brett Krekorian won 1-up to help Andover edge Lowell 10-9 last Thursday. Tyler Stahl (2-and-1) and Dan Caveney (1-up) each added victories for the winners.

Brian Ganci fired a 36 to win 2-and-1 and Brett Krekorian added a 36 of his own to win his match 2-up as Andover beat Chelmsford 13-7 last Tuesday. Nick Scarpa chipped in with a 39 to win 2-and-1.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Warriors stay undefeated

Marcela Familiar-Bolanos led the way with 14 service points and four digs as Andover crushed Masconomet 25-8, 25-12, 25-7 on Monday. Lauren Murtagh chipped in with 21 assists and Liz Wait added eight kills for the Warriors.

Elise Brogan led Andover with 10 kills and four blocks as the Golden Warriors bested Methuen 25-7, 25-12, 25-11 on Friday. Ava Bakhtyari added 13 service points, Lauren Murtagh had 20 assists and Liz Wait chipped in with eight kills for the winners.

Sarah Arvidson recorded teams highs in kills (8), service points (10) and digs (13) as Andover cruised past Notre Dame 25-8, 25-15, 25-17 last Tuesday. Liz Wait matched Arvidson with eight kills and Molly Cronin and Elise Brogan each had six blocks for the winners.

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

Cooney, Maldari lead the way

Ryan Cooney (15:42) took first overall and Mike Maldari (15:55) was close behind in second overall on the 3.05-mile course as Andover swept Chelmsford (24-33) and Lawrence (15-50) last Wednesday. Evan Gaj was seventh and Charlie Schleifer was eighth for the winners.

Ryan Cooney was sixth overall in 17:03 over the 3.1-mile course as Andover placed sixth at the Baystate Invitational on Saturday. Mike Maldari (27th) and Mark Waller (36th) were the next two Golden Warrior placers.

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

Mullins, Aruri keep dominating

Andover took three of the top four spots, with Maggie Mullins (18:15), Leila Aruri (19:00) and Meaghan McGhee (19:23) leading the way as the Golden Warriors downed Lawrence (15-50) but fell to Chelmsford (28-30) last

See **ROUNDUP**, Page 15



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

After Will Heikkinen made this huge catch against North Andover, teammate Andy Coke predicted big things for the junior. Against Haverhill, Heikkinen more than lived up to that prediction.

'Watch out for Heikkinen'

Receiver delivered breakout performance against Haverhill

By DAVID WILLIS
STAFF WRITER

NEXT UP:

Here's a look at the Golden Warriors' opponent this week:

Opponent: Lawrence (2-2)

When: Today, Thursday, 7 p.m.

Where: Lawrence Stadium

Recent matchups: Andover has won two straight since Lawrence returned to MVC in 2009.

Lawrence last week: Lost to Chelmsford 42-16

Top Lawrence players: QB Nathan Baez (34-of-69 passing, 384 yards, 4 TDs, 6 INTs), WR Joel Rodriguez (13 catches, 222 yards, 2 TDs).

Fun Fact: Lawrence beat Tewksbury 22-15 the week before the Redmen handed Andover its only loss so far this season.

ANDOVER — Following the season-opening victory over North Andover, Andover's Andy Coke had a prediction for anyone that would listen.

"Watch out for Will Heikkinen," he said.

Haverhill, as it turned out, did not heed Coke's warning.

Heikkinen, a junior receiver, delivered a breakout performance in Andover's 24-14 victory over Haverhill High on Friday.

"Heikkinen made some great plays," said Coke. "I told everyone to watch out for Heikkinen."

With Andover debuting a new air-it-out offensive

attack, Heikkinen proved to be a go-to receiver with seven catches for 151 yards and two touchdowns — all career-highs.

"Heikkinen was fabulous," said Andover coach E.J. Perry. "I really believe he can be one of the best receivers in the state."

Not bad for a player who

had just one career catch for 4 yards heading into the season.

He quickly became a favorite target of new quarterback C.J. Scarpa this season, with 15 catches for 161 yards through the first three games of this season.

But Heikkinen did it all against Haverhill, running

past defensive back and using his 6-foot, 172-pound frame to outmuscle opponents.

No play was more impressive than his second touchdown of the day, in which he ripped the ball from a defensive back's hands as they fell to the ground in the end zone.

"I went up for the ball and the kid went up for it," said Heikkinen. "It slid into his arms and, when we went down he started to fumble around with it and I grabbed it."

Also catching passes over the middle, often taking big hits, and outjumping a defensive back for another ball, his two touchdowns Friday give him six for the season, and was his

See **FOOTBALL**, Page 15



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