



'SUITE' GIGS:
LOCALS IN
NUTCRACKERS

PAGES 13 & 14

WAYS TO HELP
THIS HOLIDAY
SEASON

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THANKSGIVING
LEFTOVER:
HEARTBREAK

PAGE 9



OUR 124TH YEAR

Andover Townsman

Issue No. 14

DECEMBER 1, 2011

75 CENTS

Hazing investigation of basketball players ongoing

By DUSTIN LUCA
AND BILL BURT
STAFF WRITERS

The high school boys basketball program is under fire this week after allegations of hazing by players broke over the Thanksgiving break. Andover Public Schools

and police in Easton, Mass. are investigating allegations that older Andover players attending a private basketball camp during July coaxed two underclassmen into playing a sexual game called "wet biscuit," according to a source close to the investigation. As part of the

game, the loser had to eat a cookie covered with a bodily fluid.

The alleged incident on the campus of Stonehill College is being investigated by the school department, according to Superintendent Marinel McGrath. That investigation is expected to

wrap up this week.

Steve Gibbs, director of Hoop Mountain, the private basketball camp, said he is unable to comment on anything beyond the fact that any allegations of hazing, at this point, are only allegations. "If in fact it is true, it's very

disturbing and reprehensible," said Gibbs.

Gibbs first heard of the allegations on Monday, Nov. 28 after he started receiving inquiries about it from reporters, he said. Gibbs said he would feel "real, real bad" for the victims "if in fact this did happen."

Once the Andover school system's investigation into what took place wraps up, administrative action may follow, according to McGrath.

"If this investigation determines that bullying or hazing

See HAZING, Page 4

Andover holiday weekend events



PAUL BILODEAU (TOP); MARY SCHWALM (BELOW)/Staff photos

ON THE ROAD TO CHRISTMAS: Above, a bundled-up Brian Amidon, 15 months, runs to his dad, Luke, during one of the Kids K races that are part of the Feaster Five on a chilly Thanksgiving morning. Below, Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive downtown aboard a fire truck during the annual Holiday Parade on Sunday.



Youth center judgment day

Plan among eight votes set for Town Meeting Monday

By DUSTIN LUCA
STAFF WRITER

After more than a decade of talk, the fate of the proposed Andover youth center could be decided with one vote Monday.

A vote to approve \$2 million in tax revenue to help build a youth center is one of eight articles residents will address at this year's Special Town Meeting on Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. in the J. Everett Collins Center at Andover High

School, Shawsheen Road. An amendment to the article to finance the project with a debt exclusion override of Proposition 2 1/2 is expected, according to resident Tom Deso.

Residents will also take up a request from Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski to authorize the selectmen to enter into leases for fields being built on Blanchard Street. The leases would

See MEETING, Page 3

Selectmen set to divide tax burden

By DUSTIN LUCA
STAFF WRITER

How much residents taxes will jump this year will be determined at a meeting later this month.

On Dec. 12 at 6 p.m., selectmen will set this year's classification shift determining how much more businesses in Andover will pay in taxes over residents who own personal property.

Last year, the average single-family homeowner saw a \$241 increase.

Selectmen discussed a number of options that could be taken up this year at their Nov. 21 meeting, and the hearing was continued to next Monday. In all of the options discussed, residential and commercial property tax rates would increase,

See TAXES, Page 5

It's happy trails for Moor & Mountain's Al French

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
STAFF WRITER

Andover's lovers of the outdoors better hold onto their North Face hats.

Moor & Mountain owners

Al French and Burt Batcheller, both of Andover, are retiring and will close their rustically decorated retail store next month.

Have you ever kayaked or canoed in town, or been

interested in learning how to snowshoe or crosscountry ski? Chances are you visited the Moor & Mountain retail store located in Dundee Park for supplies or practical advice on how to plan your day.

French's commitment to the outdoors is legendary in the state. He is considered largely responsible for progress on the Bay Circuit, a nearly continuous 200-mile recreational tract connecting trails and reservations in over 50 towns. The Andover section of trail was formally dedicated on Sept. 28, 1991, making Andover the second town to do so.

Batcheller continues to be involved with the Shawsheen

See RETIRING, Page 5



DUSTIN LUCA/Staff photo

Al French, owner of Moor & Mountain in Dundee Park on Railroad Street, and co-owner Burt Batcheller will both retire when the store closes in January after 36 years in business.

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In Brief

QUOTE, UNQUOTE ...

The theme has gone over well. You'd be surprised how the decorators have embraced it.

— Carrie Midura, *Andover Historical Society*, on the "common indecency" Christmas tree exhibit at the Historical Society, which has people using everything from modern personal hygiene items to chamber pots as holiday decorations.
Story in Arts, page 18.

We want people to come downtown and see the stores and their holiday shopping inventory. We are ready.

— *Andover Business Center Association member Kathleen Bates*, on the Holiday Happenings event that will close Main Street next Friday, Dec. 9.
Story in Gift Guide Advertising Section, page 13.

Attending Special Town Meeting Dec. 5

A Special Town Meeting will be held in the Town of Andover on Dec. 5 at the Andover High School Collins Center Auditorium. The meeting will start at 7 p.m.

Report and warrant will be mailed by Nov. 28.

All registered voters who attend Town Meeting will need to be checked into the meeting in the lobby of Collins Center. Registered voters can visit the town

website at andoverma.gov to conduct a precinct

search under "Town Meeting and Election Calendar" on the home page, by selecting "Precinct Search" and then entering their address. The town clerk

recommends voters check their precinct number before going to the meeting to avoid delays at the check-in area.

Questions may be directed to the Town Clerk's Office at 978-623-8255.

Panel delves into teens' risky behavior

What are our youth actually doing when they say they are "going out with friends" or "just hanging out?"

To help answer the question, Andover Parent to Parent presents "Teens and

Risky Behavior" a panel discussion, next Tuesday, Dec. 6 at the Andover High School library, on Shawsheen Road, from 7 to 9 p.m. Panel members will include:

■ Bill Fahey, director of Andover Youth Services;

■ Toni Kirby and Cleo Thompson, Andover High School social workers;

■ Chuck Egerly, safety officer for the Andover Police Department; and

■ Alan Woolf, MD, MPH, director of Pediatric

Environmental Health Center, Children's Hospital, Boston; professor of pediatrics, Harvard Medical School

This talk appropriate for parents of middle school and high school aged children, according to organizers.

Enjoy holiday cheer at ABC open house

Andover ABC is welcoming the community into their dorm/residence for a cup of holiday cheer and a chance to meet the ABC scholars. The house at 134 Main St. will be open from 1 to 3 p.m. on Dec. 4. An array of holiday sweets and refreshments

will be served, according to organizers.

The young women who live in the house and attend Andover High School on ABC scholarships will be on hand to give tours of the dorm and to answer questions as will board members.

"This is a great opportunity to get a peak at the lives of these outstanding young women and to learn more about one of Andover's educational-non-profit gems," according to a release.

Andover A Better Chance is the oldest continuously

running Community School affiliate of a national organization, A Better Chance, whose mission is to provide academically talented minority students with an opportunity to attend outstanding public and private secondary schools.

'Candles of Remembrance' memorial fundraiser

Merrimack Valley Hospice will host its third annual "Candles of Remembrance" memorial fundraiser on Tuesday, Dec. 6 at the Stevens Estate in North Andover. Participants will gather outdoors on the stately grounds of the Stevens Estate for a candle lighting ceremony to celebrate the lives of loved ones lost and impart warmth and hope to their families and friends.

Each guest will be given a vigil candle and will be invited to pass the flame and say the name of his or her loved one. A chaplain will lead a brief non-denominational service.

An indoor reception and Tribute Book viewing follows. The book lists the names of those being honored and will be put on display at the Merrimack Valley Hospice House in Haverhill.

All proceeds benefit Merrimack Valley Hospice patients and families who are cared for in their own homes, in long-term care facilities or at the Merrimack Valley Hospice House. Those who are unable to attend the event can still reserve a vigil candle that a volunteer will hold during the event to recognize your loved one. Email lgalimi@homehealthfoundation.org or call 978-552-4927.

Hear town yard plan on Dec. 7

In collaboration with the Town Yard Task Force, the League of Woman Voters will host a public information session on the town yard project, scheduled for Dec. 7 at 7 p.m., on the third floor of Memorial Hall Library, 2 North Main St. The meeting is intended update residents on the potential acquisition of 5 Campanelli Drive for a relocated municipal maintenance facility (town yard), the 40R (Smart Growth Overlay District) and pending Town Meeting 2012 action.

PAST & PRESENT



THEN: This photo of The W.R. Hill Hardware Store at 45 Main St. is taken from the book "Andover What It Was What it Is" that was published for the town's 300th anniversary in 1946. In addition to hardware, the store carried radios, refrigerators, washing machines, bicycles and athletic supplies.



NOW: The J.L. Coombs shoe store at 45 Main St. was once home to the W.R. Hill Hardware Store.

Cookie swap, Christmas Gathering by sister towns group

The Andover Sister Towns Associations of Andover and North Andover are planning a Christmas Gathering at the Andover Historical Society on Saturday, Dec. 17 at 2 p.m. Viewing of the Historical Society's colorfully decorated Christmas trees and a cookie exchange are included in the event.

To participate in the cookie swap, bring a plate of cookies to swap and take home a variety and equal number of cookies made by others. For more information about Andover Sister Towns Association or the Christmas Gathering, contact Marj Snell at fredsnell@gmail.com.

Senior Lunch Program at MV Hospital

"Basic Foot & Skin Care As We Age," a Senior Lunch Program, will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 6 at 1 p.m. in the Merrimack Valley Hospital's first floor auditorium, 140 Lincoln Ave., Haverhill.

Guest speaker is Diane Palmer, RN, CWCC, clinical Coordinator at Merrimack Valley Hospital's Wound Care

& Hyperbaric Center. Cost is \$5 and includes the speaker and a full lunch. Menu includes Caesar salad, baked stuffed chicken with gravy, mixed vegetables, mashed potatoes, dessert, coffee and tea. Registration required. For more information or to register, call Kathy at 978-521-8140.

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Andover Townsman

Established 1887 ISSN 1524-1432
USPS 025-440

Publisher
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townsmen@andovertownsm.com
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'Eminent domain' article's wording sparks worries

By DUSTIN LUCA
STAFF WRITER

An Special Town Meeting article will ask the town to authorize the selectmen to pick up private land easements on West Knoll Road for the construction of the new Bancroft School, but the language of the article has at least one neighbor worried of the implications.

The article calls for giving the selectmen the authority "to acquire by purchase, gift or eminent domain temporary construction easements" on West Knoll Road for use

during the school construction. Four West Knoll Road properties at the end of the road are identified.

Around 10 to 25 feet along the front of each property would be obtained by the town temporarily during the first phase of the new school's construction. That phase includes adding to the end of the road to provide a primary means of accessing the existing school during construction of the new building. Current access on Bancroft Road would be open only to construction equipment.

But Robert Saunders,

owner of one of the four properties identified in the article, is concerned saying "as soon as you see eminent domain in anything, I think you get kind of worried."

"If the town needs to come on my property to make some adjustments, say, to my driveway and various other things, I'm happy to allow them to come on property to do that," said Saunders. "I'm concerned when I see the language in the article, words like eminent domain, purchase, and while they say it is a temporary easement for construction, I'm

also concerned that there is no end date on the temporary (easement)."

Saunders said, "I wouldn't want there to be a temporary easement outstanding on the property should I attempt to sell it."

Because the project is on hold due to pending litigation surrounding an Order of Conditions issued by the Conservation Commission, it's not yet known when construction on the road will begin and end. School Building Committee chairman Mark Johnson has said the easements are necessary to build the road,

and that the article is coming up as a formality while planning continues during the project's ongoing court battle, initiated by property abutters concerned over possible flooding.

Town Manager Buzz Stapeczynski also argues the article is nothing more than a formality.

"We always have the words 'eminent domain' in there," said Stapeczynski. "We call them friendly eminent domain takings. It's a friendly acquisition."

"If there's a cloud (outstanding claim) on the title,

eminent domain clears it. We don't want to buy land if there is some cloud on it," said Stapeczynski.

One of the most recent uses of eminent domain in town was to acquire 16-18 Pearson St., previously the home of a small, historic cottage that was moved to Shaw Drive earlier this year. A parking lot is now being built on the property, as approved by the town during April's Annual Town Meeting.

Eminent domain will still involve the town paying owners for the land, according to Stapeczynski.

MEETING: Youth center proposal tops agenda for special session Monday

Continued from Page 1

allow specific sports groups that have donated to the town exclusive use of the fields during prime times.

Residents must also decide what to do with an unexpected \$615,000 available due to new growth.

YOUTH CENTER

Summary: This article will ask the town to raise \$2 million for a youth center, provided that the Andover Youth Foundation — a non-profit organization responsible for raising money to build the center — will provide a total of \$2.2 million to cover the cost of the project.

Since 1995, the town has taken up the issue of building a new youth center a number of times. The Andover Youth Foundation was formed and tasked with raising money to support AYS programming and the construction of the youth center. Most of the money raised by the foundation is a \$1.5 million donation from local developer Yvon Cormier, who has secured naming rights to the building through his donation.

Earlier this year, the foundation was informed that it needed a commitment from the town to build the youth center, otherwise donations — including the \$1.5 million

donation — could be lost, according to Diane Costagliola, foundation chairwoman.

"We felt we had a moral and ethical obligation to listen to people that donated a considerable amount of money to this project and were waiting for a considerable amount of time to see it happen," said Costagliola. "They wanted to know by the end of the year that there was a commitment to move this forward."

Some residents opposing the project say the cost of the project is unreasonable in the current economic climate especially considering other large capital projects, including a town yard and fire station, are on the horizon.

To override, or not to override: An amendment to the article is expected, asking residents to finance the project via a debt exclusion override of Proposition 2 1/2, which allows the town to raise the tax levy limit no more than 2 1/2 percent each year, plus growth. According to Tom Deso, who said he will propose the amendment, the project shouldn't be allowed to impact other departments by being a part of the annual operating budget.

The selectmen, School Committee and Finance Committee all voted to approve

Full details on other warrant articles online at andovertownsmen.com

the youth center while paying for it in the operating budget. However, Deso's proposal has received attention with at least one official from each board saying they favor Deso's motion. The Andover Youth Foundation and Stapeczynski do not support the amendment, saying the project can be supported within the existing operating budget.

If it passes: The town will borrow \$2 million, which would amount to \$180,000 of the town's operating budget during the expected peak debt service year in 2015, according to the Finance Committee. This breaks down to about \$13 of the average residential tax bill.

If it passes with the amendment: The \$2 million to be borrowed by the town will be supported by raising taxes in the town beyond levy limits set by Proposition 2 1/2. This will amount to an increase of no more than \$13 annually on the average residential tax bill, said Finance Committee member Joanne Marden.

If it fails: No money will be raised to support the project

and the youth foundation expects to lose a significant amount of its donations. This will not have an impact on Andover Youth Services programs, according to Costagliola.

"We will continue to support youth services and youth services programming," said Costagliola. "The youth center will not become a reality. We will regroup and we will analyze what our options are, but we will lose a major part of our funding and in terms of the foundation, we'll have to analyze. But it is safe to say we will not pursue building a youth center if we lose a major part of the funding."

How they voted: The Board of Selectmen, School Committee and Finance Committee all recommended approval of this article with 4-1, 3-1 and

4-3 votes respectively.

SPORTS FIELD LEASES

Requested by: Town Manager Buzz Stapeczynski.

Summary: This article will give the Board of Selectmen the power to enter into leasing agreements with private organizations, specifically Andover Little League and Andover Soccer Association, governing the use of fields to be built on Blanchard Street. The property to be used for the fields was purchased through two Town Meeting votes in 2007 and 2010 that appropriated a total of \$2,390,000 for the land.

The groups interested in leasing the space expect to invest in the fields. As an example, the leases would allow Andover Little League to make sure it can use its

investments, according to Len Farris, ALL's vice president of facilities. Other groups and residents would be able to use the fields when they aren't scheduled.

Residents concerned over the proposal have criticized the idea of private groups being given priority access to land purchased by the town.


If it passes: Selectmen will have authority to enter into lease agreements with sports organizations. Those agreements would be signed after individual discussions, hearings and votes.

If it fails: The groups would not be able to lease the space. If the groups choose not to finance the construction of the fields, Stapeczynski said another Town Meeting vote would be needed to build the fields, at around \$500,000.

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HAZING: Andover, Easton authorities investigate basketball camp incident

Continued from Page 1

has occurred, the administration will take all appropriate steps, which will include protecting victims and instituting additional procedures, if needed, to prevent recurrence in the future," said McGrath in a statement.

Boys varsity coach and high school teacher David Fazio, as well as Athletic Director Chris Bergeron, couldn't be reached for comment after several attempts.

School Committee Chairwoman Annie Gilbert said she couldn't comment on the situation because the investigation was ongoing. Overall, any allegation of bullying or hazing demands careful attention, she said.

"Student safety is our top

priority," said Gilbert. "Any allegation of bullying or hazing is something that we will always take seriously."

"Andover Public Schools has zero tolerance policies in place for bullying and hazing and the school community has been fully informed of these policies," said McGrath in a statement. "Andover Public Schools is committed to the best interests of its students and the school community generally and will enforce these policies to protect those interests."

Program, schools take action

Andover High basketball players have attended the camp for the last six years. Attending the camp is not mandatory to be on the team.

On Nov. 11, Fazio was

approached by another coach at the high school about allegations made by a player on the basketball team, according to Michael Morris, Fazio's attorney.

At that time, Fazio "acted promptly, compassionately, professionally, legally and morally by responding to the boy and his parents, some of the parents of other boys involved, to the Andover Police and his superiors all at the first opportunity," said Morris. "Mr. Fazio did everything possible to deal with this four-month-old situation. This is not a school-related issue."

The boy who came forward with the allegations was one of the two boys coaxed into playing the game, according to the source close to the investigation.

At that time, Fazio met with the boy and his parents, who weren't aware that the event took place, and then organized a meeting with the two team leaders and their parents, as requested by the boy's parents.

Andover Public Schools was made aware of the situation, at which point it started its own investigation, according to McGrath. Police were then notified.

"We did a brief investigation. We determined where the incident took place," said Andover Police Lt. James Hashem. "It was referred to the local jurisdiction where it took place."

At that point, Easton's police department launched its investigation into the incident, according to Easton Police Chief Allen Krajcik.

"Easton Police detectives are investigating an alleged hazing incident that occurred in July of 2011 during a basketball summer camp that was held on the campus of Stonehill College in Easton," said Krajcik in a statement. "Easton police were notified of this incident by Andover Police. Easton Police will have no further comment on the investigation."

A closed-door session was held with the School Committee two weeks ago, where McGrath briefed the committee on the allegations, according to Gilbert.

"The superintendent updated the committee last Thursday (Nov. 17), at our last School Committee meeting, just that there was an allegation of hazing and bullying, and that

that investigation had commenced immediately," said Gilbert.

Camp agreement terminated

Since then, Stonehill College has severed ties with the summer camp sponsored by Hoop Mountain.

"On November 22, the College sent a notice of termination of the agreement with Hoop Mountain for its failure to meet its supervisory and safety obligations," according to a Stonehill College statement.

Material from the Eagle-Tribune was used in this story. For feedback on this story, or for any updates regarding this story, please email dluca@andovertownsmam.com.

POLICE LOG

COMPILED BY DUSTIN LUCA
dluca@andovertownsmam.com

Rash of car breaks

Five car breaks were reported to police by the end of Tuesday, including three on School Street, one in Dundee Park and one in a parking lot near Bartlet and Park streets.

What was taken in the breaks was not available as of press time. Dispatch calls heard over the police scanner during the times that some of the breaks were reported indicated that electronics like GPS devices may have been stolen from inside the cars.

Given their close proximity, Andover Police Lt. William Ouellette said that all five breaks were "very possibly" related. Any relationship to the reported robbery downtown is not yet known, but that is also possible, said

Ouellette.

"We're not sure. They could be related," said Ouellette.

