



REDS STAR TO TEACH SOFTBALLERS

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LOCAL WAYS TO GET OUTDOORS

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OUR 124<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

# Andover Townsman

Issue No. 19

JANUARY 5, 2012

75 CENTS

## North Main Street bridge work delayed until 2013

By DUSTIN LUCA  
STAFF WRITER

Rebuilding a North Main Street bridge that crosses the commuter rail tracks will not begin this year as previously expected.

The state's Department of Transportation is planning to start construction of the bridge, which is just south of the intersection of North Main and Railroad streets, sometime in 2013 using

an accelerated bridge program recently used elsewhere in town. The project will cost the state nearly \$5 million.

Previously, MassDOT said construction would start towards the beginning of this year, 2012, but "preliminary engineering work revealed complexities in the project including utility arrangements, traffic management and conflicting configuration requirements," said Michael Verseeckes, a MassDOT

spokesman. "In response to the complexity, MassDOT used a design engineer with advanced skills that better matched the project. The time taken to make this change will result in a project better suited to the site and the local community."

The bridge is one of the busiest in town, connecting Shawsheen Plaza on North Main Street and Whole Foods Market on Railroad Street to downtown Andover. The Andover

Public Safety Center, home to the town's police station and central fire station is about two-tenths of a mile south of the bridge.

Previous plans for the project suggested closing the busy stretch of road - also known as Route 28 - or building a new bridge over the existing bridge. Now, the plan is to use the state's Accelerated Bridge Program, said to focus on building bridges quickly and efficiently.

"Local preference will play a

role, but to date there has not been a strong preference for any one solution," said Verseeckes. "Traffic delays are likely during construction, since the footings and foundations need to be replaced, unlike some of the other recent rapid construction projects in the state. MassDOT is however committed to providing the current level of emergency response while the bridge is under construction. Safety is our No. 1 priority."

## THE OUTLOOK FOR 2012



DUSTIN LUCA/Staff Photo

High school teachers, including math teacher Florinda Iascone, stood in below-freezing temperatures as they picketed outside Andover High School Tuesday until 7:30 a.m., when they were contractually required to report to school. Jan. 3 marked the first day of work-to-rule action, where teachers will work only to the letter of their last contract agreement.

### With no new contract, teachers start work-to-rule action

By DUSTIN LUCA  
STAFF WRITER

Streams of people carrying blue and gold signs left Andover High School Tuesday promptly at 2:35 p.m. This wasn't the Hawks Nest, cheering another Andover High victory.

It was Andover High's teachers, leaving immediately at the conclusion of the contractual work day.

Teachers have begun their "work to rule" action.

As teachers reach their second year without a new contract, they are likely to stop doing voluntary duties

they often perform outside of the official school day, such as extended office hours.

The School Committee and Andover Education Association continue to meet regarding new teacher's contract

See **TEACHERS**, Page 2

### 'Year of continuous change' on the horizon for town

By DUSTIN LUCA

Town Meeting votes on multi-million-dollar plans for a new Town Yard and a new Ballardvale Fire Station are among the big-project stories expected to capture attention in Andover during 2012.

If you ask the town manager, 2012 is going to be "a year of continuous change."

With voters supporting some money for a new youth center, a building committee will be appointed to build it.

The Bancroft Elementary School project may get underway.

Andover's Conservation department will "turn our face to the Merrimack," looking to continue to improve areas around the river.

A master plan will be developed to improve parking at eight of Andover's public schools, excluding the current Bancroft and Shawsheen schools sites.

Where exactly does Andover begin?



File photo

One of the top stories of 2012 is a task force looking to move or rebuild the town yard. Either option is estimated to cost at least \$17 million.

### TOWN YARD FACES TOWN MEETING

A Town Yard Task Force plans to have an article on the warrant asking residents to build a new facility, but the definitive location and cost is just under a week away, according to Rick Feldman, task force chairman.

"Campanelli Drive is certainly the locale we're considering," said Feldman.

See **CHANGES**, Page 5

## Report urges combining town DPW, plant operations

By DUSTIN LUCA

A consultant hired to assess the town's public works and plant-and-facilities departments recommends combining and reorganizing the two departments, hiring more staff and outsourcing several services.

In wake of criminal investigation at the water treatment plant, the consultant also suggests having the water

treatment plant supervisor report directly to the town manager's office.

"They came up with a set of recommendations, none of which in my estimation are earth-shattering. A lot of it we knew about," said Town Manager Buzz Stapeczynski.

The consultant, Shrewsbury-based Matrix Consulting Group, was paid \$25,000 and has issued a 161-page report called the "Management

Assessment of the Public Works and Plant and Facilities Departments."

The approximately six-month study highlights a number of things the town is doing effectively, such as its use of particular software and computer systems to carry out and organize its work, the use of surveys to get feedback from residents and the positive responses on those surveys, and the town's

comprehensive energy-management system.

However the study says, a number of other areas need improvement. One of the biggest: how the town maintains its buildings, roads and vehicles.

"One of the things he points out is that our staffing is subpar in areas of preventative maintenance," said Stapeczynski. "They're also pointing out where we need

to make improvements."

The report was expected to be reviewed for the first time at a tri-board meeting of Selectmen, Finance and School committees yesterday, Wednesday, after Townsman deadline. The report itself was posted on the town website in advance of the meeting.

The team behind the study "conducted a comprehensive organization

and management analysis of the departments' existing operations, service levels, infrastructure management, organizational structures and staffing levels," the study reads. It determined the two departments already employ a number of best practices.

After listing those best practices, the document covers a "four-point agenda for

See **REPORT**, Page 5

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# High school block scheduling biggest contract hold-up

By DUSTIN LUCA  
STAFF WRITER

Members of both the School Committee and teachers union have identified that the largest issue separating the two sides is the issue of the high school block schedule.

Both sides say they believe a committee should look into options for the high school. The teachers union wants a committee of teachers and administrators and says the committee needs to be established within the next few weeks to have the proper time to study different options. Two options to move forward have been laid out by the School Committee - which wants a parent on the joint committee - (see page 13), both of which the AEA rejects. In fact, on Tuesday AEA members expressed surprise that the School Committee suggested having a parent because

they believed that issue had been settled previously.

"The big hold-up is the high school schedule proposal," said School Committee member Dennis Forgue. "The proposals we are making are meant to maintain and improve the programs. ... We have a responsibility to spend the community's money in a credible way. There's a feeling that the three-and-two schedule is not credible, not sustainable."

The three-and-two schedule requires that teachers teach five courses in a given academic year — three in one semester, and two in the other. What the School Committee believes is the best course of action is a three-and-three model, where teachers take on three courses each semester. With the three-and-three model, more courses would be available to students and class sizes would be reduced almost immediately, according to Forgue. "Their interest in scheduling

is cost-driven," said Meagher. "Whenever you get an agenda that's driven by cost when it comes to education, there are going to be implications of that aren't going to benefit students." "The educational component is as important, if not more important, then the budgetary piece," argues Forgue. "They are not independent of each other."

For the AEA, the three-and-three model translates to a number of problems, including higher work loads and their effect on students.

"What they're, I think, envisioning is that by adding another class to the schedule for each teacher's course load, they can spread out kids into one more class," said Meagher. "But my overall number of students that I'm teaching is not going to go down. It's going to go up, so my work load goes up. It has to go up."

In the beginning, full-time teachers would have roughly a

20 percent higher work load on average. As teachers leave, union officials believe they will not be replaced. The positions will stay vacant, and over time the 20 percent higher workload will become a gradual 20 percent reduction in teaching staff.

In developing the model, the School Committee compared Andover to 60 communities — the 16 benchmark communities the town compares itself to regularly, and those who did better than Andover in a recent Boston Magazine survey.

Out of that study, the School Committee learned that only four of the 60 systems it studied used a block scheduling system.

"There are only four other districts that ran a semester-based schedule like us," said Gilbert. "In all of these districts, teachers teach three courses per semester."

In the remaining districts, teachers taught upwards of seven courses per semester. With seven courses, five periods were taught a day. They were shorter periods, but the teachers also carried more students because they were teaching a wider variety of content.

In the study, it was determined that teachers teaching five periods in a seven-period day each had around 125 students. Three-and-three teachers in a four-block schedule had 75.

Andover teachers can range from 50 to 90, with 90 being a teacher teaching three 30-student classes, according to Gilbert.

"Once your contract is open every three years, it is really your only opportunity to look at every piece of it and see what you can be doing different," said Gilbert. "Now more than ever, given the fiscal obligation, we have an obligation to go through every piece of it."

## TEACHERS: Union members start working to the letter of expired contract

Continued from Page 1

through the voice of a state mediator.

### STICKING TO THE CONTRACT

Both sides of the contract talks have used several platforms — public meetings, websites, letters to the Townsman and more — to clarify what Work-to-Rule is and how it will affect both parents and students.

But School Committee members say they continue receiving questions and concerns from worried parents. For many there remains confusion regarding what teachers will and will not be doing this year until a contract is settled.

"If Work-to-Rule is a ceasing of voluntary activity, then the understanding is that you withhold voluntary services," said Jen Meagher, an Andover High English teacher and AEA vice president. "The only reason this is happening is that we have not been able to get the kind of support that we need from the community in terms of moving negotiations forward, so we're stuck."

"This is not something we want to be doing," said Meagher. "No teacher wants to say no to a student. You just don't. It's not in your nature. It's painful."

Routinely, how Work-to-Rule impacts specific aspects of school life has needed clarification at School Committee meetings.

"One of the primary concerns we have heard is extra help," said Annie Gilbert, School Committee chairwoman. "Teachers are contractually required to provide extra help to students."

The "rule" in work to rule are the work requirements outlined in the latest teachers' contract, which expired on August 31, 2010. That contract remains in effect until a new deal is negotiated.

Anything that appears in the 50-page contract continues unabated, according to Gilbert. Anything not specified, barring a few exceptions, is considered voluntary. Effective Jan. 3, whether those things



DUSTIN LUCA/Staff photo

A bus full of students passes teachers picketing at the entrance of Bancroft Elementary School on Tuesday. The teachers stood at the entrance until 8:30 a.m., when they were contractually required to report to school.

continue or not is at the discretion of the individual teachers performing the duties, according to school officials.

Union members say they will not tell a teacher not to do something the teacher feels is appropriate, but they want members to respect the vote.

"Work-to-Rule is a labor action. We voted as a labor union, as a membership by an overwhelming majority, to engage in this action," said Meagher. "As dues-paying members who are represented and protected by the union, we have an obligation to respect that vote."

### EXTRA HELP: LIMITED, BUT AVAILABLE

The contract stipulates what teachers must and must not do in their duties. For instance, teachers must report at least 15 minutes before "student starting time" and teachers must stay after school for exactly half an hour.

The same article also requires teachers to "provide adequate time for extra-help sessions for students," the contract reads.

"If a child needs extra help, they can ask their teacher when they can come

and the teacher needs to provide a reasonable opportunity," said Gilbert. "If that can happen within the school work day, great. But there has to be a reasonable opportunity."

What student help is available depends on where the student goes to school. For at least two of the town's three middle schools, teachers to spend an hour after school on two days out of every week, to make extra help more available outside of school to students.

"If you want to keep the hour because that's what you have done, then on another day from 2:05 to 2:35 (p.m.) you should not be offering that extra help," said Kerry Costello, union president. "You should take that half hour to do planning, correcting and things that you need."

In all other cases, extra help falls within school hours or the half hour after school, when teachers are required to stay. While some extra help will be available, students may notice a change.

"What changes is the ability of kids to pop in on a teacher at 3 o'clock," said Meagher. For many students, popping in randomly, sitting down and going one-on-one without any established appointments helps create relationships, she said. "That comfort level that kids have with teachers isn't there under Work-to-Rule. There's a climate change," said Meagher.

Teachers must also "provide adequate time for parent-teacher conferences," the contract says. In addition, teachers are allowed up to six additional hours "to participate in other

professional activities" that fall outside of the school day. This time covers the second yearly open house at the high school, according to the contract.

### RECOMMENDATIONS: UP TO THE TEACHER

By this time of the year, many high school students seeking college recommendations have either received their college recommendation letters or are well on their way to getting them. But for those who still need teacher recommendations, the recommendations could be at risk under Work-to-Rule.

"College recommendation letters are a voluntary service. My interpretation would be you don't do them right now because we're in Work-to-Rule," said Meagher. "That doesn't mean that an individual teacher won't decide, 'This is a kid I really want to work with. It's important to me, and I'm going to do this one.' They can do that. But are teachers going to have much less time to work with? Yes."

According to Costello, the union doesn't have any sort of authority over whether teachers perform volunteer services at will. For college recommendations that have yet to be written, a balance will be weighed between what is more important to the teacher: the recommendation, or protecting the vote for work action.

"As a voluntary activity, as a teacher's personal time, are they well within their right to say 'I can't do that right now?'" said Meagher. "Yes, they're well within their right to

schools. Recommendation of this nature are less complex than high school letters, but would still be considered a voluntary offering.

### PROM: VOLUNTEER CHAPERONES AT RISK

Teachers who are advisors to student groups, and teachers in stipended positions and activities, including sports team coaching, also must continue such work under the contract.

Union members paid some stipend to help organize the prom will continue to do so. While the May prom is still months away, there's a concern that the volunteer chaperones won't be around to keep the year's biggest annual dance afloat. Both Gilbert and Costello confirmed that parent volunteers, specifically those with the proper safety training, can fill in as chaperones if necessary.

"If there are any events that are impacted, we will figure something out," said Dennis Forgue, a member of the School Committee bargaining team.

For feedback on this story, or for other story-

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# In Brief

## First case of rabies in state since 1935

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has announced that a Barnstable County man in his 60s has been diagnosed with rabies and remains hospitalized in critical condition.

The diagnosis was confirmed by testing done at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This is the first case of rabies

acquired in Massachusetts since 1935 and serves as a reminder that although the risk of rabies is low, the disease still exists in Massachusetts, according to the Department of Public Health.

As of last Friday, it was still awaiting confirmation from the CDC regarding the species that infected this Massachusetts resident.

## American Red Cross blood drives

The American Red Cross will hold two blood drives this month in Andover.

All presenting donors will receive a coupon for a free pound of Dunkin' Donuts coffee. Prizes are nontransferable and not redeemable for cash.

To make an appointment,

visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call 800-733-2767.

The schedule includes drives at Temple Emmanuel, 7 Haggetts Pond Road, on Tuesday, Jan. 10, from 1:30 to 7 p.m.; and at CBRE Richard Ellis, 1 Tech Drive, on Wednesday, Jan. 18 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

## You should have received town census

The Annual Town Census was mailed to residents at the end of December.

People who are out of town for an extended period of time and at risk for not receiving the census during the December 2011/January 2012 time frame should contact the town clerk's office at 978-623-8255 so that they will not be dropped from the voter or census rolls.

All registered voters must return the census each year

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

The town census provides vital information that supports services in your community according to Kathy McKenna, Assistant Town Clerk.

## Discussing breast cancer and sunlight

On Saturday, Jan. 7, at 3 p.m., Susan Wadia-Ellis of Manchester, Mass., will discuss research she says shows why higher levels of Vitamin D3, avoiding contraceptive drugs, having an annual thermogram and changing your diet can virtually eliminate

your ability to develop breast cancer tumors.

Saturday's free briefing will take place at the Sunbanque Tanning Salon at 595 Chickering Road (Route 125) next to Choice Fitness in North Andover. Call 978-685-7786 to RSVP as seating is limited.

## QUOTE, UNQUOTE ...



We could have LED street lights on nearly every pole, making our roads and neighborhoods much brighter and safer at night – and for less operational cost than the current very dark and bleak situation.

– Vine Street resident Frank E. Licata, in a letter encouraging selectmen to pursue using LED lights rather than continuing to shut off selected street lights.  
Letter, page 7.

You may have noticed there's no prison camp there. Needless to say, the towns of North Andover and Andover objected strongly; the prison camp never stood a chance.

– Bill Dalton in a column on Andover stories from 1951, which included a proposal to build a prison camp in Harold Parker State Forest.  
Townspeople, page 9.

## Town managers and mayors breakfast forum

The Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce presents the annual Merrimack Valley Mayors & Managers Breakfast Forum on Friday, Jan. 13, 2012, from 7:30 to 9:15 a.m. at the Andover Country Club, 60 Canterbury St., Andover.

The event includes a full breakfast buffet.

Confirmed special guest speakers include Andover Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski, Amesbury Mayor Thatcher Kezer, Methuen Mayor Stephen Zanni, North Andover Town

Manager Andrew Maylor, Newburyport Mayor Donna Holaday, Haverhill Mayor James Fiorentini, Lawrence Mayor William Lantigua and Lowell City Manager Bernard Lynch.

Special guest moderator is Al Getler, publisher of the

Eagle Tribune Publishing co., which includes the Andover Townsman.

The cost is \$25 for MVCC members and \$50 for others. For more information, visit [merrimackvalleychamber.com](http://merrimackvalleychamber.com) or call 978-686-0900.

## Andover storyteller at Memorial Hall library Jan. 10

Andover speaker and storyteller Lani Peterson will be at Memorial Hall Library on Tuesday, Jan. 10 for what Quota International of Andover describes as a fun, entertaining evening.

"Lani Peterson, psychologist, and professional storyteller, uses the powerful medium of storytelling as a healing art and leadership tool for personal growth, connection and change," according to a release from

Quota International of Andover. "Learn how she has connected with everyday people and how you can too. Whether leading with traditional tales or her rich treasury of personal stories, Lani takes her audiences on journeys of self-exploration that encourages personal reflection, integrity and the inspiration to fulfill one's potential."

Peterson serves on the executive committee of the

Healing Story Alliance and is a member of the National Speakers Association. Her CD, "Stories from Within," won a 2004 honor from Storytelling World Magazine for her original story "Broken Glass."

She lives in Andover with her husband and four children.

Quota is a non-profit [501C(3)] organization whose focus is to provide financial support, time and resources

to help meet the needs of disadvantaged women and children and hearing impaired children in the Merrimack Valley. Quota achieves its mission entirely through the volunteer power of members. It meets the second Tuesday of each month. For more information on the Jan. 10 presentation or on the club's activities, contact Jackie Williamson at 978-251-8922.

## Advice on how your kids can become independent decision makers

Ann Helmus, Ph.D will give a Parent to Parent presentation, "Supporting Children and Adolescents With Weak Executive Functioning Skills," at Wood Hill Middle School on Jan. 18 from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

According to Parent to Parent people can "learn how to identify and support

our children's executive functioning skills. Executive functioning is a crucial component in our ability to plan, think abstractly, resist temptation, make decisions, and troubleshoot in novel or dangerous situations. Research has shown that by increasing the level of structure and support at home and at school,

children with underdeveloped executive functioning can become much more independent and effective at self-regulation. Dr. Helmus will teach parents how to identify their child's personal and academic strengths."

Helmus is the founder of Neuropsychological & Educational Services for

Children and Adolescents, a private pediatric neuropsychology group practice in Newton, Mass. Described as a seasoned presenter and clinician, sge works with school professionals and families with children and teens struggling with developmental, learning, or emotional challenges.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### MVCC Economic Development, Clean Energy Program awarded

The Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce's Economic Development and Clean Energy Program was awarded the prestigious NEDA Program of the Year Award from the Northeastern Economic Developers Association, the leading economic development organization in the Northeast.

The NEDA Program of the Year Award recognizes effectiveness and efficiency in addressing a clear objective, demonstrated results, strategic thinking, community partnership building and clear economic benefit.

In making the award, NEDA judged that the Chamber program is a model business program not just for the northeast but for the nation.

### Running for office? Attend Jan. 18 meeting

The Town Clerks of Andover and North Andover in conjunction with the Andover/North Andover League of Women Voters will be holding the annual "Running for Office" Seminar in January. This year the event will be hosted by North Andover on Jan. 18, 2012 at 7 p.m. at the North Andover Town Offices, second floor, selectmen's meeting room.

The panelists include from Andover, Town Clerk Larry Murphy and Selectman Paul Salafia, and from North

Andover, Town Clerk Joyce Bradshaw and School Committee member Brian Gross as well as Jason Tait, director of communication and public education from the Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance. The event will be moderated by Stefani Traina of the League of Women Voters.

### Outside of (living) Christmas trees, what else is a favorite?

The group Friends of Andover Community Trees (FACT) is asking town residents to identify their favorite trees, through Arbor Day 2012.

Contest participants will include residents of all ages, families, neighborhoods, clubs, classes, businesses and town employees.

