

THREE TOWN BANKS FOLD INTO ONE

PAGE 4



WAYS TO REMEMBER DR. KING

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BIKING TO GREEN BAY PAGE 9



OUR 124TH YEAR

Andover Townsman

Issue No. 20

JANUARY 12, 2012

75 CENTS

Hazing insults shot at unrelated AHS hockey team

By DUSTIN LUCA
STAFF WRITER

It was the third period of the Andover Warriors hockey game at Woburn High School. Liam Centrella, Andover High captain, was skating onto the ice when a round object caught

his eye. But it wasn't a puck, he said.

"A few cookies were thrown onto the ice," said Centrella. "I tried to get my team to use it for motivation, but at the same time, it was a bummer that it was happening."

Just over a month ago,

hazing allegations within the school's basketball program sparked a media fire storm at Andover High School. In the incident, players involved in the Andover High basketball program were allegedly coaxed into playing a humiliating sex game by other players, where

the loser ate a cookie covered in a bodily fluid.

After the news broke, there was concern that opposing fans might hurl cookies or insults at member of the boys basketball team at games this winter. Security and administrative oversight was increased

to start the basketball season.

Centrella didn't expect that other teams would be faced with taunting, too.

"For some of us, it is a little confusing," said Centrella. "How did this come on us? We aren't necessarily the team that had to deal with it."

The hockey team heard from fans at another game five days later, when the team was playing in Chelmsford on Jan. 4.

Prior to that game, rumors had circulated around Chelmsford High School that the same cookie-throwing stunt would

See **HOCKEY**, Page 2

Demolition underway at Olde Andover Village



DUSTIN LUCA/Staff Photo

Darwin Torrez, an employee with sub-contractor EC Interiors, works to demolish the interior of a vacated, downstairs office space in the rear area of Olde Andover Village, a downtown shopping complex.

Businesses get 1 month to vacate

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
STAFF WRITER

Olde Andover Village shopping plaza is undergoing extensive renovations and some of its tenants have been given one month to find a new location and move out.

The notice comes just four months after the 91 Main St. plaza that includes Dunkin' Donuts, Andover Bookstore and Lantern Branch changed hands for \$7.4 million. Some second-floor businesses returned from their New Year's

holiday to find a totally empty waiting room outside their offices, said tenant Javan Landry.

"I thought the 'Grinch who stole Christmas' had just left, leaving only the hooks and bare wires," reported Landry, who founded and runs the Trauma Intervention Program of Merrimack Valley.

TIP, a network of volunteers called to trauma scenes by emergency workers, operates out of the Village's second floor. Landry's also has a private practice there.

"We are bringing the site up to

code...nothing appears to have been done in a very long time," said Chris Arruda of Lincoln Essex OAV, LLC, which manages Olde Andover Village for a new ownership group called Avison Young.

Arruda said the management company is doing its best to accommodate tenants during the renovation and noted the landlord is offering temporary office space in the basement of Olde Andover Village.

See **VILLAGE**, Page 8

Judge, DEP back town on Bancroft Neighbors' appeal expected

By DUSTIN LUCA
STAFF WRITER

Two high-level decisions came down supporting the town's plan to build a new \$44 million Bancroft Elementary School, but appeals are possible in both — and expected for at least one.

The state's Superior Court has supported a town order that will allow the project to move forward. Those who filed the suit said they expect to appeal.

"We were disappointed with [the decision]," said Jason Scopa, an attorney representing two Bancroft School neighbors. "We're optimistic that the Appeals Court will take a look at it."

The other pending action against the project rests in an adjudicatory hearing process, after a neighbor to the property appealed both the original order of conditions through the state's Department of Environment Protection as well as the decision made by the DEP to support the project.

In a recommended final decision on that appeal, the

hearing officer presiding over the case said the appeal has no standing and should be dismissed, and that the DEP's commissioner should issue a final decision affirming the DEP's superceding order of conditions. That final decision can be appealed, the recommendation says.

School Building Committee Chairman Tom Deso said he hoped further problems with the project could be settled so that "we don't have to go into further appeals."

Tom Urbelis, Andover's town counsel, said the appeal process facing the Supreme Court decision could take up to a year before a final decision responding to an appeal is reached.

The residents' lawsuit, filed on Sept. 14, 2011, alleged that the Conservation Commission violated its authority in issuing the order of conditions, because it did not have all the information it should have. Also, a number of calculations to determine storm water runoff were incorrect, the suit said.

But in a Dec. 30 response,

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Student sparks school conversation on 'gay'

By DUSTIN LUCA
STAFF WRITER

Words like 'gay' have come to mean something 'stupid' or 'foolish' in the common vernacular of some youth. For Wood Hill Middle School student Jack Lu, that is unacceptable.

Jack, a 14-year-old eighth grader at the school, said he is offended by the casual use of homophobic slurs in daily, hallway conversation.