Last week's edition of the Andover Townsman did not include a police log. Therefore, this week's edition features arrests that appeared in the log over the past two weeks. The following items were taken from Andover police log for Tuesday, Nov. 15 through Monday, Nov. 28:

ARRESTS

Tuesday, Nov. 15 - At 4:06 p.m., Jose Valle, 30, of 18A Everett Ave. in Chelsea was arrested on Dascomb Road and charged with a marked lanes violation, operating under the influence of liquor, second offense and having an open container of liquor in a motor vehicle.

At 6:12 p.m. and 6:45 p.m., police made two arrests

on Lowell Street. First, Randy Cormier, 53, with an address listed as P.O. Box 33 in Dracut, was arrested and charged on a warrant for driving a motor vehicle with a suspended registration and driving while uninsured. Moments later, Robert Russell, 63, of 42 Eustis Ave. in Lowell was arrested and charged with failing to wear a seat belt, operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and failing to obey traffic control signals.

Wednesday, Nov. 16 - At 8:17 p.m., Jonathan Stoun, 26, of 177 North Main St. in Concord, N.H. was arrested by Merrimack College police on Fox Hill Road and charged with trespassing, lewd, wanton and lascivious conduct, disorderly conduct and indecent exposure.

Thursday, Nov. 17 - At 12:13 p.m., John Almeida,

25, of 6 Green Brier Drive in North Reading was arrested on River Road and charged with possession of a class A drug and possession of a class E drug.

Saturday, Nov. 19 - At 12:46 a.m., George Davis, 22, of 50 Currier Way in Cheshire, Conn. was arrested by Merrimack College police on Foxhill Road and charged with resisting arrest and disorderly conduct.

At 3:21 a.m., Justin Schuurman, 22, of 74 Salem St., Wilmington, was arrested on North Main Street and charged with buying or receiving a stolen motor vehicle, operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and operating under the influence of liquor.

At 6:04 p.m., Christopher Parsons, 28, of 29 Dufton Road, Andover, was arrested on North Main Street and charged with operating under the influence of liquor, second offense, possession of a class A drug and possession of a class E drug.

At 10:40 p.m., Karen Norton, 38, of 47 Epping St., Arlington, was arrested on Campanelli Drive and charged with assault and

battery on a household member.

Monday, Nov. 21 - At 11:57 p.m., Khasin Lopez, 21, of 1044 Essex St., Lawrence, was arrested in North Reading and charged with speeding, operating under the influence of liquor and operating to endanger.

Tuesday, Nov. 22 - At 1:22 a.m., Maureen Donnellan, 45, of 149 Kendrick Ave., Quincy, was arrested on Marland Street and charged with operating under the influence of liquor.

Wednesday, Nov. 23 - At 2:22 p.m., Sandro Difut, 22, of 200 North Main St., Andover, was arrested at her home and charged with assault and battery on a household member, assault to murder and intimidating a witness.

Starting at 8:34 p.m., police made five arrests in one incident that originated from a motor vehicle stop on Michael Way. Three minors, all 16 years old, and two minors above the age of 16 were arrested and charged with being a person under the age of 21 in possession of liquor. In addition to the three 16-year-olds, Daniel McLaughlin, 17, of 4

Blueberry Circle, Andover, and James Burns, 18, of 4 McDonald Circle, Andover, were arrested.

Friday, Nov. 25 - At 6:51 p.m., Cedric Luna, 19, of 176 Willow St., Lawrence, was arrested on Main Street and charged with distribution of a class D drug and on a warrant.

Saturday, Nov. 26 - At 3:12 p.m., David Wishnack, 33, of 3 Pioneer Circle, Andover, was arrested on North Main Street and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

Starting at 9:48 p.m., police arrested three 17-year-old Andover residents for being a person under the age of 21 in possession of liquor. The arrests included: Andrew Eriksen of 1 Prides Circle; Christopher Boilard of 104 Salem St.; and Michael Quinlan of 33 Pasho St. The arrests all occurred on Main Street.

Monday, Nov. 28 - At 11:04 a.m., Jeffrey Kempner, 41, of 9 Chestnut St., Chelmsford, was arrested on Railroad Street and charged with trespassing and shoplifting by concealing merchandise.

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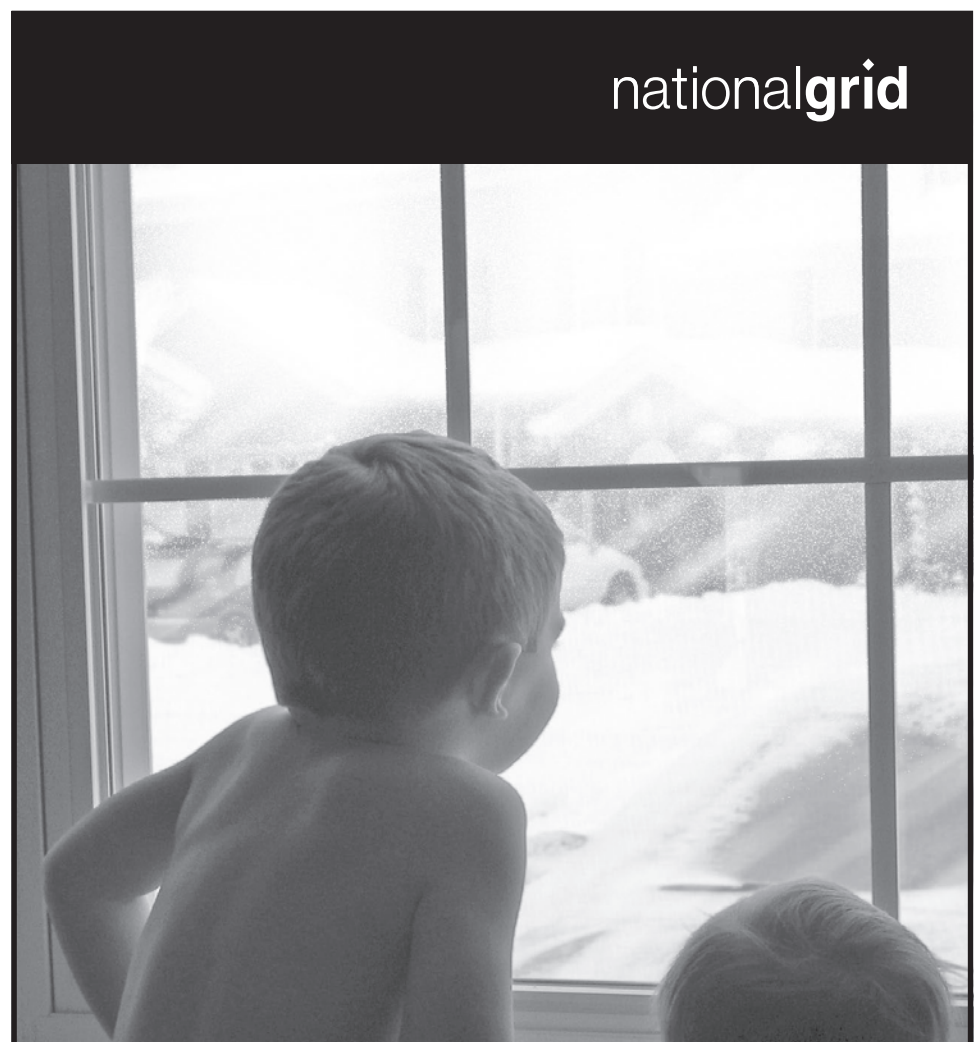
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TAXES: Selectmen will consider adjustment of tax rate classifications

Continued from Page 1

with industrial property tax decreasing only at the lowest shift levels discussed.

"With every 1 percent increase in the commercial and industrial (tax rates), the residential rate decreases about 0.27 percent," said David Billard, chief assessor for Andover.

Tax rates going up almost universally is a product of higher residential property values, which will make

up 80 percent of the town's value next year, according to Billard. From fiscal year 2011 to 2012, the value of all of Andover's residential property rose 3.45 percent, over \$181 million overall. Commercial property values dropped just under 1 percent, and industrial property values dropped around 2.3 percent.

In his presentation, Billard highlighted three possible classification shifts. The average single family residential

tax bill would increase \$416, \$328 or \$306 depending on which is selected.

Industrial property would see a drop of 1.3 percent, or \$1,068 under one of the plans. For the other two options, industrial property would see a spike in taxes this year, while commercial property would see an increase in all three.

Joe Bevilacqua, CEO of the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce, spoke at the meeting on behalf of Andover

businesses, saying lower property values for commercial and industrial property is a sign that businesses are "not doing well."

"One area that we would ask you to consider is definitely not to increase the commercial property tax obligation, but rather at the minimum maintain the current level of taxation and secondly, if at all possible, to reduce it," said Bevilacqua. "It will, in fact, enable businesses collectively to be able

to reinvest in their place or business, to be able to maintain their business and to be able to hopefully grow as the economy is still troubled."

Pleasant Street resident Mike Mosca defended residents, specifically those who are on a fixed income and less likely to afford a residential tax increase.

"Senior citizens haven't had an increase in over two years to their social security. Meanwhile we have inflation going on," said Mosca.

"I hope that you take into consideration that there are people who are on fixed incomes, who can no longer afford to see major increases in their taxes, otherwise they're going to be forced to leave the town."

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

Andover salon robbed



DUSTIN LUCA/Staff Photo

Andover and state police investigated a robbery in downtown Andover early Tuesday evening. Officers, including a state police canine unit, searched in the rain for a 17- to 20-year-old white male who robbed Star Nails, at 93 Main St., in Olde Andover Village with a knife. Other information, including how much money was stolen, was not immediately available.

Robber said to use knife

Local and state police responded to a reported robbery at knifepoint said to have occurred at a downtown business early Tuesday evening.

The suspect in the robbery, described as a young, white man between the ages of 17 and 20, robbed Star Nails at 93 Main St., inside Olde Andover Village.

Two customers and two employees were inside the establishment at the time of the robbery, according to Andover Police Lt. William Ouellette.

It was not yet known how much money was taken in the robbery, said Ouellette Tuesday.

Police were still looking for the suspect as of press time, and the investigation is ongoing.

RETIRING: Closing doors after 36 years

Continued from Page 1

River Watershed Association. That group has removed thousands of tires from the river since March 2002 and hosts canoe trips all year long.

As for his retirement, French said it is time for him to permanently close the cash register and put "Moor & Mountain, Al and Burt out to pasture."

"I am stunned," said Andover outdoorsman Bob Decelle. "This is not a win. It's a loss for Andover."

Decelle is involved with the town's conservation department and a strong supporter of encouraging residents to enjoy the open space available in Andover, by hiking trails and canoeing and kayaking at Poms and Foster's ponds. Moor & Mountain was always stocked with the right outdoor gear for any outdoor activity, he said.

"Those guys have been so involved," Decelle said. "They lug canoes when there is a canoe demonstration at Poms, lead hikes around town and talk to so many groups, like Scouts. This is just too bad."

Decelle said the customer service at Moor & Mountain is legendary among local outdoorsmen and women.

"They gave you so much more. The personal service

and advice will be missed," Decelle said.

French remembers giving lots of advice over the years.

"Someone was always climbing Mount Washington with the wrong gear or it was too late in the year for the hike and they didn't know it," he said.

His response to advice seekers - call him.

"My number is in the book," said French, a guru of open space in town.

"It's been a great run," French said. "It's just time to retire and do other things."

The store opened in Andover in 1975 under the team of French and Batcheller. French said they have been ably assisted by experienced outdoorsmen and women from Andover over

the years.

Most enjoyable has been "dispensing equipment with practical advice on what to wear and where to safely hike, climb, ski or paddle with it," he said.

"Moor & Mountain has done its best to enable anyone in reasonable health to enjoy backcountry that can only be reached on foot, skis, snowshoes, or with a kayak or canoe paddle," French wrote about the store's closing.

Not surprisingly, both men hope for a snowy winter and a chance to put on the skis

and snowshoes.

"We'll continue to dispense good equipment through the holiday season while our inventory lasts," French said.

The store has some retirement sale prices. Everything is at least 20 percent off.

"We expect to continue to see many of our customers on local Andover trails, the Bay Circuit Trail, the Shawsheen River, Den Rock and other special outdoor places," French said.

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— Selectman Paul Salafia

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— Selectman Brian Major

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Dad's Capitol solution: Make 'em live like us

Ken Seifert



You never really miss someone until he or she is no longer with us. This is especially true with people we love. Our dad has not been with us since 1974. He was 66.

Since that time as we grew older, we wondered if Dad were alive today what would he say or do? Sometimes at family gatherings we would ask Mom what the family futurist might have predicted about the state of affairs locally, nationally and internationally. He could look into the future and predict events and trends with uncanny accuracy. We never had sibling arguments about what he meant. He was consistent and logical in his thinking.

Visitors in our home would say he spoke in riddles. He didn't! He had his own language and we all knew what he meant. He would describe a problem, analyze it and always propose a solution. He never went to college. He never used big fancy words because he felt they lacked emotion and clarity. He had an extensive vocabulary. If he knew little of a topic he would merely say, "I really don't know."

Enough of past history. If Dad were with us today what would he say about the state of affairs in Washington D.C.?

With absolute certainty I know he would say: Ken, it stinks so bad the Board of Health needs to be called in and fumigate the joint! They are all suffering from Egotistic Greedium. (He did know a little Latin.)

To an outsider we would have to interpret his statement: Most of those representing us in the Land of

Milk and Honey only want to be reelected, get big pensions for a few years work, make mucho dollars on inside information, socialize with interest groups for supplementary funds, vote themselves bigger paychecks, when no one is looking, and achieve very little. Once, he actually said that some elected officials pimp for the lobbyists. Some of these same sinners chair important committees. Dad was never politically correct because he believed in honest freedom of speech.

He would probably continue: Ken did you ever follow their careers once they qualify for a whopping pension? They become heads of government connected businesses, high paid lobbyists, talking heads on TV, write books, become consultants or sit on dozens of Boards of Directors. How do you think they quickly become instant millionaires?

He would probably conclude his observation with the recognition that there are a few good people in Washington. He was also good in math and would say a few good people don't have the votes to do good things for the people because in a democracy it takes a majority.

What would he offer for a partial solution? (He never felt there was a magic bullet in politics.) He once said the country needed a merit program for national elected politicians. In summary this was his Merit Program for Politicians;

- Minimum wage that was equal to the average income for middle class families.

- Four round trip bus tickets from home to Washington D.C.

- Government family housing would be provided in Washington DC neighborhoods where Joe Six Pack lives.

See SEIFERT, Page 8



Gathering for a feast

The Shawsheen School PTO held its community service food drive before Thanksgiving and the school community collected more than its goal of 500 pounds. Pictured above are, from left, kindergartener Riley McMillan and first-grader Nathan Flagg.

Small fire forces evacuation of Wood Hill, High Plain schools

By DUSTIN LUCA
STAFF WRITER

Wood Hill Middle and High Plain Elementary schools were evacuated last Tuesday after a fire damaged a second-story bathroom at the middle school.

The fire call came in at around 8:10 a.m., just after school started for the day, according to Andover Fire Chief Mike Mansfield. Students at both schools were outside for around 15 minutes before being allowed in the school's cafeteria and auditorium where it was warmer.

"It was cold outside, and we didn't want the kids to get cold," said Mansfield. "There was a specific wing of the second floor that students were not allowed to enter while the investigation was ongoing. The investigation concluded at 12:30 (that afternoon), at which time students were allowed to enter and utilize that area."

The fire was started by a female student, according to Andover Police Lt. James Hashem.

The school system has not releases information on what administrative action the child or her family will face. According to the



ANGIE BEAULIEU/Staff photo

Andover police and fire responded to Wood Hill Middle School after a report of smoke in a restroom.

school's handbook, "damaging, destroying, or stealing personal or school property or attempting to do so," and "behavior that endangers others or substantially disrupts the educational process" is subject to suspension. In addition, "any breaches of Federal law, Massachusetts State law, or bylaws of the Town of Andover, may be handled in cooperation with the local police department and may result in expulsion."

The fire happened after the Townsman's early deadline for Thanksgiving week, and was reported online.

The fire, which was started

in a girl's bathroom at the school, was extinguished by a custodian at the school before crews arrived, according to Hashem.

"Once the alarms were activated, he found where the smoke was coming from and he was able to extinguish both rolls of toilet paper," said Hashem. "After an investigation, they were able to identify a suspect to the fire, and it was turned over to the state fire marshal's office."

The girl's identity is being protected since the student is a minor, according to Mansfield, who declined to provide any details about the Wood

Hill Middle student. "We were able to find out who the person responsible for lighting the fire was, and we've taken further action from that point forward," said Mansfield. "We don't take these types of incidents lightly, as we shouldn't, as they put the safety of all the students, faculty and administration at risk. There's always the potential for somebody to get hurt."

The response to the fire and the students' quick return to the building once it was deemed safe to re-enter demonstrated the effectiveness of school policies, according to School Superintendent Marinell McGrath.

"We immediately contacted Andover Fire and Police and followed all of our established protocols to assess the situation," said McGrath, in a statement. "The evacuation and investigation process went very well and according to our safety plans, which assured the safety of our students. The students returned to the building to resume classes in a timely manner following the drill and once the building was deemed safe to re-enter by the public safety authorities."

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What is going on in Oklahoma?

The Kid lives in northeastern Oklahoma where weather and earthquakes have been the main topics of conversation this year.

2011 will go down in history as a record-breaking year in several categories.

Mother Nature started 2011 in Oklahoma by setting a record for the most snow in a 24-hour period. A storm dropped 27 inches of snow on Feb. 9, 2011.

On Feb. 10 the thermometers dropped to -31° F, the coldest temperature ever recorded in Oklahoma.

Another record fell by the wayside when winds reach 150.8 miles per hour in El Reno on May 24. During the storms, Oklahoma experienced an EF 5 tornado and six-inch hail, another record.

Oklahoma suffered drought conditions during the summer. The average precipitation from January through October totaled just 18.84 inches, about 13 inches below normal. Almost 55% of the state was listed as experiencing severe-exceptional drought. Due to the drought, Oklahoma had major grass fires, causing extensive property loss.

The summer also set records for high temperatures. Oklahoma had 63 days above 100° F, 21 days above 105° F, and three days above 110° F.

Then came November! It started great. The Kid enjoyed being outside in the pleasant weather. Things changed on Nov. 5 when a 5.7 magnitude earthquake hit about 44 miles northeast of Oklahoma City. It was the strongest earthquake ever recorded in Oklahoma.

On Nov. 6, Daylight Saving Time ended, dropping clocks back an hour. The Kid got a chance to sleep. It was a good thing the Kid had extra rest because things really got exciting on Nov. 7. Severe storms moved through Oklahoma, bringing tornadoes, hail, rain, flash floods and high wind. If that wasn't enough, Mother Nature threw in another earthquake with a magnitude of 4.7.

The Kid wondered whether to go into the safe room or under the table. The event left people in Oklahoma joking about the quakenado.

What does Mother Nature have in store for Oklahoma in December? The Kid is not even going to ask!

Word Scramble Unscramble these weather terms.

DORANOT QEKARHATEU ATHE

GROTHUD ZABIRIZD ILHA

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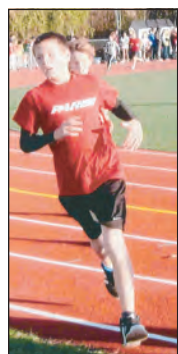
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From left are Julie Purtschert, Julia Rice, Emma Dowty, Nicole Major, Francesca Ardini, Alexandra Ardini, Emily Swenson, Emily Kowalski, all from South School students.

129 run for the fun, health of it

The 22nd annual fourth and fifth grade one-mile cross country fun run was held at Andover High School this month. The physical education department, in cooperation with the high school cross country team, conducted the event with 129 students from five elementary schools participating.



South School fifth-grader Jack Bodette participates in the Fun Run.

The fun run is scheduled at the completion of the Presidential Physical Fitness test that is conducted at school. One of the events in the test is the one-mile run. Students have prepared for the fun run through their physical education classes. "This event emphasizes the importance of being physically active, helps students

develop cardiovascular fitness and a love of running. It also encourages students to do their best in an environment where quality sportsmanship is paramount," according to Brian McNally, K-12 coordinator for health and physical education. Results are provided by the school.