Entrants are encouraged to send photos or drawings to FACT of a tree growing in Andover with a description of why that tree is special to

the entrant.

Pictures will be displayed at various locations around town, beginning in the Main Street CVS windows and in Memorial Hall Library. As the contest continues through all four seasons, pictures will be added or changed and the displays will rotate through additional locations in town. On Arbor Day, some pictures can be viewed at [www.FACTandover.wordpress.com](http://www.FACTandover.wordpress.com) as well as entry forms and contest guidelines. Materials can also be picked up at local businesses where Nominate Your Favorite Tree fliers are displayed, and in the foyer of Town Hall, where finished entries-with-pictures can also be submitted. Entries may also be mailed to FACT Contest, PO Box 1617, Andover MA 01810

Since the contest continues until Arbor Day 2012 allowing favorites to be photographed in their best (or all four) seasons, events will be announced as the year progresses: Choosing a Favorite, Viewing Trees in Andover,

Identifying the Species of Tree, Important Trees In Our History, What Trees Need, and Uncovering the Story of a Tree are some of the topics that will be explored. All activities are family-friendly and open to everyone interested in attending.

Prizes will include goods and services donated by local businesses, FACT memorabilia, and other treats to be decided.

### Nomination papers for candidates

Nomination papers for the Andover March 27, 2012 annual town election are available at the Andover town clerk's office.

The Ballot for the 2012 Annual Town Election will include the following:

- Moderator, a one-year position;
- Selectman, two seats for three years each;
- School Committee, two for three years;
- Greater Lawrence Regional Vocational Technical High

School Committee, one for three years;

Trustees of the Punchard Free School, two for three years;

Trustees of the Punchard Free School, two for two years; and

Trustees of the Punchard Free School, one for one year.

The 2012 Annual Town Election marks a change in the way the Punchard Free School Trustees are elected. Beginning in 2012 five trustees will be elected for staggered three-year terms.

The last day and hour to submit nomination papers to the Andover Board of Registrars of Voters is 5 p.m. on Feb. 7, 2012. The town clerk's office will remain open until 5 that day to accept nomination papers.

If you have any questions, please contact Town Clerk Larry Murphy at 978-623-8259.

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# Magee death certificates details shared, then sealed

A document accidentally released by the town clerk's office last week offered grizzly details regarding how Andover residents Jack and Geraldine Magee were killed in their home Dec. 14.

Two death certificates from the state's Medical Examiner's Office recently sealed by Andover police and the District Attorney's office said that John "Jack" Magee, 69, was "shot by assailant(s)" and died of

gunshot wounds to the head, neck and chest, according to a story published by the Boston Herald. John's wife Geraldine Magee, 67, was killed by a single shot to the head.

A reporter with the

Boston Herald was given the opportunity to see the certificates by a town clerk employee while Town Clerk Larry Murphy was out of the office.

The documents, though published, have now been

sealed. No further information was available.

Police Chief Brian Pattullo and District Attorney Spokesman Steve O'Connell couldn't be reached for comment. An employee with the police department

said there was nothing new available in the investigation, and that all questions should be addressed to the District Attorney's office.

*Material from the Eagle Tribune was used in this report by Dustin Luca.*

## ■ POLICE LOG

COMPILED BY DUSTIN LUCA  
dluca@andovertownsmen.com

The following items were taken from Andover police logs for Tuesday, Dec. 27 through Monday, Jan. 2:

### ARRESTS

Wednesday, Dec. 28 — At 3:31 p.m., David Chomicz, 28, of 14 Pheasant Run, Andover, was arrested on River Road and charged with distribution of a class B drug.

At 4:06 p.m., Jason Gates, 40, of 129 Springfield St., Lawrence, was arrested on Haverhill Street and charged on a warrant for operating under the influence of drugs, operating under the influence of liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, speeding and a marked lanes violation.

Thursday, Dec. 29 — At 3:46 p.m., Douglas Murray, 59, of 40 Everett Ave., Somerville, was arrested on North Main Street and charged with having no inspection sticker and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

Friday, Dec. 30 — At 12:17 p.m., a 14-year-old boy from Andover was arrested on Poor Street and charged with assault and battery on a household member.

Saturday, Dec. 31 — At 5:10 and 5:33 a.m. respectively, police made two arrests on North Main Street. Both men were charged with four counts of breaking and entering at night time with intent to commit a felony and four counts of larceny under \$250. Arrested were: Laith Kanaan, 17, of 199 Jackson St., Methuen, and James Kerrigan, 18, of 52 Enmore St., Andover.

At 10:03 p.m., Dennis Washington Jr., 18, of 86 Martin Ave., North Andover,

## Getting the boot



Police put an immobilizing boot on a van in downtown Andover Friday, Dec. 30 after they found the car had a dozen or so unpaid parking tickets totaling more than \$500. The owner paid the tickets that day.

DUSTIN LUCA/Staff Photo

was arrested on Elm Street and charged on a warrant for statutory rape of a child.

Sunday, Jan. 1 — At 2:34 p.m., Juan Rivera, 32, of 86 Franklin St., Haverhill, was arrested on River Road and charged with giving a false name during booking, operating a motor vehicle while unlicensed, possession of a class A drug with intent to distribute, distribution of a class A drug, distribution of a class B drug, trafficking in cocaine and on a single warrant for trafficking cocaine, forging or misusing

a Registry of Motor Vehicles document, speeding and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

### CAR CRIME

Thursday, Dec. 29 — At 6:24 p.m., a dirt bike stolen out of Andover was recovered outside of town.

Saturday, Dec. 31 — At 12:07 p.m., a motor vehicle theft was reported on Argilla Road. The vehicle was recovered soon after on Penacook Place.

### BREAKS

Monday, Jan. 2 — At 10:32 p.m., a past break on a house on Woodhaven Drive was reported to police. The home had been damaged, but it was vacant and nothing had been stolen from it.

### THEFTS

Friday, Dec. 30 — At 1:31 p.m., theft was reported on Lowell Street.

At 2:25 p.m., a theft involving jewelry, which was believed to have occurred in March, was reported on Berkeley Lane.

Saturday, Dec. 31 — At 8:51 a.m., a theft from a motor vehicle was reported on Rennie Drive.

Starting at 3:24 p.m., and within a period of five minutes, three vehicle breaks were reported to police. The breaks occurred on Enmore Street, Strawberry Hill Circle and Rennie Drive.

Sunday, Jan. 1 — At 1 p.m., a theft was reported on Post Office Avenue.

At 10:41 p.m., a theft was reported on River Road.

Monday, Jan. 2 — At 7:36 a.m., thefts from multiple

vehicles, reported by one individual, were reported on High Street.

At 2:12 p.m., a theft of a safe was reported on Juliette Street. The safe — a fire-proof safe — was reported to have been taken within the last several months and contained important documents.

### INCIDENTS

Tuesday, Dec. 27 — At 5:46 a.m., a bread delivery truck set off a building alarm on River Road.

At 8:21 a.m., vandalism to a motor vehicle was reported on Timothy Drive.

At 9:43 a.m., fraud was reported on Greenwood Road.

Wednesday, Dec. 28 — At 7:47 a.m., vandalism was reported to a property on Canterbury Street.

At 2:26 p.m., fraud was reported on Chandler Road.

At 10:10 p.m., assault was reported on Morton Street.

Thursday, Dec. 29 — At 2 a.m., a possible eight-person fight was reported on Riverside Drive.

At 8:20 a.m., vandalism to a mailbox was reported on Lenox Circle.

At 5:22 p.m., shoplifting was reported on Railroad Street.

Friday, Dec. 30 — At 12:24 p.m., police put a boot on a vehicle with a reported 14 parking tickets totaling \$530.

Saturday, Dec. 31 — At 10:02 a.m., vandalism to a mailbox was reported on Avery Lane.

Monday, Jan. 2 — At 8:27 a.m., vandalism to a school on High Plain Road was reported to police.

## Bring on the snow

Winter and snow just go together. Children love snow. Adults usually are not so excited.

A snowflake is not a frozen raindrop. Frozen raindrops are called sleet.

Snowflakes are ice crystals that build in geometric patterns. Snowflakes start their journey high in the earth's atmosphere.

The crystals form in clouds made up of very cold water vapor. Some of the water vapor condenses on tiny particles of dust and freezes into simple ice crystals.

Water molecules are made up of one oxygen atom and two hydrogen atoms. That gives them a specific shape. The molecules lock together in a six-sided hexagon shape when they freeze.

Each flake begins as one of these tiny ice crystals. These basic snowflakes all look pretty much the same.

As the clouds get colder, more water vapor molecules hook on to the ice crystal. That builds a larger crystal.

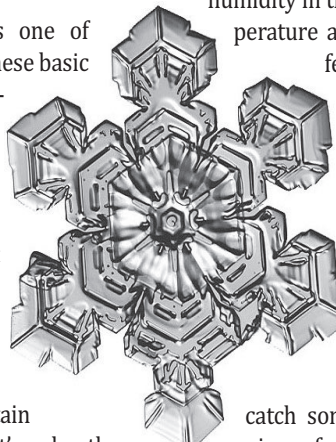
Building an ice crystal is similar to building with Legos. New pieces can only hook on at certain places and angles. That's why the crystals build in geometric shapes. Often, the crystals build six legs (or points) coming off the corners of the hexagon.



Each snowflake blows through the clouds, gathering more water vapor. The flake travels through different conditions as it falls to earth. The shape of the crystal depends on the temperature and the humidity in the clouds. Changes in temperature and humidity produce different patterns and sizes of ice crystals. Each crystal builds into a unique creation.

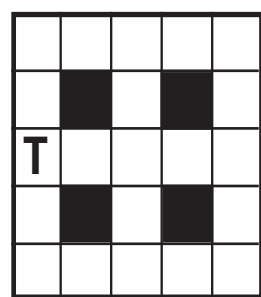
Sometimes, the snowflakes build as single large flakes. Other times, the flakes clump together into tiny snowballs.

The next time it snows, catch some snowflakes on a dark piece of paper or fabric. Use a magnifying glass to look at the flakes.

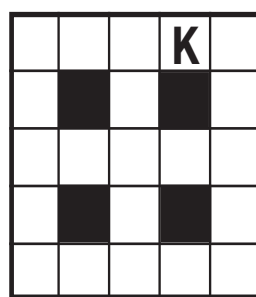


Snowflake photos by Kenneth G. Libbrecht, SnowCrystals.com

**Cross Five** Place these six words in the crossword grid



Paper, Rides, Sorts, Tepid, Vapor, Votes



Abate, Enter, Fires, Flake, Roast, Steer

### Newspaper activity

It's fun to make paper snowflakes. You will need newspaper, compass, pencil, and blunt scissors.

Draw a 4-inch circle on the paper. Cut it out. To make a four-point snowflake, fold the circle in half. Then fold it again. For an eight-point snowflake, fold it in half again. Use the scissors to cut little bits from the paper. Cut into both sides, top, and point. You can also use a hole punch or pinking shears.

Unfold the flake. Punch a hole in one point. Tie a string through the hole and hang your flake.



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## 2012 predictions: New movie theater?

BY DUSTIN LUCA  
STAFF WRITER

The Andover Townsman asked residents and officials what they thought 2012 would have in store.

For some people, national politics was on the mind, as a panel of Republican candidates vie for the opportunity to challenge incumbent President Barack Obama in November.

"I think he's gonna make it again," resident Virginia Vlongo said at a Andover Senior Center event last week. Next to her, Maggie Vassilopoulos nodded.

"I agree," she said. At another table, Connie Stennick said she had no idea what would happen in the coming year. "You're asking the wrong person," she said, pausing. "The president leaves, that's the only thing. And a good man stepping in!"

Barbara McGovern said she hoped that the Boston Red Sox would play a good, winning season in 2012.

Paul Materazzo, town planning director, and Tom Deso, School Building Committee chairman both said they see the New England Patriots winning the Super Bowl in February.

Town Moderator Sheila Doherty said "I do absolutely predict we'll have enough seats at Town Meeting for everybody." Residents may remember the start of Special Town Meeting was delayed after a higher than expected turnout sent officials scrambling to find spots for all the voters.

Many looked to the economy. Conservation Director Bob Douglas believes things will improve this year.

"Things are looking up, financially, for the economy," said Douglas. "I know things were really grim last year and the year before. Unanimously, they'll say that things have gotten better and more jobs are going on."

Andover state Reps. Jim Lyons and Paul Adams both said they aren't very good at

making predictions. "I'm just focused on what my agenda is and getting the job done," said Adams.

"I don't have very much luck with predictions," said Lyons. "Hopefully, continue to work for the people of the 18th Essex (District)."

Maria Maggio, acting director of Plant and Facilities, said "I'm hopeful that the Bancroft School will start construction. I think that will be a good thing for 2012."

Annie Gilbert, School Committee chairwoman, also predicted that the new Bancroft Elementary School will start construction in 2012. But the beginnings of a new school won't be the only thing to hit town this year.

"I'm rooting for a movie theater," said Gilbert. "We're going to be building the new Bancroft School and we'll be talking about our new high school principal. But because I care about the entire town, I'm rooting hard for the independent movie theater."

## School meal price hike possible

BY DUSTIN LUCA  
STAFF WRITER

### BY THE NUMBERS

School Nutrition Services is an entirely self-sustaining operation, with its own employees, its own expenses and its own revenue. While it operates within the schools, the department receives zero tax dollars from the town.

So as school meals are expected to become more regulated by the state and federal governments, feeding breakfast and lunch to students on either free, reduced or full-cost plans may hit the department with unanticipated costs.

"We've seen (food ingredient) prices increases substantially over the years," said Gail Koutroubas, adding that there has been no increase in the cost to students or their families. "I'm hopeful that we can go without one, but I'm not so certain."

Currently, the school is reimbursed from the state

The following table shows how the state and federal government reimburses schools for meals to students on free-, reduced- or full-cost programs.

	STATE	FEDERAL
<b>BREAKFAST</b>		
FREE	\$0.00	\$1.51
REDUCED	\$0.00	\$1.21
FULL	\$0.00	\$0.27
<b>LUNCH</b>		
FREE	\$0.05	\$2.51
REDUCED	\$0.05	\$2.11
FULL	\$0.05	\$0.26

The department also gets commodities — pounds of chicken, ground beef, etc. — based on how many lunches it sells. The more lunches it sells, the more food it receives. With that, student lunches become cheaper.

"As we increase in participation, we won't have to increase price," said Koutroubas. "If we were to look at a price hike, it might be 10 cents a meal. If we meet all of the requirements, we might get 6 cents more from the government," which would mean only a 4-cent increase would be expected for students in that case.

"We're not in it to make a profit," said Koutroubas. "We're here to provide a service and to meet our expenses."

For feedback on this story, or for other story-related inquiries, please email [dluca@andovertownsmen.com](mailto:dluca@andovertownsmen.com).

## REPORT: \$25,000 study gives town recommendations for improvements

Continued from Page 1

change,” with sections focusing on management systems, preventative maintenance, organizational transition and cost-effective service delivery.

### Improve Management Systems

The consultants write that, in the Department of Public Works “managers and supervisors have little information available through automated and summarized means with which to make key service delivery and budgetary decisions. The (DPW) and (P&F) departments both face a number of challenges to use their resources more efficiently, and more importantly, to redirect resources and invest in maintenance and preservation of the town’s assets.”

“not all improvements are budget-related,” according to Stapeczynski. “They’re encouraging that we go to more performance measurements, to look at accomplishments in the way we do business.”

### Department Consolidations

“The project team has analyzed the organizational structures of the two separate departments, as well as the intra-departmental structures,” said the study. The study was done when supervisor positions for both the Department of Public Works and Plant and Facilities are vacant, and it suggests combining the departments under one director.

“They did suggest that perhaps there could be a consolidation of the two departments, and they came

CONSULTANT'S PROJECTIONS	
Combine Facilities, Building/Electrical, HVAC, plumbing	Save \$129,328
Consolidate DPW and P&F	Save \$83,880
Purchase/install problem-reporting software	Spend up to \$60,000
Combine highway with other divisions	Save \$133,108
Hire design planner	Spend \$112,000
Outsource lawn care	Save up to \$257,769
Hire skilled trades mechanics	Spend \$70,000
New Computerized Maintenance Management System	Minimal if covered by state grant
Replace vehicles on more timely basis	Spending not quantifiable
Consider outsourcing street-sweeping	Savings unknown
Consider privatizing some cemetery responsibilities	Savings unknown
<b>NET TOTAL</b>	<b>Save \$262,085-\$392,085</b>

up with a couple alternatives for how we could do that and how we couldn't do that,” said Stapeczynski.

The study also highlighted that the town could save \$133,108 in payroll and benefits costs by consolidating the DPW's highway division with P&F's Cemetery, Forestry, Parks and Grounds

division. A merged organization could also be created out of Engineering, Streets and Grounds, Water Distribution and Sewer Collection Maintenance, Facilities Maintenance and Materials, and Purchasing and Fleet functions.

The study also notes that the water treatment plant could be, and should be,

“treated as a separate organization reporting directly to the town manager, or assistant town manager.”

### Hire, Outsource Services

The study recommends Andover hire more maintenance employees, something that Stapeczynski agrees is a need in the future, specifically in preventative maintenance.

“One of the observations they're saying is that this could be addressed better by having more staff to deal with the building repair and maintenance items,” said Stapeczynski. “Over time, our square footage, our buildings are not going down. It's going up, so we're going to have to add dollars and manpower and staffing to maintain those facilities.”

The consultant recommended hiring a design planner reporting to the Facilities

superintendent, at a cost of \$112,000. “This position would be responsible for conceptual design, CAD drawings, retention and maintenance of as-builts, facility inspections, and other duties,” said the study.

At the same time, several outsourcing opportunities are identified. The study says the town would save anywhere between \$157,769 to \$257,769 by outsourcing the mowing, weeding and trimming services at the parks and cemetery. The town should issue a request-for-proposal to determine the feasibility of outsourcing street-sweeping operations, and it should investigate whether it should assume responsibility of the school's custodial services. Then, if it would be cost-effective, outsource those same custodial services.

## CHANGES: Multimillion dollar decisions loom for Town Meeting voters

Continued from Page 1

“We're currently gearing up for getting on the warrant in January for the April Town Meeting.”

Two options currently face the board: raising money to build a new Town Yard at Campanelli Drive, or raising money to do the same thing at the current location at the bottom of Lewis Street, across the train tracks from the Andover commuter-rail stop. The Task Force will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 10 to finalize its decision, the cost and write the warrant article.

If the article passes Town Meeting, a ballot vote for a debt exclusion override of Proposition 2 1/2 would be necessary to cover the cost, which has been reported to be over \$17 million. If approved, design development and construction could start by the end of 2012, said Feldman.

Rebuilding the Town Yard at the current location on Lewis Street is an option the town could consider, according to Planning Director Paul Materazzo. However, he believes it would be unwise, as the facility needs seven acres, and the existing site is only three acres.

“To facilitate the town's needs, you're operating with one hand behind your back,” said Materazzo. “Day one, if you were to rebuild at the current location, the site is too small.”

It would cost around \$18 million to rebuild at the present location, said Feldman.

### NEW FIRE STATION MOVES TO APRIL VOTE

The options are still being discussed, but the Ballardvale Fire Station Building Committee also has a spot on April's Town Meeting, where residents may vote to build a new fire station to replace the small, existing structure on the corner of Clark Road and Andover Street.

Replacing the station could cost as low as \$3 million for the building alone, Mansfield said. The cost is assumed at \$250 per square foot for a 13,000-square-foot building, which comes out to \$3.25 million.

The project would cost more if the town decided to buy private land on which to build the station. There is still no word on what private land has been made available. In December, a single land purchase relating to the project was discussed in a closed-door meeting that included the selectmen and Finance



FILE PHOTO

A task force expects to present voters this spring with a plan to replace the more than 100-year-old Ballardvale Fire Station. It was built in 1890.

Committee, according to Stapeczynski.

Asked for further details on what the private land options are, Mansfield declined.

“Not quite sure how it's going to wash out, if you go with the private land or stay with the public site,” said Mansfield. “All those things are being worked on right now. It depends on which way the committee wants to go, and I'm not sure which way they want to go.”

The task force has favored using South Elementary School property at the corner of Andover and Woburn streets, a site that has received some resistance from residents, including some South Elementary School parents.

### TOWN PLANNING FOR SCHOOLS

The story surrounding challenges to the Bancroft Elementary School construction project will continue into 2012, as a resolution to an appeal with the state's Department of Environmental Protection has not yet come forward and the adjudicatory hearing process for the project is continuing in the state's Superior Court. A hearing for that process is scheduled for March, said Annie Gilbert, School Committee chairwoman. But a settlement could come before then.