As a result, members of the group Parents, Families and Friends of Gays and Lesbians (PFLAG) visited Wood Hill Middle School

Tuesday to address the use of language and how it affects others.

"Teachers won't stand for gay slurs and prejudice, but it still goes on so much that something does have to happen," said Jack.

The power of words, as well as the need to protect those who identify themselves as being gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender, was the focus of a large assembly at the school Tuesday. Three speakers from PFLAG spoke to the school's seventh and eighth grade students. They shared their stories about coming out amid

adversity and facing what was, for them, a burden sparked by intolerance and careless use of language.

"I liked guys," said Stephen Supernor, a 22-year-old Framingham State University student. "I felt like it made me so different, so wrong."

Supernor told the students that a friend, Mark, helped him become comfortable with himself amid mounting pressure.

"He was there through all of it. Mark was there to

See **PFLAG**, Page 2



DUSTIN LUCA/Staff Photo

Jack Lu, 14 and an eighth-grader at Wood Hill Middle School, listens as a speaker with Parents, Families and Friends of Gays and Lesbians speaks to an assembly of seventh- and eighth-graders Tuesday.



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HOCKEY: Unrelated AHS team hears hazing jeers during games

Continued from Page 1

take place. Chelmsford school leaders squashed the effort, however, according to Chelmsford High Principal Anne O'Bryant. "We heard wind that the kids might try to do that, and at the end of the day I made an announcement," said O'Bryant. "I just asked our students to be respectful of our competitive team members, and that we wouldn't want people to be making fun of us if something happened here." No cookies were thrown in Chelmsford, but there was some chanting that "went on the whole game," said hockey parent John Mciver. In this case, those cheering the home team chanted "Eat the Cookie!" during the game. "It wasn't stopped at all," said Mciver, whose son Matt plays wing on the Andover High team. "There's always going to be some ribbing, some things said, but I don't think it's fair to them. I don't think

they should have to deal with it at all." So far, the Woburn and Chelmsford games are the only two games this season that the team has lost. According to coach Mike Ciarletta, that's only a coincidence. "On both nights, we didn't have our best games," said Ciarletta. "I don't think it had to do with what the crowd was doing. It had to do with what we were doing and, more specifically, what we were not doing." That same week, the players were visited by players and school administrators from Woburn, who stopped by Andover High to apologize for their prior actions. "They sat us down, and the [Woburn] coach and principal gave us a few words, and they sincerely apologized and shook our hands," said Centrella. "It was really nice to hear." Andover High Principal Tom Sharkey and Athletic Director Chris Bergeron did not return calls seeking comment.

Last week, a lawsuit was filed in the Lawrence Superior Court relating to the alleged hazing included a report on the actions from Andover High School interim Principal Tom Sharkey. The case requires individual consent from the attorney representing the plaintiffs to see the report. That attorney didn't return several phone calls from the Townsman, but the documents were provided to sister-publication The Eagle-Tribune. The following is a summary of the report's details, as published in The Eagle-Tribune. The legal action is being taken by two players who were at the camp and received three-day suspensions for failing to report the hazing incident to school officials. The students seeking to have their suspensions revoked, if

successful, won't have them on their permanent record for colleges and future employers to see, according to Alex Cain, the attorney representing the two players. In his report, Sharkey determined that while the camp "was not a 'school-sponsored' event, our policies clearly apply to the conduct." Sharkey wrote all of the students interviewed told him that newcomers to the camp "were always subject to pranks." But some of the students told him the pranks that occurred this year "were much more extreme than what they had experienced as newcomers in the past," Sharkey wrote. Two of the nine students were identified as newcomers and "were subjected to a number different acts of initiation." Maple syrup was poured on their sheets, clothes were taken and

they were forced to walk through common areas naked. Excrement was left in one of their beds in a bag positioned to open up if someone leaned on it, Sharkey wrote. The "Cookie Incident," as Sharkey dubbed it in his report, occurred on the third day at camp when students were gathered in the dormitory in between basketball games. The two ringleaders gave the newcomers "three choices" that had been conjured up during the stay at the camp," Sharkey wrote. Two included stripping naked and coming in contact with each other and the other was to masturbate on a cookie and risk having to eat it. One ringleader told a younger boy he would "defecate on his face while he was sleeping if he did not participate," Sharkey wrote in his report. The report said the hazing was

filmed using a Smartphone. Cain noted the incidents occurred in the summer before they attended Andover High. He said his clients were not aware of any obligation to report the incidents to school officials. "These students were absolutely concerned for their safety. They were concerned they could be next. The ringleaders then took active steps to silence them during the school year," said Cain, noting both boys had just graduated from eighth grade when they went to the basketball camp in July. But Sharkey concluded "All nine of the students failed to report the incidents to anyone on the AHS staff or to the police." Sharkey added the behavior constitutes violations of the district's anti-bullying and anti-hazing policies.