5TH GRADE BOYS

Last name, first initial	School	Time
GLOVER, O	BANCROFT	6:02
HUDGINS, J.	BANCROFT	6:04
RESENDIZ, N	SOUTH	6:10
GRABER, K	BANCROFT	6:16
BODETTE, J	SOUTH	6:24
MCGOLDRICK, T	HIGH PLAIN	6:25
DURHAM, A	SOUTH	6:26
FIETZE, J	BANCROFT	6:50
KESLER, B	WEST	6:54
HUGHES, M	BANCROFT	6:55
GLOVER, E	BANCROFT	6:55
RIDLEY, J	SOUTH	7:06
COYLE, N	WEST	7:07
ZALAMSKOS, N	WEST	7:07
HOAR, J	SANBORN	7:12
GRUENBERG, J	WEST	7:13
MILLER, D	SOUTH	7:15
VIRMAHI, S	SOUTH	7:18
BRADSHAW, S	WEST	7:21
PAPAZIAN, G	SOUTH	7:27
RINKLIN, C	BANCROFT	7:29
RICE, N	SOUTH	7:32
TWEEDALE, S	WEST	7:36
PAIGE, J	WEST	7:54
PRENTISS, C	SANBORN	7:59
DOLANSKY, L	WEST	8:29
GARVEY, T	SOUTH	8:31
COYLE, E	WEST	8:42
TRAVOGLINI, M	SANBORN	8:47
SCHMIDEL, H	WEST	8:49
DENONCOURT, J	SOUTH	8:59
WURTZ, A	SOUTH	9:12
TAVRES, D	SANBORN	9:13
GEMMELL, J	SANBORN	9:23
LEM, M	SANBORN	9:24
CLARK, A	SANBORN	9:24
FAHEY, L	SOUTH	9:26
MORSE, T	WEST	9:32
VU, D	SOUTH	9:34
PECHINSKY, E	HIGH PLAIN	9:38
TRUONG, G	WEST	9:49

5TH GRADE GIRLS

CLEMENTS, J	BANCROFT	6:20
KENNEDY, J	BANCROFT	6:31
SULLIVAN, S	SOUTH	6:44
GRIECO, A	SOUTH	6:56
TURNER, A	WEST	7:02
DONAHUE, J	SOUTH	7:03
ROSS, C	BANCROFT	7:07
ZHONG, A	SOUTH	7:11
STABILE, J	BANCROFT	7:33
DUNN, G	BANCROFT	7:35
ZALAMSKAS, M	WEST	7:41
HALL, C	BANCROFT	7:43
LEE, D	BANCROFT	7:43
AGOSTINO, C	SOUTH	7:46
GALAT, M	HIGH PLAIN	7:50
CAIN, S	SOUTH	7:54
NAM, K	WEST	7:58
SOUTTER, A	BANCROFT	8:06
SYLVESTER, S	WEST	8:07
RAO, A	BANCROFT	8:09
GILLETTE, S	SOUTH	8:10
STUART, O	WEST	8:14
HU, K	WEST	8:16
FLANAGAN, C	BANCROFT	8:29

FOURTH GRADE BOYS

O'CONNOR, A	SOUTH	6:11
ARPIN, E	BANCROFT	6:17
RINKLIN, C	BANCROFT	6:27
SHEA, R	SOUTH	6:28
MCCARTHY, C	SOUTH	6:29
THEEB, A	BANCROFT	6:47
GORRIE, T	SOUTH	6:48
KATSIKAS, J	SOUTH	6:56
STECHE, W	WEST	6:58
AMIRAULT, J	SOUTH	7:00
WITT, M	SOUTH	7:01
MITCHELL, PAIGE	WEST	7:01
TWEEDALE, M	WEST	7:09
ASHWORTH, B	HIGH PLAIN	7:12
DANKENS, C	WEST	7:13
SULLIVAN, S	SOUTH	7:16
KAZMER, J	WEST	7:17
JABLONKI, S	SOUTH	7:18
MCCONNELL, P	HIGH PLAIN	7:32

VIEIRA, G	HIGH PLAIN	7:33
HETHERINGTON-YOUNG, M	SOUTH	7:35
MAKIE, M	HIGH PLAIN	7:36
AULBACH, I	SOUTH	7:37
ATWOOD, J	WEST	7:44
HOUSTON, P	WEST	7:46
MCQUAIDE, R	HIGH PLAIN	7:47
DEBONSI, T	SANBORN	7:51
MILLER, A	WEST	7:51
LLOYD, T	HIGH PLAIN	8:05
SMITH, D	SOUTH	8:07
ZHU, S	SOUTH	8:17
SOLTES, G	WEST	8:17
SCHWARTZ, H	WEST	8:24
BIELECKI, M	SOUTH	8:25
SHAH, K	SOUTH	8:26
O'BRIEN, J	SOUTH	8:27

FOURTH GRADE GIRLS

CLEMENTS, E	BANCROFT	6:41
BRAVO, C	HIGH PLAIN	6:50
SILVEIRA, M	BANCROFT	6:59
RICE, J	SOUTH	7:20
MAJOR, N	SOUTH	7:21
TEICHERT, A	WEST	7:32
ARPIN, M	WEST	7:33
KREKORIAN, S	WEST	7:38
GRABER, K	BANCROFT	7:39
SWENSON, E	SOUTH	7:45
DOWTY, E	SOUTH	8:05
DOLANSKY, M	WEST	8:06
SCOTT, B	HIGH PLAIN	8:15
FINN, H	HIGH PLAIN	8:27
SMITH, C	SANBORN	8:36
FLEMING, B	HIGH PLAIN	8:44
TEICHERT, V	WEST	8:58
ARDINI, F	SOUTH	9:08
TAYLOR, A	HIGH PLAIN	9:18
PURTSCHERT, J	SOUTH	9:22
BATA, T	WEST	9:33
ARDINI, A	SOUTH	9:36
MCGOLDRICK, C	HIGH PLAIN	9:41
KOWALSKI, E	SOUTH	9:49
KARL, G	WEST	10:01
GEMMELL, K	SANBORN	10:06
DOLANSKY, M	WEST	10:35
GASPERONI, A	HIGH PLAIN	10:56

SEIFERT: Extend common-man rules to beltway

Continued from Page 7

Any merit awards, bonuses, and retirement benefits would be received by vote of the citizens who sent the busy beaver to Washington. It could be as much or as little as the citizens felt

appropriate (in other words, meritorious service). As an example, Senators Kerry and Brown could receive merit pay from the good citizens of Massachusetts. But not from federal funds.

■ A Special Unit of the IRS

must review the evolution of accumulation of wealth on an annual basis. No offshore or secret Swiss bank accounts are allowed. Politicians' conflict of interest would be a felony decided in a court of law and not by a committee

of the same culprits.

All laws and benefits pertaining to Mike from Main Street would apply to the public servants we elect - no exceptions. However the sending political district could build libraries, castles,

statues, buy yachts, give free trips and shower the deserving politician with as much as the electorate desired. This would be local feedback on a job well done.

He always said he felt Washington was a stacked deck against the little guy. He would then probably conclude with: *We have no one*

to blame but ourselves. We put them in there and now we don't have the courage or knowledge on how to throw the bums out! Boy, do I miss my Dad!

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

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ADVERTISING DEADLINE: Friday, December 2nd

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Sports

Coke latest Andover gridder going to Brown

By DAVID WILLIS
STAFF WRITER

ANDOVER — Andy Coke knows the historic connection between Andover and Brown football.

Andover residents who have taken the gridiron for Brown have become All-Americans, Ivy League all-time greats, and even players and coaches for the New England Patriots.

Now, Coke is joining that illustrious group.

The day after Thanksgiving, the record-setting running back made it official that he had committed to play football at Brown University next fall.

"I have a lot to live up to with the legacy of Andover greats at the school," said Coke. "But I am so excited. It was a hard search, but I feel like I made the right decision. I loved the school and I already feel like I have bonded with the coaching staff."

The recruiting process proved a challenge for Coke, who was offered a full scholarship from Villanova.

"It can be very staggering for a high school senior to have this kind of attention," said Coke's grandfather, Andy Shea. "I would visit his house and there would be stacks of letters. More than

100 schools contacted Andy and he made many trips. His mother (Elizabeth) and uncle (John) did a great job and Andy is a humble kid."

Coke fell in love with Brown over the summer.

"I brought him down to the school and he loved it right away," said Andover coach E.J. Perry. "Andy has a plethora of positions he could play, but running back is his passion. I think they will very impressed with the running back they are getting."

Thanks to a stellar performance at Brown's football camp, Coke earned the opportunity to begin his career at the school as a running back, a key to his decision.

"I definitely wanted to run the football," said the 6-foot-1, 205-pounder. "I have always loved offense and that's what I have done my whole life. I wanted the chance to run the ball for Brown."

Running back, of course, is where Coke has starred for the Golden Warriors. In two seasons with Andover, he scored 40 TDs and rushed for 2,995 yards, including a school-record 1,811 last season when he was an All-Scholastic.

"It was a very hard decision, said Coke. "I spent a lot of time with my family weighing all my options, and

VIDEO

To see Andy Coke talk about choosing Brown, and video highlights from his prolific career, visit andovertownsmen.com/sports or rallynorth.net.

Brown was the right decision, as other colleges view him at other positions.

"My grandfather always wanted me to go to an Ivy League school. I am proud to live up to his expectations. I made sure to work very hard on my grades and had to take the SATs a few times. It wasn't easy, but I reached the academic standards."

Coke also cited the want to play close to Andover so his family, who he is very close to, could see him play as often as possible.

"I wanted my family to be able to come to all of my home games," Coke said. "Providence isn't too far away, and a lot of the away games are close by"

And Shea predicted his grandson will have a prominent cheering section next season.

"We'll be there strong a loud," said Shea. "His mother and grandmother will be leading the cheers and his uncle will be there with his camera. I can't wait."



File photo

After a record-setting career with the Golden Warriors, Andy Coke has committed to play football at Brown next fall.

THE ANDOVER PIPELINE

Andy Coke joins an impressive list of Andover residents to play college football at Brown. **Buddy Farnham** was a second-team All-American. His father, **Mark Farnham**, and uncles **Paul** and **Bob Farnham** also were all All-Ivy receivers. **James Perry**, brother of Andover head coach **E.J. Perry**, set 10 Ivy League records. Nose guard **Brendan Finneran**, like Bob Farnham and Perry, made the school's 50-player 125th anniversary team back in 2003. **Neil Finneran** was a team captain. Patriots offensive coordinator **Bill O'Brien** won the team's prestigious Fred Broomhead award. Many of the aforementioned stars first became interested in the school through proud Brown alum **Frank Kennedy**, a Lawrence native and longtime Andover schoolteacher and Hampton Beach businessman.

A Thanksgiving helping of heartbreak

Golden Warriors fall to archrival Central Catholic in double overtime

By DAVID WILLIS
STAFF WRITER

LAWRENCE — Through the pain of the moment, Andy Coke was not about to hang his head. Instead, he patted teammates on the back and exchanging hugs and kind words with anyone he could find on the Andover sidelines.

"I will always remember this loss," said Coke. "But I'll always remember the good times a lot more. It's not how we wanted it to end, but I am still so proud of my teammates."

With 22 seconds to go in the game, Andover finished off a 60-yard drive with a touchdown to

tie the score and send the contest into overtime. But the Golden Warriors could not stop a late two-point conversion attempt and lost to archrival Central Catholic 48-46 on Thanksgiving Day last Thursday.

"We fought until the end," said Warriors coach E.J. Perry. "We had an outstanding rally and that showed a lot about this team. But we made too many mistakes."

Due to a pair of costly turnovers, Andover saw Central Catholic rally from a 20-point deficit to take the lead late in the fourth.

But Andover responded with a 13-play drive that ate up 4:06 on the clock, which C.J. Scarpa finished off with a touchdown on

a quarterback sneak with 22 seconds to go in regulation.

"C.J. led us on a terrific drive," said Perry. "And we really thought about going for the 2-point conversion. But we decided to kick and go to overtime because we felt we had the better team."

Andover and Central exchanged touchdowns in the first overtime, and in overtime No. 2 Scarpa gave the Golden Warriors a 46-40 lead with his second straight touchdown pass to Will Heikkinen.

But the Raiders' Matt McDermott responded by throwing for a touchdown and running for the two-point conversion for the final margin.

"We had the turnovers that gave them the opportunity to get back

in the game," said Perry. "That's what you can't have. That really hurt us."

Mark Zavrl led the Golden Warriors with 10 tackles and a blocked punt that led to a touchdown. Will Clark added eight tackles and a pair of sacks for the Golden Warriors.

"It was tough going out like that," said Coke. "But it won't make me feel any less for this team or this town. I will always be grateful for everything they did for me, and we will remember the good times."

Central Catholic 48, Andover 46 (2 OTs)

Central Catholic (6-5): 0 7 14 13 6 7 — 48

First Quarter
A — Andy Coke 7 run (Mark Zavrl kick), 7:08

Second Quarter
CC — Devon Lattrell 17 run (Byce Santos kick), 8:25
A — Freddie Scribner 17 run (pass failed), 5:50
A — Will Clark 38 interception return (Zavrl kick), 5:28

Third Quarter
A — Andy Coke 3 run (Zavrl kick), 7:45
CC — John Bilsky 33 pass from McDermott (Santos kick), 3:34
CC — Michael Barry fumble recovery in end zone (Santos kick), 2:31

Fourth Quarter
CC — McDermott 10 run (kick failed), 9:06
CC — McDermott 1 run (Santos kick), 4:26
A — C.J. Scarpa 1 run (Zavrl kick), 0:22

Overtime
CC — Ryan Doherty 9 pass from McDermott (pass failed)
A — Will Heikkinen 9 pass from Scarpa (pass failed)
A — Heikkinen 10 pass from Scarpa (run failed)
CC — Barry 20 pass from McDermott (McDermott run)

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING: CC — Matt McDermott 17-94, Santino Brancato 7-35, Devon Lattrell 5-35, John Bilsky 1-(-1); A — Andy Coke 14-43, Freddie Scribner 6-43, C.J. Scarpa 3-12

PASSING: CC — McDermott 12-18-1, 236; A — Scarpa 18-26-0, 190, Cole 0-1-0

RECEIVING: CC — Michael Barry 3-65, Bilsky 4-52, Lattrell 1-36, Brancato 1-30, Henry Rodriguez 1-22, Anthony Terranova 1-22, Ryan Doherty 1-9, A — Will Heikkinen 10-103, Cam Farnham 1-32, Scribner 2-24, Alex Lahood 2-17, Cole 3-14

Andover (7-4): 7 13 7 7 6 6 — 46

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Andover Little League Baseball Spring Registration 2012

ANDOVER LITTLE LEAGUE

Little League is available to girls and boys who will be between the ages of 6 and 18 (K-12th grade) on April 30, 2012

Walk-in registration for the Spring 2012 Little League season will take place at **South Church** (41 Central St.) in Fellowship Hall on the following dates and times:

Saturday, December 10, 2011 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am

Saturday, January 14, 2012 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am

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

Registration is also available online at www.andoverlittleleague.com

Registrations received after February 22, 2012 will be assessed a \$35.00 late fee.

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

Registration questions can be sent to ALLRegistrar@gmail.com

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Opinion

Hazing must be addressed by all

A story of a repulsive incident of hazing involving some Andover High boys basketball players makes one wonder just what it will take for people to get the message that such behavior will not be tolerated.

The allegation is that in July, at the Hoop Mountain private, overnight basketball camp held at Stonehill College in Easton, two Andover underclassmen were coaxed into playing a humiliating sex game. The "game," known as "wet biscuit" among other names, involves a race to coat a cookie with a bodily fluid. The loser has to eat the cookie.

Eagle-Tribune Sports editor Bill Burt reported that Andover High varsity basketball coach David Fazio was told Nov. 11 about the incident. One of alleged victims spoke to an Andover coach about the incident. According to Fazio's lawyer, Fazio promptly reported the incident to the boy's parents, some of the parents of the other boys involved, school officials and Andover police. "Mr. Fazio did everything possible to deal with this four-month-old situation. This is not a school-related issue," attorney Michael Morris told Burt.

Andover High basketball players have been going to Hoop Mountain for six years. Attending the camp is not mandatory for players on the Andover team.

Andover school officials have provided parents little information about this disturbing incident, with many officials not talking about the issue. The system posted only a short statement on its website last week that an investigation into an alleged hazing incident is nearly complete. The message on the site says "if this investigation determines that bullying or hazing has occurred, the administration will take all appropriate steps, which will include protecting victims and instituting additional procedures, if needed, to prevent recurrence in the future."

Students who haze bear responsibility for their own actions. Parents, primarily, must take active roles in addressing such issues, establishing consequences and making sure their children know those types of actions are unacceptable. But the schools themselves must reinforce the message.

The alleged incident is disturbing not only for its sexually abusive nature but also for the health risks involved. Should the allegations prove true, there need to be real consequences for the students involved. A ban from further participation in Andover High sports would be a good start.

Clearly, some students have not bought into a "zero-tolerance" attitude toward hazing. If a sense of human decency and appreciation for basic public health standards is not sufficient to stop such behavior, perhaps denying the perpetrators the privilege of participating in school sports will. At the very least, it will remove those who engage in hazing from the settings in which they acquire their power over others.

WEB QUESTION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

How surprised are you by the hazing allegations that came forward about current Andover High basketball players?

■ Completely: I never thought something like this was possible in our community.

■ Very: I certainly didn't expect it, but I recognize such things are possible.

■ Somewhat: I was shocked by the details, but suspected hazing takes place.

■ Hardly: I figured some hazing happens, but some specifics are unexpected.

■ Not at all: I knew or suspected this was a part of student life.

■ I don't know, or I haven't

yet come to a decision on this topic.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Last week's questions was "Will you be voting at the Special Town Meeting on Dec. 5?" With 87 people responding, the answers were:

■ Yes: 50 votes, 57.47 percent

■ No: 15 votes, 17.24 percent

■ I don't live in Andover; 12 votes, 13.79 percent

■ I can't vote, because I'm too young: 7 votes, 8.05 percent

■ I haven't yet decided: 2 votes, 2.3 percent

■ I can't vote, because I'm not registered: 1 vote, 1.15 percent

LETTER

On hazing, focus on personal responsibility

Editor, Townsman:

I am operating under the assumption that the basketball camp was not endorsed, sanctioned or required by the high school or by Coach Dave Fazio. If I am right about that, why are we all dumping on AHS, Fazio and the town?

I have two questions for folks who wish to lay this at the feet of the school, coach and town. First, do you parents think that these boys learned about what they did while they were at Andover High School? Second, do you parents want the school to discuss openly this kind of behavior and why it is reprehensible?

If you parents answer the above truthfully, I think the answers would both be "No." So where did these boys get these ideas and why did they think it was "cool" to act out this way?

Any of you old farts

remember Pogo? Well his best and wisest saying was, "We have met the enemy and he is us."

It's hard work being a parent and there are a lot in this town who apparently want to pass it off on the school system. Furthermore, when "us" do this, we are teaching the kids, our kids, to avoid taking personal responsibility. We are teaching them that it is not my fault and to look around fast, finding someone to blame.

How do you think these kids get this way? How do you think bullies are created? Do you really think it is the kids fault alone or that it is those awful people at Andover High School? Really, how many will sit down and discuss this honestly and openly with their kids? Just curious...

BRUCE BAKER
67 Stevens St.

AYS has proven youth center will pay off

Neil Fater



I went to the Andover Youth Services tree lot on Sunday morning to buy my Christmas tree, something that has become a family tradition without my really noticing. It was unseasonably warm,

and for a change, the Andover Youth Services volunteers were not using frozen hands to tie the trees to people's cars.