If the situation goes through the hearing process and a full run of possible appeals, it could take until the beginning of 2014 before construction begins on the project, according to Gilbert.

Tom Deso, new School

Building Committee chairman, said town officials hope it will be much shorter.

“We're hoping we can settle the appeals or have the appeals settled by the DEP or the courts, or settled with the abutters, and move on and start construction,” said Deso. “We expect we'll have some resolution ... from Superior Court within the next couple weeks and DEP within the next couple months.”

Meanwhile, longtime School Building Committee member and lawyer Mark Johnson, who was recently chairing the committee, has stepped down, creating a vacancy that Town Manager Buzz Stapeczynski said he's working to fill.

A master plan is coming together to look at the condition of parking areas throughout the town's schools, barring two exceptions — the existing Bancroft Elementary School and Shawsheen School, which the Plant and Facilities department expects will no longer be used by the time the master plan is executed, according to P&F acting Director Maria Maggio.

The department's master plan “will help with the parking, the pavement on the schools, the drainage on the school's parking areas,” said Maggio. “Also, we're going to be looking at the traffic within the school area.”

The town went through a similar project in recent years as it invested several million to replace the roofs of every town school building. This project will work in the same way, starting first with West Middle School. Last year, the department received \$600,000 from an appropriation at April's Town Meeting to

cover the study and a portion of the work at the first identified school. More money is expected to be requested at April's Annual Town Meeting, according to Maggio.

### FINDING FUNDING FOR I-93 CONTINUES

A large project to add an interchange to Interstate 93 in southwest Andover, which will require the cooperation of neighboring Tewksbury and Wilmington, will continue through 2012 and beyond. But for this year, one goal is to capture the money needed to build the interchange.

“We're trying to get this project back on track, perse,” said Planner Paul Materazzo. “It's been kind of sitting there, waiting for the funding to be identified through (the

Department of Transportation) and the federal government. Whether it's earmarks or federal grants, there has to be a financing package that pays for this project.”

A market analysis has been conducted on the form-based code that will regulate how open space in the area of the interchange will be developed to ensure equal, fair impact from the interchange on all three towns.

“Before we went into the second draft of the code, we want to make sure it's informed by reality,” said Materazzo.

### CONSERVATION LOOKS TO RIVER

For the Conservation Commission, it is the year of the Merrimack River. A 60-foot

foot bridge that stretched over the river, which was washed out some time ago, will be rebuilt once \$5,000 is raised to build it. Waterfront camping areas along the Merrimack River will be added in town, and Andover's portion of the river will become cleaner by year's end.

“Rivers are their own roadways of trash,” said Bob Douglas, conservation director. “We've got probably 100 years of flotsam and jetsam, bottles of glass and plastic variety, and we're going to clean that up.”

Several trail improvements focused on accessibility are also expected.

“We're looking to improve parking for our existing sites, including Foster's Pond and Fish Brook North,” said Douglas.

### 2012 ELECTIONS: BIG HERE, AND THERE

The campaign trail is just starting for the national presidential race, which some have suggested may be a heated battle this year. Andover residents will make their voices heard at the presidential primary on March 6, where whatever GOP candidates are still in the race at that time will continue their quest to challenge incumbent President Barack Obama on Nov. 6.

All three local legislators — Andover state Sen. Barry Finegold and Reps. Paul Adams and Jim Lyons — plan to run for re-election as well. U.S. Sen. Scott Brown also faces re-election. The primary for each will be held on Sept. 6, with the general election also on Nov. 6.

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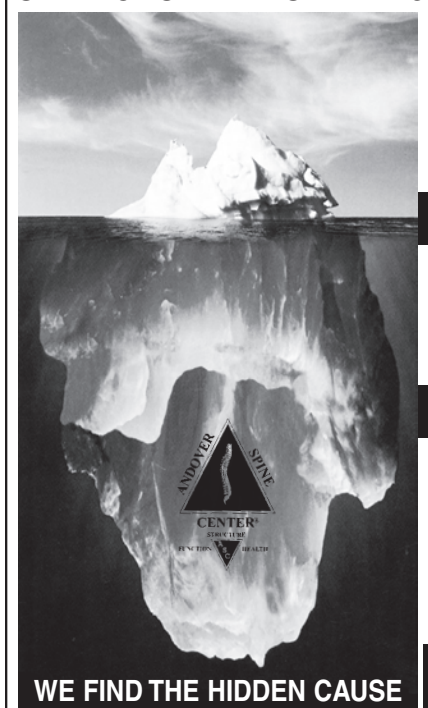
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### SYMPTOMS ARE MISLEADING



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Dr. Christopher R. Condon  
Chiropractic Physician

# Obituaries

## Adrianna Buonanno, 85

Adrianna (Nardone) Buonanno, 85, passed away suddenly on Monday, Dec. 26, one week after her 85th birthday.

Born in La Spezia, Italy, on Dec. 19, 1926, she came to this country as a war bride after World War II. She was married to the late Alexander Buonanno. They owned White Eagle Lunch & Sonny's Restaurant on Essex St., Lawrence, Mass.

For the past 20 years, Adrianna resided in Andover, where she enjoyed taking the

train to shop at the North End in Boston, doing crossword puzzles & playing cards with her granddaughter, Lori.



Adrianna was predeceased by her son, Alexander "Sonny" Buonanno. Survivors include daughter-in-law, Brenda (Giovanni) Buonanno & granddaughter, Lori Buonanno & several nephews.

**ARRANGEMENTS:** A private family service was held Dec. 29. Arrangements were by Pollard Funeral Home, Methuen, Mass.

## Frank R. Zonghetti

Frank R. Zonghetti, of Andover, died Dec. 24.

He was the beloved husband of Maureen (Sullivan) and the father of Lisa M. Zonghetti-Stafford and her husband Sean and Christopher S. Zonghetti, all of Haverhill. He was also the son of the late Joseph and Archangela (Sestito) Zonghetti; brother of Ray Zonghetti and Christine Masiello of Somerville and Joe Zonghetti and Janet of Foxboro; brother-in-law of Barbara O'Hearn and her husband John, Claire Mattson and her husband Carl, all of Tewksbury, Mark Sullivan of Wilmington and Thomas Sullivan and his wife Denise of New York. Frank is also sur-

vived by many loving nieces and nephews.

**ARRANGEMENTS:** Funeral from the Cota Funeral Home, 335 Park St. (corner of Park St. and Rte. 28), North Reading, at Reading line, was on Saturday, Dec. 31. The funeral Mass was in St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, 198 Haggetts Pond Road, Andover. Relatives and friends were invited to visit at the funeral home last Friday. Interment was in West Parish Garden Cemetery, Andover. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Frank's name to the The Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation, 636 Morris Turnpike, Suite 3A, Short Hills, NJ 07078. Visit [www.cotafuneralhomes.com](http://www.cotafuneralhomes.com).

## Timothy J. Tiernan, 51

Timothy John Tiernan, age 51, of Seattle, Washington died suddenly on Nov. 29, 2011.

He was born in Akron, Ohio in 1960, and grew up in Andover Massachusetts. He graduated from Austin Preparatory School and earned a bachelor's degree from Evergreen State University in Seattle, Washington. Tim resided and worked in the Seattle area for most of his

adult life.

Tim was the son of the late John and Margaret Tiernan. He is survived by his sisters, Christine Bass of Lake Worth, Florida, and Erin Cronin of Oakton, Virginia, as well as a niece and nephew.

**ARRANGEMENTS:** A funeral Mass will be held at St. Robert Bellarmine Church in Andover, Massachusetts on Friday, Jan. 6 at 11 a.m. Burial will follow at Spring Grove Cemetery in Andover.

## Emily R. Ponti, 101

LAWRENCE — Emily R. maker who loved spending (Catalano) Ponti, 101, passed time with her family and away Monday, Dec. 26, 2011 at friends. She was a parishioner of Corpus Christi



Parish at Holy Rosary Church in Lawrence and was a former member of St. Rita's Sodality. She also enjoyed volunteering for many years at Holy Family Hospital in Methuen.

**ARRANGEMENTS:** Funeral Mass was Friday, Dec. 30. Burial was in the Immaculate Conception Cemetery, Lawrence. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in her memory to Corpus Christi Parish at Holy Rosary Church, 35 Essex St., Lawrence, MA 01810, or a charity of one's choice.

## Ruth E. DeVeau, 84

Ruth E. (Snow) DeVeau, 84, of Northwood, formerly of Haverhill, died Friday, Dec. 30, at the home of her daughter, surrounded by her loving family.



Born in Newton, NH, she was the daughter of the late, Charles E. and Ruth E. (Yeagle) Snow. Educated in Haverhill public schools, she attended Haverhill High School. She lived in Colorado for many years before returning to New England in 1996.

Ruth had a long and varied career; she was always affiliated with service to people.

As a waitress she was employed at many local restaurants, including the Lanam Club in Andover. She then moved on to become a private duty home health

care provider and worked for the Home health V.N.A. of Merrimack Valley.

She was predeceased by her Husband Hubert J. De Veau Sr, and her siblings, Evelyn Henderson, Geraldine Gibbs, Minnie George, Virginia Hartman, and Alfred, Charles, Arthur, Richard, and Marilyn Snow.

**ARRANGEMENTS:** Funeral services were Wednesday from the Kevin B. Comeau Funeral Home, 486 Main St. (Route 125) Haverhill. with a Mass of Christian burial in All Saints Church, Bellevue Ave. Haverhill. Burial was in Willow Grove Cemetery, Whittier St. Newton, NH. Memorial contributions may be made to the National Shrine of St. Jude, 3200 East 91st Street, Chicago, IL, 60617-4408. [www.comeaufuneral.com](http://www.comeaufuneral.com)

## Dorothy Eckman

Dorothy Beizer Eckman, passed away from complications due to cancer and Parkinson's disease.

Dorothy was a cherished member of the Andover community since she, her husband Al, son David and daughter Melissa moved here in 1969. Dorothy had a beautiful shop, known as The Designer's Workshop, in downtown Andover from 1973 until 2004, in which they displayed designer furniture, fabrics and artwork.

Dorothy was an Interior Designer and worked with hundreds of appreciative clients over the years from Palm Beach to Conway, NH. A true artist, she had a vision of understated elegance, warmth and beauty for every project she undertook and set about executing it with her clients

who usually became lifelong friends. She gently taught her clients to see the style and charm that was possible in their homes.

She loved cooking and having flocks of friends and family over for dinners that nourished, rejuvenated and inspired. A common notion about Dorothy felt by everyone was that she was a passionate and vibrant person, with a positive outlook who exuded kindness and warmth to everyone she made contact with.

**ARRANGEMENTS:** A Memorial Service will be held at Temple Emmanuel on Haggetts Pond Road in Andover on Thursday, Jan. 5 at 1 pm. Shiva hours will be on Thursday evening at Son, David and Monica Eckman's home at 22 Summer Street, Andover, from 5 to 8 p.m.

## Elodia Baffi, 86

Elodia "Dia" (Saccagno) Baffi, 86, of Andover and formerly of Norwalk, Conn., passed away on Sunday, Jan. 1, 2012 at the Lahey Clinic in Burlington.

Dia was born in New York City on May 29, 1925 to the late Emilio and Erminia (Pane) Saccagno. Dia was a communicant of St. Michael Church in North Andover and was involved in the Bible Study. She was very active as a volunteer in Norwalk, CT., with St. Thomas The Apostle Parish, The GNCC and the Girl Scouts. Her spirit of volunteerism was honored by many.

Dia was the beloved wife of the late Frank J. Baffi and is survived by her daughters, Lisa Baffi of Redwood City,

CA., and Carol Baffi-Dugan and her husband John of Andover as well as her grandchildren, Kate, Tim and Julie.



**ARRANGEMENTS:** Relatives and friends are cordially invited to attend her Funeral Mass on Thursday, Jan. 5 at 10 a.m. in St. Michael Church, North Andover. Interment will follow in Ridgewood Cemetery, North Andover. Calling Hours will be held on Wednesday from 4 to 7 in the Conte Funeral Home, 17 Third Street, North Andover. For those who wish, Dia may be remembered through donations to the Maryknoll Fathers, P.O. Box 304, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0304 or [www.maryknollsociety.org](http://www.maryknollsociety.org). For funeral home directions or to sign the family guest book, please visit [www.contefuneralhomes.com](http://www.contefuneralhomes.com).

## Simone A. Kijanka, 87

Simone Antoinette (Lamontagne) Kijanka, 87, of Port St. Lucie, Fla. passed away on Thursday, Dec. 29, 2011. She has gone to join the love of her life, Edwin.

Born in Andover, Mass. on Aug. 28, 1924 to Treffe and Matilda Lamontagne, she lived primarily in Massachusetts and moved to Florida nine years ago.

She is survived by her daughters, Frances Antoon, widow of Joseph S. Antoon, of McConnellsbury, Pennsylvania, Barbara, wife of William MacGown of Port St. Lucie, Florida, Nancy, wife of Dennis R. Guilmette Sr. of Davie, Florida and a brother, Wilfred Lamontagne of Lawrence, Massachusetts,

granddaughter, Shauna Lynn Guilmette and grandson, Dennis R. Guilmette Jr. of Davie, Florida and many nieces, nephews and godchildren. She was preceded in death by 2 sisters and 7 brothers.

**ARRANGEMENTS:** Visitation hours are Thursday, Jan. 5, 2012 from 3 to 6 pm at The Arthur J. Scott Funeral Home, 298 South Broadway, Lawrence, MA. Funeral services will be on Friday Jan. 6, at 9 a.m. at the funeral home. Burial will be in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Andover. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The American Heart Association-Stroke Association, [www.americanheartassociation.org](http://www.americanheartassociation.org). To send an online condolence, please visit [www.dewhirstfuneral.com](http://www.dewhirstfuneral.com).



## Dale C. Jackson, 60

Dale C. (Corthell) Jackson, 60, of Haverhill, died Tuesday, Dec. 20, at the Massachusetts General Hospital after a lengthy illness.

Born in Newburyport, she was the daughter of the late, Donald E. and Lillian L. (Berube) Corthell. Dale attended public schools in Boston, and Haverhill. She was employed as head teller for the Bank of Boston, and for over twenty-five years she was employed as an auditor for the I.R.S. in Andover. The widow of Russell G. Jackson Sr., who died in 1995, she was a devoted mother and grandmother.

She leaves a son, Russel G. Jackson Jr. and his wife Renee, of Londonderry, NH, a

daughter, Danielle L. Corthell, of Conway, N.H., four cherished grandchildren, Aidan James R. Jackson, Noah G. Jackson, Enrique S. Alvarez, and Miguel E. Alvarez, a brother, Donald E. "Buster" Corthell Jr. and his wife, Debra, of Lake-wood, CO, two sisters, Debra M. and her husband, Darrell A. Hollenbeck Sr. of



Atkinson, NH, and Donna-Lee L. Corthell, of Haverhill. She was predeceased by her nephew, Billy Ammells, and grandnephew, Ryan Neumann.

**ARRANGEMENTS:** Memorial service was Dec. 28. Memorial donations may be made to Ozzie's Kids, c/o New England Exchange Club, 61 St. Botolph St., Haverhill, MA 01832. [www.comeaufuneral.com](http://www.comeaufuneral.com).

## Jean G. Beaulieu, 86

Jean G. (Shinnick) Beaulieu, longtime resident of Andover and beloved wife of the late William J. Beaulieu, died at the Lawrence General Hospital on Friday, Dec. 30, 2011. She was 86 years old.

Born in Lawrence, Massachusetts, on Oct. 8, 1925, she was the beloved daughter of the late George and Elizabeth (Young) Shinnick. Mrs. Beaulieu was a communicant of St. Robert Bellarmine Church in Andover and was a member of the Summit Club at the Church. Jean was a kindergarten teacher at the Sanborn Elementary school for 25 years and was also a member of the Massachusetts Retired Teachers Association. In her spare time, Mrs. Beaulieu volunteered at Lawrence General Hospital.

She will be sorely missed by her three loving daughters; Susan Beaulieu of Virginia, Denise and her husband

George Tournas of Methuen and Julie Beaulieu and her husband Fred Earnshaw of East Kingston, New Hampshire, two nieces; Liz Jacobs Dunaway of Charlotte, North Carolina and Kathleen Lynch of Methuen. Jean was also the sister of the late Mary Lynch and Betsy Jacobs.

**ARRANGEMENTS:** Her funeral Mass was in St. Robert Bellarmine Church, Andover on Tuesday, January 3. Burial was in St. Mary Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Lawrence. Donations in Jean's memory may be made to the MSP-CA/NeVins, 400 Broadway, Methuen, MA 01844 or to the Lawrence General Hospital, Nursing Department, 1 General St., Lawrence, MA 01842. Arrangements by the Burke-Magliozi Funeral Home, 390 North Main Street, Andover. For additional information, please visit, [www.burkemagliozi.com](http://www.burkemagliozi.com).

### ■ SUPPORT GROUPS

#### Free caregiver support

On the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, from 5 to 6:30 p.m., Spectrum Adult Day Health Program at North Andover (located at 1820 Turnpike St., Suite 106 in North Andover) will host a free support group for caregivers of people with Alzheimer's disease and other memory disorders. Led by a social worker and offering a confidential forum for the sharing of coping techniques and information, free respite care will be made available upon request.

For more information and to arrange respite services, please contact Susan Harrison at 978-921-1697 ext. 221 or [sharriso@nhs-healthlink.org](mailto:sharriso@nhs-healthlink.org)

#### Free Metastatic Breast Cancer Support

We are a group of women and men from the North Shore and Merrimack Valley who are living with Stage IV Metastatic Breast Cancer. We get together every other week for confidential and caring conversations, resource sharing, supportive ideas, and laughter too. It is a special place to share your feelings, concerns, fears, and joys and be completely understood by those who are also walking a similar path. We meet in Middleton near Route 114 every other Wednesday morning from 9:30 - 11:00 am and we cordially invite you to join us! For more information or to register, please contact founder and participant Heather LoRe ([heatherlore@vizon.net](mailto:heatherlore@vizon.net) or 978-664-2161) or facilitator Marie Lucca ([mariejlucca@comcast.net](mailto:mariejlucca@comcast.net)).

#### Al-Anon Family Group

The Al-Anon Family Groups is a non-profit fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience, strength, and hope in order to solve their common problems. A local meeting of Greater Lawrence 12 and 12 Al-Anon Family Groups takes place on Wednesdays, at 7:30 p.m., Christ Church, 29 Central St., Andover

The office can be reached at AFG of MA Inc., 57 E. Main St. Suite 109, Westboro MA 01581, 508-366-0556, e-mail, [afgofma@aol.com](mailto:afgofma@aol.com).

#### Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous

Food Addicts is a nonprofit program that provides a physical, mental and spiritual solution for food addiction. In Food Addicts, individuals who have been obese, too thin, or otherwise obsessed with food have found a solution that frees them from these problems.

Food Addicts is based on the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. There are no dues, fees, or weigh-ins at the meetings. Newcomers are always welcome at the weekly meetings in Andover on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at South Church, 41 Central St. Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church (off River Road.) in Topsfield. Weekly FA meeting also occur at Christ Church 25 Central St., Andover at 7:45 a.m. every Saturday.

For more information, contact Maggie, the meeting's public information representative at 978-470-2230 or view the Food Addicts website at [foodaddicts.org](http://foodaddicts.org).

#### Andover Young Widow and Widowers

The Andover Young Widow and Widowers organization offers support to those dealing with the devastating loss of a spouse. Group discussions are facilitated by a licensed social worker and provide a safe place where young widowed persons, up to the age of 58, can share experiences and mutual support.

The meetings are governed by what their needs are at the time.

"If you are a young widow or widower, that only adds to your isolation. Younger widows and widowers are 20 years younger than the traditional widowed population and they have needs that are not addressed in other groups. Many young widows and widowers aren't able to find any place to go for comfort and support," reports the organization.

"Each member has a unique story to tell and their losses are deeply personal, but they share a common experience of early widowhood that destroyed their hopes and dreams. They learn that there is growth through their grief and helping others in the process. Since its founding in 1983, members have found that joining YWW was the best thing they did for themselves after being widowed."

Meetings are held on Wednesdays, 7 to 9 p.m., at a site in Andover.

For more information call 978-979-8993 or visit [youngwidowsandwidowers.org](http://youngwidowsandwidowers.org).

#### Breastfeeding Support

La Leche League of Andover, a mother to mother breastfeeding support group, meets on the last Friday of each month at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Andover 6 Locke St. off Main Street.

The meetings are free, informal discussions. Trained breastfeeding support leaders are on hand at every meeting. Pregnant women, mothers, nursing babies, siblings and women interested in breastfeeding are welcome.

#### Alzheimer's Care Givers

Alzheimer's Care Givers support group meets last Wednesday of each month, 7 p.m., Atria Marland Place, 27 Stevens St., Andover; 978-475-4225.

#### Self-advocates

Self-advocates are creating an opportunity for people with cognitive disabilities to learn about empowerment, learn about rights, meet new people and get involved in the self-advocacy movement. This movement educates people about working together to make choices that enrich their lives.

The meeting will be held Tuesdays at the North Andover/Andover YMCA on Haverhill Street from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The meeting is open to people with disabilities as well as their supporters. Contact Barbara Pandolfi, program manager, The Arc of Greater Haverhill-Newburyport, Formerly The Arc of Northern Essex County, Inc., 57 Wingate St., Suite 301, Haverhill, call 978-373-0552, fax 978-373-0552 or e-mail [Barbara.Pandolfi@TheArcofGHN.org](mailto:Barbara.Pandolfi@TheArcofGHN.org).

#### Chronic disease

Chronic disease self-management is for anyone living with an ongoing medical condition such as arthritis, asthma, cancer, chronic back pain, chronic fatigue syndrome, diabetes, fibromyalgia, heart disease, high blood pressure, lupus, Parkinson's disease or stroke. Sponsored by Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley and Lowell General Hospital. Meets the second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 1 to 2 p.m. in Hanchett Auditorium. Call 978-937-6038.

#### Diabetes support

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

Divorce Care, a support group for anyone separated or divorced. A new 13-week session is starting Tuesday, Sept. 14 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Parish House of Free Christian Church 28 Elm St., Andover. Contact John 978-470-0327.

#### Down syndrome

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

# Opinion

## Keep contract focus on issues

Andover teachers entered “work to rule” on Tuesday, meaning many teachers will only perform work required of them by contract. Some may choose to no longer do the “extras” such as extended hours of extra help, writing student recommendations or chaperoning after-school activities.

The move is one sign that Andover may go well into 2012 before a new contract is signed by the Andover School Committee and the Andover Education Association. The committee and the teachers union seem to still be far apart on a new contract. The School Committee is focused on creating a more sustainable contract, primarily through altering the number of classes taught by Andover High School teachers. It says the work loads it seeks are in line with those performed by teachers in the communities to which Andover compares itself. The teachers union wants to prevent educational cuts or a significant increase in workload for high school teachers, which it believes will negatively affect the education offered to Andover students.

Until this issue and any others are hashed out, it appears students of all ages will continue to see their teachers carrying picket signs.

But Peter Otis, AEA second vice president and High Plain Elementary teacher, made an interesting comment during a meeting with the Townsman on Tuesday. He said he hopes that when the dust settles and a contract is signed, the School Committee and Andover educators will become involved with team building. “When and if a contract is settled - and I can’t tell you when that’s going to happen - I would strongly urge the School Committee, the leadership team and the AEA to enter into some serious team building, because part of the issue here has been trust, lack of transparency, communication breakdowns.”

Talking about what to do after a contract is signed may seem senseless at this point, with the two sides seemingly so at odds. But Otis makes a good point. Both sides are, or should be, in the business of creating the best possible education system for Andover children. They do need to be a team outside the mediation room. For now, as the two sides continue with mediation, we hope all involved remember this, and avoid making comments or taking action that will make the disagreements seem personal.

Most teachers get into the business because they care about children and want the best for them. School Committee members essentially are volunteers looking to do the best they can for their fellow citizens. Even before they became committee members, these parents were working or volunteering in town to benefit Andover children and the town’s schools. As examples, Annie Gilbert supported the system by raising money for the Andover Coalition for Education, Paula Colby-Clements’ was president of the Andona Society that puts on ClownTown to raise money for local youth charities, and Dick Collins worked for decades as a teacher and coach at Andover High.

Often when contract battles end, each side retreats to its corner, and there may be little effort at team building. We hope the sides can come together at the end to repair any wounds. More importantly for the immediate future, we hope both sides stick to arguing about the issues and keep personal feelings or attacks out of the process. That will make any future team-building that much easier.

## WEB QUESTION

### THIS WEEK’S QUESTION

What will be the biggest story of 2012?

- Police break case, make arrest in double-slaying
- Teachers settle contract with School Committee
- Town Yard passes/fails Annual Town Meeting
- Andover High finds new principal
- Bancroft School project underway
- Bancroft School project stuck in courts
- Andover Nationals team makes playoff run with new players
- Other

basketball players ongoing: 33 votes, 16.26 percent.

- Police seek tips, track leads in double-slaying: 33 votes, 16.26 percent.
- Town says yes to supporting Cormier Youth Center: 13 votes, 6.4 percent.
- Rare October snowstorm puts Andover in the dark: 11 votes, 5.42 percent.
- Teachers union contract talks: eight votes, 3.94 percent.
- AHS choirs go to bat for Mercer, teacher affected by reduction: three votes, 1.48 percent.
- Other (supply your own answer): three votes (all relating to the double-murder), 1.48 percent.
- \$44 million Bancroft school passes debt exclusion vote: one vote, 0.49 percent.
- Ex-town employee indicted in Water Treatment Plant investigation: zero votes.
- Appeals halt new Bancroft school construction: zero votes.

### LAST WEEK’S ANSWERS

Last week’s questions was “What was the biggest Andover story of 2011?” With 203 people responding, the answers were:

- Andover Nationals move through Little League playoffs: 98 votes, 48.28 percent.
- Hazing investigation of

## IF THE SHOE FITS...



JAN SEEGER/Staff photo

Stephen Hutchins, 14, of Andover, right, chats with David Bellantone of Greenland as the two sit side-by-side while trying on shoes at J.L. Coombs on Main Street.

## Catherine and the costs of war

### Don Lyman

Growing up in a military family, war was a fact of life, and I learned at a young age that the costs of war extend beyond the battlefield, a lesson that, sadly, still applies to the present day conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

My dad was a Marine, and in the spring of 1967 I was a young boy living on the Marine Corps base at Quantico, Virginia. I was in sixth grade and attended a Catholic school in the nearby town of Triangle. Each day the school bus would swing through my neighborhood and pick up myself and several other children who also attended St. Francis School.

One child in particular, Catherine, stands out in my memory. She was a petite young girl, 6 years old, in

first grade. Catherine was very quiet and painfully shy. She was the last child to be picked up on our route, and each morning the bus would stop in front of Catherine’s apartment building where she would be waiting on the sidewalk by the curb, lunch box and school books in hand. Her mother would stand in the doorway of their building and wave good-bye. Catherine seldom spoke and often sat by herself near the front of the bus. I felt sorry for her because she seemed somewhat frightened by the whole experience of leaving her mom and going off to school.

The Vietnam War was in full swing in the late ‘60s, and, living on a military base, the war was omnipresent. Whether it was troops being shuttled to one

part of the base or another, the distant sound of artillery shells, or helicopters passing overhead, training maneuvers were a constant backdrop to daily living.

Word spread quickly among us kids as to whose dads had received orders to go to Vietnam, and at some point I learned that Catherine’s father was in Vietnam.

One morning the bus stopped to pick Catherine up, but she wasn’t there. The driver opened the door and waited. A woman appeared at the entrance to the apartment building and walked out to talk to the bus driver. She was a neighbor of Catherine’s family, and told the driver that Catherine wouldn’t be coming to school today. Her family had been notified the night before that

Catherine’s father had been killed in Vietnam.

A chill went through me when I heard the news. That poor little girl, I thought. So shy, so timid, and now without a father to help guide her through life.

I never saw Catherine again, but that memory still haunts me. I think of her often, the little girl waiting by the curb each morning for the school bus, and the many casualties of war, some of them so innocent, and so far from the battlefield. And I wonder how many other Catherines there are in the world, unintended victims of wars, like those in Iraq and Afghanistan, on all sides of the conflicts.

*Don Lyman is a freelance writer and adjunct instructor at Merrimack College in North Andover.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### LED street lights would be real change for real money

Editor, Townsman: Selectmen and other officials:

A while back I wrote to you after the town made a decision to disconnect a large number of street lights to cut its energy costs. I brought up the alternate idea of converting to energy-efficient LED street lighting, which uses only a fraction of the energy of traditional street lighting and has a fraction of the maintenance costs, too. In theory, we could have LED street lights on nearly every pole, making our roads and neighborhoods much brighter and safer at night – and for less operational cost than the current very dark and bleak situation.

The U.S. Department of Energy’s Municipal Solid-State Street Lighting Consortium has published guidance for cities and towns interested in saving money and energy by converting their street and roadway lighting to solid-state lighting, such as LED-type. LED street lighting fixtures could be new and/or retrofitted. There are standard models that operate on a tiny amount of utility-company power (with practically no maintenance), and solar models that operate without power (with a little bit of maintenance).

I was wondering what steps (if any) Andover is taking for an affordably brighter future of our public roads? Are we going to rest on our laurels and let other towns, like Wellesley for example, be on the cutting edge of energy conservation and new technology?

Let’s face it: in 2010 the novelty solar-powered “big-belly” public trash

### LETTERS POLICY

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

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

compactors in a small part of town were cute little demonstrations of green energy, but while they may help with public awareness and with some trash-volume reduction, their energy savings is insignificant. What really we need in 2012 is positive change that has real results.

Brighter and safer streets done at a lower cost would be a real tangible benefit across the entire town. This very public and very significant display would show each resident that Andover is committed to safety, appearance, energy conservation and financial responsibility.

**FRANK E. LICATA**  
36 Vine St.

*Editor’s note: Acting Public Works Director Chris Cronin says the town has investigated using LED street lights. Andover rents most of its street lights from National Grid, and National Grid would not allow Andover to put LED lights on its street-light poles. That means Andover would need to erect its own poles to go to LED lighting on all its streets.*

*A NGRID spokesman has reported to the town “LED lighting is fairly new in the industry and at some point we may offer LED lighting as an option. All our lighting options are governed by*

*the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities, and we currently do not have an approved lighting rate which includes LED lighting. The town of Wellesley has a municipal-owned electric company. They as a community have begun a pilot program replacing 2 percent of their streetlights with LED lighting, as part of an overall community effort to be more energy efficient.”*

### \$20M town yard unthinkable given current debt

Editor, Townsman: Like a vampire, a plan keeps rising from the dead to build new town yard that will add tens of millions of dollars of additional debt to the town’s already overloaded property-tax burden.

The Andover town-yard project has been a metaphorically half-baked idea since its inception. Now it is certifiably half-baked, given that selectmen have recently indicated they are contemplating asking residents to approve at this year’s Town Meeting the spending of close to \$20 million to buy a piece of property for a new town yard before additional millions in other project costs have even been identified and calculated.

It is now very clear selectmen are out of touch with the day-to-day financial realities facing residents as the selectmen continue to promote expensive new projects, even as the current crop of expensive town projects underway flounder, all of which are going to significantly increase every homeowner’s tax bill. As just one example, the Bancroft Elementary School replacement project already has had its wheels fall off and come to a complete halt before ground has even been broken due to environmental issues. These

delays and the newly created uncertainties of what it will take to get this project completed will increase the cost of the project by millions of dollars.

And the selectmen have yet to come clean with town residents regarding the property-tax consequences of all those contracts with bloated benefits packages that they and the School Committee approved over the years that produced the recently revealed unfunded liability that Andover has an unfunded debt of federal government proportions. This third of a billion dollars – unfunded liability will require a homeowner annual property tax increase, sometime over the next year or so, of approximately \$2,000 per year for the next 20 years to cover what each Andover homeowner owes as a cumulative result of all of these poorly conceived contracts. Cleaning up that financial mess, by itself, will immediately increase the average homeowner annual property tax bill from \$8,000 per year to around \$10,000 per year. And that \$2,000 increase in a homeowner’s annual tax bill does not include the impact on homeowner tax bills from the Bancroft School project and its cost overruns.

So before the selectmen waste more of the town’s time on another expensive pet project of theirs, they need to focus on figuring out how to minimize the tax impact of the financial mess they allowed to develop on their watch and on the decisions the town needs to make now in order to keep property taxes from increasing even further. Otherwise, the annual tax bill on even a small, modest home in Andover will keep out all but the 1 percent.

**BOB POKRESS**  
3 Cherrywood Circle

## Andover Townsman

Established 1887

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## ALL THOSE YEARS AGO

COMPILED BY SUSAN MCKELIGET

### 100 Years Ago Jan. 5, 1912

The new 54-hour law affecting the hours of employment of women and minors, went into effect Monday, Jan. 1, and the local manufacturing concerns put their new time schedules into operation on that day.

A Happy New Year to the readers of the Townsman. May it be a new year in which things are a little better than during the past year, and from present appearances it would seem as if such a condition is to be realized. Of course, not without work, not without more or less anxiety, but things appear to be brighter, and the prospects for better business, for more settled political conditions, for continual progress in social improvement, all promise well for 1912.

### 75 Years Ago Jan. 1, 1937

Three Andover youngsters were injured, one of them seriously, this week with air rifles given to them for Christmas presents. The accidents caused Chief of Police George A. Dane to announce "Santa Claus is going to take back all the air rifles he can find." The police department already has possession of several.

The attractive little cottage down at the foot of Chestnut street is known today as the Rose cottage, the townspeople having lost sight of the other name — Kneeland-Marland cottage, so-called because of two of its former occupants. Here today live Mr. and Mrs. James Anderson, one of Andover's most beloved old couples. It was from the doorstep of this little cottage that Squire John Kneeland, a surviving patriot of the Revolution, delivered the address of welcome to the venerable Lafayette in 1825.

### 50 Years Ago Jan. 4, 1962

Town Manager Thomas E. Duff looks forward to six major projects in the new year. Industrial development, Urban Renewal, Rogers Brook reconstruction, refuge and garbage disposal, expansion of recreation areas and planning for public building construction are listed by the manager as prime targets in the next 12 months.

Political activity received an almost-certain upset this week, as Eugene A. Bernardin Jr., chairman of the Board of Selectmen, announced that he will not seek re-election.

Two Andover residents were listed by police as being injured, following a two-car collision at the intersection of Bartlet and Chestnut streets New Year's Day. The cars were in collision in the intersection, according to a report filed by Officer Richard Caldwell, at 9:40 a.m. Scott Sinclair, 10, 69 Carmel road, a passenger in a car driven by Ruth Sanguedolce, 56 Carmel road, was reported to have a bump on his head. Emma V. Sheehan, 6 Memorial circle, driver of the second vehicle was reported to be "shaken up."

### 25 Years Ago Jan. 8, 1987

Andover drivers who had to negotiate the snow-clogged streets after last Friday's blizzard can blame their bruised shock absorbers on environmental conservation. According to Town Manager Kenneth Mahoney, it was the town's conservative touch with salt — coupled with an initial confusion about the nature of Friday's storm — that made the going rougher than usual this week on roads beyond Route 28.

Residents have begun to file nomination papers for the three town government seats that are open, according to Town Clerk Elden Salter. The positions to be filled with this year's town election are a three-year term on the School Committee, to be vacated by retiring Chairman Michael Giammusso; the one-year post of Town Moderator for the upcoming Town Meeting, now held by James Doherty; and a three-year term on the Board of Selectmen, most recently held by the late Donn Byrne.

# 'You've got mail': From Andoverite as first Postmaster General to today



## Andover Stories

Tom Adams

Andover Historical Society

Three centuries before iPhone, Twitter, and YouTube took communication viral, postal service arrived in America.

In 1691, nearly 100 years before the Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia, a grant from the British Crown established the North American Postal Service. Thomas Neale, an appointee of the Crown, was directed "to erect, settle and establish ... offices for receiving and dispatching letters and packets, and to receive, send and deliver the same under such rates ... as the planters shall agree ... for the term of twenty-one years."

Eighty-four years later, the United States Post Office was created under Benjamin Franklin.

In 1798, President George Washington appointed

Andover statesman Samuel Osgood the nation's first Postmaster General. Until its reorganization in 1971, the department remained part of the presidential cabinet with its Postmaster General being the last in the presidential line of succession.

The first post office in Andover opened in 1794 in the Abbott Tavern on Elm Street where George Washington stopped during his 1789 visit. In 1795, innkeeper Isaac Abbott was appointed the town's first postmaster. Considered an important post, several leading Andover citizens succeeded Abbott including Samuel Phillips, a member of Phillips Academy's founding family, Civil War Major William Marland, a Medal of Honor recipient, and William Goldsmith, a beloved teacher at Phillips Academy and principal of Puncard High School.

Over the next century the mills in Andover prospered and the town population boomed. More people meant more mail, each placing greater demands on the postal service. Providing sufficient space to process the mail required the post office to frequently



Essex Street Post Office site.

change locations through the mid-1800s. In 1858, the post office opened in the newly erected Town House on Main Street where it remained for 35 years. Requiring more space, it relocated in 1895, to the new Musgrove Building on Post Office Avenue. In 1917 it moved once more - to the McDonald Building on Essex Street across from what is now Glory Restaurant. The move to Essex Street was a decidedly unpopular one. Residents were upset over losing their convenient post office in town center. Some 15 years later, amid great fanfare, a newly erected post office was dedicated at 71 Main

St. The structure, now Sovereign Bank, was built at a cost of \$115,000 and served Andover for over 50 years until the current main post office opened on Stevens Street in 1989. The move to Stevens Street left town center again without a post office and once again sparked controversy. Responding to the loud public outcry, in September 1990 a small branch was opened in the Town House, 20 Main St., and it remains today.

As the population of Andover has grown, the footprint of its postal service has not been limited to the changing face of its main office. A branch in Ballardvale has been open

since 1848. In the early 1900s, as William Wood built Shawsheen Village, he included a post office in space now occupied by the Andover Hockey Shop. Today, a branch located in an adjacent building serves the Shawsheen area. Beyond opening convenient neighborhood offices, the postal service focused on expanding its services. A major breakthrough, a service we take for granted today, arrived in November 1897 with the delivery of mail directly to homes along specific routes.

In today's world, technology has made communication as easy and instant as pushing a button. Yet, in some ways, the world today remains as it was back in 1691. People continue to send and receive mail and parcels and need a reliable system to manage the process. As it has for over 200 years, the Andover postal service remains that vital link to the larger world.

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



MARY SCHWALM/Staff photo

Todd Buonopane of Andover waves to a group seen in a mirror as he is introduced by former Andover High School classmate Julie Paige at the Paige Conservatory in North Andover. Todd offered to teach a master class at the Paige Conservatory to work with seven of the advanced high school students in front of an audience of children and parents. In addition to sharing his talents, he is also donating a portion of the proceeds to a scholarship fund to help disadvantaged students get a chance to take performing arts classes at the conservatory.

## Learning from a '30 Rock' actor Town native Todd Buonopane visits acting class

By JUDY WAKEFIELD  
STAFF WRITER

A local director says it's called a "triple threat" — a term used to describe when an actor can sing, dance and act.

Paige Conservatory in North Andover has several young actors from Andover who are triple threats. So, when a Broadway and television actor recently held a local master class there, seats were reserved for those teens.

Actor Todd Buonopane has appeared on Broadway as Roger in "Grease" and in "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee." He's an Andover native, Andover High School graduate and also a 2000 graduate of the famed University of Michigan musical theater program.

His success is not limited to the stage as Buonopane has a recurring role on the hit television comedy show, "30 Rock" on NBC. He plays therapist Jeffery Weinerslav. He's also been on "Grey's Anatomy" and

"Law and Order."

"It was great for the kids to meet him. He was once just like them and wanted to achieve what they want," said Julie Paige of Andover, owner/director of Paige Conservatory. She and Buonopane are longtime friends.

A portion of money raised at the class will go to the Paige Conservatory's scholarship fund.

Sitting with the teens to hear from Buonopane was Andover High Drama Director Susan Choquette.

"I had never met him and thought it would be a great idea to sit in on the workshop," Choquette wrote in an email. "I think visits like this are terribly important. They reinforce the idea that the performing arts are a bonafide career choice...I think it is important for students to see that you can have a career in the performing arts."

Choquette said Buonopane gave a great workshop and it was easy for the kids to work with him.

"What I also appreciated is that the students got to hear many of

the same things from Todd that they hear from me or any of their other teachers. Of course Todd brings with him a mountain of professional experience. But the process is the same and it was great to hear Todd echo so much of what we attempt to teach our students here at AHS," Choquette said.