The lot can tell you a lot about the AYS program. First, it brings something to town that did not exist before. Without AYS, there would be no place to buy Christmas trees within Andover's 32 square miles. Second, some of the money raised helps Andover families who are struggling financially - in this case by providing Christmas gifts for the children. Contrary to popular belief, not everyone in town is a millionaire. People do live in public housing, and have financial problems because of the death of a spouse, a health problem or the loss of a job.

Money from the tree lot also helps AYS to run its many programs. It is largely a self-supporting part of the town government.

It is also one that truly listens to its constituents. Many new town facilities, programs and services have been started by AYS, because a kid somewhere in town had a dream and AYS showed them how to make it happen. Andover High wrestling was relaunched, and AHS lacrosse, Ultimate frisbee and middle school field hockey were born out of youth services, as was an annual fashion show for budding designers. Merrimack Junior Theatre, thought lost with the retirement of its longtime leader, will be reborn next year under AYS.

During the summer, the tree lot is home to the Andover Community Skate Park. Years ago, there was a constant battle downtown between

businesspeople and skateboarders who rode their steps and railings. Then, AYS built the park and solved the problem. It remains a popular attraction, supporting riders, musicians and even actors at different times. Last year it added an enormous concrete bowl, and this year a \$70,000 half pipe was donated by a resident. The park is not a part of any town budget.

On Sunday, the man who loaded the tree onto my car was Glenn Wilson. He one of the first kids affected by AYS. Shortly after Director Bill Fahey was hired, he went into English teacher Bill Becker's classrooms at Andover High telling kids that Fahey needed their help. "He was saying, 'What's going on in town? What do you want to do?'" said Wilson. "Kids would say, 'This town sucks,' and Bill would say, 'OK, now finish the sentence. What are you going to do about it?'" That was kid of refreshing to me." Wilson, then a trench-coat wearing teen who kept to himself, told Fahey after class he wanted to get involved, to create the type of rock climbing and outdoor activities now offered by AYS. Today he is AYS assistant director, connecting with a new generation of kids.

In 1995, Town Meeting unanimously took a vote, saying that if AYS created a better youth services program, it would support a youth center. AYS has done that in spades. A private group that has been supporting youth programs each year has raised almost half the cost of the building. If it cannot raise the rest that is needed, the center will not be built. Of course, asking for \$2 million to be taken out of the annual budget over several years is no small thing. But the town does it for one-time capital or maintenance projects, including recently to buy land for playing fields on Blanchard Street.

Some argue that a youth center is not needed because the town has a YMCA. The Andover/North Andover YMCA is a great institution but something quite different from a downtown youth center next to playing fields. Few middle and high school students are able or willing to walk down Route 133 to the YMCA

on the North Andover line. Kids cannot simply drop into the YMCA; they must sign up for a program in advance. The programs, while worthwhile, all come with a fee. Teen memberships are \$300 per year and a two-adult family membership is \$924 per year.

Andover Youth Services is under town manager's orders to raise enough money to pay for most of its programs. It does so by charging for dances, comedy nights, trips and other events. They are all fun activities, nice-to-have extras in a well-heeled community. But its current, temporary building also is a free drop-in center that provides supervision and direction for youth of all economic backgrounds. There is no cost for a variety of AYS activities, making many of them open to all.

It's true that AYS has done all of this without a youth center. There are those who argue that this means a center is not needed. But isn't it best to invest in a group that has shown it can make the most of what it is given? Isn't that the type of government we should support?

Society must stop merely throwing money at problems. The youth center is not the magic bullet to solve all problems with youth. But this is an investment in a proven, cost-effective program that supports, encourages and, in some cases, saves Andover kids. The center will be built across the parking lot from the Andover Senior Center, providing opportunity for it to be used during the day for the growing BoomerVenture program used by baby boomers.

Times are tough. We all feel it. It's difficult to imagine supporting a new building or to have any faith that additional money given to government will be spent wisely. But AYS professionals treat their jobs more like a calling. They have proven how much they can do with anything given to them. Ask almost any of the thousands of kids who have gone through the AYS program over the last 17 years. Or take a stroll over to the tree lot staffed by volunteers and see for yourself.

Neil Fater is editor of the Townsman.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS POLICY

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

Editor, Townsman:

The well-intentioned proponents of a new youth center contend that in the absence of the desired facility AYS would be critically impaired and the town's youth would be unfairly disadvantaged. They are wrong on both points.

That AYS requires a multi-million-dollar facility to continue to "make significant progress with kids" is belied by the organization's history (Nov. 23, "Town youths ask residents to 'believe'"). For years, it planned activities from a small office. It currently does so from a former home. As a thrifty and creative entity, AYS can tolerate — as it has already tolerated — minor scheduling inconveniences without shackling residents to decades of debt service.

More worrisome than the fiscal burden the Cormier Center would impose is the threat of the town's capitulation to a growing culture of entitlement. We have six elementary schools, three middle schools, one high school and scores of playing fields, athletic facilities, parks and natural reservations — all among New England's finest. Frankly, we are spoiled. Yet posters at the Feaster Five and material on the AYS website suggest the conviction that these treasures are insufficient and that the center is therefore a natural right. It is not. It is a five-star clubhouse. The commitment required to endure hours in the cold brandishing Gandhi quotes and imperatives to believe in the absolute necessity of this luxury demonstrates a dangerously warped sense of deprivation.

A 2007 AHS graduate and former AYS participant, I believe in these youth. I believe they do not differ in essence from preceding generations. I believe their fixation with erecting a center at any cost will repay them with an insidious narcissism. I also believe they have promise more potent than the sort that is stifled without a \$2 million subsidy. I believe they can use their maturing minds and the considerable resources already at their disposal to continue doing great things.

"We want [the center]

more than anything," said one high school boy (Nov. 23, "Town youths"). This Christmas, let's give them what they really need: a reality check. Please, Andover, vote no. Do it for the kids.

BRIAN LAPSA
Richmond, Va.

Pro center: It deserves our conviction

Editor, Townsman:

It isn't easy these days to part with money; it takes conviction. On Dec. 5 a Special Town Meeting can approve support for the Cormier Youth Center. It is a cost-effective building, half funded, and years already in the making. It is a building where youths will find role models, where they will discover passions and be pushed to pursue them. It is where they will learn to be kind, soulful and cool. It is where their lives will take the most remarkable of turns, and they will come of age. It is an investment that deserves our conviction.

Five years after leaving Andover, I am still inspired by Bill Fahey, Glenn Wilson, Tony Lombardi and the Andover Youth Services staff. I am still oriented toward the life they showed me as a youth. Many of my friends and classmates will not vote because we have grown and moved and now are planted elsewhere in the world. Still, we understand this one building will do things no school or gym or park can be designed to do: it will teach kids to love life. It is a sound investment, and it deserves our conviction.

DYLAN GOLDEN
AHS Class of '06
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Teacher says 3-class workload reasonable

Editor, Townsman:

I am writing in response to Lauren Ream's recent letter highlighting the benefits of block scheduling at the high school. She eloquently describes the benefits for students when taking four 82-minute classes each semester. I totally agree that student achievement is superior with the block schedule.

My problem is with the amount of time in direct student instruction that is required of each high school teacher under the current contract. Currently at the high school, teachers teach three 82-minute blocks (academic courses) and have one 82-minute block as a prep period for one semester. The other semester requires that they only teach two 82-minute blocks (academic courses) and they have their prep period. The remaining 82 minutes is spent performing duties such as monitoring the cafeteria or a study hall.

This means that for one half of the academic year, the high school teachers are spending less than three hours per day teaching their professional courses.

I am a science teacher at Groton-Dunstable Regional High School which has successfully implemented the same block scheduling for greater than 15 years. The big difference is that teachers have always taught three courses each semester. As professionals we do not have duties; paraprofessionals monitor the halls and cafeteria. The school's philosophy is that if students are taking four courses a semester, the vast majority of students do not need a study period.

I feel for the elementary and middle school teachers who have much more demanding schedules and are working without a contract. I know as a high school teacher that three courses per semester is a reasonable workload. I encourage residents to lobby for the high school teachers to teach three academic courses each semester.

CHARLES FITZ
34 Chandler Road

Not the time for youth center luxury

Editor, Townsman:

Having grown up in Andover without a youth center like the one envisioned for Andover's future, I was neutral about the need for one. That changed once I saw the professional signs advocating its passage. It made me wonder who has a vested interest in such a project. This whole idea of a youth center doesn't make sense if the YMCA has an ambitious plan that would seem to duplicate the same service to youth.

The present situation of the American economy is not the time for this luxury.

ROBERT STEFANI
332 South Main St.

Widespread support for center based on facts

Editor, Townsman:

The front page headline of the Nov. 17 Townsman reads "Battle over how to fund youth center." I would rather replace the word "battle" with "healthy discussion."

The youth center discussion has been spirited but all sides seem to agree that is a good idea. Mary Lyman, my fellow selectman, has stated her support for the project but wants to examine the funding, as does Tom Deso who, according to the Townsman article, plans to file an amendment for a Proposition 2 ½ override. The Andover Soccer Association and Andover Hockey Association have supported the project, along with majority votes from the selectmen, Finance Committee and School Committee.

This widespread support is based in some very sound facts:

The Andover Youth Foundation will give the Town of Andover a grant of at least \$2.2 million.

AYF and the town have entered into an agreement that specifies the foundation's responsibilities for construction overruns, furnishings and a portion of the on-going operating costs. This detailed agreement has been fully reviewed by town council, and is a public document.

The scheduling and use of building will be the responsibility of the town manager.

See LETTERS, Page 11

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR YOUTH CENTER SITE CONCEPT

■ Continued from Page 10

Although the intended use is as a youth center, it will be available to senior center, school, and other town department activities and programs.

A successful vote will ensure that existing donations will be used for their intended purpose, the Cormier Youth Center.

A negative vote at Town Meeting will result in the Andover Youth Foundation having to return \$1.5 to \$2 million in existing donations.

The youth center will be a town-owned and operated building, built on town land in a community campus setting specifically chosen so senior citizens and schools could regularly share the facility.

I wholeheartedly support this rare public/private partnership and community asset. If a Proposition 2½ override amendment is filed, your vote need not be complicated. A vote FOR an override will raise your taxes (depending on the prevailing interest rate) by an estimated \$14 a year. A vote to fund the project “within our existing budget” will NOT result in a rise in your tax bill. The town manager has assured us we can plan for, and fund this building without the need for a Proposition 2 ½ Override.

PAUL J. SALAFIA
South Main St.
Andover selectman

Center should be part of larger budget talk

Editor, Townsman:
Monday’s Special Town Meeting is very important for two reasons:

First, we as a town will finally vote as to whether we will supplement the two million dollars plus in donations that have been made as far back as ten years ago for a town youth center.

Irrespective of the opinions on building a youth center with town funds, the donors who have made these very generous donations ten years ago deserve a definitive answer as to whether or not the town wishes to put their donations for a youth center to work. While town leaders have allowed the town to develop the bad habit of holding special town meetings for— in just about all cases over the past few years — trivial reasons, in this case, the time has come for the town to decide one way or the other about building a youth center.

Foot-dragging by town leaders has held the generous donations of these donors hostage for way too long.

Secondly, and equally importantly, this special town meeting is one where we need to begin to hold elected town leaders’ feet to the fire and demand that they begin to provide, *before* we are asked vote on any new project, their priority rank order on every new project that requires new funding. This rank ordering has to include not only those projects we are being asked to vote on at the town meeting but all new projects/acquisitions in their pipeline over the coming five years (e.g., the need for a replacement fire station for Ballardvale, the much talked about renovation of the town yard, major equipment purchases, etc.).

An expected major expenditure several years down the road, such as a replacement fire house, may be more important to save our tax dollars for than a project that the selectmen/School Committee are pushing to spend money on today.

And as part of *every* vote that town leaders ask us to take on new projects or acquisitions, we should be demanding that they explain at the town meeting how the spending on the new project or acquisition, whether it be from non-exempt or exempt tax dollars, can be accommodated within the grand total of town spending on a tax neutral basis, and if it can’t, why not.

The time has come that we put an end to being asked to vote on big ticket items without any sense of town leaders’ (Town plus School Department) priorities on the big ticket items that are up for vote at town meetings or in the planning pipeline.

BOB POKRESS
3 Cherrywood Circle



This image shows what the Bartlet Street site would look like if a proposed youth center is built. The building at back right near the running track is a rendering of the proposed youth center. The existing Doherty Middle School and Town Offices are shown at the front of the property.

Courtesy Chris Huntress, Huntress Associates

Don't use debt exclusion for center

Editor, Townsman:
The time is now to build a Youth Center in Andover. After 17 years of hard work, determination, fundraising, and persistence, a fiscally sound proposal featuring a unique public/private partnership will reach voters. Its time to clear up a few misconceptions.

Do we need it? Absolutely, Andover Youth Service was created to address the developmental issues facing youth by connecting participants to new and challenging experiences that expand knowledge, promote fitness, and develop increased communication skills and responsibility. AYS receives ideas and concepts directly from the young people and then empowers them. The youth center will allow AYS to expand.

Will the youth center take away from other departments? No. The town manager clearly stated at the Nov. 14 selectmen’s meeting that Andover can afford the project *without a debt exclusion* and without affecting other department budgets.

The private Andover Youth Foundation is granting a minimum \$2.2 million and asking for \$2 million. The debt service from the request would amount to roughly \$150,000 annually for 20 years from the \$140 million Andover budget. Additionally, the debt service of several older town projects is ending, making room for this project without adding strain to the existing budget, as was explained at the Nov. 9 debt forum.

Why not pay for the center by debt exclusion? Never in Andover history has there been a debt exclusion for a \$2 million project. The most recent debt exclusions were in 1994 for school renovations at \$38.5 million, in 1999 for the public safety center at \$14 million, in 2000 for Wood Hill/High Plain at \$32 million, and in 2010 for Bancroft School at \$43.8 million. In recent years, there have been multiple projects of \$2 million that have been included into debt service including \$2.1 million for purchasing Blanchard fields in 2007, \$7.4 million for closing Ledge Road landfill in 2008, and \$2.5 million in 2010 for school building maintenance and renovation. When the selectmen, the Finance Committee and the School Committee all vote in favor of building a youth center without a debt exclusion, you have to question the real motives of those pushing the debt-exclusion agenda.

WILL ENGLISH
Wakefield

Vote to create a point of pride

Editor, Townsman:
Dear citizens of Andover, Please vote in favor of the youth center based on the merits of the AYS program, the finances of the project and the value it will create for our entire community. It will be a point of pride for our entire town.

JOHN & PEG CAMPBELL
13 Geneva Road

Senior vs. youth center: It's different this time around

Editor, Townsman:
Six years ago, a Special Town Meeting was held in Andover, the purpose of which was to call for funding of new building. I would like to offer some direct quotes from the transcript of that Town Meeting.

In opposition to the article, Brian Major said the following: “our concern associated with the addition of future operating costs in a time period in which significant budget requests are not being funded... our desire to investigate opportunities to share activity spaces between youth and seniors, and... our concern with voting again on a subject that has already been decided at... Annual Town Meeting.”

Major further stated: “... anticipated annual operating expense... will place an extra strain on an already difficult town budget that has significant unfunded requests from our educational community and our public safety operations.”

Finally, Major stated “... the final point of... opposition...is to discourage future requests to overturn Town Meeting decisions. A very dangerous precedent has been set with the calling of this Special Town Meeting. This...sends the signal to all registered voters that if they disagree with a future vote... all they need to do is collect 200 certified signatures.”

JoAnn Marden, Finance Committee chairwoman, said “...our job requires that we get beyond the dreams and emotion and look at the hard facts, that we ask whether the costs are justified and that we determine how the proposed project fits or does not fit into Andover’s total financial picture.”

She also said, “Any significant expansion of Town or School services cannot be accomplished within projected revenues.”

Finally, she said the “Finance Committee is...concerned with making sure that, when you vote, you understand the difficulty we all will face in incorporating the ongoing operating and maintenance expenses for a large new building into the annual budgets. Heating, electricity and custodial costs are sure to increase and will compete for funding with staffing and program expenses.”

Of course, that Town Meeting proposed funding for a new senior center. Now, we are being asked to fund a youth center, and it, apparently, makes all the difference in the world. Perhaps we should all ask ourselves, who really has no voice in this town.

JO-ANN DESO
81 High St.

AHS poll supports youth center

Editor, Townsman:
These are unsettling times. We are seeing it in the schools, in the town, the country and globally. With such economic hardships it is understandable to question how you can ask the townspeople to vote for a new youth center. There are

so many compelling reasons, but my focus is to show you why the andover High School students feel the time is now. I am writing this letter to give folks a chance to hear why Andover High School students want a Youth Center.

I polled 254 Andover High School students in the last two days. I asked them to write (anonymously) an answer to this question: “why does Andover need a youth center?”

1. 67 students responded along the lines that it would like a place to hang out and be with friends.

2. 59 students responded that it would be a safe place to be.

3. 27 students responded that there would be sports and fun activities.

4. 19 students responded that it would keep kids out of trouble.

5. 11 students said it would be good for the community and future generations.

6. 18 students said It would keep kids away from drugs and alcohol.

7. Four students responded it would be a place to be ourselves and express ourselves.

Some other comments were: “We need a youth center because everyone needs a place to go and see friendly faces and good role models on a daily basis...like Afton.”

“AYS...They do so much for the kids and I don’t know of a kid who doesn’t like AYS.”

“I love AYS, I like to go on their trips.”

“I would have somewhere to go so I wouldn’t be home alone.”

“We need a youth center because we need a place where kids can be and feel they are a part of something.”

“We need a youth center because I work there.”

“I need a youth center so I can be part of something.”

The number that surprises me was the number of students who wanted to feel safe. Fifty-seven responded, it would be a safe place to be. Let’s keep our children safe.

DOLORES DUNNING
Andover Art Teacher

Realize the impossible dream

Editor, Townsman:
“To Dream the Impossible Dream,” from the Man of LaMancha — why does that keep running through my mind? I guess because the building of a youth center for our community seems to be the impossible dream and we hope and pray that is not true. For too many years, dedicated men and women have been involved in this endeavor.

Seventeen years ago we hired a youth administrator to provide programs to engage our young people in positive activities and to keep the community environment safe. From a one-room operation to a duplex house, he has delivered and ever-increasing number of programs that have not only affected the youth, but their families as well. He has encouraged them to look for the possible and strive to achieve in a positive way.

So for 17 years Bill Fahey has been living the impossible dream. His dedication and outmost care for Andover

youth has spoken volumes for what Andover Youth Services represent.

And now “Believe, and Dream the Impossible Dream” seems like a reality.

We need all of you who feel the same way, to not only say you are in favor of the youth center building becoming a reality and not just a dream, but to show up at Town Meeting on December 5th and vote “YES” because you truly believe it is best for the Andover Community.

MYRNA SILVERMAN
Dufton Road
MARY T. WESSON
Marwood Drive

Fulfill promise, build youth center

Editor, Townsman:
The Andover Youth Council — with the help of each of us Dec. 5 — can see fulfilled an 18 year-old promise of support for a youth center.

Back in 1993, we as a community anguished over a series of hurts and losses experienced by our teens. We asked ourselves what we might do to bring the experience of community, of belongingness, of participation in fun-filled events to our young people. We attracted Bill Fahey away from North Andover and the youth council was born.

A generation has passed and through the years, the selectmen and Finance Committee asked the youth council to raise sufficient funds to offset the cost of the center. In good faith, the teens and their Youth Council leaders pursued funding. The cold winter days and nights sell Christmas trees in the skate park has perhaps been the most visible sign of their belief in the promise.

Today, the selectmen and the Finance Committee are urging us to keep the promise. And we have as great a need now for a youth center as ever. Our teenagers need the places that many of us in our youth had each Friday or Saturday night and that no longer exist — the church youth dances, the bowling alleys, the movie theaters on our Main Street.

Modern-day society has changed the way adolescents grow into adulthood. But belonging to a community, feeling wanted, and having a place to go to have wholesome fun together continue to be essential. Let us come together this year and do our part to keep the promise we made years ago. More than ever, our Andover teens need this center.

TOM SHARKEY
AHS Principal
24 West Parish Drive

Proposed center a Trojan horse?