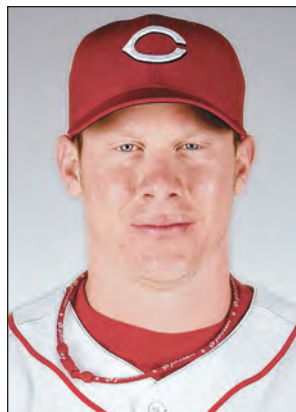
Just like many young local acting students, Buonopane launched his career with the now-defunct Merrimack Junior Theatre of Andover. Starring roles in middle school and AHS musicals followed.

Paige said Buonopane was in town for three days over the holidays and held his master class on Dec. 27.

He could not be reached for comment this Tuesday, but Paige was thrilled that he made time for the master class.

"I think our first AHS show together was Godspell," Paige said. "Then we did Grease. He was Roger and then he was Roger in Grease on Broadway. That was great for the kids to hear."

## TOWN TALK



### Reds catcher to return to hometown for clinic

Cincinnati Reds catcher and Andover's own baseball star Ryan Hanigan will help lead the Andover Softball Winter Clinic this Sunday, Jan. 8.

Clinics will run from Jan. 8, to Feb. 12 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Andover High School field house. The series of six clinics will be conducted by the Andover girls varsity and junior varsity players and led by Andover High girls softball team Head Coach Steve Tisbert.

"This an excellent opportunity for girls currently in grades 4 thru 9 to brush-up and improve their skills. Ryan will be available after the clinic to sign so bring things to sign," according to organizers. Visit [sportsmanager.us/AndoverGirls-Softball.htm](http://sportsmanager.us/AndoverGirls-Softball.htm) to register online.

### Love your trees

The town website says that Andover is the "Home of America," but one group is also saying it's "Tree City, USA."

The National Arbor Day Foundation, for the 12th year in a row, has named Andover as a Tree City. The award recognizes cities and towns for having comprehensive tree-care programs and a commitment to planting new trees.

The 30-year program is sponsored by the NADF in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service.

### New year, new babies

Town Conservation Director Bob Douglas has something to look forward to this year, and for once it doesn't have to do with trails, rivers or streams — we hope.

Douglas and his wife Eve are expecting to welcome a new baby this coming February. This will be the Douglas family's third child, joining two daughters, ages 5 and 8.

In similar fashion, state senator Barry Finegold will be expecting his third child in February with his wife Amy, who also owns dresscode in downtown Andover. As with the Douglas family, the Finegold's new baby, will also be met by two sisters, who are ages 6 and 8.

— Dustin Luca

### Choral Society kicks off year at Rogers Center

The Andover Choral Society will perform "A German Requiem" by Johannes Brahms on Sunday, Jan. 29, at 4 p.m. at the Rogers Center for the Arts Merrimack College, North Andover. Tickets are \$20. For information call 978-688-6353 or [visitandoverchoral.org](http://visitandoverchoral.org).

Are you hearing some talk around town that we didn't catch? Let us know! Call 978-475-7000, or email [townsman@andovertownsmam.com](mailto:townsman@andovertownsmam.com).

## Triangle tribute



Merrimack Valley YMCA Chief Financial Officer Damodar Persaud of Andover was presented the Association of YMCA Professionals' Triangle Award for managing, leading and developing strong financial leadership programs at the recent AYP Chapter IV Recognition Event held in Boston. He is pictured with Merrimack Valley YCMA President/CEO Stephen Ives. Merrimack Valley YMCA staffers joined colleagues from Eastern Massachusetts at an awards ceremony aboard the Odyssey cruise ship on Dec. 13.



# Townspeople

## Family to Family adds Kid to Kid program

Family to Family has started a new program called "Kid to Kid" where Andover High School girls serve as mentors for elementary-school girls living at Memorial Circle housing.

According to organizer Dianne Caraviello, at their first meeting the girls made "Believe" pins as the Andover Youth Foundation was working to raise support for a new youth center. The girls also were at the Andover firefighters holiday parade through downtown Andover to raise money for the Family to Family program. "Family to Family is a group of community volunteers working together to help all Andover students and families access school and community opportunities through communication, transportation and funding," according to Caraviello.



Courtesy photo

Family to Family's new program called Kid to Kid, raised money at the Andover firefighters' Santa parade. From left are Andover High students Alyssa Wall, Lauren Buhner, Bridget Duffton, Danielle Boudreau; and, in front, elementary school students Sabrina Mackey, Sarah Mackey and Nimzay Vasquez.

She provided this list of its programs:

**School-sponsored events:** Family to Family offers transportation to families who wish to attend, or

transportation and supervision for children if parents are unable to attend school-sponsored events. Contact Claire Stahley at estahley1@verizon.net

**Community-sponsored events:** Family to Family helps students and families with the registration process to enable students to participate in organized activities. Family to Family also helps access equipment and transportation for town sports.

**Summer programs:** Family to Family helps to ensure all students have appropriate and enriching opportunities during the summer. Family to Family helps students access the DCS/AYS Drop-In Playground programs, field trips and other local camps.

**Summer Reading Buddies:** Family to Family volunteers meet once a week throughout the summer months to read with

students on a one-to-one basis. Contact Keri O'Dea at kodea@aps1.net.

**Twice as Nice:** Family to Family helps to collect, organize, and distribute donated goods to Andover families/students in need. Contact: Noreen LeBlanc at noreenleblanc@verizon.net

**Fun Fridays:** Family to Family organizes fun activities (sports, arts and crafts, games, etc.) after school, one Friday each month at Bancroft Elementary School.

**Backpacks for kids:** Family to Family provides students in need with new backpacks and supplies to start the new school year. Contact Dana Helm at dhk1@verizon.net.

**Kid to kid mentoring:** Family to Family is collaborating with Andover High students to match up older and younger "buddies" to provide one-to-one mentoring.

## Prison camps, camping in the woods and other stories from '51

Bill Dalton



In 1951, when I was 8, three pals and I pitched a tent to spend a night in Carmel Woods.

It was very quiet and a particularly dark night with not a light from any house to be seen. Naturally, we talked rather than slept and every so often would hear an odd noise or sound that would make us nervous.

By one o'clock, we quieted down, and I thought I heard footsteps and whispered to find out whether anyone else had heard them. Everyone had, and the footsteps approached us slowly, quietly and haltingly. We were scared out of our wits and didn't dare look outside the tent or, for that matter, even breathe. The footsteps came closer, within two or three feet of the tent, and stopped for a long time - or at least we thought it was a long time. We had our jackknives out, ready to fight to the death.

The story ended abruptly. Whoever it was that wandered through Carmel Woods in the middle of the night turned around and left. None of us slept the rest of the night and the first daylight didn't come fast enough. When it did come we left quickly, walking in closed ranks.

Carmel Woods had been in the news in 1951, because there had been a proposal to turn it into a recreation area.

[Carmel Woods is located by the end of Carmel Road and down to High Street. A few years ago Carmel Road went through to High Street but it was discontinued near the old almshouse, which is the large house on the left as you face the dead-end. In her book, "Andover a Century of Change," Eleanor Motley Richardson wrote that the almshouse and woodlands were decided to Andover by North Andover when the towns split in 1855. In 1869, the area was designated as a site for the town cemetery, but the plan was abandoned because of soil conditions. Back then, the hill and woods were called "Mount Carmel," in deference to the Andover Theological Seminary, which was located near Phillips Academy. Since then, the name has evolved to "Carmel Woods." In 1967, the town considered the land for a new school, but the topography was too steep for such construction, and in 1969, Carmel Woods was designated as conservation land by the town.]

### Stories of 1951

The Carmel Woods proposal was not the only

### UNDEFEATED 1951 TEAM

Robert Stefani has added information about the high school's 1951 basketball team, which was the only regular-season, undefeated basketball team in the town's history.

He said, "I saw most of those games and one was a close call to Pinkerton Academy as Pynchard squeaked in a win by a point. The Methuen game was close and frustrating, as Methuen pulled a real slowdown. If the final score was as much as 30-to-something, I'd be surprised. I went to the tech tourney [the playoffs] and Provincetown knocked out Pynchard. They had great outside shooters employing the set shot."

Robert mentions that he was part of a minority of boys who didn't visit the Old Howard. Visiting the Old Howard, which was near Boston Garden where the basketball playoffs were held, was considered a rite of passage by some teenage boys. At the Old Howard, the boys could watch vaudeville and women who removed items of clothing. Scollay Square, the location of the Old Howard was later ripped down by urban renewal and replaced, in part, by the Government Center. Perhaps more Andover boys went through this tempting rite than other town's boys, since its basketball teams made the playoffs so often.

interesting story of 1951.

The most bizarre story ran under the main headline in the Dec. 6, 1951, Townsman: "Object to Proposal for Prison Camp in Harold Parker Forest." Well, you may have noticed there's no prison camp there. Needless to say, the towns of North Andover and Andover objected strongly; the prison camp never stood a chance.

The final edition of the 1951 Townsman looked back on the year mentioning other newsworthy stories:

- Joe Wennick of the town was elected captain of the 1952 Phillips Academy baseball team. Years later he'd become the school's athletic director.

- The Pynchard track team won the class B state title.
- Civil Defense Director Albert Cole explained to teachers the precautions necessary for protection against A-bombs.

- Harold E. Heseltine was elected president of the Andover service club. Mr. Heseltine owned Ford's Restaurant.

- Pynchard High graduated 97 students.
- Lightning struck two silos at Wild Rose Farm, owned by Sid White.

- John Adams, of Stratford Road, announced his candidacy for the Republican nomination for

See DALTON, Page 10

## Happy New Year, in more ways than one



JAN SEEGER/Staff photo

While saying goodbye to the group of Andover friends she has been talking with on the sidewalk near Old Town Hall, Anne Wilson, left, brings her palms together as she is wished a happy birthday by, left, John Finbury, Martin Klein, Anna Finbury, Bill Flynn, Linda Forbes, Don Abbott and Sharon Magnuson. Wilson celebrated her 80th birthday the day before, Dec. 30.

## Sister Towns group touring Whistler House Museum

Andover Sister Towns Association invites members, friends and prospective members to a special guided tour at the Whistler House

Museum of Art on Saturday, Jan. 14 at 2 p.m.

The museum is located at 243 Worthen St., Lowell.

The cost for the event is \$4.

An optional Brazilian buffet luncheon at a Lowell restaurant is planned at noon prior to the tour for those interested guests.

For more information, contact Don Robb at donaldrobb66@yahoo.com or 978-475-1968.



MARY SCHWALM/Staff file photo

Richard Padova, far right, instructor in the Global Studies Department at Northern Essex Community College, talks about three centuries of presidential campaigns and elections at the Andover Senior Center last year. He'll return Jan. 11.

## Senior center events to kick off 2012

The Andover Senior Center, located at 30 Whittier Court, on the first floor of the School Administration Building, is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Pre-registration is required for all events, which are open to entire community, pending space. For more information, visit andoverseiorcenter.org or call 978-623-8321.

Events to kick off 2012 include:

- Line dancing on Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m. through Feb. 14. Dance instructor is Valerie Cagnina. First class audit free.

- "Great Art" on Tuesdays, Jan. 10 to Feb. 14 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. No class on

- Jan. 24. Discover the secrets and symbolism of painting and sculpture. Western art from the 13th century to today. Facilitated by Casey Coburn, art lover and writer. Cost is \$15.

- Trip: Amazing Journeys at the Boston Museum of Science IMAX on Tuesday, Jan. 17 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$49, includes transportation, lunch and admission.

- "The Fix-It Shop" on Jan. 9 and 23 from 1 to 3 p.m. Cost is \$4 plus parts for seniors (ID required); \$10 plus parts for non-seniors/non-residents.

- "Mindful Meditation" on Tuesdays, Jan. 10 to Feb. 14 from 7:30 to 8 a.m.



Some of Richard Padova's campaign button collection.

The practice of meditation soothes and refreshes mind, body, and spirit. Facilitated by Joanne Dahlgren, meditation practitioner. Cost is \$12.

- "First Stop on the Presidential Campaign Trail: New Hampshire" on Wednesday Jan. 11 at 9:30 a.m. Presidential primaries from 1952

to 2012. Richard Padova, PhD., instructor of history at NECC. Free.

- "Spanish Conversational" on Wednesdays, Jan. 18 to Feb. 15 from 10 to 11 a.m. Learn Spanish (or improve the Spanish you already know) in a fun, relaxed conversational group with native speaker Alba Bonilla. Cost is \$20.

- "Inspired Retirement: So You're Retired, Now What!?" on Wednesdays, Jan. 25 and Feb. 8 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Join a group of retirees (or soon to be) and share stories from individuals who have greatly enriched their lives. Cost is \$4.

■ FIRST BIRTHDAY FOR DECEMBER 2011

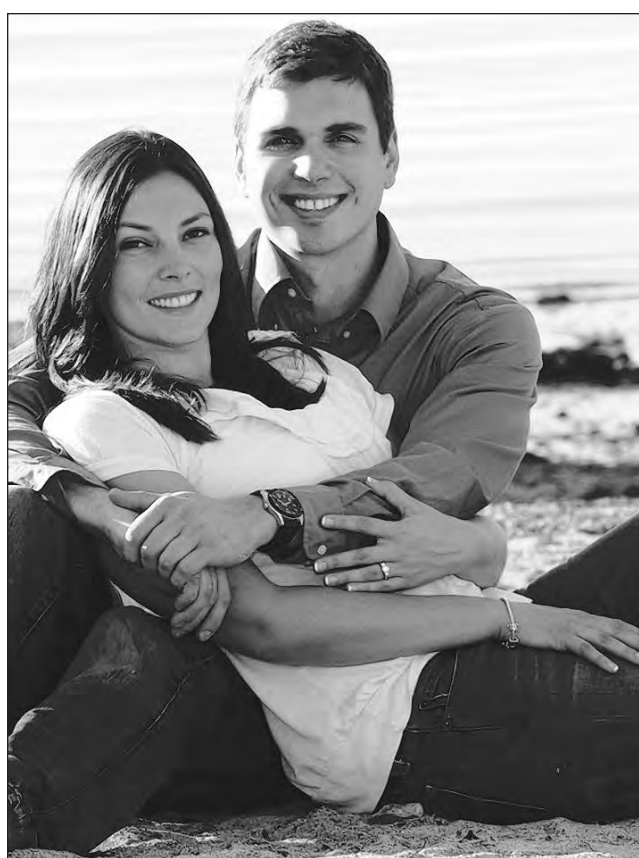
**Harris Emmett Maguire**

Harris Emmett Maguire turned 1 on Dec. 8, 2011. He is the son of Michael and Caroline Maguire of Indiana, and the grandson of Phil and Barbara Maguire of Andover, and Joyce Davis of Sharon and Hal Davis of Northampton. Harris loves music and chasing his 3-year-old big brother, Owen.



The Townsman publishes photos and brief write-ups about children with Andover ties who are celebrating their first birthday. Usually, these items appear in the last issue of the month in which the children were born. Birthday notes about Andover children born during January 2011 (or children born during that month who have Andover parents or grandparents) will be published in the Jan. 26 Townsman. Information can be sent to [townsman@andovertownsmen.com](mailto:townsman@andovertownsmen.com), with a digital photo sent as a jpg attachment to an email. Information and photos can also be dropped off or mailed to the Andover Townsman, 33 Chestnut St., Andover, MA 01810.

■ ENGAGEMENTS



**Patricia Mackay and Jeremy Foley**

Stephen and Ellen Mackay of Andover are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Patricia Ann, to Jeremy Andrew Foley, son of Richard and Mary Foley of Andover.

Patricia is a graduate of Andover High School, class of 2003. She earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts at Lowell and a master's degree

in education from Wheelock College. She is a sixth-grade teacher at Mystic Valley Regional Charter School.

Jeremy also is a graduate of Andover High School, class of 2003. He is a master electrician at Interstate Electrical in North Billerica.

An August 2012 wedding is planned.

The couple will reside in Lowell.



**David Rainen and Kimberly Butler**

Shelly and Edward Rainen of Andover are pleased to announce the engagement of their son, David Stein Rainen, to Kimberly Ann Butler, daughter of Michael Butler of Woburn and the late Joyce Butler.

David is an Andover High School graduate. He received his bachelor's degree from Clark University and his master's degree in counseling from SUNY Albany.

David is currently completing his doctorate in clinical psychology at Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology.

Kimberly is a graduate of Woburn High School. She received her bachelor's degree from Clark University. She is a second year law student at New England Law Boston.

A May 2012 wedding is planned.

**DALTON: A look back at the top stories of 1951**

■ Continued from Page 9

**Lieutenant Governor.**

■ Officer James Lynch discovered the bullet-pierced body of Leo R. Monfet of Lawrence in the woods off Gray Road.

■ Four people were rescued from Haggetts Pond after their plane landed on the water and sank.

■ Miss Isabel Dobbie was elected principal of West Center School.

■ The town acquired the

Basso property next to the Playstead.

■ On Thanksgiving Eve, Christmas lights illuminated the center of town for the first time, and the lighting ceremony was followed by a parade attended by thousands.

Bill Dalton writes a weekly column for the Andover Townsman. His email address is [billdalton@andovertownie.com](mailto:billdalton@andovertownie.com).

■ RELIGION

**Temple Emanuel events**

■ Senior event on Thursday, Jan. 5 at noon. Join a Scrabble, Bingo or Rummikub game.

■ Red Cross community blood drive on Tuesday, Jan. 10 from 1:30 to 7 p.m. To schedule an appointment, visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or call 800-RED CROSS.

■ South Church Pulpit Exchange and Sabbath Eve Service, led by Rabbi Robert Goldstein and Cantorial Soloist Jodi Blankstein, on Friday, Jan. 20 at 7 p.m. This service is open to all, regardless of age, affiliation or faith.

■ 'Green Eggs and Lox Sisterhood Bookswap' on Sunday, Jan. 22 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Bring your gently used, current adult titles

(within the last five years) and go home with some new ones. Enjoy the morning by sharing one of your favorite books and consider signing up for a book group.

■ Networking open house on Thursday, Jan. 26 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Free and open to public.

■ Temple Emanuel of Andover Brotherhood breakfast on Sunday, Jan. 29 at 8:30 a.m. for Brotherhood members. If you are not a Brotherhood member, you may join that morning.

■ Senior program on Thursday, Feb. 2 from noon to 2 p.m. Join Zumba Gold, a fun fitness craze for seniors, with a certified Zumba Gold instructor. Lunch will be served.

■ Deli Dinner and Movie Discussion Night on Sunday, Feb. 12 at 5 p.m. "A Matter of Size" is an Israeli comedy about a coming out of a different kind: four overweight guys who learn to love themselves through the Japanese sport of sumo wrestling. When Herzl loses his job as a cook and starts washing dishes in a Japanese restaurant, he discovers the world of Sumo, where large people such as himself are honored and appreciated. Cost is \$15 per person. Your reservation is your check to be received by Thursday, Feb. 9.

Temple Emanuel is located at 7 Haggetts Pond Road, Andover. For more information on any event above, visit [templemanuel.net](http://templemanuel.net) or call 978-470-1356.

**'Welcoming Faiths' group formed for region**

A coalition of Merrimack Valley faith communities whose purpose is to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning (LGBTQ) worshippers has been formed.

LGBTQ Welcoming Communities of Faith is spearheaded by the Committee for Open Dialogue of Andover's South Church. The coalition includes eight other member congregations: Ballard Vale United Church, the Parish of Christ Church, Unitarian Universalist Congregation and West Parish Church in Andover; North Parish Church and St. Paul's Episcopal Church

in North Andover; Christ Church United, Lowell; and the Universalist Unitarian Church of Haverhill. Welcoming Faiths also maintains close links with other support organizations such as the Merrimack Valley Alliance of Lesbian and Gay Youth (McVagly) and Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG).

"Welcoming Faiths encourages and welcomes other congregations to join in our ministry. The group plans to sponsor outreach to LGBTQ individuals and families through community events, actively welcome LGBTQ worshippers ... and send a message of tolerance to the wider community," according to a release. For more information, contact: [welcomingfaiths@gmail.com](mailto:welcomingfaiths@gmail.com).

**PROFESSIONAL CONNECTION**

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year curriculum with clinical rotations at Salem Hospital, Shaughnessy-Kaplan Rehabilitation Hospital, Health South, Beth Israel, Leahy Clinic, Newton Wesley, Boston Medical Center and Massachusetts General.

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# Arts & Entertainment

## NATURAL PURSUITS



Julie Anne Collier of Wingmasters holds a peregrine falcon.

Courtesy photo by Jim Parks

### You'll pay rapt attention as birds of prey visit wildlife sanctuary

Andover residents and families with school-age kids are invited to meet some live North American birds of prey this month. Jim Parks and Julie Anne Collier of Wingmasters at Mass Audubon's Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary in Topsfield will introduce people to different types of raptors including hawks, owls, eagles and falcons, on Sunday, Jan. 22 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The event is an opportunity to see live birds of prey up close and learn about the special features these birds have that enable them to be successful predators. The presentation is for adults, and families with children 5 years and older. It costs \$12 for adults, \$10 for children, and advance registration is required. For more information or to register, call 978-887-9264.

### Identifying animals, hearing tales from the Appalachian Trail

Inside or outside, people have the opportunity in town this month to learn more about the great outdoors.

#### Ecotracking

Residents can search for tracks and other signs of deer, coyote, fox, fisher cats and additional animals on Saturday, Jan. 21 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Harold Rafton Reservation. Naturalist and animal tracker David Brown will show how patterns in the snow can be analyzed to show gait and behavior in order to relate animals to their habitats. If there is a lack of snow, the group will concentrate on signs such as scat, browse, digs and burrows.

People are asked to come dressed for the weather, meaning they should wear warm, waterproof boots or snowshoes if they have them, and they should bring extra clothes. School-aged children must be registered and accompanied by a registered adult.

Register with the town Department of Community Services at [andoverma.gov/dcs](http://andoverma.gov/dcs) or call 978-623-8274. The fee for the event is \$18 per person.

#### Tales from the Appalachian Trail

Residents will also be able to hear about what it's like to hike the Appalachian Trail at a Memorial Hall Library event on Wednesday, Jan. 18 at



Courtesy photo

David Brown shows the cast of a paw print to Eco Tracking participants at the Harold Rafton Reservation, while a boy examines a photo of one of the animals the group may encounter.

6:30 p.m.

Adventurer Roger Tetreault "will share his experiences of hardship, beauty, and the remarkable people he met on his inspiring, life-changing five-month journey up the Appalachian Trail. This free presentation is a must for those who plan to make the trek this March as well as those who dream of going the distance in the future," according to

a release from Andover's Memorial Hall Library.

The talk is part of the library's New Year, New Adventure series, sponsored by the Friends of Memorial Hall Library in collaboration with the Tewksbury Public Library. Visit [tewksburypl.org](http://tewksburypl.org) for a description of the events being held at the Tewksbury Public Library in January.

## Get active

### Town entertainment, course options available online

The list of community services programs for the winter and spring will be mailed to Andover residents Jan. 9, but is available online now.

The Department of Community Services winter/spring program is available at [andoverma.gov/dcs](http://andoverma.gov/dcs) with registration underway for programs starting in January and running through the summer for popular children's programs.

The program booklet has detailed class descriptions, class meeting times and locations and lists a multitude of leisure opportunities for children of all ages.

Additional copies of the booklet can be found at Memorial Hall Library, Old Town Hall at 20 Main St., the Andover Senior Center and Town Offices.

The Department of Community Services is located in Town Offices, at 36 Bartlet St.

For more information, call 978-623-8274.



Courtesy photo

Larry Glickman, picture-framing instructor, with Gary Skantze of Bedford N.H., at a recent class. A list of new classes for 2012 is available from the community services department.

## EVENTS CALENDAR

COMPILED BY JUDY WAKEFIELD  
[jwakefield@andovertownsmen.com](mailto:jwakefield@andovertownsmen.com)

\$7/children (discount for Mass Audubon members); Advance registration required, 978-887-9264, [massaudubon.org/ipswichriver](http://massaudubon.org/ipswichriver).

#### THURSDAY, JAN. 5

**LIVE THEATER**, "The Voice of the Turtle" opens, a romantic comedy about single life and sexual yearning in wartime Manhattan, Merrimack Repertory Theatre, Lowell, through Jan. 29; MerrimackRep.org, 978-654-4MRT.

**REFUGE VAN TOUR**, join a ranger for a behind the scenes tour of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, 1 p.m., conducted via refuge van, with several brief "drive by" stops along the way through Plum Island and the Great Marsh. Participants will visit areas on the refuge otherwise closed to the public. This guided two-hour program is most appropriate for adults, binoculars and/or a camera are recommended. Meet the ranger in the lobby of the refuge visitor center, 6 Plum Island Turnpike, Newburyport, limited to 10 participants, advance registration required; <http://parkriver.fws.gov>, also on Jan. 8, Jan. 21 at 9:30 a.m., Jan. 28 at 9:30 a.m.

#### FRIDAY, JAN. 6

**EXHIBIT OPENS**, "50 Under 50," through Jan. 29. The Loading Dock Gallery at Western Avenue Studios, 122 Western Ave., Lowell. It's an exhibit of works priced under \$50 by the cooperative gallery's 50 members. Artists reception, 6 to 9 p.m.

**DANCING**, Country Night, with DJ Ted Razz, 8 p.m. to midnight, \$10, cash bar and snacks available, Rockingham Ballroom, Salem, N.H.

#### SATURDAY, JAN. 7

**BEGINNING RECORDER CLASS**, for adults, Andover Community Music School, 141 Central St., Andover, 9:30 a.m., \$160 for 8 weeks; Terry Myers at [terryisme@verizon.net](mailto:terryisme@verizon.net).

**FULL MOON HIKE**, 7 to 8:30 p.m., for families with children 6 years and older, hike through the woods of the Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, hot chocolate back in the Barn after hike, \$9/adults,

#### SUNDAY, JAN. 8

**PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE**, Family Cooperative Preschool, 565 Osgood St., on Edgewood Farm in North Andover, 1 to 2 p.m. Meet the director and teachers, tour school house; (978) 682-4012, [familycoop.org](http://familycoop.org).

**LIVE MUSIC**, "The Four Freshmen," 2 p.m., \$40-45, Stoneham Theatre, 395 Main St., Stoneham; 781-279-2200 (hours Tuesday-Saturday, 1 to 6 p.m.), [stonehamtheatre.org](http://stonehamtheatre.org).

#### MONDAY, JAN. 9

**AUDITIONS**, The Treble Chorus of New England, at West Parish Church, 129 Reservation Road, Andover. Contact Anna S. Choi at [tcnmanager@treblechorusne.org](mailto:tcnmanager@treblechorusne.org) or 978.794.4600 to schedule an audition time; [treblechorusne.org](http://treblechorusne.org) under the "audition" link. TCNE is made up of three choirs; Training, age 7-9, Concert, age 9-13 and Schola, age 13-18.

**CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH GROUP MEETS**, on Monday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon, Memorial Hall Library, for students who have studied formal English and would like to practice their speaking and listening skills. Contact Carolyn Fantini at 978-475-4602 to register.

#### TUESDAY, JAN. 10

**BEGINNING RECORDER CLASS**, for children (age 6-9), Andover Community Music School, 141 Central St., Andover, 3:45 p.m., \$160 for 8 weeks; Terry Myers, [terryisme@verizon.net](mailto:terryisme@verizon.net).

**TALK ON EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE**, with Lani Peterson, hosted by Quota International of Andover, 7-8:30 p.m., Memorial Hall Library, free. Peterson explores emotional intelligence for parents, spouses, friends, colleagues and neighbors using Daniel Goleman's ideas; [mhl.org](http://mhl.org).

See CALENDAR, Page 12

## Swinging vocals at St. Johns Prep

An Andover student is performing a cappella for a cause at St. John's. Michael Selima, a member of Swing-Town!, will perform in "An Evening of A Cappella" at St. John's Prep on Friday, Jan. 13 at 7 p.m. in Alumni Hall, 72

Spring St., Danvers. SwingTown! will be joined on stage by Kings of the Beach from Hamilton-Wenham High School in a program featuring contemporary classics, Motown favorites and a cappella standards,

according to the school. Admission is \$10 adults, or \$5 for students and children. Tickets may be purchased at the door. Proceeds will benefit the Danvers Food Pantry.

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#### January 18th

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## Bringing holiday cheer



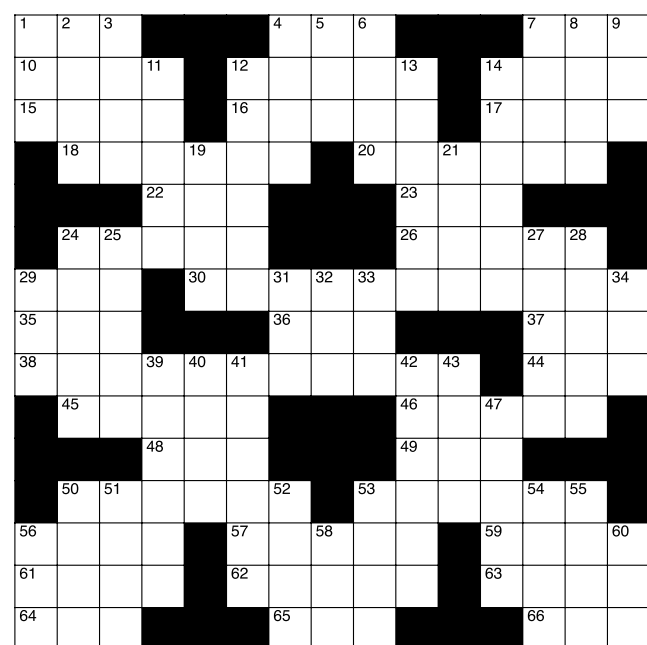
Courtesy photo

Six young Andover musicians performed a holiday concert at Sutton Hill Center last month. They are, from left, back row: John Witt, Gavin Batsimm, Vivien Qin; front row: Kayla Lang, Julia Landman and Ivan Qin.

## Young musicians bring string serenade to Sutton Hill

Six young Andover residents recently showed their musical talents to entertain residents at the Sutton Hill Center. The violinists performed a holiday concert in the community room and presented audience members with flowers. They then traveled around the center for the benefit of residents unable to leave their rooms. The musicians – Gavin Batsimm, Kayla Lang, Julia Landman, Ivan Qin, Vivien Qin and John Witt – are students of Merrimack Valley Suzuki Strings, under the direction of Trudy Larson.

## Crossword puzzle



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Easy as 1-2-3
4. Goat and camel hair fabric
7. A women undergarment
10. British bathrooms
12. Assemblages of parts into one entity
14. Semitic fertility god
15. Dull & uninteresting
16. Yemen capital
17. Stare impertinently
18. Banished persons
20. Heart failure & energy supplement
22. Reduction in force
23. Women's movement
24. Polynesian wrapped skirt
26. Double-reed instruments
29. Own (Scottish)
30. Summer window dressings
35. Many not ands
36. Paddle
37. Being a single unit
38. Silly behavior
44. Insecticide
45. A blank area
46. Reduces stress
48. Morning moisture
49. Tear away roughly
- 50.

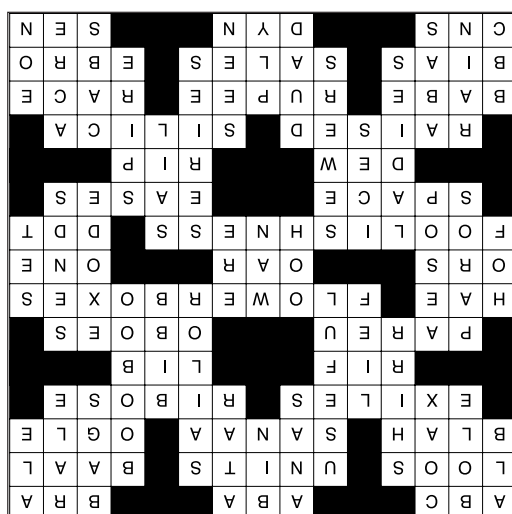
- Elevated
53. Cristobalite
56. Baseball's Ruth
57. Indian monetary unit
59. Contest of speed
61. Having a slanted direction
62. Gross receipts
63. A river in NE Spain
64. The brain and spinal cord (abbr.)
65. Dynege Inc. on NYSE
66. Japanese monetary unit

### CLUES DOWN

1. Vestment worn by priests
2. The trunk of a tree
3. Transmission line cable
4. Freshwater duck genus
5. Bulk storage container
6. Oil obtained from flowers
7. Shopping containers
8. Abnormal breathing
9. Brew
11. Bake eggs in their shells
12. Serviceable

13. A person in the navy
14. A child's slight injury
19. Fain
21. Supports trestletree
24. Parian Chronicle discovery site
25. Greek famous for fables
27. Farical afterpiece
28. Dispatches by mail
29. Hall of Fame (abbr.)
31. Aah
32. Unnaturally pale
33. Before
34. Fixed in one's purpose
39. Madames
40. Frosts
41. City drains
42. Baseball playoff
43. Cruise
47. Steeple
50. Precipitation
51. Ancient Greek rhetorician
52. A unit of two
53. Viewed
54. Taxis
55. 4840 square yards
56. London radio station
58. Perform work regularly
60. Longest geological time

### Solution



## EVENTS CALENDAR

Continued from Page 11

### WEDNESDAY, JAN. 11

**WEEKDAY LITTLE EXPLORERS**, program kicks off, 10 to 11:30 a.m., for families with children ages 2-6, fee per class is \$9/adults, \$7/children (discount for Mass Audubon members); Advance registration required, 978-887-9264. Also held on Jan. 25, Feb. 8.

### THURSDAY, JAN. 12

**LIVE COMEDY**, The Edwards Twins (2 brothers impersonating 100 stars including Neil Diamond, Billy Joel, Ray Charles and Cher), through Jan. 22, \$32-\$35, with a \$4 discount for seniors and subscribers, Stoneham Theatre, 395 Main St., Stoneham; 781-279-2200 (hours Tues.-Sat., 1-6 p.m.), stonehamtheatre.org.

**LIVE THEATER**, "The Voice of the Turtle," a romantic comedy about single life and sexual yearning in wartime

Manhattan, Merrimack Repertory Theatre, Lowell, through Jan. 29; MerrimackRep.org, 978-654-4MRT.

### FRIDAY, JAN. 13

**MLK REMEMBERED**, Temple Emanu-El and Calvary Baptist Church of Haverhill will celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life and legacy in an interfaith service, 7:30 p.m. The evening is being called a Musical Celebration of Freedom, Faith and Inspiration.

### SATURDAY, JAN. 14

**AUTHOR VISIT**, Dr. Scott Hahn will be at St. Augustine Parish in Andover, giving three talks, \$15, doors open at 9 a.m., talks begin at 10 a.m., end at 2:30 p.m. Registration required; 975-475-8993.

**EXHIBIT OPENS**, Shapeshifting: Transformations in Native American Art, through April 29, the Peabody Essex Museum (PEM). Nearly 80 works

from public and private collections worldwide.

**BOOK RELEASE PARTY**, new book by local authors Christopher and Nancy Obert, 2-4 p.m., Buttonwoods Museum, 240 Water St., Haverhill, free, open to the public. Snow date is Jan. 21, 2-4 p.m.; haverhillhistory.org, info@haverhillhistory.org.

**SINGLES DANCE PARTY**, Angelica's, 49 So. Main St., Middleton, 8:30 p.m. to midnight, DJ music, buffet, \$15, for ages 35 to 60; 781-446-0234.

### MONDAY, JAN. 16

**MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY FREE INTRO. TO TAI CHI**, and Qigong Workshop, 8 p.m., Yang's Fitness Center, Andover; Reserve your free spot by calling 978-475-2020, YangsFitnessCenter.com.

**AUDITIONS**, The Treble Chorus of New England, at the West Parish Church, 129 Reservation Road, Andover. Contact Anna

S. Choi at tcnanager@treblechorusne.org or 978.794.4600 to schedule an audition time; treblechorusne.org under the "audition" link. TCNE is made up of three choirs; Training, age 7-9, Concert, age 9-13 and Schola, age 13-18.

### TUESDAY, JAN. 17

**DOWNSIZE YOUR STUFF**, with Dave Downs, 7 p.m., Flint Memorial Library, 147 Park St., North Reading. He will give advice and offer helpful hints about clutter control, free and open to the public; Registration requested, 978-664-4942.

### WEDNESDAY, JAN. 18

**ADVENTURE TALK**, "Hiking the Appalachian Trail," 6:30 p.m., Memorial Hall Library. Adventurer Roger Tetreault will share his experiences of hardship, beauty and the remarkable people he met on his inspiring, life-changing five-month journey up the Appalachian Trail; mhl.org.

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# Education

## OPINIONS: TEACHER CONTRACT ISSUES

### Union to sponsor 'coffee and conversation' events

Editor, Townsman:

This past week has been one of reflection and anticipation, and for Andover Public Schools, 2012 seems fraught with uncertainty. Just before the holiday, teachers attempted once again to meet with the School Committee and the superintendent to come to a contract resolution. It would have been a wonderful gift to all of the community - parents, children, administrators, teachers (even the Finance Committee) - to get this record-breaking contract debacle settled. But it was not to be.

Teachers continue to hold out hope that advocates will step forward to promote increased investment in schools in order to stop the hemorrhaging this system has seen over the past several years. The cuts we've seen have led to increased class sizes, reduced programming at all levels, suffering infrastructure, a decrease in basic supplies and overall low morale throughout the system. The last proposal from the School Committee, which looks an awful lot like the first proposal from the School Committee, promises more of the same.

As a result, beginning Jan. 3 teachers became engaged in a work action known as "work to rule." This is a difficult and drastic step meant to increase awareness and demonstrate to the community just

how far beyond the contract teachers work on a daily basis. The contract is just the foundation on which we build education. Layered on top of the contract is good will, imagination and a lot of volunteerism. We have been donating all of these for two years hoping that this School Committee would find its way toward reasonable compromise on difficult issues. Teachers have made many compromises on very painful issues, but we will not abandon a sound educational work environment for the sake of a budget gap and we don't believe Andover would really want us to if they understood what was at stake.

To that end, the Andover Education Association will be sponsoring a series of "Coffee and Conversation" events to foster dialog with parents and residents. Please contact the AEA by calling 978-623-8654 if you are interested in attending or hosting one of these living room events.

And as we embark on the year 2012, please help us to envision the exceptional school system we know Andover can be and demand the advocacy this system deserves from your School Committee.

**JENNIFER MEAGHER**  
Amesbury  
English Department  
Andover High School

### SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE PROPOSALS

The School Committee says it has proposed Andover two options for deciding on a new schedule at Andover High. It says the new schedule would be selected by a joint committee of teachers union members, school administrators and Andover parent(s).

**Option A:** If the joint committee reaches agreement on a new schedule that can be implemented in September 2012, all teachers in the district would receive a 2-percent COLA increase for 2012-13. If the joint committee does not reach agreement on a new high school schedule, then the high school teachers' schedule would remain unchanged for the 2012-13 school year, but there would be no COLA increase for 2012-13 to defray the cost of maintaining the current schedule.

**Option B:** If the joint committee on the high school schedule does not reach agreement on a new high school schedule for September 2012, then the current block schedule would remain in place, but high school teachers would teach three classes each semester, which the School Committee says is "the same teaching load as high school teachers in other districts with a similar block schedule." High school planning time would be unaffected. Teacher duties would be eliminated. A 2-percent COLA increase would go into effect for 2012-13 for all teachers in the district, whether there is agreement on a new schedule or not.

### Committee says AHS schedule at issue

Editor, Townsman:

While there are several unresolved issues related to a new teachers' contract, the primary sticking point is the high school schedule. The School Committee has been clear since negotiations began 18 months ago that the current schedule, in which teachers teach three courses in one semester and only two in the other, is not fiscally sustainable. Equally important is the need to provide opportunities for more year-long continuity in subject areas such as English, social studies, and world languages than currently exist in our schedule.

The core issue is simple: Andover High School teachers spend substantially less time teaching in the classroom than their peers in other high-performing Massachusetts school districts. We have reviewed the contracts and schedules of more than 60 high schools - including all 16 of the peer communities to which Andover has historically compared itself, and every community that ranks higher than Andover in the most recent Boston Magazine high school rankings. This comparison reveals the following:

Of these 60+ school districts, only four (Cambridge, Groton-Dunstable, Cohasset, and Holliston) have a semesterized four-block high school schedule like ours. In every one of these schools, the faculty teaches three classes each semester, rather than three in one semester and two in the other like the teachers at Andover High. This means Andover employs six high school teachers for every five that the other school districts employ to run an identical schedule (a total of 14 to 16 additional teachers). This is not financially sustainable.

The vast majority of the remaining high schools use some variation of a year-long, 7-period schedule with teaching blocks of different lengths depending on the schedule. Teachers in these schools typically teach 5 periods, have a teaching load of 120-125 students at any given time, and have one 45-minute planning period and one 45-minute duty period daily all year. By comparison, teachers at Andover High have between 50 and 90 students per semester, have one 82-minute planning period daily throughout the year, and one 82-minute

duty period daily during one semester.