Editor, Townsman:
We in Andover are planning to increase our debt load for a youth center in a time of economic uncertainty.

Our School Committee tells us Andover High School is overcrowded and action will have to be taken soon. We have a \$2 million structural deficit in schools operating budget due to the loss of federal stimulus funding, and that is even before we factor in the cost of new teacher contracts. State Chapter 70 Education Aid has declined

since FY2009. Our new IT director says much of Andover’s computer hardware needs to be replaced. The recent Bancroft School Project delays will likely result in higher costs.

We also have two large new 40B projects in the formative stages and an approved project on River Road that will surely exacerbate school crowding.

Meanwhile, selectmen say we need a new town yard, fire station, and a plethora of other infrastructure. If passed, the youth center will displace the funding for many of neglected and underfunded infrastructure projects.

The youth center project itself is a Trojan horse. A second floor elevator shaft will be devoid of a \$70,000 elevator. The second floor build out will cost us future CIP dollars. Maintenance expenses will go from about \$39,000 to over \$100,000 with the Andover Youth Foundation responsible for \$30,000 by contract. Future build outs will also likely increase staff, furniture and maintenance costs. AYF’s contract obligations to cover construction cost overruns are not backed by any collateral.

Andover has close to \$10 million in authorized debt not yet borrowed, \$21 million in future debt and about \$240 million in unfunded pension debt. Our Town’s Free Cash has dwindled from 5.8 percent in 1999 to a low of 1.2 percent in 2011. On Nov. 22, while providing Andover with an Aa1 rating, Moody’s stated its future rating outlook for Andover is “NEGATIVE.”

According to the state, Andover’s Single Family Tax Bill ranks 31st highest of 338 communities. The youth center proposal will create higher taxes. We will displace the elderly population that is on fixed incomes. We need not only to defeat this initiative but need to carefully re-evaluate all future projects for their impact on our financial stability.

MICHAEL MOSCA
44 Pleasant St.

A longer version of this letter exists online at andovertownsmen.com.

Center is recipe for success, growth

Editor, Townsman:
In 1995, Andover youth with the support of Bill Fahey and the Andover Youth Services staff tried for their first time to build a youth center. Sixteen years, four telethons, three proposed sites for the building, and about \$2 million in donations later no youth center exists. Yet anyone who has participated in youth services, or has children who participate, knows about the positive effects it has had on our community.

Despite constant budget cuts and insufficient resources AYS manages to overcome and bring wonderful programs that keep students entertained and busy, whilst building character and most importantly having fun. It’s amazing what Bill, Glenn, Tony, and all the other staff accomplish with such limited resources. I could probably fill at least 10 pages with the vast array of services and events that AYS has hosted but just to name a few: there’s the summer program, skate park, school dances, sports such as wrestling, field hockey, ultimate Frisbee, lacrosse, cooking clubs, fashion shows, leadership opportunities such as Andover Youth Council, hiking trips, snowboard and skiing trips, volunteer opportunities, and musical clubs and events like Java Jam.

Even more impressive is the dedication of the staff to helping, supporting, and encouraging the youth. I have never met a more loving, caring, fun, inspirational, and supportive group. No matter the time or place, if you need someone to chat with or vent to, a hug, advice, help or inspiration, AYS is there to lend a hand or make you laugh. The staff is what makes this organization such a unique and spectacular group and their influence on the youth of Andover over the past decade has been phenomenally positive and strong.

The only thing missing in this equation is a youth center. We’ve already seen what AYS can do without a center and the results are stunning.

EMY LEMAY
Former Youth Council member
Current NYU student
7 Keystone Way

See LETTERS, Page 20

TOWN TALK

Three cheers for the winners

The Andover Junior Football League eighth grade cheerleaders took home first place at the New England Cheer and Dance Competition held at the Reggie Lewis Athletic Center in Boston. They competed with over 160 teams, winning the Junior High Cheer Division. Led by Head Coach Karen Clark and AHS varsity student coaches Jesslym Sargent, Jillian Wilson, Lynzie Luschenat and Sydney Gillis, the girls are Katie Barry, Grace Bentley, Lydia Cobb, Gillian Connors, Gabriela Eckensberger, Ashley Giannone, Monica Goguen, Alex Grecoe, Kathryn Hale, Meghan Janeiro, Athena Kantas, Mackenzie Kennedy, Lizzie Kobelski, Kara Krekorian, Julia Lem, Ceara Manship, Abby Marcou, Liz Metzemaekers, Courtney O'Keefe, Julia Pakey, Kileigh Patrick, Alison Richmond, Mercy Sosa-Gomez and Isabel Tavenner. [Meanwhile, the boys eighth grade football team completed a second straight undefeated season. See story next week.]



Courtesy photo

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Mark Baldwin, middle, donated his first harvest of venison this season to the Merrimack Valley Food Bank. From left are Tammy Gagnon, MVFB assistant executive director/CFO, and Deborah Luna, accounts administrator/agency relations and Tony Luna, assistant warehouse manager/program director.

Deer hunter donates venison to food bank

A hunter participating in this year's deer management program in Andover recently donated 40 pounds of venison to the Merrimack Valley Food Bank in the spirit of the holiday season.

"Before the season began, I decided I would make the donation," said Mark Baldwin, an Andover resident. "After meeting the people at the Merrimack Valley Food Bank and understanding their commitment to our local communities, I couldn't be more thrilled."

Baldwin and firefighter Bob Dalton, who called for and organized the program last year when it was run as a pilot, said they hope the donation will encourage other hunters to donate a portion of their harvest to the food bank.

"Bob and I have begun discussing ways to team up with the (MVFB) and provide long-term benefits," said Baldwin.

Half-day off of school becomes full-day off

It's only Dec. 1, and schools already have two days to make up. Due to the unexpected snowstorm in late October, a staff development day on Nov. 1 had to be cancelled. Since elementary schools had a half-day of school scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 7, the day has been turned into a full day off for all grades, according to Superintendent Marinel McGrath.

— Dustin Luca

Remembering Pearl Harbor

Andover American Legion Post 8 along with Andover's Veterans Services will conduct a ceremony on Dec. 7 at 11 a.m. at the Legion Lot in the Spring Grove Cemetery to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

"We cordially invite all World War II veterans, their families and friends," said Ted Witman, commander of Andover Post 8.

Threatening note

Andover High School officials called a fire drill on Monday, Nov. 21 after finding a threatening note in a school bathroom.

"We found on a girls' bathroom stall wall an unsubstantiated threat to the High School. We immediately contacted Andover Police and took all of the recommended steps to assess the situation. We held a fire drill at the time of the threat to assure the safety of all students. The students returned to the building in a timely manner following the drill and the building inspection," AHS principal Tom Sharkey wrote in an email to parents.

"As we see graffiti or hear comments that threaten any

one person or the high school community, we initiate contact with the Andover Police and work with them to determine our course of action," he wrote.

Event to raise laughs for Fitzgerald family

A comedy show featuring Boston comedians will be held today, Dec. 1, at the J. Everett Collins Center at Andover High School.

The event will benefit Andover native Kezia Fitzgerald and her toddler daughter Saoirse, who received national attention in the past year (Townsmen, Oct. 27) after both Kezia and Saoirse, who was less than a year old at the time, were both diagnosed with unrelated, different forms of cancer within just a few months.

The show will feature Tony V, who's appeared on the Conan O'Brien show and Seinfeld; Carolyn Plummer, of the Women in Comedy Festival; and Stephen Bjork of MTV. All comedians donated their time and services, and proceeds will go directly to the Fitzgerald family.

The event starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 at the door.

Meanwhile, Marland Place is also helping the family. Fitzgerald matriach Winnie East lives there, so maintenance worker Ryan Desrosiers promised to shave his beard if \$200 was raised in pie sales for Thanksgiving. Well, \$460 was raised, so the razor is ready.

Plaza lot repaved, but no new tenants

The parking lot at Shaw-sheen Plaza has been nicely repaved and re-striped by Stop & Shop. But, no new tenants are moving in. There are still three vacant retail spaces at Andover's largest retail plaza - formerly the sites of Marshalls, Tuesday Morning and CardSmart.

"We don't have anything definitive we can share yet. I can let you know Target would not be a possible tenant (in the former Marshalls space) due to the size of space one of their stores would require," Suzi Robinson, manager, public & community relations, responded in an email as rumors of Target and Dollar Store moving in have been heard.

— Judy Wakefield

Lunch for GOP

U.S. Sen. Scott Brown (R) is lunching in Andover tomorrow, Friday, Dec. 2. He is scheduled to lunch at Lisa McDonald's home on Durham Drive.

The former Andover president, who is perhaps best remembered by some as the snow queen because of the unusual snowstorm the year she ran Crown Town, is a Brown supporter.

— Judy Wakefield

"When they saved my life not once, not twice, but three times."

Gene Doran, Andover

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For Gene's story, visit www.lawrencegeneral.org/realize

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Holiday Gift Guide



Jazz and tap dancers dressed as mice from the Andover School of Ballet perform during the annual Holiday Parade in downtown Andover Sunday.

MARY SCHWALM/Staff photos



Veterans lead off the Holiday Parade as they walk past the Old Town Hall, also known as the Town House.



Garth Lockhart, a.k.a. Rasta Wheelie Man, pops a wheelie during the parade.

PARADE, WARM WEATHER LIGHT HOLIDAY-WATCH FIRE

Unseasonably warm weather allowed residents and performers to thoroughly enjoy the 57th annual Holiday Parade through downtown Andover on Sunday.

While there have been many years where snow or rain postponed the parade, there was no such issue in 2011.

The Andover Firefighters Relief Association sponsors the Holiday Parade - known by many as the Santa parade. This year's grand marshal was longtime resident and Special Olympian Johnny Garabedian.



Mark Boutin of Andover smiles as his son Brandon, 4, gets an above the shoulders view as he waves at Santa and Mrs. Claus.

A dog sports antlers during the Holiday Parade.



Santa and Mrs. Claus wave from the top of a firetruck.



Dancers from Nancy Chippendale's Dance Studios perform.



Members of the state champion Andover Swimming and Diving team walk in the Andover Holiday Parade.



Luke Henderson, 6, of Andover, holds up a sign for Santa as he sits on dad Jay's shoulders.

Holiday Happenings to light up downtown

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
STAFF WRITER

Hey, Virginia, the answer is yes.

In fact, he's coming to Andover next weekend.

Holiday Happenings starts Friday, Dec. 9 and downtown retail stores will stay open until 9 p.m. that day, with Santa Claus typically stopping by for the lighting of the Christmas tree. Shoppers can expect refreshments and special deals at many stores as the holiday shopping season in Andover officially begins, according to the Andover Business Center Association.

The ABCA hosts this annual event and there will be horse-drawn hayrides and music. The town's tree lighting happens at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 9 at TD Banknorth on Main Street.

"Holiday Happenings is an event that is very looked forward to. We want people to come downtown and see the stores and their holiday shopping inventory. We are ready," said ABCA member Kathleen Bates.



File photo

Luke Inglese of Andover plays with his colorful globe toy while waiting for the arrival of Santa at last year's Holiday Happenings.

On Saturday, Dec. 10, Santa Claus visits for breakfast. He'll be at Free Christian Church rotunda from 9 a.m. to noon. The Andover High School girls hockey team will take photos of children with Santa for \$7. Raffle baskets stuffed with goodies from downtown businesses will be awarded.

Shopping continues for the rest of the day while Santa and Mrs. Claus are stationed at Enterprise Bank on High Street.

"It's a fun event for the whole family," Bates said. "We hope lots of families check it out."



Local dancers in this year's production are back row, from left: Grace Conway, Erica Nork, and Jen Monderer; and, in front: Elaina Ventre. Missing from the picture are Emily Bartner and Jessica Liao.

NECB stages 'Nutcracker'

New England Civic Ballet has been performing its production of Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" for 16 years to sold-out crowds at the Rogers Center for the Performing Arts at Merrimack College. New choreography, new costumes and new and returning dancers take the stage each year.

This year's opening night is Friday, Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 10 at 2 and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 11 at 2 p.m.

Tickets may be purchased online at

More information on local Nutcrackers inside.

newenglandcivicalballet.org or by calling the studio at 978-975-0289. Ticket prices are \$25 for adults; \$22 for children age 12 and under, and seniors age 55 and older. Group rates are available for groups of 20 or more attending the same performance.

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

Santa to make phone calls

The Andover Department of Community Services and Enterprise Bank report that they have once again connected a direct line to Santa at the North Pole.

"Imagine your child's surprise when he or she finds out that Santa is on the

telephone for them," said a release from DCS Director Mary Montbleau. "One hundred children spoke to Santa Claus last year. Many parents let us know their kids were thrilled to have had

See SANTA, Page 14

DECEMBER
3rd-11th

vineyard vines

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Holiday Gift Guide



Courtesy photo from Kathie Clark of Lazarus House

The shelves are more empty than usual at the Lazarus House food pantry. The pantry allows people to choose the food they want, rather than give premade boxes, so that no food is wasted. Lazarus House Ministries in Lawrence offers transitional and emergency housing, English classes, an AIDS shelter, a thrift store, a soup kitchen and a food pantry to help lift people out of poverty. To learn more, or find ways to offer your help, visit lazarushouse.org.

HOW TO HELP THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

DCS collects hats, mittens

Andover Department of Community Services is sponsoring its annual mitten and hat collection benefiting children and adults of Andover and other Merrimack Valley schools. Several locations in Andover have agreed to participate in the program by displaying the DCS snowman and providing a candy cane or treat for those who bring new or gently used hats, gloves and mittens of all sizes to the snowman. Look for the snowman at Andover Town Offices, Andover Senior Center, Memorial Hall Library, and several local schools. To make donations, simply go to one of the locations before noon on Thursday, Dec. 15 and drop off mittens, hats

and scarves. The snowman says, "Please donate some hats, gloves, scarves or mittens to those in need. It is the cool thing to do."

For more information, contact Andover DCS at 978-623-8277.

Holiday drive for Lazarus House Ministries

Cowan Bolduc Doherty LLC will hold a collection drive to benefit Lazarus House Ministries now through Monday, Dec. 12.

Donations of non-perishable food, clothing and toys will be accepted at Cowan Bolduc Doherty's office at 231 Sutton St., Suite 1E, North Andover, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Donations should be new and unwrapped. Lazarus House Ministries,

located in Lawrence, helps head of households and individuals living in poverty regain their dignity and become self sufficient members of our community by offering emergency shelter, food and clothing to people in crisis and then providing transitional housing, advocacy, health services, education and work preparation to permanently break the cycle of poverty.

For a more detailed list of donation items, visit cbdcpa.com/resources/news or call Shelly Mead at 978-620-2000.

Project Home Again seeks household goods

Project Home Again provides people in need with donated household goods free of charge. The organization says it works with social

workers and other referring agencies in Massachusetts's Merrimack Valley and Southern New Hampshire to ensure that gently used items go to those who need them the most.

"The need this winter is greater than ever before and we need your assistance to keep our warehouse well stocked so we can help as many families as possible," according to the organization.

In addition to our normal weekday hours, its warehouse at 439 South Union St. in Lawrence will be open on Sunday, Dec. 4 from 10 a.m. to noon to accept donations. Call 978-270-9878 upon arriving at the warehouse, and volunteers will unload your car. For more information, check the website phama.org, send an email to info@phama.org or call its office at 978-470-1356.

'Evening of Harmony' is music to ears of hungry

On Thursday, Dec. 1, University of Massachusetts Lowell musicians will present a benefit concert for the Open Pantry of Greater Lowell, as part of the university's new programs in choral music and community.

"The songs we are presenting are part of the history of choral music and of this region. We are going to surround you in harmony," said Thomas Malone, a senior lecturer in music education at UMass Lowell, who leads the choral music and community efforts.

Malone explained the music that will be performed at the concert is from the Colonial period (1770-1805), characterized by harmonies that are bold and unabashed and have an energy that is contagious. Jeremiah Ingalls of Andover, William Billings of Boston, and Jacob Kimball of Topsfield are just a few of the composers whose songs come to life in the melodies and words of these lively songs.

"These harmonies use 'fa-sol-la' instead of 'do-re-mi,' and developed and flourished in the singing schools of 18th century Boston, as well as communities across Massachusetts, long before pianos and keyboard instruments were available," Malone said. "For that reason it really brings out the power of the human voices in a special way. It is more like an orchestra of voices than a community chorus in the usual sense."

Malone said this concert, which starts at 7:30 p.m., will show off the power of these voices by seating them around the balcony above the heads of the audience, just as it was done 200 years ago.

"This was social music, and this was spiritual music, but it was never really concert music, so instead of having the audience watch us, we are going to surround them on all sides with this music," he said. "That's just the way that it used to be sung during the Colonial era."

Many devotees of this style of Early American harmony are active "shape-note" singers and travel across the nation to sing with other people from the Sacred Harp songbook, according to Malone.

Of special interest are the "fugue-ing" songs in which the different voice parts come in on after the other.

"When these pieces were sung from the gallery (balcony) the effect was like a stereo-surround-sound, coming at the listeners from all sides. For this event, we are going to give the listeners that very experience, live and in person," said Malone.

The program will raise money for the Open Pantry of Greater Lowell and is being hosted by First United Baptist Church in downtown Lowell. Built in 1826, the historic sanctuary has the full balconies on three sides, which allow the special sonic effects of these old songs to be fully realized.

The event begins at 7:30 p.m. at First United Baptist Church, 99 Church St., Lowell. A \$5 donation or non-perishable food item is a suggested donation, but the music is free and all are welcome. Proceeds will go to the Open Pantry of Greater Lowell.

For more information, contact Malone at 978-934-3829 or Thomas_Malone@uml.edu.

Mother Connection offers shopping night

The Mother Connection's will hold its Annual Holiday Shopping Night on Thursday, Dec. 8 from 6 to 9:30 p.m. at Chester's at Bell Tower, 60 Island St., Lawrence. Admission is free and open to the public.

Vendors will be selling one-of-a-kind items, according to TMC, and include: MJ Design Ventures, Sew Appealing, Thirty-one Gifts,

Lia Sophia, Paddie Cake Kid, Beijo Handbags, Avon, NYR Organic, Kittredge Candles, Bella Beads, Used Book Store Superstore, Hair Doozies, Mary Kay and Chili Twist.

"Guests can enjoy a complimentary dessert bar, chair massages, mini-makeovers and a cash bar all while getting holiday shopping done in one place. In addition, every vendor has donated a door

prize to be given away that night. Entrants must be present to win," said organizers in a release.

"This year, TMC's Shopping Night will be more upscale," said Marcy Aubry, TMC's shopping night coordinator. "Attendees will have an opportunity to relax, have fun, shop, and have great conversation all in a great atmosphere."

For more information, email shopping@themothersconnection.org or visit themothersconnection.org.

Since 1982, TMC has served mothers in the Merrimack Valley as a source for support, information and family activities. Its newsletter and online community shares ideas and articles about raising children today, and connects moms and families.

SANTA: Register for a call

Continued from Page 13

a chance to speak to Santa during his busiest time of year."

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

Santa will be available to call children on Thursday, Dec. 8 to give a personal hello to the kids between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. A brief conversation is planned, and older or younger children in

the household can also say a quick hello.

A special North Pole registration form is available on the DCS web site atandoverma.gov/dcs. Register by next Wednesday, Dec. 7, accompanied by a nominal fee of \$5 per family. DCS staff elves suggest that the child's name, grade, school and any special remarks, sports, academic progress reports, etc. be included on this registration form. Those with caller ID should be aware that Enterprise Bank has donated the hotline telephones for Santa to use.

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

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Andover
Collins Center
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Holiday Gift Guide

School of Ballet students get taste of Nutcracker life

Sixteen local students of the Andover School of Ballet at 14 Park St. in Andover are gearing up to perform in several area productions of the popular holiday ballet *The Nutcracker*.

"Every week these talented and dedicated students rehearse their *Nutcracker* roles, as well as continue their usual schedule of dance classes at The Andover School of Ballet," according to a release from Kristina Liversidge, director. "To be cast in these productions, each dancer went through an audition and then anxiously waited to hear if they were chosen for a role. Now, these gifted dancers will have the opportunity to perform on stage in one of the world's most popular ballets and learn first hand about the life of a professional dancer."