In other words, our high school teachers are teaching fewer students and spending less time teaching in the classroom than their peers in other high-performing districts.

Our high school teaching staff does an excellent job within their current schedule. However, with resources tighter than ever, we have a responsibility to the community to consider alternatives for delivering the superior education our students deserve. In mediation, the School Committee has not taken any position on what high school schedule represents the best option; however, understanding that every top-performing high school in Massachusetts has a different -- and less costly -- schedule, we have proposed two alternatives to the AEA. Under either alternative, a committee of union members, administrators and parent representation would jointly recommend a new high school schedule that is good for students and fiscally sustainable.

The School Committee stands ready to immediately approve a new collective bargaining agreement with either Option A or Option B as presented in mediation.

We acknowledge that cost savings from any new high school schedule derive from the fact that we would need to employ fewer teachers. However, staffing decisions under any new schedule would be determined by the Administrative Leadership Team, not the School Committee, and would take into account the new schedule, the goal of reducing class sizes, and students' academic needs. To the greatest extent possible, any staffing reductions would be accomplished through retirements and attrition.

Our town cannot afford a schedule that has our high school teachers spending much less time instructing students in the classroom than their peers in other Massachusetts towns. There is no question we have an outstanding faculty; it is among the very best in the state. We need a contract that has them in the classroom.

**ANDOVER SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
ANNIE GILBERT, CHAIRWOMAN  
PAULA COLBY-CLEMENTS  
DAVID BIRNBACH  
RICHARD COLLINS  
DENNIS FORGUE



DUSTIN LUCA/Staff Photo

Andover High teachers picketed in below-freezing temperatures outside Andover High School on Tuesday up until 7:30 a.m., when they were contractually required to report to school. Jan. 3 marked the first day of Work-to-Rule work action, where teachers will work only within the stipulations of their last contract agreement, which was signed in 2008 and expired on Aug. 31, 2010.

## Students take responsible path

Ken Seifert



A couple of weeks ago, the final question on Jeopardy! was answered and a new champion was crowned. At that

same moment our doorbell announced someone was at the door. Much to my surprise the visitor was a teenaged student at Andover High.

He said he was having a big problem with the work to rule between the School Committee and Andover Education Association and would like some advice. I invited him in and for the next hour or so we sat at the kitchen table and discussed the matter.

For 20 minutes we talked about the kind of student he was and his plans for the future. It was obvious he was goal-oriented and very serious about his life. He described the political scene at the high school and how disruptive it was to some of the students and teachers. I asked the percentage of both groups - those who cared and those who didn't. His assessment was remarkably close to mine. He described the use of Facebook and other vehicles of communicating within a sophisticated teenage population. This process is used by at least 95 percent of the students at Andover High.

With this as background I asked, so what's your problem? He revealed that in the next

day or two there was going to be a mass exodus at a prearranged time when students would leave the building and congregate around "the rock." He made it very clear he was not in favor of such a plan and asked me what I would do.

I told him it was not my place to tell him what to do. But I have learned a few things since I attended high school some 60 years ago. I shared two options.

You could walk out as a group and huddle around the rock like a herd of sheep. You would run the risk of being called a bunch of entitled, spoiled teens who don't like to do school work. You might even be suspended, although that would be very unlikely. The taxpayers would not tolerate a school full of paid educators while only 10 percent of the students attend.

Another option would be to exercise your constitutional right to petition. List the specific things you should be receiving that you are not receiving. Announce on Facebook the places where the petition would be available for students to enter their names if they believed in what it said. Do this while the adults argue publicly over material matters and further alienate one from the other. Select a spokesperson to call a meeting with the School Committee and present your concerns. Before the presentation, give a copy to the high school principal, the superintendent of schools and the president of the teachers union. That is the ethical process and no one should feel offended. I wouldn't give advance notice to the media,

but be available after the presentation to share comments and reasons for your actions. The reason it should go directly to the School Committee is, by law, they have the final say in what kind of education you will receive.

His last question was, "What if option 2 doesn't work?" I then told him what I would do. On a specific day at a specific time, stroll out to the rock and make sure you and the others have a favorite book with you. Continue to assemble until the elected officials and educators provide you with the promise they will do what is right for educating students in an increasingly complex and challenging world.

He thanked me and walked out into the dark night.

A few days later I heard there was a presentation to the School Committee by the official student leadership. There was no mass demonstration at the rock. The students behaved in a most ethical and professional manner. In this instance, the responsible students prevailed in the choice of what is the right thing to do.

I have no idea what role my night visitor had in the grand scheme of things. I don't even know if he listened to me. I know he didn't sit by the rock. I also know there is a large group of serious students who deserve a fair shake when they attend school. They did behave as responsible students, following the best path that a democracy has to offer. Kudos to them!

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



Courtesy photo

Paul Mercandetti, Andover Rotary's Exchange Student Coordinator; French exchange student Jeanne Guesdon-Vennerie; and Jan McClure-Brown, Wes Brown and their daughter Caitlin, the host family.

## Rotary Club hosts French exchange student

A exchange student from France is staying with an Andover family while their daughter studies in Denmark this school year.

Jeanne Guesdon-Vennerie, 18, is the Rotary Club of Andover's 2011-2012 exchange student. She makes regular visits to the club. Her Andover hosts are Wes Brown and Jan McClure-Brown, parents of Susan Alexis Brown, who is studying in Denmark with the Rotary Exchange Student Program.

Born in Versailles, Guesdon-Vennerie has lived in Toulouse for the past 10 years, but will spend her senior year of high school at Andover High. Before she left France she lived with her parents and two brothers, ages 15 and 20. Her sister, 22, is studying in South Africa for two years.

"Naturally curious, she loves learning new things and thought that becoming an exchange student would expose her to a new culture, new language, and different social experiences," according

to Katharine Barr, of Rotary. "Family is extremely important to Guesdon-Vennerie, and being here on her own is a bit of a challenge, but she is looking forward to her year and all that it will bring."

A friend of her older brother's was a Rotary Exchange Student three years ago and she motivated Guesdon-Vennerie by talking with her about her experiences. Guesdon-Vennerie chose the United States because she loves speaking English - which she began studying during middle school - and wants to improve at it.

Guesdon-Vennerie is on the track team at Andover High, is involved in Andover Youth Services, and volunteers at Ironstone Farm on Route 133.

When asked what she hopes to gain from her American stay, she replied, "I hope to learn a lot about American culture, how family life is in this country, what are the differences between the U.S. and my country. I also hope this experience will help me grow and become more self-confident and responsible."

# Business

## BUSINESS IN BRIEF

### Andover business gets \$152K Workforce Training Fund grant

WSI Corp. of Andover received a \$152,275 Workforce Training Fund grant.

The Patrick-Murray Administration announced \$11,382,220 in Workforce Training Fund grants to 138 Massachusetts companies.

The grants, which support up to two years of training, are expected to create approximately 1,700 new jobs and train a total of 13,000 workers.

Employees are receiving training in diverse areas such as customer service, sales, machining, milling, robotics, project management, injection molding and computer technology.

### Andover man heads Neighborhood House board of directors

Andover resident Kevin Benedix, executive vice president and chief financial officer of Boston Global Investors, is the newly elected president of the Board of Directors of the South Boston Neighborhood House.

Benedix has been an active member of South Boston Neighborhood House's Board of Directors for five years.

He succeeds Kevin Martin Sr. of K.P. Martin & Associates P.C., who has stepped down after 22 years of service on the board and seven years as president.

Affectionately known as "The Ollie" after founder Olivia James, the South Boston Neighborhood House opened in 1901 as part of the settlement house movement and is the oldest continually operated human-service agency in the South Boston community.

Today it serves hundreds of children, teens and seniors on a daily basis while also reaching out to assist local families experiencing social and economic stress.

### MVC receives Family Business Award

The Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce was presented with the first Massachusetts Family Business Association Family Business Advocacy Award from the Massachusetts FBA, a statewide organization created to honor family businesses and their achievements.

This award was presented in recognition of the local chamber's support and work on behalf of family owned businesses in Massachusetts.

For more information, contact Joe Bevilacqua, president/CEO of MVCC, at jbb@merrimackvalleychamber.com or 978-686-0900.

### Hubbard gets RE/MAX Executive Club Award

Catherine Hubbard, with RE/MAX Partners, received the RE/MAX Executive Club Award for 2011.

This award honors agents who have excelled in their field, according to a release.

Hubbard has been a realtor for six years, always under the RE/MAX banner. She is active in both Andover and North Andover, as well as Boston, the entire North Shore and New Hampshire.

### January Enterprise Center workshops

■ "How To Build Buzz For Your Business" on Tuesday, Jan. 10 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Learn how to get your company noticed by taking advantage of new media as well as old, knowing what's news (and what's not), how to pitch, whom to pitch, and when to pitch your story for the best chance of success.

Learn ways to work with different media so you become a trusted and reliable source in your industry.

Speaker is David Thomson, President, Thomson Communications.

■ "Entrepreneurship: Ready, Start, Launch" on Thursday, Jan. 12 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Assess your entrepreneurship potential while learning the marketing, financial and operations issues involved in starting a business.

Speaker is Ellen Kaplan, Founder and President, Possibilities@Work.

■ "Cheaper, Better Faster—Big Results On A Small Budget" on Tuesday, Jan. 24 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Learn how to develop and implement a sound marketing strategy and tactics to understand the advantages, disadvantages and principal techniques of different marketing media, from testing and improving your results to solving marketing issues creatively.

Speaker is Don Kaplan, President, Kaplan Marketing.

■ "The Business Of Local Food" on Thursday, Jan. 26 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Families, restaurants, stores and businesses are increasingly buying their food locally. This is particularly true on the North Shore. Come listen to a discussion on why this is happening, whether it's a short-term trend or is here to stay.

Speakers are Antonio Betentcourt, Chef, 62 on Wharf; Peter Mikedis, CEO/Founder, Sidekim Foods; and Andrew Rogers, Farm Manager, Green Meadows Farm.

All workshops are free and cosponsored by MA Small Business Development Center.

For more information or to register, visit EnterpriseCtr.org.

### AdConcepts joins Axis Promotions

Advertising Concepts Inc. of North Andover has made a strategic alliance with Axis Promotions that became effective Jan. 1.

Frank Firicano of Andover, president of AdConcepts, a 44-year-industry veteran and founding member of the Peer-Net Group, said "As vice president of business development I will continue to actively engage in the sales process and plan to focus more of my efforts on the development of larger clients in the New England as well as Southern California markets and accept responsibility for recruitment and development of new sales personnel."

Financial terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

Meanwhile, the San Diego office will continue to use the AdConcepts name and ASI# with plans to further develop its presence in Southern California.



FILE PHOTO

Boston School of Music entered the scene in Andover by teaming with Andover Youth Services in July to start a program jokingly referred to as "School of Rock." From left, jamming at the center this summer are Andover Youth Services members Giovanni Rosano, Ian Whitney, Ben Hatch, Hope Flynn, Ivan Delarosa and Isabella Flynn. Behind them is program coordinator Jamey Grieco.

## Sound of music in the 'Vale Six months in, Boston Music center enjoying the beat

BY JUDY WAKEFIELD  
STAFF WRITER

The 'Vale is rocking a new business beat.

Boston Music Center opened on the first floor of a 150-year-old former mill building at 209 Andover St. during 2011.

A large custom awning hangs over the porch at the location, which is near the intersection of River Street. After six months, the owner is already singing the sweet sounds of success.

Profitable just three months after opening last July, owner John McElfresh of Andover said his Ballardvale location is perfect for him and neighbors have been most welcoming.

"I've had people tell me that they are very glad to have us here," McElfresh said. "They are glad we opened the business in Ballardvale."

Exposed brick walls survived the summer's renovation in the waiting area. Now, the center's six soundproof music rooms and a comfortable waiting area serve music lovers.

Those who play in rock bands, and school bands and orchestras practice alongside those with instruments that



Courtesy photo

The Boston School of Music in Ballardvale opened last year.

will never leave home, About 100 students, between the ages of 5 and 60, are currently taught by one of the center's 11 music teachers, said McElfresh. The cost is \$35 for a 30-minute lesson.

Piano, guitar, violin, drums and flute lessons are among those offered, along with voice lessons.

It's a whole new career for McElfresh, a former global marketing executive for more than 20 years.

A guitar player since age 13 who married his singing

high school sweetheart, McElfresh has been music director at Free Christian Church in Andover for several years.

His family has lived in town for 23 years.

The couple's adult children are all moved out and he found his former corporate lifestyle wearing thin.

So, the one-time garage-band kid from Michigan jumped into the music business.

"I've always loved music and just had this idea," he said. "I knew all these great

musicians from church and really started thinking how this could really work."

A business plan was written, available local rental space was searched and teachers were hired.

Many Boston Music Center teachers are from Free Christian Church.

"They are gifted music teachers," he said. "Some of them make a living in music, some gig, some just perform at church. They are so talented - all of them."

Degrees from Berklee and conservatories in Hartford, Conn. and Boston are common.

But it's not just their congregation that the teachers have in common.

There is a warm, pro-family vibe in the air that all teachers share, McElfresh said.

There are no instruments or amplifiers to sell at Boston Music Center. There's no DJ equipment or lighting for sale either, he said.

Rather, it's a calm and friendly atmosphere where everyone is dedicated to musical education.

"Teachers don't have to worry about sales," he said. "At other places they would."

"We want happy students, not hostages," McElfresh said.

## Getting a kick out of shopping

JAN SEEGER/Staff photo



Erin Rasmussen, 5, of Andover, right, and Benjamin Marvin, 5, of Wilmington have fun playing together in J.L. Coombs on Main Street on Saturday as their mothers shop for discounted shoes there during a two-day store-wide sale. As previously reported in the Townsman, the shoe store is closing.

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# Sports

## Carrying on tradition

### Puccia sprints into key leadership role on a young Golden Warriors track squad

By DAVID WILLIS  
STAFF WRITER

Alex Puccia knows what it takes to build a championship team.

After all, during her career she has run alongside some of the greatest runners in the storied history of Andover High track, including as a member of the 4x400 relay that competed at New Balance Nationals last winter.

"I learned so much from working with those girls," said Puccia. "I saw, if you worked hard enough, you can accomplish anything. After three years of watching them, I feel ready for anything."

Now a senior on a very young Golden Warriors squad, no one is more qualified than Puccia to take on the responsibilities not just to lead, but to carry on the tradition of Andover High track.

"Alex has taken on a humongous leadership role and is showing the younger girls what Andover track is all about," said Warriors coach Peter Comeau.

"She brings the leadership to build a state champion, and we count on her as one of our top sprinters."

For three seasons, Puccia watched and idolized the likes of All-Scholastics Eve Bishop, Sydney Eberth, Jess Salley and Moira Cronin — all of whom graduated in the spring.

"Practicing with them, getting to run with them on the relays was so special," said Puccia. "I don't think some of the girls now realize how great they were."

Puccia found her way alongside those stars during her breakout winter last season.

She joined Bishop, Eberth and Jaclyn Torres as members of the 4x400 relay that placed third at All-States (3:57.63) and was 17th at Nationals



ANGIE BEAULIEU/Staff photo

Alex Puccia, a senior on an inexperienced Golden Warriors team, is being looked to for leadership this season on the Andover girls track squad.

(3:57.41). She continued that success in the spring, earning All-Scholastic honors as a member of the All-State champion 4x400 relay.

"Alex is the hardest worker I have ever known," said Eberth, now running for the University of Vermont. "She puts her heart and soul into everything she does and she is talented."

With so many stars lost to graduation, Puccia now knows she must take on an even more prominent role both as a captain and runner.

"I'm so used to having them in front of the team that it's weird to be the one in front," she said. "I feel the pressure but I feel I can handle it. I love being a captain and a

leader."

And friends have no doubt she will excel in the new role.

"From what I have seen I think she is a very good captain," said Eberth. "She is so dedicated. She tells everyone where they need to be and makes sure things get done."

Puccia has also performed well on the track.

In the season-opener against Methuen she won the 300 (46.4), took the 600 against Haverhill (1:38.0) and continues to anchor the 4x400, at times joined by freshman sister Lily.

"Getting to run the relay together was great," said Alex, whose mother Dorothy (McKew) Puccia also ran track for the Golden Warriors. "Lily and I

played varsity soccer together in the fall too and I love having her around."

Now Puccia, who is enrolled in Advanced Placement English, hopes to finish off her career with a bang.

"I have to be confident for every race and not worry about the competition," she said.

"Keep them in mind, but not let them get to me. Sydney is one of my role models because she got better every year and became a state champ last year. I am very excited for the season."

■ ■ ■

*Join the discussion. To comment on stories and see what others are saying, log on to andovertownsmen.com.*



Andover senior track standout Alex Puccia during a recent workout.

### ► Sports roundup

## Boudreau, Golden Warriors surge to tourney title

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

In the battle of the two top-ranked teams in Massachusetts, No. 1 Andover rolled over its archrival, No. 2 Central Catholic, by a score of 57-33 to win its third consecutive Greater Lawrence title last Thursday.

"Coach (Jim Tildsley) emphasizes that this tournament is one of our goals for the year," said Nicole Boudreau. "We have a couple goals. Obviously winning States, to win all the tournaments we're in and to win the conference. So, this is pretty big for us to check off our goal list."

Boudreau scored a game-high 19 points on her way to becoming the first three-time MVP in the tourney's 26-year-history. Devon Caveney and Angelice Gonzalez each chipped in with 10 points for the winners. Caveney was named to the All-Tourney team.

"Holding them to two points in the third quarter until the buzzer was the whole game right there," said Tildsley. "We forced a ton of turnovers. (Central) is tough, so I was very happy. We didn't shoot well, but it was a very good defensive game for us."

■ ■ ■

Nicole Boudreau hit four 3-pointers on her way to a game-high 23 points as Andover bested pesky North Andover 53-38 in the semifinals of the Greater Lawrence Christmas Tourney last Tuesday. Newcomer Angelice Gonzalez added nine points for the winners.

"It was definitely not the best basketball we're capable of playing," Boudreau said. "We had a couple bad stretches in there where we couldn't score at all. All in all we played an alright game, but there's certainly room



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

Nicole Boudreau, here fighting for rebound, and Andover crushed archrival Central Catholic on the way to the Greater Lawrence Christmas Tourney title.

for improvement."

■ ■ ■

Rebecca Alois scored a game-high nine points to lead Andover to a 54-28 drubbing of Lawrence in the first round of the Greater Lawrence Christmas Tourney Dec. 22. Jessica Witten added eight points and Danielle Boudreau had seven points for the winners.

Devon Caveney hit a pair of 3-pointers and finished with

10 points as Andover beat Archbishop Williams 66-52 on Dec. 21. Nicole Boudreau hit six 3-pointers on her way to 28 points.

### BOYS SWIMMING

#### Hunter, Warriors role

Dave Hunter won the 100 freestyle (51.97), Eric Zhao took the 500 freestyle (5:12.10), David Iannafo won the 100 butterfly (58.43) and they teamed with

Stanislaw Camin and to take the 200 medley relay as Andover topped Central Catholic 95-83 last Wednesday.

### BOYS TRACK

#### Cooney runs to wins

Ryan Cooney won the 1,000 in 2:38.57 to lead Andover at the MSTCA Holiday Challenge last Tuesday. Cooney

See **ROUNDUP**, Page 16

### Andover Little League Baseball Spring Registration 2012



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

# Pats cheerleader gives back as volunteer

BY RYAN WILSON  
PATRIOTS MEDIA RELATIONS

For 24-year-old Andover native Ashley Baldwin, volunteerism has become her lifestyle, not just a passive hobby.

Baldwin, a member of the New England Patriots Cheerleaders, participated in her first volunteer experience while she took lessons at Northeast Gymnastics Center. Baldwin's coach Lori Rosati instilled in all the participants the need to give back to the community – and so began Baldwin's infatuation with volunteering.

"I learned at a very young age how important it was to give back and how these experiences help you grow as a person. It's really self-rewarding," said Baldwin.

Despite being in the second grade, Baldwin became hooked on volunteerism after making Thanksgiving Day baskets for families in need. Baldwin was a member of NGC for 15 years and continuously volunteered. As she got older, she began volunteering at the Professional Center for Child Development on Osgood Street, an Andover non-profit organization where her aunt works that "helps children of all abilities reach their full potential."

"It's a nonprofit center which is able to work because of the kindness of the people in the community. We're able to give back because people in the community give to us. I started to volunteer there working one-on-one with the kids and that's where I feel in love with giving back and wanting to work there," said Baldwin.

After graduating from the University of New Hampshire in 2010 with a



Courtesy photo

**Patriots cheerleader Ashley Baldwin, 24, is an Andover native.**

degree in psychology and a minor in education, Baldwin started working full time for the PCCD. She's used her role as a Patriots cheerleader as a platform to further her involvement in volunteerism.

"I get a lot of different opportunities to make other people dreams and wishes come true because of being a Patriots cheerleader. It's allowed me to help out a great deal and be a part of a lot of amazing projects," said Baldwin. "I was fortunate to make the Patriots cheerleading squad. [For] the Patriots charitable foundation, volunteerism is really close to the organization's heart – Mr. Kraft's and especially in memory of Myra Kraft. It was very important to her to give back and I felt it was a perfect fit for me."

Two of the most memorable volunteer experiences

with the New England Patriots include Make-a-Wish and Thanksgiving Day Basket Give-A-Way at the Greater Boston Food Bank, an event that resonates deeply with Baldwin, because it mirrored her earlier Thanksgiving work at the Northeast Gymnastics Center.

On Sunday, Oct. 16 Baldwin also helped grant the Make-A-Wish Foundation request of 16-year-old Kyle Pepin, a native of Bangor, Maine to meet a Patriots cheerleader.

Baldwin and Pepin took pictures, shared stories, and laughs while watching the first half of the game from Pepin's suite seats. Another cheerleader, Brittney-Lynne Stanley, came up and sat with Pepin for the second half. The two cheerleaders each gave him one of their personal pom-poms on top of all the gifts the team gave him.

"It has our names on it so

he would be able to remember us. We just decided to do it because we knew he would appreciate it greatly and it's something else for him to remember the experience by," said Baldwin.

Additionally, the Thanksgiving Day Basket Give-A-Way stood out to Baldwin because that event is what got her hooked on volunteering when she was young. Last year, Baldwin got to volunteer alongside Robert Kraft, Myra Kraft, Patriots players, NEPC teammates, and her best friend.

"It was really nice to do something that I did with my gymnastics team and then with a profound organization such as the Patriots. It was nice to see every member of the organization there giving back"

Baldwin even took the time to play with an aspiring Patriots cheerleader during the event.

"We were playing and showing her how to cheer and teaching her to cheer, 'Go, Patriots!' Her eyes were just lighting up from being able to play with us. Her mom was really excited about everything as well," smiled Baldwin.

Baldwin, who recalls standing in line at Dunkin' Donuts waiting to get autographs from Patriots cheerleaders when she was young, knew she made a connection to the little girl.

"It's all about bringing a smile to individuals' faces regardless of age," said Baldwin. "I was fortunate enough to be at events with Myra and I felt like we were very similar in how we feel about giving back to the community."

The Andover native hopes to someday make her way up to working with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

## ROUNDUP: Dunn hits six 3-pointers in tourney game

Continued from Page 15

### BOYS BASKETBALL

#### Dunn's gym

Chris Dunn hit a whopping six 3-pointers, delivering a stunning personal 12-0 run in a span of 2:54, as Andover edged Salem (N.H.) 61-53 in the Greater Lawrence Christmas Tourney fifth-place game on Friday. Dunn and Sam Dowden each scored a game-high 19 points and James Costello had 10 and was key down the stretch for the winners.

James Costello score a game-high 20 points as Andover jumped out to a 22-point first-half lead and held off Methuen 58-47 in the consolation round of the Greater Lawrence Christmas Tourney last Wednesday. Sam Dowden added 13 points and Chris Dunn hit a key 3-pointer to crush the Ranger rally.

Andover dropped a heart-breaker to Pinkerton (N.H.) 43-40 in the first round of the Greater Lawrence Christmas Tourney on Dec. 23. Sam Dowden led the Golden Warriors with 13 points.

### GIRLS GYMNASTICS

#### Coneeny dominates

Jenny Coneeny won the bars (9.15), beam (9.1), floor exercise (9.4) and all-around (34.6) as Andover scored 137 points to beat Westford Academy (133) and Dracut (121) last Thursday.

### BOYS HOCKEY

#### McIver has career day

Senior Matt McIver struck for his first career hat trick and classmate Alex King tallied his first career goal as Andover topped perennial power Austin Prep 5-2 on Saturday. Liam Centrella added a goal and two assists, Steve Brighton had two assists and Colby Gilbert made 22 saves for the winners.

Scott Campbell scored two goals but Andover fell to Woburn 4-2 last Thursday.

Liam Centrella struck for two goals as Andover played Westford Academy to a 2-2 tie on Dec. 23. Scott Campbell and Matt McIver each assisted on both goals.

Behind two goals by Scott Campbell, Andover beat Waltham 4-1 on Dec. 21. C.J.

Boilard added the third Golden Warrior goal.

### GIRLS HOCKEY

#### Keefe scores hat trick

Meagan Keefe tallied a hat trick and freshman Joanna Olson added a pair of goals as Andover crushed New Hampshire opponent Bishop Gurtin 10-2 last Tuesday. Emily Appleton, Laura Morissette (two assists), Meghan Gemmill, Melanie Murphy and Brianna Deloury added a goal each for the winners.

Despite a goal for Meghan Gemmill, Andover fell to Billerica 3-1 on Dec. 21.

### WRESTLING

#### Dykstra scores quick pin

Ben Dykstra scored a pin in 44 seconds at 138 pounds, but Andover lost to Lowell 55-12 on Dec. 20.

Jake O'Brien (195 pounds), Ben Dykstra (132) and Nick Marcotte (160) each went 2-0 on the day but Andover fell to Westford (60-18) and Greater Lowell (49-28) on Dec. 23.

## SPORTS FROM THE COMMUNITY

### Reds star to visit softball clinic Jan. 8

Cincinnati Reds catcher Ryan Hanigan, an Andover native, will be back in town to help softball players at a clinic this weekend.

Hanigan will help lead the Andover Softball Winter Clinic this Sunday, Jan. 8.

Clinics will run from Jan. 8, to Feb. 12 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Andover High School field house.

The series of six clinics will be conducted by the Andover girls varsity and junior varsity players and led by Andover High girls softball team Head Coach Steve Tisbert.

"This an excellent opportunity for girls currently in grades 4 thru 9 to brush-up and improve their skills. Ryan will be available after the clinic to sign so bring things to sign," according to organizers.

Visit sportsmanager.us/AndoverGirlsSoftball.htm to register online.

### Free tennis lessons for beginners

Cedardale Health & Fitness will offer a free beginner tennis lesson for adults on Sunday, Jan. 15 from 11 to 12:30 p.m.

"The lesson is designed for people who have never played before or haven't played in many years. It is a great opportunity to develop a new skill and meet new friends. Non-members are welcome," according to a release from the club.

Contact Tennis Director Adam Molda at amolda@cedardale-health.net or call the Cedardale tennis desk at 978-373-1596 to reserve a spot.

Cedardale Health & Fitness is located at 931 Boston Road, Haverhill, and is the largest multipurpose health, recreation and fitness facility in the area.

### AHS alumni hockey game to raise funds

The annual Andover High School Alumni Hockey Game will be held Saturday, Jan. 21 before the 7 p.m. varsity

game against Central Catholic at the Breakaway Ice Center in Tewksbury.

There are two games planned if the turnout permits; 5:10 p.m. and 6:20 p.m. are the ice times.

A minimum donation of \$60 for the event is required. All proceeds go directly to the AHS Boys Hockey Program.

Please email ahshattrickclub@yahoo.com if you would like to skate.

### Learn to be an umpire this January

The Merrimack Valley Umpires Association has announced the umpire training clinic for men, women, and teenagers (over 16) will begin on Thursday, Jan. 19, 2012 and continue on consecutive Thursdays for the following six weeks. The clinics will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. at Northern Essex Community College, Haverhill campus, Room C-119, the Spurk Building.

The cost for the six-week program is \$125, and covers the cost of study materials and exam fee. At the conclusion of the class,

the Massachusetts Baseball Umpires Exam will be administered. Candidates who pass the exam and complete the required mechanics clinics will be certified as MVUA umpires.

The MVUA has been training quality umpires for over 50 years and MVUA umpires "are highly regarded and sought by all levels of baseball in Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire, and can be found doing high school, AAU, Babe Ruth and Little League games throughout the region," according to a release from the group.

The MVUA supports candidates of all genders, ethnic groups and ages (men and women over age 16) to become umpires.

Anyone interested is asked to contact second Vice President Rande Chabot at ranbot6280@myfairport.net or 603-437-8847, or Rules Interpreter Ron Annand at 978-681-8927 or go to [tomvua.org](http://tomvua.org) for further information and to ensure that the group has the correct amount of class books available.

## andovertownsman.com

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Fremont, NH: 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 2 story, large backyard, 10 miles from downtown Exeter, subject to 3rd party approval. \$94,900. KSRJ Signature Realty Group 603-819-4844.

GLOUCESTER, MA - Beachfront property, spacious deck, open living, casual entertaining, designer lighting/fireplaces. Guest unit with kitchen. Outdoor showers \$1,585,000 Rick Petralia (978) 239-6207 J Barrett Realty

GLOUCESTER, MA - Gambrel colonial, newer roof, single-level living, expansive second floor ample storage. New Title V system. Near highways, beaches and shopping. \$318,000 Rick Petralia (978) 239-6207 J Barrett Realty

HAMILTON, MA - Charming 2/3 bedroom cape with garage on dead end street. Train nearby. Move right in!! \$299,900 Kathleen Claypool Coldwell Banker 978-884-2111 Direct line

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KINGSTON, NH: Price based on Land. 1 car detached garage. Can be used for residence with town approval. \$79,900. KSRJ Signature Realty Group, 603-819-4844.

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PEABODY, MA - OH Sun. 11-4pm, 27 Rav-enwood Rd. 3 bedroom, 3 bath, completely renovated. \$399,000. Owner Jay 781-248-6902

PLAISTOW, NH: Short Sale being sold as is. 3 bedroom home is in need of some work, but well worth the investment. \$154,900. KSRJ Signature Realty Group 603-819-4844.

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**First Run**  
GLOUCESTER 2 Bedroom completely renovated in 2010. Washer/dryer provided. Small yard. Small pet ok. \$1095/mo. Jeff 811-844-5912.

HAVERHILL, MA - 1 bedroom, 3rd floor, Main St, no dogs, deck, off street parking \$700 + security, no utilities (978) 373-8394

HAVERHILL, MA - ALL UTILITIES INCLUDED Studios, 1 & 2 bedrooms Call for customized pricing. Prime location. River views. Rivers Edge Apartments 978-373-4800. EHO www.corcoranapts.com

HAVERHILL, MA beautiful 5 room 1 bedroom + den, granite counters, all appliances, laundry, parking, \$950 no utilities/pets. 978-664-3364

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HAVERHILL, MA sunny 2 bedroom, river view, washer hook-up, off-street parking, . \$950+ utilities. Avail. 1/15 or 2/1/12. 978-478-8542.

**LAWRENCE, MA**  
Furnished room \$100/wk Details 978-794-3039  
+ LAWRENCE, MA +  
Modern 1 & 2 bedroom apartments. Parking on site. Rents start Studios @ \$645; 1 bedroom \$725+; 2 bedroom \$930+ includes heat/hot water. 978-970-2300

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

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LAWRENCE SD, MA - Inman St. 3rd. floor, 2 bedroom, large kitchen, pantry, living room, \$945 + \$350 security 617-590-5864 Jim.

**First Run**  
LAWRENCE SO, MA - Princeton at Mt. Vernon MOVE-IN TODAY! 1 Month FREE Rent  
1 Bedroom from \$850; 2 Bedroom from \$980 Heat, hot water, gas cooking included. Call for details, 1-888-768-6673 www.pricetonproperties.com

**Auction**  
Mortgagee's Foreclosure/Secured Party's  
**351± Seat Restaurant w/ Additional Function Room & Bar**

**First Run**  
LAWRENCE SD, MA - Princeton at Mt. Vernon MOVE-IN TODAY! 1 Month FREE Rent  
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LONDONDERRY, NH  
1 bedroom from \$740; 2 bedroom from \$895  
**FREE Month**  
if rented by 1/30  
Well maintained. Quiet area, laundry, parking, storage, easy access from Rt. 93.  
Call 978-458-0507.

**First Run**  
LONVALE GARDENS  
Amesbury, MA  
Luxury Apartment Complex  
Country setting at its finest  
Amenities include laundry, pool, barbecue area, fully appliance d re-modeled kitchens, 24 hr. maintenance minutes to highways  
Starting at \$680.00  
Please Call 978-388-1745

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of the North Shore.  
Tranquility fresh air & plenty of parking await you at our oasis in the woods. Spacious 2 bedroom apartments from only \$1010-\$1030 including heat/hot water. Professional 24 hr. on-site management plus many other amenities. Enjoy country living while only 30 minutes from Boston. Cats Okay. FIRST MONTH FREE.  
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NEWTON, NH: Commercial Industrial Condos, 3,900 sq. ft., 7,000 sq. ft., 3,000 sq. ft. all with office, 1250 sq. ft. just office. 6 mo. free lease w/ purchase option. 14x14/loading docks. 3 phase electric. Outside storage. 1 mile over MA line close to 495/95/125. Call (978) 375-7001.

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DERRY, NH - Quail Hill Estates Duplex, 2200 sq. ft. 2 large bedrooms + large office, 1.5 baths, washer/dryer hook-ups, finished basement, 4 car driveway, beautifully updated, oil heat, backyard patio + deck \$1425. 603-434-3871

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A Clean, quiet, safe bldg next to YMCA, YMCA. Lowest rents, free cable. 4 hr move-in. Lawrence, 978-975-5103

AFFORDABLE single furnished rooms in So. Lawrence. Fridge, micro, TV, cable ready. Excellent Security. Call 978-382-3318

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LAWRENCE, MA - Studios; starting at \$500 also; Furnished room \$110/wk For details, 978-794-3039

SALISBURY MA - furnished cabin with private bath, kitchenette, parking, all utilities, \$180/week. Call (978)465-3392

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Getting Divorced? Live at the Salisbury Inn. From \$175/week. 978-465-5584

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HAVERHILL, NH - 2

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**GRILL COOK • SALAD PREP**  
**DISHWASHER**  
 Apply Dylan's Bar & Grille  
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 4 days per week for North Shore physician's  
 specialty practice. Excellent benefits.  
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**ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES**  
 SILVER: Bicentennial original 13 colonies spoon  
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 box, product of International Silver Company,  
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 DRY! DRY! DRY!  
 Hand split firewood \$325 cord (128 cu.ft.)  
 Premium wood pellets \$269/ton delivered  
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 Tired of Big Oil Ripping you?  
 Increase fuel economy (up to 20%)  
 Step 1 Listen to this 24/7 line 973-854-1215  
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 Peabody Supply Co. in Peabody MA  
 seeks **Branch Manager** with solid  
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 excellent managerial skills. Email resume to  
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 Ads In This Classification Are  
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**Product Engineering Technician**  
 FT, review electronic circuit board data files,  
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 ages for manufacturing. Strong knowledge of  
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 Beware of anyone replying to your ad offering  
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 ware when responding to classified ads that  
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**BEDS - NEW!!**  
 Twins \$150, Fulls \$175 Queens \$199, Kings  
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**RECEPTIONIST**  
 Bill DeLuca Family of Dealerships, a family  
 owned business servicing the Merrimack Val-  
 ley & Southern NH for over 50 years, is looking  
 for a weekend Receptionist. Hours are Satur-  
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 ponsibilities include, but not limited to: an-  
 swering phones, processing cash/credit card  
 payments, filing. Fax resume 978-373-5455 or  
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**ATTENTION CAREGIVERS!**  
 If you are a PCA, CNA, Nurse or offer personal  
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 service directory and check out the category  
 for Adult Care. Yours services are needed!

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**First Run**  
**GRAVE SITE-DOUBLE LOT**  
 At Puritan Lawn Cemetery in Section M.  
 Listed \$3950, asking \$2950. 781-631-7955.

**FREE ITEMS**  
 MOVING - FREE ITEMS. Miscellaneous electrical  
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 cabinet, lockers, wood, much more.  
 Call (570) 204-6391 leave message.

**CONFERENCE ROOM / DINING ROOM TABLE**  
 A rare opportunity. Gorgeous mahogany Chip-  
 endale style, 12' opens to 16' with leafs, near  
 perfect condition, protected glass top in-  
 cluded. Photos on request. \$1200. 14 swivel  
 conference chairs also available. Irwin,  
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**SALES POSITION**  
 We are looking for motivated and energetic  
 sales representatives. We offer debt help to  
 consumers all across the country. The work is  
 primarily over the phone, although there is  
 some electronic communication required.  
 WE DO NOT COLD CALL. We look for organ-  
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 with our company. If interested please call:  
 866-992-7400, please ask for Gabriel Tavaraz.

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 IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A POSITION AS A  
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**CARE SECTION IN THE BUSINESS AND SER-**  
**VICE DIRECTORY. PEOPLE LOOKING FOR PCAS,**  
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**ING AND COULD USE YOUR HELP**

**First Run**  
**SATELLITE INSURANCE**  
**AGENCY**  
 Established Manchester NH Insurance Agency  
 with 10,000+ policy holders expanding to the  
 Merrimack Valley. Currently seeking smart, em-  
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 work ethic. Business/ insurance sales experi-  
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**FARM EQUIPMENT**  
 2004 Iron Horse Tractor model IHT224 diesel  
 water cooled, glow plugs, block heater, double  
 low, transmission. Extra set of turf tires,  
 weight bucket, chains & 5' bucket, 8' lift, 3.  
 category 1 hitch. \$5900 (978) 372-2585

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 Shore, Merrimack Valley and Southern New  
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 deliver to this entire market.  
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**WITH BUILT-IN EXTENSION, EXCELLENT CON-**  
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 June Sparks, Cheryl Tibaud, Jennifer Voight, Libby Webb, Lauretta Wentworth, Yelena Yerozolimsky, Ellen Yurko, Michelle Oates, Senior Loan Officer, Denise Bloom, Senior Loan Officer

Not pictured: Deborah Picardi, Vik Qazi and Angela Sweeney

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 ANDOVER MA  
 ESTATE SALE: Sat. Jan. 7th, 8am.  
 Complete contents of home, garage & base-  
 ment. Cash Only! 1 Sandbrook Circle

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 ★ AMAZING! ★ New Queen Mattress  
 Set European Pillowtop. Still in plastic. Cost  
 \$1099 Sell \$249 Can deliver. 603-305-9763

Antique Village set \$100. 5 ceramic toy houses  
 \$55. Antique high chair \$55, Antique drop leaf  
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BED orthopedic 12" thick, pillowtop mattress &  
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 Full \$260 King \$399 can deliver 603-235-1773

BEDROOM Set, solid cherrywood sleigh,  
 dresser, mirror, chest & nightstand. New/in  
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 Classic, camelback 72" sofa. Lightly used. No  
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 antique white & shaker style. Never installed.  
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 Good condition, sage green, \$250 each.  
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 HOSPITAL BED, used only one month, excellent  
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NAME YOUR PRICE - Most Countries, Rev War through Vietnam. Call Peter (781) 631-1718

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Aqua "Totes" Womens Rain Coat SZ 20-24 never worn, excellent choice for spring \$25. Black 3/4 length womens wool coat Size 4x-5x never worn \$60. Tags still on. 978-794-9443

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DINING ROOM SET Oak 40x72, extends to 108", 6 side and 2 captain's chairs. Seats up to 12. Excellent condition. \$900. Call 978-356-7447.

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MOBILITY POWER CHAIR - PRIDE JET 3. Excellent condition, new batteries, \$400. Call Kathy, 978-682-2937.

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE SAFE: SHAW WALKER, fireproof, 25"x27"x52" high. 4 drawers with locks, 3 adjustable shelves. \$400/best offer. 978-685-4967 12noon-6pm

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Periods of sun	Partly sunny	Milder	Periods of sun	Mostly sunny	Mostly cloudy	Sun, then clouds
<b>High: 37°</b> <b>Low: 17°</b>	<b>High: 28°</b> <b>Low: 24°</b>	<b>High: 44°</b> <b>Low: 29°</b>	<b>High: 40°</b> <b>Low: 24°</b>	<b>High: 34°</b> <b>Low: 23°</b>	<b>High: 37°</b> <b>Low: 29°</b>	<b>High: 45°</b> <b>Low: 29°</b>

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