In the Albany Berkshire Ballet production at the Collins Center for the Arts at Andover High School, Shawsheen Road on Dec. 3 is **Katie Beaver**, age 7, who will perform as a Polichinelle.

In the Ballet Arts Centre of Winchester production at McCall Middle School, Winchester, on Dec. 4 and 5, are **Gwyneth Miner**, age 14, performing as a Candy Cane; and **Elise Miner**, age 11, performing as a Mini Candy Cane.

In the Ballet Mischa production at the Dana Center at St. Anselm's College, Manchester, N.H. on Dec. 17 and 18 is **Anna Clark**, age 9, who will perform as a Baby Mouse and a Gingerbread Cookie.

In the Dance Prism production at the Collins Center



Courtesy photo

Andover School of Ballet students performing in the Nutcracker this season include, front row, from left: Madeleine Botti, Sophie Colby, Anna Clark, Sydney Raza; middle row, from left: Daniela Friedman, Audrey Hetherington-Young, Kate Zdunczyk, Olivia Ventre, Katie Beaver; and back row, from left: Emily Jackson, Olivia Raza, Darya Lee and Sofia Garcia.

for the Arts at Andover High School, Shawsheen Road, on Dec. 17 and 18 are several Andover dancers. In this production, the students perform in a touring cast at venues in Andover, Concord, Littleton and Worcester, Mass. OR in a local cast which performs their parts only in the Andover performances. The local dancers are:

- Madeleine Botti, age 9, performing as a Caroler;
- Sophie Colby, age 7,



Ilana Stinson

- performing as a Caroler;
- Daniela Friedman, age 8, performing as a Caroler;
- Sofia Garcia, age 11, performing as a Caroler;
- Audrey Hetherington-Young, age 7, performing as a Caroler;
- Emily Jackson, age 10, performing as a Caroler;
- Darya Lee, age 10, performing as a Cupid;
- Olivia Raza, age 11, performing as a Cupid;
- Sydney Raza, age 8, performing as a Caroler;
- Ilana Stinson, age 13, performing as a Cupid;
- Olivia Ventre, age 8, performing as a Caroler; and
- Kate Zdunczyk, age 8, performing as a Caroler.

'Nutcracker' continues at Collins Center

The Albany Berkshire Ballet will bring its annual touring production of "The Nutcracker" to the Collins Center for the Performing Arts at Andover High School on Saturday, Dec. 3 at 3 and 7 p.m., announced ABB Artistic Director Madeline Cantarella Culp.

The ABB's "Nutcracker" performances are described as having "lavish sets and scenery designed by theater and movie set designer Carl Sprague, and costumes

designed by Rita Watson and Victile Donahue," according to the company, which says this year it "welcomes professional dancers from all over the world to its roster."

The show will feature young dance students from the North Reading School of Ballet under the direction of Lisa Pulver, in special children's roles alongside the professional dancers of the ABB. The Albany Berkshire Ballet has been bringing this production to the Andover

area for over 16 years. Following the Andover performances, the 2011 tour then travels to Pittsfield, Mass., on Dec. 10 and 11; Springfield on Dec. 17 and Albany, N.Y. on Dec. 18.

Tickets for the Andover performances are available directly through the Albany Berkshire Ballet offices, at 1-877-390-5382. For more information, call the ABB at 413-445-5382, or visit the ABB website at berkshireballet.org.

Preserving Andover's green spaces



Andover Stories

Fred Snell
Andover Historical Society

Most residents of Andover have noticed the brown signs with yellow lettering spelling A.V.I.S. in wooded areas all around the town. Many walk the trails with dogs, children, or just to enjoy nature. Here is the story behind the signs and their associated open space.

Founded in May 1894, the Andover Village Improvement Society was formed by a group of concerned citizens. This was part of a national movement to improve living conditions at a time when the industrialization of America was creating many dirty, noisy, and ugly conditions near where people lived. The original bylaws stated "Its objectives shall be to improve and ornament the streets and public grounds of Andover, by planting and cultivating trees, clean up and repair sidewalks and doing such other acts as shall tend to beautify and adorn such streets and grounds."

AVIS at first played the role of DPW, garden club, and parks department combined. As local government and other groups took over such roles, most of the "improvement" societies vanished. AVIS evolved into what is called today a Land Trust. An early project involved the glacial deposit known as Indian Ridge behind the present Andover High School building. The ridge was to be used for gravel for roads and other construction uses. A group of AVIS women, led by Alice Buck, vigorously opposed this and set forth to raise \$4,000 to purchase the 18 acres. Contributions from 25 cents on up helped make this a success in 1896. A separate organization, called the Indian Ridge Association, held title to the land. By 1915, by an act of the Legislature, AVIS and the Indian Ridge Association merged and kept the AVIS name.



Al Retelle, Claus Dengler and Nat Smith have been AVIS leaders.

WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Many Andover residents say they are grateful for the large tracts of open space in town. The Andover Village Improvement Society helped Andover protect much of this land, and set the tone for the conservationist approach that continues to this day.

During the holiday season, many people reflect on the things about which they are thankful. The Townsman would like to hear about what you most appreciate in town. Residents can send a brief write up to the Townsman at townsman@andovertownsmen.com, or mail it to 33 Chestnut St., Andover, MA 01810.

With World War I, the Great Depression, and World War II, not much happened with this organization until the mid 1950s. Harold Rafton moved to town and, with many others, recognized that the growth of suburbs like Andover could result in little or no open space unless action was taken. Rafton vigorously pursued acquisition of properties by gift or reduced prices. In the 1960s and '70s acreage grew 20-fold. AVIS members supported the establishment of the Andover Conservation Commission in 1961 and have worked closely with members and other similar organizations over the years. The real estate boom of the 1980s slowed the rate of growth of AVIS, but gifts and purchases continued to preserve such properties as West Parish Meadow, The Purdon Reservation, and the Christopher and Lillian Sherman Reservation.

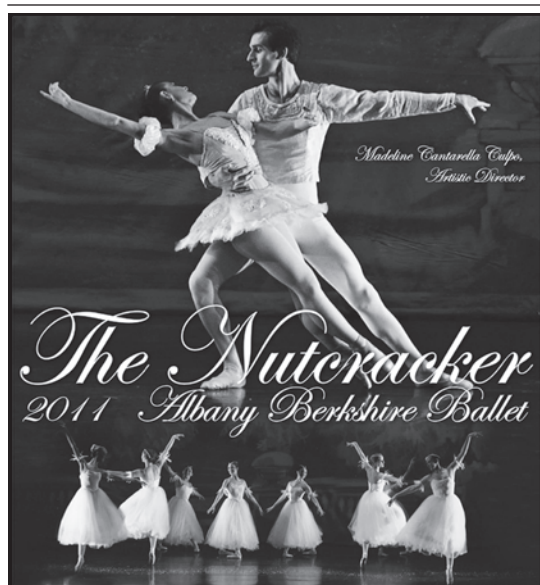
A system of volunteer wardens was established to build and care for trails. Many activities were held on the reservations such as Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) trips, canoe races and orienteering meets. Many of these types of activities continue today. A January breakfast and cross country ski/snowshoe trip at

the Harold Rafton Reservation was started by Phil Dargie in 1970 and was led in 2011 by his son David.

AVIS reservations now total 1,100 acres and offer about 35 miles of trails for the public to enjoy. AVIS, an IRS 501(c)(3) organization, depends on gifts of money and land, member's dues, and private foundation grants for funding. Many of the people who have donated land have wished to see the areas they knew and loved preserved for future generations. With this in mind, AVIS continually seeks opportunities to acquire and preserve open space.

AVIS is run by a 15-person board of volunteer trustees with about 50 wardens and committee members helping out. Scouts build bridges, boardwalks, benches and other trail improvements. Houses of worship and community groups take on various projects throughout the year. Membership is open to all. A website, including downloadable maps of reservations, is maintained: avisandover.org.

"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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Townspeople

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PAUL BILODEAU/Staff photo

The starting line near Shawsheen Square right after the start of the 2011 Feaster Five Road Race on Thanksgiving morning.

RUNAWAY FUN AT FEASTER FIVE RACE



PAUL BILODEAU/Staff photo

Kids run in one of the Kids K races that start the Thanksgiving festivities.



ANGIE BEAULIEU/Staff photo

More than 10,000 runners make their way down Main Street.



PAUL BILODEAU/Staff photo

Legendary runner Joan Benoit addresses the runners of the Kids K races.



PAUL BILODEAU/Staff photo

Nate Jenkins and his wife Melissa Donais celebrate. Jenkins won the 5-mile race while his wife won the 5-kilometer.



PAUL BILODEAU/Staff photo

Apple pies are handed out after the annual race.

Ballardvale gathers for community tree lighting

The annual tree lighting on the Ballardvale Green will be held this Sunday, Dec. 4 at 5 p.m.

“Join with neighbors and friends for some holiday fun and singing.

As always, Christmas carols and holiday songs will be sung by candlelight,” Diane Derby, vice chairwoman of the Ballardvale Historic District Commission, said

in a release. “Bring your singing voices and holiday spirit. Dogs are welcome, but please bring them on a leash.”

There will be hot chocolate and treats provided by neighbors, the Ballardvale Historic District Commission and Coldwell Banker Realty.

People are asked to dress warmly.

Townie gives us power

Bill Dalton

Richard Aumais is a hero to Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski, and although many folks in Andover don't know his name they have reason to be grateful for Richard's expertise.

His title is lead supervisor for the National Grid, which supplies electricity to Massachusetts and other states. He's a Townie, so a lot of us do know his name; his dad was one of the best police officers I ever knew and is a terrific guy, and his mom is a Brennan from Brooke Street, a wonderful family. It was Richard's dad who caused him to take a job with what is now called the National Grid, because Richard grew up under the mandate many of us had: it's summer, find a job. Richard graduated from Andover High in 1980, and his summer job became permanent. He's held every job leading to his current position -- 13 jobs in all.

The reason the town manager holds Richard in such high regard is because he and his crews did such a fine job putting the town back online after the October Snow Surprise: the early, wet snowfall on the 29th and 30th, when leaves were still on the trees. However, if you were among the last to get power, there was a reason for that, and I hope you'll understand that reason after you read this, but let's start from the beginning.

Richard Aumais lives with his wife and children in West Andover, and just before 4 a.m. on Sunday the 30th, as the snow was winding down while the wind was winding up, Richard awoke to a neighbors' tree crashing down: a loud sound of destruction. The Aumais' power was out and 90 percent of the town joined them; but it was his job was to get power back for a large area, including Andover, North Andover, Methuen, and Lawrence, and these named municipalities were the hardest hit in eastern MA. I note that Richard treats all towns equally, and Andover gets no additional attention.

Richard was in his car a few minutes after waking, but he'd begun working on the storm the day before when he phased in his crews in order to have a steady stream of work begin when the outages began. As he drove off, there were three inches of wet, sticky, heavy snow in his driveway, and although that's usually not much, on his way to his office, which is a short drive on a good day, he saw how destructive the storm was, because snow-

laden branches and trees had fallen all over the roads bringing wires with them. Conditions were so bad he detoured three times.

I asked how the National Grid sets priorities, and Richard said the priority list is in this order: hospitals, police and fire, schools, elderly housing, then the largest group of customers whose outage is caused by a common problem and finally they work on down to the smallest group, who have to wait the longest. Schools are high on the list in order to provide shelter for those who don't have power. I asked about the water supply and Richard said that, in Andover's case, when a storm is coming the town pumps water up to two reservoirs, one on Holt Hill and the other on Wood Hill, where gravity feed services the town. Of course, additionally, the town's water supply has emergency generators.

Richard said the priority list was done in 24 to 36 hours, and the priority list can be expanded to suit local needs. There have been improvements in communications between the National Grid and municipalities. A business representative is assigned to each town or city and that person communicates, in Andover's case, with the town manager's office as often as needed. Most repair work is accomplished during daylight hours, but each two-man crew works 18 hour shifts with 6 hours off for sleep, so there is work done without daylight. After four days, the lack of sleep takes its toll on the crews, but help, in the form of additional crews, comes in from less damaged communities. Richard works 80 percent of his time in the field during an emergency, because, he said, it makes it easier for him to understand and solve problems if he sees them.

Richard Aumais' story is a good success story. Early on, he went to work at the lowest job level and worked hard, and his work was recognized by his employer who kept promoting him, not overnight, but over three decades. It's now 31 years since Richard began, and his acquired skill and work ethic create a situation where he helps communities when they are most in need. His sister, Rosemary (Aumais) MacDonald, sums it up nicely: “I don't know what I would do without him. Whether I need an opinion or suggestion, he is there. He is dedicated, fair and has more common sense than any other person I have ever met. I am so fortunate to have him.”

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

ALL THOSE YEARS AGO

COMPILED BY
 SUSAN MCKELIGET

100 Years Ago Dec. 1, 1911

The special train which left Andover at noon on Saturday for the Harvard-Yale game, was crowded with Andover people.

Miss Etta Dodge, teacher in the Indian Ridge school, has been forced to give up her work for this week owing to illness.

The work of preparing the hall in the Musgrove building for occupancy by Gen. William F. Bartlett Post 99, is nearing completion. The suite of rooms promises to be very attractive and will

make pleasant headquarters for the G.A.R. men.

A coffee-room has been opened by the Tyer Rubber Company for the benefit of those employees who bring cold lunches with them to eat at the noon hour. Hot coffee is served, and newspapers and periodicals are also available to help the time pass pleasantly.

75 Years Ago Nov. 27, 1936

The question of restoration of the town employees salary cut, in whole or in part, will in all probability be taken up at the Annual Town Meeting in March, the movements having received

considerable impetus from the many recent wage increases in textile and other industries.

The old Abbot tavern, at 70 Elm St., the house where a certain young lady is reputed to have gone a whole week without washing her face, is one of Andover's oldest and best-known houses. (George Washington kissed little Priscilla Deacon in thanks for her mending his riding glove). The tavern was the first post office in Andover, it having acquired that status in 1795.

Papers were passed on Monday by William J. Burns, turning over the new filling station at the corner of Main and Chestnut streets to the

Gulf Oil Corporation. Fred E. Cheever's real estate agency put through the necessary papers.

50 Years Ago Nov. 30, 1961

Since writing last week's story on Route 495 land takings, it has come to our attention that the statute of limitations runs for only one year on land seized by the state. Thus, a property owner must satisfactorily reach agreement with the state prior to one year after the land taking, or have entered a legal action.

The town manager's preliminary budget totals for the new year — as yet

completely tentative — indicate a healthy jump in appropriations will be requested at Town Meeting.

Andover High's Blue Devils walked away from the Thanksgiving game with the Little Three championship, and retrieved the original Suburban Boosters Football trophy. By a score of 24-0 the Blue Devils trounced North Andover, who threatened only twice during the game.

25 Years Ago Nov. 26, 1986

According to a report given to the Board of Selectmen on Monday night, the architect hired to assess the condition of the Old Town

Hall has good news and bad news for the town. The good news is that the Main street structure, which Selectmen Donn Byrne called “a part of the heritage of the town” can be salvaged for municipal use. The bad news is that it could cost \$2.2 million to do so, a cost that would fall almost entirely on the town.

Piewel Builders, Inc. is involved with two recent applications for comprehensive permits, one on Argilla Road and the other on North Street.

The Andover Firefighters Christmas Parade will once again this year signal the onset of the holiday season on Sunday, Nov. 30.

Obituaries

Ernest B. Baldwin, Sr., 71

Ernest Benjamin Baldwin, Sr., fondly known as "Ernie" to his family and friends, of Brownfield, ME, formerly of Andover, MA and Wilmington, MA died peacefully at home on Thursday, November 24, 2011, he was 71-years-old.

Ernie was born on February 4, 1940, at home on West Street in Wilmington, MA; he was the cherished son of the late William Henry Baldwin and Gladys (Martin) Baldwin, originally from Newfoundland. Ernie was raised and educated in Wilmington, MA. Ernie was the Co-owner of Baldwin Crane and Equipment, Inc., located on Andover Street in Wilmington, MA, which was founded by his father William Henry Baldwin.

Ernie was a 50-year member of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local #4 in Boston. Ernie was a life-long outdoorsman enjoying hunting, fishing, and farming on the family farm in Brownfield, ME. Ernie enjoyed collecting and restoring antique John Deere tractors. Ernie's last project was restoring his father's 1949 Case tractor.

Ernie met the "love of his life" Shirley Lee Marie Smith; the couple married on September 10, 1960, and soon started their family. Ernie and Shirley moved to Andover, MA in 1965, raised their family together, and enjoyed being grandparents to nine beautiful grandchildren. In May of 2002, Ernie and Shirley fulfilled their long-time dream of retiring to "the home of his heart" — their family farm in Brownfield, ME. Ernie was also a man of great faith and became very active in the

Kezar Falls Assembly of God Church in Parsonsfield, ME, after he retired.

Ernie is survived by his beloved wife of 51 years Shirley (Smith) Baldwin. He was the loving father of Deborah L. Baldwin of Plaistow, NH; Linda J. Finlayson and her husband Gary of Andover, MA; Ernest Benjamin Baldwin, Jr. and his wife Tara of Andover; Christina R. Gunn and her husband Sam of Hooksett, NH; devoted "Grampy & Poppy" of Pamela, Nicholas, Blake, Paige, Whitney, Tatum, Alexa, Addison, Alivia; dear brother of Lionel Baldwin & his wife June of Gloucester, William Earl Baldwin of Byfield, David Baldwin & his wife Rose of Hamilton, MA & Stuart, FL and Gloria Krzys & her husband Stanley of Londonderry, NH; Ernie is also survived by nieces, nephews and cousins galore!

ARRANGEMENTS: Visiting hours were held on Tuesday, Nov. 29 from 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. at the Nichols Funeral Home, Inc., 187 Middlesex Ave. (Rte. 62), Wilmington, MA. A Funeral Service for Ernie was held on Wednesday, Nov. 30 at 2 p.m. at Calvary Temple a/k/a Calvary Christian Church, 47 Grove Street, Lynnfield, MA. Family & Friends will also gather on Saturday, Dec. 3, at the Kezar Falls Assembly of God Church, Route 25, Parsonsfield, ME 04047. Visiting hours from 10 to 11 a.m. immediately followed by a funeral service at 11 a.m. Interment to follow on the Baldwin Family Farm, Brownfield, ME. In lieu of flowers, donations in Ernie's memory may be made to the Kezar Falls Assembly of God Church, Attn: New Church Van Fund. Nichols Funeral Home website at www.nicholsfuneralhome.com.

Rita M. Sullivan, 90

Rita M. (Shepherd) Sullivan, of Andover, formerly of Scituate and West Roxbury, November 26, 2011, at the age of 90.

Beloved wife of the late Robert L. Sullivan (ret. Lt., BFD, died 2007). Loving mother of Rita M. Sullivan of Chestnut Hill, William R. and his wife Anne of Andover; Robert L. Jr. and his wife Lynn of Townsend; John R. and his wife Elizabeth of Windsor, ME; Mary Ellen Sullivan of Englewood, CO; and Thomas M.

and his wife Caroline of Niantic, CT. Dear sister of Mary Jacobanis of West Barnstable. Also survived by twelve grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

ARRANGEMENTS: Funeral will be from the Richardson-Gaffey Funeral Home, 382 First Parish Road, Scituate, on Friday, Dec. 2, at 9 a.m., followed by a Mass of Christian burial in St. Mary of the Nativity Church, Scituate, at 10 a.m. Burial to follow in St. Mary's Cemetery, Scituate.

Andrew A. Sirois, 81

Andrew A. Sirois, 81, of Moody, Maine, a native of Lawrence, Mass., who retired from Raytheon after a 35-year



career as a process engineer, died Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2011, within hours of his birthday, at York Hospital. Mr. Sirois, who had been hospitalized just over a week, died from complications from long-standing illnesses.

Mr. Sirois, a graduate of the Central Catholic H. S. class of 1949, was an avid hockey player well into his 40's. He coached youth hockey teams in Lawrence. In retirement, Mr. and Mrs. Sirois wintered in Sarasota, FL and traveled cross country, visiting friends and relatives along the way. Ever the resourceful handyman, Mr. Sirois enjoyed

landscaping and home improvement projects.

Mr. Sirois leaves his wife Antonetta; three sons,

Andrew F. Sirois of Roslindale, MA, Gerard Sirois of Dracut, MA and John K. Sirois of Methuen, MA; three daughters, Cynthia Roberge of Andover, MA, Lynne L. Butterworth of Haverhill, MA, and Gina G. Ardagna of Andover, MA; two sisters, Marie Gianni of Chandler, AZ and Theresa Ranfone of Colorado Springs, CO. Mr. Sirois was blessed with over 20 grandchildren and great-children and several nieces and nephews.

ARRANGEMENTS: A service celebrating his life was held Nov. 29, 2011 at Free Christian Church, 31 Elm St., Andover.

Richard E. Rammacher, 67

Richard E. Rammacher, 67, died at his home, November 21, 2011 surrounded by his loving family. He was a son of the late Erwin and Dorothy (Flohr) Rammacher.



He was born and raised in Cicero, Ill. and graduated from Northern Illinois University. He was European sales manager of New England Nuclear from 1976 - 1983. During this time he lived in Germany and traveled extensively. His transfer back to the States brought him to Andover and in 1988 he founded Radon Diagnostic Services.

In addition to his wife, Marcia A. (Jungels) Rammacher, he is survived by a daughter

Kate Ellen and her husband W. Jaimison Bust of So. Hadley, MA, a brother Terry and his wife Linda Rammacher of Elgin, Ill., a sister Susan and her husband Philip Maser of Plainfield, Ill., a brother-in-law, Gary and his wife Shannon Jungels, of Schaumburg, Ill., a sister-in-law, Donna and her

husband Mike Stahulak of Fremont, Calif.

ARRANGEMENTS: At the request of the family, there will be no calling hours. A memorial funeral mass will be offered on Wednesday, April 25, 2012 at 11 a.m. at St. Robert Bellarmine Church, 198 Haggetts Road, Andover, MA.

Nancy Duffy, 81

Nancy (Ward) Duffy, 81, of Sarasota, Fla., formerly of Tariffville, Conn., died peacefully Nov. 22, 2011.

Born in Boston to Ruth (Gibbons) and Joseph M. Ward, a Massachusetts State Representative, Nancy was raised in Jamaica Plain and spent summers in Rocky Nook, (Kingston).

She taught in Plymouth, the Chateauroux-Orleans American School in France, and Lakeville, Tariffville, and West Hartford, Conn. before retiring in 1990.

ARRANGEMENTS: In lieu of flowers, please contribute to the classroom teacher, school or scholarship of your choice.

Brett W. Thomas, 20

Brett W. Thomas, 20, of Methuen, passed away unexpectedly on November 25, 2011. He was the beloved son of Susan and Wayne Thomas.



Brett was a life-long resident of Methuen where he attended school and had many wonderful friends and family. He worked at Corporate Chefs in Andover for several years. In his spare time he enjoyed traveling and visiting with his family to Florida.

He enjoyed many outdoor activities such as dirt-biking, four wheeling, camping, golfing and especially fishing. Most of all he enjoyed spending time with his many loving friends and family. He was a loving son and friend to many and will be dearly missed by all who loved him.

Brett is survived by his Mother and Father Susan Thomas and Wayne Thomas of Methuen. He is also survived by his grandfather Harold Woerner of Salem, NH his uncle Paul Thomas of Sarasota, FL, his aunt Eleanor Fallon of Lynn, Ma, godparents Brian and Paula Fallon, and numerous cousins and many close friends.

He is predeceased by his grandmothers Sara Thomas and Almeida Woerner and his uncle Alfred LeBlanc.

ARRANGEMENTS: Calling hours were scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2011 at the Cataudella Funeral Home, 126 Pleasant Valley St., Methuen. A Celebration of life was to be held at the Funeral Home on Thursday, Dec. 1, 2011. Burial was at Elmwood Cemetery in Methuen.

Natalie C. Lostimolo, 93

Natalie C. (Ciofola) Lostimolo passed away on Tuesday, November 22, 2011 at Academy Manor in Andover, Mass. surrounded by her family. She was the daughter of the late Grace and Frank Ciofola of Lawrence, Mass.

Natalie was born and educated in Lawrence and made her home in North Andover with her husband of 62 years, Angelo L. Lostimolo, who died in October of 2006.

She was a member of St. Michael's Church in North Andover and the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Holy Name Society.

Natalie was predeceased by her brother, Tony Ciofola, of Punta Gorda, FL. She is survived by her daughters, Lorraine and her friend, Robert Pelliccione, of Andover and Elaine and friend Alex Schott also of Andover. She is also survived by her brother, Angelo Ciofola, and his wife, Mary, of North Andover and nieces, Grace Ann and Susan and their families.

ARRANGEMENTS: Her funeral was Saturday, Nov. 26 at St. Michael's Church in North Andover. Burial was in Ridgewood Cemetery in North Andover.

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Dr. Svetlana Gomer and Dr. Mikhail Gomer were originally trained in Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine, former USSR. In 2004 she entered Advanced Standing Program at Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine where she was awarded Doctor of Dental Medicine degree in 2006.

Dr. Mikhail Gomer earned his DMD degree at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine in Boston, MA in 2004 upon completion of Advanced Standing Program for international students.

As a continued education Dr. Mikhail Gomer completed surgical and prosthetic programs at Misch International Implant Institute in 2009 and joined International Congress of Oral Implantologists where he received Fellowship shortly thereafter.

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Arts & Entertainment

Andover Chamber Music performs holiday concert

Andover Chamber Music presents "The French Baroque Big Band" Saturday, Dec. 3 at 5 p.m. in Andover. Fans of Andover Chamber Music have begun to associate the turning of the calendar page in December with the anticipation of the annual Baroque concert in the festively decorated South Church, an intimate church setting for which this music was composed. This will be the 10th consecutive year that the group has ushered in the holiday season with its concert at South Church. Founders Julie Scolnik and Michael Brower say that it is one of their most popular of the year say, "When we walk

onto the stage, it is extraordinary and heart-warming to see the churches filled with smiling faces of music lovers who have put aside their long lists of chores and to come together with friends, family, and community to enjoy music!" ACM is now offering free admission to all students 18 and under as well as a new senior discount for individual tickets — \$5 off the regular price. Tickets: \$30/Adult, \$25/Senior, Free/Children under 18. Contact us about group and family discounts. Please visit www.AndoverChamberMusic.org to order and print tickets directly or call 978-474-6222.



Marcie Jacobson from the Andover Fire Department decorates a tree "Have a Ducky Holiday" at the Andover Historical Society home. The Annual Christmas tree exhibit has 22 trees.

AMY SWEENEY/Staff photos

Father-daughter Holly Balls this Saturday

The Andover Department of Community Services is once again sponsoring the popular Father-Daughter Holly Balls held annually at the old Town Hall, 20 Main Street. Dads traditionally begin the holiday season with a fabulous evening of dancing, games, prizes and refreshments with their daughters. Two balls are slated for Saturday, Dec. 3. Girls ages 5 and under come dressed for dancing from 4 to 5 p.m. while girls ages 6 to 10 attend from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Fee for the event is \$35 per family. Space is limited, advanced registration is required. Call



David Strong and his daughter Julia, 4, enjoyed last year's Holly Ball.

File photo

978-623-8274 to register or go online at www.andoverma.gov/dcs.

Trees with a twist!

Decorating theme is common indecency

BY JUDY WAKEFIELD
Staff Writer

If you're looking for some holiday giggles, this year's Christmas tree exhibit at the Andover Historical Society is sure to satisfy.

This year's theme is "common indecency" and decorations connected to things like chamber pots, corsets, old-time men's shavers and toilet paper are ruling this roost. And, it's a good size roost as there are 22 trees, decorated by several local residents, businesses and community groups, including Memorial Hall Library and Andover Fire & Rescue.

"We talked about an enticing theme after last year's exhibit," said Carrie Midura of AHS, who manages the tree exhibit every year. "It (the exhibit) compares then and now...we have modern day personal hygiene items, like Bobby Brown makeup, alongside historical items, like chamber pots and corsets."

Sarah Duffs of Dracut is the curator. A museum studies major at Tufts University, she interned at AHS last summer and researched the topic for more than 200 hours, Midura said.

"The theme has gone over well," Midura said. "You'd be surprised how the decorators have embraced it."

See TREES, Page 19



Andover Historical Society Executive Director Elaine Clements and IMLS ADEPT Project Manager Marilyn Helmers decorate "The Temptation Tree."

TREES & TOURS!

Andover Historical Society opens its annual Christmas tree exhibit today, Thursday, Dec. 1. There are 22 decorated trees. Cost is \$5, children under 12 free.

Gates and Gables house tour is Saturday, Dec. 3, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nine Andover homes are featured. \$35 in advance, \$40 the day of the tour; andover-historical.org/housetour, 978-465-2236. Map available after 9:45 a.m. Saturday.

EVENTS CALENDAR

THURSDAY, DEC. 1

SUNSET TAPPERS SHOW, led by Audrey Nason of Andover, is an adult group of tap dancers ranging in age from 52 to 85, at Northern Essex Community College in the David Hartleb Technology Center, Haverhill Campus, 100 Elliott St., 2 p.m., \$2; 978-556-3825, cboucher@nec.mass.edu

FRIDAY, DEC. 2

HOLIDAY FAIR, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., baked goods, hand quilted, hooked and knit items (American Girl doll outfits, sweaters, table runners, etc.), costume jewelry, Andover Senior Center, Whittier Court; All proceeds support Center programs.

SILHOUETTE ARTIST, at Memorial Hall Library, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., by appointment, \$30; Emily Classon, 978-623-8401, x49, eclasson@mhl.org. This program is a fundraiser for the Friends of Memorial Hall Library.

HOLIDAY BOOK SALE, Memorial Hall Library, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; mhl.org, 978-623-8401, x 31 or 32.

LIVE THEATER, "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," presented by Phillips Academy Department of Theatre and Dance, directed by Kevin Heelan, musical direction by Derek Jacoby, Andover residents in production, Adam Brody, Rebecca Cheng, James Garth, Pearson Goodman, Taylor Perkins, Stage Manager, Tang Theatre, 8 p.m., \$5; 978-749-4433.

LIVE CHRISTMAS MUSIC, The Christmas Music of Manheim Steamroller, Lowell

Memorial Auditorium, 8 p.m., starting at \$22, 50 East Merrimack St., Lowell; (978) 454-2299, lowellauditorium.com. (Manheim Steamroller was among the pioneers of neo-classical electronic music, emerging as one of the driving forces behind the new age phenomenon.)

SATURDAY, DEC. 3

HARVEST FAIR, Andover Baptist Church, 7 Central St., 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., holiday goodies, designer boutique and more.

CHRISTMAS GREENS SALE, Christ Church, 25 Central St., Andover, 9 a.m. to noon, wreaths, roping, novelty greens.

STORM CLEAN UP, a volunteer clean up day in the 'english woods' part of Ward Hill Reservation, 9 a.m. to noon. The work will involve dragging brush and stacking it into piles for chipping or burning. Bring water, warm clothes and a pair of good work gloves, meet in the parking lot on Prospect Road at 9 a.m. and walk in from there.

FATHER/DAUGHTER HOLLY BALLS, hosted by Department of Community Services, ages 5 & under, 4 to 5 p.m., ages 6-10, 6:30 to 8 p.m., \$35/family; 978-623-8274, andoverma.gov/dcs.

EVENING OF SONG & DANCE, 7:30 p.m., \$30 per person, featuring The Sandi Bedrosian Ensemble, cash bar, Kazanjian Ballroom, St. Vartanantz Armenian Church, 180 Old Westford Road, Chelmsford; Sandra Boroyan, 978-251-8687.

LIVE CHAMBER MUSIC, Andover

See CALENDAR, Page 19

Alpers opens gallery for holiday season



Indian Summer, oil on linen, by Dennis Sheehan who has paintings in the permanent collection of the White House.

Alpers Fine Art is back on Main Street, if only for a limited time.

The art gallery has set up a "pop-up" gallery, according to Peter Alpers who ran the business at the corner of Main and Post Office Avenue for many years. On Friday, Dec. 9, it will host a Grand Reopening Reception from 6 to 9 p.m., giving people a chance to meet the artists displayed at the gallery.

The new, temporary shop is "in a grand 1700-sq. ft. space at 77 Main Street, Andover, right next to H & R Block and diagonally across from CVS. We're surrounded

by abundant parking," Alpers said in a release. "For this five-week exhibit, we've selected over 60 works with an emphasis on small, value-priced paintings that can fit on any wall and suit any budget. Within this eclectic grouping, you'll find three brand-new talents, along with several others whose work [Alpers customers] have helped popularize."

Through Dec. 30, Alpers Fine Art will be open Monday noon to 6, Tuesday and Wednesday 10 to 6, Thursday 10 to 8, Friday and Saturday 10 to 6, and Sunday 10 to 4.

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Andover actor to Rock in areareturn

Rock of Ages, part of the 2011-2012 Lowell Five Performing Arts Series, will be staged at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium on Dec. 7 at 8 p.m. Justin Colombo from Andover, returns locally for the national touring show.

Colombo plays "Lonny", a principle character in this interactive love story meets 80s rock concert. His past credits include Ragtime (Hangar Theater), Mulan, Jr. (NSMT), Much Ado About Nothing, Coram Boy, The Wedding Singer, Thoroughly Modern Millie.

"Lonny" is described as the hilarious middle-man between the show and the viewers, actually talking directly to the audience.

Sing along to Messiah Dec. 6

The Reading Symphony Orchestra will be hosting its annual sing-along of choral highlights from Handel's immortal classic "The Messiah" on Tuesday, Dec. 6 at 8 p.m. The event will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading, 239 Woburn St. (at Summer St.), and all are invited to join in the music making. Scores for the Messiah will be available for use, but if you have your own copy, please bring it along.

A \$5 donation at the door is appreciated to help defray expenses. Visit the RSO website at readingsymphonyorchestra.org for more information.

Dancers tap into NECC

Northern Essex Community College's Life Long Learning Program will present the Sunset Tappers on Thursday, Dec. 1 at 2 p.m. in the David Hartleb Technology Center, Haverhill Campus, 100 Elliott St. Admission is \$2. The returning Sunset Tappers, led by Audrey Nason of Andover, is an adult group of tap dancers ranging in age from 52 to 85.

They will be performing their Christmas tap routine at Northern Essex Life Long Learning is a program of lectures, study groups, and trips for adults. All programs are open to the public.

Real rabbit role

Boston Children's Theatre will stage the beloved children's classic The Velveteen Rabbit with the help of 12-year-old Teresa Dell'Anno of Andover in the role of Rabbit 2.

A seventh-grader at Doherty Middle School, Teresa has performed in several school plays including "Alice in Wonderland" and "Gulliver's Travels" She has also appeared with Children's Stage Adventures in "Excalibur," "The Princess and the Pea," and "Midsummer's Night Dream," according to a release.

The Velveteen Rabbit will be performed at the Roberts Theatre at the Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St., Boston, on Saturdays and Sundays, Dec. 3, 4, 10, 11, 17 and 18. All performances are at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25.



Courtesy photo

Pop music, contemporary works, a spiritual, an African gathering song, and music from the Middle Ages will all be featured during the Northern Essex Community College Winter Chorus Concert on Sunday, Dec. 4, at 2 p.m. in the David Hartleb Technology Center on the Haverhill campus, 100 Elliott St. Andover residents Patricia Jennings and Robert Jennings are members of the chorus.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Continued from Page 18

SUNDAY, DEC. 4

Chamber Music's 15th Anniversary celebration continues. "The French Baroque Big Band," 5 p.m., South Church, Andover. **LIVE THEATER & DINNER**, Spotlight Playhouse with a radio drama adaptation of Miracle on 34th Street: A Live Radio Play, recreates the atmosphere of a live radio performance, complete with sound effects, 8 p.m., Maria's Restaurant, 83 Essex St., Haverhill, dinner and show \$35 (\$30 for seniors); spotlightplayhouse.org, 978-380-8509. Also showing on Dec. 9, 10, Dec. 4 & 11, 2 p.m.

ARTIST RECEPTION, for Winter Lights IV, with Jack Holmes of Andover offering photo calendars, brick paperweights, The Loading Dock Gallery at Western Avenue Studios, 122 Western Ave., 2nd floor in the A Mill, 5 to 7 p.m., through Jan. 1, 2012; loadingdockgallery.com, 978-349-8069.

"A MERRY MUSIC HALL CHRISTMAS," with Douglas Major on organ, Eric Berlin, Richard Watson, trumpets, 7:30 p.m., Methuen Memorial Music Hall, 192 Broadway, Methuen, \$5 to \$20; davidwdixon@verizon.net, 781-593-5039, mmmh.org.

MESSIAH, by NEC, the choir, orchestra, and soloists bring out every phrase and nuance of this masterful work, \$15 to \$25, 7:30 p.m., Rogers Center for the Arts, Merrimack College, North Andover.

LIVE THEATER, "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," see Dec. 2 listing.

PIANO SHOWCASE, piano music performed by intermediate and advanced piano students of the Merrimack Valley Music Teachers Association, 2 p.m., Memorial Hall Library; mhl.org, 978-623-8401 x31.

OPEN HOUSE, Andover ABC (A Better Chance) is welcoming the community in to their dorm/residence for a cup of holiday cheer and a chance to meet the ABC scholars, 134 Main St., 1-3 p.m., holiday sweets and refreshments will be served.

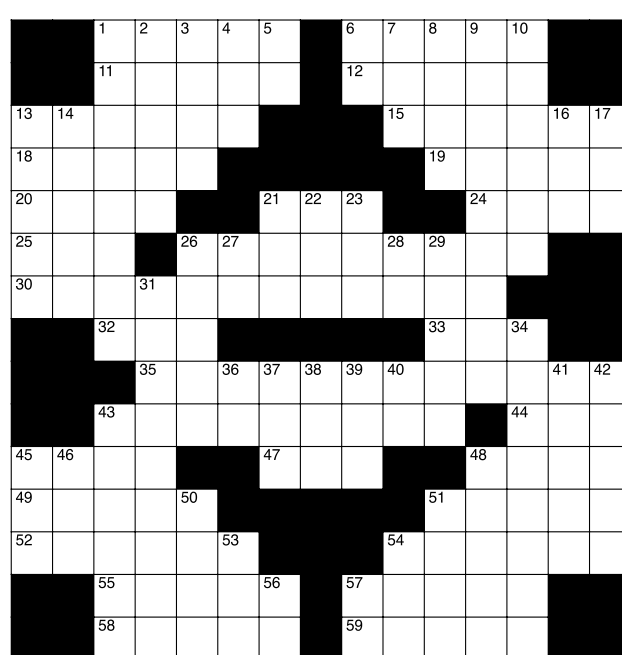
BALLARDALE TREE LIGHTING, and Carol Sing, join in the lighting of the "smallest tree" and the carol sing, refreshments provided, 5 p.m., on the Ballardvale Green, dogs on leashes are welcome: 978-475-0125.

GALLERY TALK, with exhibiting artist Lorna Bieber whose photo murals and montages are far removed from the natural world they depict, 2 p.m., Addison Gallery of American Art, Andover.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHT CONCERT, featuring Kim and Reggie Harris, and Magpie, 2 p.m., Universalist Unitarian Church of Haverhill, 16 Ashland St., Haverhill; 978-459-5134, newmooncoffeehouse.org.

HOLIDAY OF HOPE EVENT, benefits Nobody's Children, \$50, holiday music, buffet, silent auction, raffles, noon to 3 p.m., Castleton, Windham, N.H.; mail checks to Nobody's Children, P.O. Box 1076, Windham, N.H. 03087, 603-893-0925, 2 listing.

Crossword puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- Abu __ U.A.E. capital
- Herring-like fishes
- 55120 MN
- Indigo bush
- Pollyanna-ish
- Pleasing to the ear
- Parcels of land
- Microns (alt. sp.)
- Cooking containers
- Express pleasure
- Meat from a calf (alt.)
- 7th Greek letter
- Operated the sales register
- Blueprint for the day
- Congressperson (abbr.)
- Angle (abbr.)
- Fragrant health promotion
- Trespasses
- __ Lanka
- Wife of Hercules
- A large body of water
- Chicken house
- Sicilian volcano
- Coarse edible red

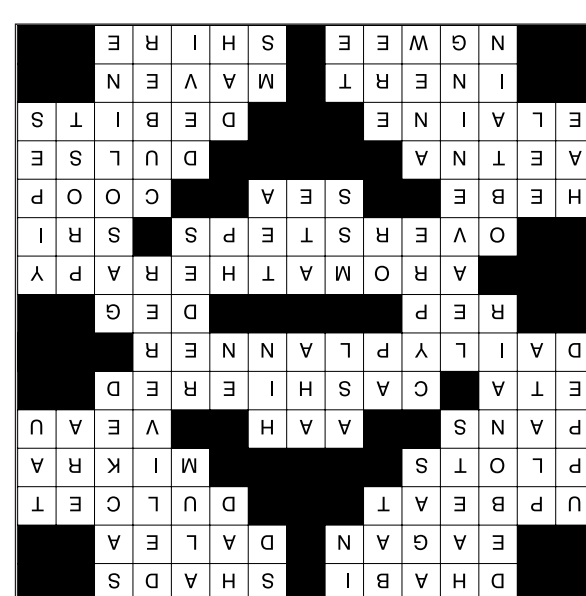
CLUES DOWN

- Having a sophisticated charm
- Minute amounts (Scot.)
- Turkish leader's title
- Used for hitting the ball in various games
- Not out
- South Dakota
- Possessed
- Grad
- UPS driver
- Fired
- In a way, augmented
- River in SE S. Am.
- Division of geological time
- Follows sigma
- Sign language

CLUES ACROSS

22. Expression of surprise
23. Hull Identification Number
26. Salmwood
27. Associated Press
28. Half of an em
29. Networks in Spanish
31. Dough fermenting agent
34. Auto fuel
36. An alternative
37. Manuscripts (abbr.)
38. Digested
39. Darjeeling or green
40. Horsepower
41. 1985 Formula 1 champion
42. Expression of alarm
43. Gain possession
45. Own (Scottish)
46. Snake-like fish
48. Dicer
50. Afresh
51. Hindu mother goddess
53. Before
54. Code for dash
56. Atomic #52
57. Millisecond

Solution



TREES: Tours this week

Continued from Page 18

The tree exhibit opens today, Thursday, Dec 1, and is open through Jan. 1. The cost is \$5 per person and free for AHS members. Children under 12 are also free.

After a tree visit, AHS hopes locals go on its house tour on Saturday, Dec. 3. Nine homes in Andover are featured on the annual Gates and Gables tour. The tour benefits the Andover Historical Society.

The self-guided tour offers an inside look at the nine Andover homes and shows a colorful diversity of architectural, collecting and decorating styles.

"We have beautiful homes on tour," said organizer Norma Gammon.

Most will be decorated for the holidays. For example, the home on Haggetts Pond Road

will have 40 decorated trees. It has indoor basketball courts, a bowling alley, and a water slide that connects the second floor to the salt water pool. The home is currently on the market for \$6.5 million.

A large stucco home at Morton and Bartlet streets is also on the tour. It has been under renovation for two years. Gammon said it once had nine or 10 bedrooms and is thought to be originally built for a professor at Phillips Academy and once served as a Phillips Academy residence hall and an ABC (A Better Chance) House.

"We are telling people to see the trees, then take the tour," Gammon said.

House tour tickets are \$30 (members), \$35 (non-members) in advance; \$40 the day of the tour.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Continued from Page 11

Letter: Think — Vote No on youth center

Editor, Townsman:
BELIEVE — Vote yes? But most of us don't live in that kind of Peter Pan world. How about a different slogan — "THINK — Vote no!"

THINK: Though Youth Services provides exceptional support for the young people of the town, nevertheless a youth center is a *want*, not a *need*. At a time when the town's finances are already strained, can we (should we) spend money on a worthwhile, but not essential, project?

THINK: Even though old debt will go off the debt schedule before youth center debt goes on, it will still cost the town between \$150,000 and \$200,000 per year to fund this project. As a result, that money cannot be spent for other needs in the operating budget: some \$100,000 or more will not be available for the schools; \$50,000 plus will not be there to support fire, police, library, etc. — every year for 20 years.

THINK: The town this year will spend some \$84,000,000 directly on its youth (and by comparison, \$684,000 on the senior population.) Surely we are not depriving our youth!

THINK: Some of the people most supportive of the youth center are the very same people who several years ago told us we couldn't afford a senior center, and worked hard to defeat that proposal. Today, when the town's financial position is considerably tighter, how can they now argue that we must have a youth center?

THINK: Do we need to build a gym and community room with a stage, when several similar facilities already exist in the town? Wouldn't it make more sense for Youth Services to explore more fully available community resources, and work out a mutually satisfactory agreement with the School Department?

THINK: Youth Services

has clearly not learned from its past mistakes that town resources are not to be used to support candidates or issues. Perhaps a No vote would send an unmistakable message that our town officials have not been able to communicate.

THINK: Several years ago, one of our selectmen spoke eloquently about his dream — for a community center! Perhaps now is the time to put aside egos and special interests in favor of planning together, as town finances improve, a real community center that would serve the needs of all constituencies — youth, families, Community Services, veterans, seniors, everyone! Wouldn't THAT be a dream to believe in?

DON ROBB
36 York Street

For AYS, voting against youth center

Editor, Townsman:
I will be voting against the youth center on Dec. 5. I am not opposed to a youth center in Andover, but I am opposed to building another building in this town. We cannot afford to maintain the existing buildings. The price of the new Bancroft Elementary School project is only going to go up. In the current economy, there will be new and urgent needs that will have to be supported by the town. It does not make sense to build a new large building when we already know that there is not enough money to maintain it.

It is sad that the youth in Andover do not have a youth center. But, sometimes, we cannot have what we want. It is not a fiscally responsible decision to build this center. This is a great opportunity to teach the youth that programs and people are worth much more than an expensive building.

I support the youth and Bill Fahey and the programs offered through youth services, and I am going to vote against the youth center.

ELSIE MILLER
35 Morton St.

Time to push past the no

Editor, Townsman:
Time to push past the no and vote yes

There are many reasons to vote yes on December 5th in support of building a youth center in Andover. There seems to be only one reason to vote no. What happens if we step past the "no" and consider the possibilities that emerge?

Since 1995, the naysayers have talked about fiscal reasons to say no to the youth center. However there are many reasons why this is the right project for these financial times. Right of the bat, 50% of the building cost will be covered by private donations that have already been committed. The remaining funds will not come from additional taxes; instead it will be covered over a 20-year bond period at an impact of only \$150,000 per budget year. This is not "Voodoo" economics; this is how the town pays for many projects.

Additional financial reasons to support the building of this youth center are harder to measure but just as real. Research by Child Trends shows those adolescents who are involved in their communities through activities like volunteering are less likely to use drugs and commit crimes. Both of these activities have high social and economic impacts on communities. Additionally, youth that are involved in outreach programs, like the ones offered at AYS, are often involved in early interventions for mental health problems rather than more costly late interventions.

A look at the seventeen years of Andover Youth Service's history shows the many reasons to vote yes. AYS is a program that consistently reaches out to and serves Andover's youth aged 11-18. Not many youth programs successfully involve all teenagers no matter what income level, athletic ability, talent, or interest the way that AYS does. Over the years, the staff at AYS have constructed an environment where young people can have a voice, bring ideas to life, be creative, take

risks, have fun, be supported and have a safety net to fall back on when times are tough. A dedicated space will allow AYS to expand this programming to consistently reach more young people through additional programs, events and activities.

The time has come to push past the "No" and look at the positive impact that this building will have on the town of Andover and future generations of young people. Please vote yes next Monday Dec. 5th.

SUZIE CLARKE ALLEN
AHS Class of 1998
Milford, CT

Dear teachers - take the money and run

Editor, Townsman:
The School Committee's proposed contract is reasonable and in everyone's best interests. Contrary to the AEA's representations, the School Committee and administration are trying to improve our schools and retain our good teachers. It would be against their self interests to do otherwise. The proposed contract makes minor changes to the teaching schedule and offers a 5 percent raise.

The AEA notes that the high school block schedule is "unique to Andover." With block scheduling, a high school student could go for a year without having a math class. Math is a necessary area of study where concepts are built upon and going for a year without math is unacceptable. A change to this structure will benefit students and the community.

The last contract was signed during a booming economy. Andover's average teacher salary is \$76,657 - in the top 10 percent of the state, according to the state Department of Education website. By comparison Lexington is at \$69,768, Winchester at \$68,908, Belmont at \$72,300, and nearby North Andover at \$63,908. If you have made it thus far on your Andover teacher's salary, over the next 2 1/2 years you will receive a 5 percent raise. Clearly, the current proposal should be accepted.

Or you may continue to hold signs out in the cold hoping the economy rebounds. That is not a likely scenario. The stock market typically tumbles at year end and the economic crisis continues to traverse the planet. Europe is under the microscope with the U.S. affected yet again. Analysts cautiously await this retail season's performance and states nervously await the news of how much federal funding is available. People are still losing jobs and not spending money. Frankly, it is in each teacher's best interest to grab this deal before more numbers come in and the town decides it can't even afford this 5 percent.

Whatever you do, please stop with the signs and stickers already. There is nothing wrong with the teaching conditions and I presume you agree there is nothing wrong with the learning conditions. These tactics only make our children feel bad.

DIANE MCCARRON
Napier Road

School Committee deserves credit

Editor, Townsman:
The School Committee has worked tirelessly over the past several months toward negotiating a fair and sustainable contract

for Andover public school teachers. Everybody agrees that Andover schools should continue a tradition of excellence, but the School Committee has the thankless task of finding a way to achieve that goal with the limited resources available. This task has been made more difficult by a persistently sluggish economy and stagnant housing market.

School Committee members are not paid for their work, but they have devoted countless hours to these negotiations and other school business, sacrificing time they could have spent with family, friends, and on their own careers and businesses. Many of them have young children in Andover public schools, and nobody should doubt that they have the best interests of our students at heart.

The contract proposal outlined by the School Committee in the Townsman recently demonstrates committee members' commitment to continued excellence, preserving important programs -- like the middle school team model -- and providing a reasonable cost-of-living increase for teachers. The members of the School Committee deserve the thanks and support of the entire Andover community.

BRANDON BIGELOW
21 Pine St.

Teachers Union backs Occupy Boston

Editor, Townsman:
The Andover Education Association sent the following letter of support to Occupy Boston:

Dear Occupy Boston,
On the Nov. 3, the executive board of the teachers' union in the town of Andover, Massachusetts, the Andover Education Association, passed a motion of support for all that Occupy Boston is doing. As teachers we are only too aware of the consequences of the inequitable distribution of wealth within society. We are suffering with cuts in staff and materials, decline in compensation, etc. because of an economic crisis caused by a redistribution upward of the wealth of society. Your presence has shifted the focus of discourse within society so that we now pay more attention to the causes of the problem we face. The way in which you practice the art of politics, the attempt to create new forms which are non-hierarchical and horizontal are an example that we all could learn from. As you know only too well, wealth has its connections and will use its power to frustrate anyone who questions the existing state of affairs. Hang in there!

Please accept the enclosed check as a small indication of our support.

In solidarity,
PATRICK PATTERSON
AEA Treasurer

Green advisory on youth center plan

Editor, Townsman:
The Andover Green Advisory Board was chartered nearly three years ago to advise Town officials on how to continue to move toward a more sustainable future. AGAB supports Articles 3 and 4 pertaining to the proposed Andover Youth Center Appropriation and Andover Youth Center Transfer of Land, with certain conditions. Particular to this proposed facility are issues

regarding Location, Education, and Innovative and Efficient Design. Specifically, we advise:

The Town, Andover Youth Services, Andover Youth Foundation, and the selected design and construction team (collectively, "AYC Team") work within the framework established by the Plant & Facilities Department on Sept. 29, 2008 that directly addresses the following three new construction guidelines: Efficiency, Maintainability, and Sustainability.

The AYC Team commits to maximizing building envelope and mechanical system efficiencies to reduce energy consumption and operating costs for the life of the facility.

The AYC Team commits to utilizing the new facility as an educational tool for youth and adults alike. Educational commitments may include tutorials or signage pertaining to sustainability features of the facility; or periodic lectures or interactive events, open to the public, that will introduce concepts regarding sustainability, nutrition, and environmental awareness.

AGAB feels strongly that the proposed Andover Youth Center, by virtue of its centralized location, focus on youth-oriented services, and new "out of the box" efficient design features, can be a shining example of responsible, durable, and sustainable design and operation for the entire Town of Andover.

ANDOVER GREEN ADVISORY BOARD
Greg Sebasky, Chairman
7 Cobblestone Lane

Youth Council seeks support

Editor, Townsman:
We are the Andover Youth Council, a high school youth group within the Andover Youth Services. AYC started in 1994 and preceded Andover Youth Services. The youth council was part of the original push to get a youth center in 1995 and has been fighting for it ever since. For the past 17 years, our current members have watched the struggle for the youth center to get built. Finally, this goal is within our reach. We need your vote to represent our dream of a youth center.

This youth center would serve many purposes. It would provide a safe environment where kids could express themselves. It would include a gym where kids could create pick-up leagues and a multipurpose room that could be used for theater programs and larger events. At the youth center, kids would not have to worry about being "good enough"; they would have an opportunity to pursue their interests no matter what their skill level. It would also be a place where the whole community could come together.

Realistically, the majority of the members of AYC will have graduated by the time the youth center is up and running. However, we want to leave this as our legacy so that future generations can reap the benefits. If we can get this article passed, we can show the youth of Andover that if you are motivated, dedicated, brave and united, anything is possible. We hope you will join us in supporting the youth center at Special Town Meeting on Dec. 5.

ANDOVER YOUTH COUNCIL
2011-2012
Submitted by Eden Heller

THURSDAY FILE

Be a yardstick of quality. Some people aren't used to an environment where excellence is expected.

— Steve Jobs

The most wasted of all days is one without laughter.

— e. e. cummings

The problem is not that


there are problems. The problem is expecting otherwise and thinking that having problems is a problem.

— Theodore Rubin

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FOUND CAT black & white, young-maybe 7 mo. old, very frightened, Carmelot Dr. area, Boxford, off 95. Call (978) 887-5008.

FOUND CAT - Black/white, domestic long hair in Everett, neutered male. Short haired gray tiger cat found in Lawrence, neutered male. MSPCA (978) 687-7453 press 8 x 6101

FOUND: Gray/White short hair domestic CAT, Female? Vicinity of Alston St (off Main St) in Lawrence, MA, has been around since October 1st. Call (978) 686-7381

FOUND: On 11/24/11 small brown dog vicinity of Dodge & Long Hill Rd., Rowley. Call Rowley Animal Control (978) 948-7644 to claim or adopt.

FOUND STROLLER at the Tannery in Newburyport on Monday, Nov. 21. Call to describe, (978) 927-9684.

LOST cat, 1 yr old, gray tuxedo, female, Riverside Park area, Gloucester, MA. Feline Rescue of Cape Ann, (978) 282-1837

LOST CAT Haverhill, MA silver gray, short hair with darker gray stripes, white flea collar, call *82 978-374-6525 if no answer please call leave message 978-374-7233 Animal Rescue Merrimack Valley.

LOST CAT-Petite black cat with double front paws lost in peabody/salem border (Driscoll St/Davis terrace area) Please call with any information 978-821-0586

LOST CAT - Seabrook/Salisbury area, Cookie, 8 yr old neutered male, long hair, black/brown, some tan, some stripes Par Maine Cone, yellow eyes, friendly Last seen Seabrook July 20th. Beloved pet. REWARD. 603-760-2770, keep trying.

First Run LOST DOG - male dog, a Yellow Lab, medium size, Prospect Hill area in Lawrence, has collar on. Please call (978) 888-1182.

LOST NEUTERED MALE CAT, (vanilla) blue eyes, with collar, Pelham/Dracut line, answers to Max. Very verbal. Call 603-508-7872

Lost Parrot Still Missing African Gray parrot missing since Sat. 8/20, Georgetown. Answers to Olympia, gray/white face, bright red tail. 978-352-7168; 978-821-5574 BIG REWARD!

2 MALE CATS FOUND - ATKINSON, NH (1) Orange/White; not spayed. (1) Russian Blue (all Grey). Both 2 yrs old. Found Highland Ave area, November 7. Please call Stacey, Atkinson Animal Control at (603) 362-4739

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NORTH ANDOVER, MA - Best value in town! 4 bedroom colonial on cul-de-sac, \$499,900. ERA Home & Family 978-470-1999 ERAHomeandfamily.com

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GLOUCESTER, MA - Lot features views of the Annisquam River and deeded access to a private community dock. City water and sewer, and gas and electric at the street. \$215,000 Rick Petralia (978) 239-6207 J Barrett Realty

Gloucester, MA - Ocean view buildable lot. Fully conforms to zoning laws. Sewer, water, and all utilities at the street. Level terrain. Quiet and desirable neighborhood. \$339,000 Rick Petralia (978) 239-6207 J Barrett Realty

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TOWN OF ANDOVER Notice is hereby given under Chapter 148 of the General Laws as amended, that The Pike School, Inc. of 34 Sunset Rock Road, Andover, MA 01810 has petitioned the Board of Selectmen to keep and store inflammable products at 34 Sunset Rock Road, Andover, MA in the following amounts:

A total of 3,200 gallons of propane to be stored as follows: Aboveground - 200 gals. stored in two 100 gal. tanks; Belowground - 3,000 gals. stored in three 1,000 gal. tanks

A public hearing will be held on Monday, December 12, 2011 at the Town Offices, 36 Bartlett Street, Selectmen's Conference Room, Third Floor, at 7:00 PM. in accordance with the provisions of the General Laws relating thereto. By Order of the Board of Selectmen Lawrence J. Murphy, Town Clerk AT - 12/1/11

TOWN OF ANDOVER Notice is hereby given under Chapter 148 of the General Laws as amended, that The Pike School, Inc. of 34 Sunset Rock Road, Andover, MA 01810 has petitioned the Board of Selectmen to keep and store inflammable products at 460 River Road, Andover, MA as follows:

A total of 5,000 gallons of propane to be stored aboveground in five 1,000 gallon tanks. Tanks to be protected by Jersey barriers. A public hearing will be held on Monday, December 12, 2011 at the Town Offices, 36 Bartlett Street, Selectmen's Conference Room, Third Floor, at 7:00 PM. in accordance with the provisions of the General Laws relating thereto. By Order of the Board of Selectmen Lawrence J. Murphy, Town Clerk AT - 12/1/11

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TOWN OF ANDOVER Notice is hereby given under Chapter 148 of the General Laws as amended, that Avalon Bay Communities, Inc. of 51 Sleeper Street, Suite 750, Boston, MA 02210 has petitioned the Board of Selectmen to keep and store inflammable products at 460 River Road, Andover, MA as follows:

A total of 5,000 gallons of propane to be stored aboveground in five 1,000 gallon tanks. Tanks to be protected by Jersey barriers. A public hearing will be held on Monday, December 12, 2011 at the Town Offices, 36 Bartlett Street, Selectmen's Conference Room, Third Floor, at 7:00 PM. in accordance with the provisions of the General Laws relating thereto. By Order of the Board of Selectmen Lawrence J. Murphy, Town Clerk AT - 12/1/11

APARTMENTS LAWRENCE - Renovated 2 & 3 bedroom apartments available. Rents start at \$800 month. Call Joshua 978-729-2905.

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High: 50° Low: 33°	High: 48° Low: 33°	High: 44° Low: 31°	High: 49° Low: 40°	High: 51° Low: 35°	High: 42° Low: 38°	High: 39° Low: 34°

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