Coach Ciarletta said the team is ignoring the insults. It spent last weekend raising over \$500 for cancer research in the "Resolution Run to Kick Cancer" in Lexington, and on Townsman deadline, the team was tied for the division lead. "We're reaching a critical stretch in the season," said Ciarletta. "We have five games coming up over an 11-game stretch. It's important we get hot now. The kids know what's in front of us, and I think we're ready to go."

BANCROFT: Attorney says clients will appeal

Continued from Page 1

Lawrence Superior Court Justice Robert Cornetta said the Conservation Commission acted within its authority when it issued its order of conditions necessary to build the school. Central to the judge's decision is the recognition that those appealing the commission's decision were given "ample opportunity to be heard and submit any evidence they wished to the agency for its consideration" for the project. According to Cornetta's decision, the commission "had substantial evidence presented to it," which included "expert evidence presented by the town's architect, SMMA Inc., as well as expert evidence presented by consulting engineers and professional wetland



FILE PHOTO

Bancroft Elementary School students walk home along a paved path. A construction plan that involves putting a new entrance road in that area has sparked a lawsuit that halted the building of the proposed new \$44 million Bancroft School.

scientists." "The record contains no evidence in the nature of expert submissions, testimony or opinions from [those suing the town] that refutes

in any way the professional evidence and opinions submitted by the applicant at public hearing," the decision said. This is good news for

those supporting the project, according to Deso. "We're very happy with the ruling," said Deso. "It's what we thought, what we hoped we'd get and it clears us up with the Superior Court at this point."

TOWN MUST CORRECT 'CLERICAL' ERRORS

The court's decision could have required the Conservation Commission to make significant changes to the order of conditions. It does require that two "clerical" errors be corrected. "They're very simple things, administrative things," said Deso. "They'll have to go back and be adjusted by the Conservation Commission." ■ ■ ■

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Advertising copy must be in the Townsman office by Monday at 5 p.m.
Camera-ready advertising copy is due by Tuesday at noon.
No cancellations honored after these deadlines.

PFLAG: Eighth-grader asks organization to speak

Continued from Page 1

listen to me and tell me it was OK," said Superior. "Having that friend to support me was so valuable, and it helped me rise up from a place of feeling like I was worthless, and feeling like I had no place on this earth because of the feelings I was having for other guys." For Jack, the careless use of unknowingly hurtful words can make homosexual people "feel horrible," ultimately causing them to repress their true identity. "Every day, in the hallways, you hear gay slurs like, 'Don't be gay,' in a negative way, and 'You're such a fag,'" said Jack. "I hope that students



Dustin Luca/Staff photo
Jack Lu speaks at the event.

will be more aware of what they say and how they affect all of the students. Students at all schools need to be more

accepting." Pam Garramone, executive director of PFLAG in Greater Boston, said the assembly "plants the seed to stop it," while also protecting gay students who aren't comfortable. "Words have power. These kids all say it. They use 'gay' as a negative," Garramone said. "Once you have the conversation with them, they get it and start to stop it." Jack "saw a need, and he did something about it," according to Garramone. "It is amazing. A middle school boy has never come to us before and said, basically, he wanted to have this

conversation." According to Wood Hill Middle Principal Patrick Bucco, the fact that the event was inspired by a student likely means it was more affective on the students. "We always talk about kids stepping up and being leaders, and when they see a problem, do something about it," said Bucco. "It's much more powerful when it comes from students than when it comes from teachers or parents." ■ ■ ■
For feedback on this story, or for other story-related inquiries, please email dluca@andovertownsmam.com.

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In Brief

PAST & PRESENT



THEN: Main Street, Andover, in around 1901, with plenty of parking along Main and Park streets. The building on the corner was home to John P. Wakefield's Market and Morrissey Stables on the corner. The buildings were torn down in 1910 to build the Barnard Block.



NOW: The Barnard Building at the intersection of Main and Park streets, downtown Andover.

Finegold: Freeze unemployment insurance rate

State Sen. Barry Finegold, D-Andover, along with Senators Michael Rodrigues, D-Westport, and Bruce Tarr, R-Gloucester, last week asked Senate President Therese Murray to pass legislation that would freeze the unemployment insurance rate at its current level, a measure they believe would save businesses close to \$400 million statewide.

If the Senate does not act, businesses could see an increase of up to 40 percent in the taxes they pay into the state's unemployment insurance trust fund. That is an increase of hundreds of dollars per employee, according to Finegold's office.

"The economy in Massachusetts is slowly recovering, but we do not want to jeopardize the progress we've made. The state is taking a great step to further this progress in reducing the corporate income tax rate. I am pushing to freeze the Unemployment Insurance rate because it is a crucial step in continuing to move our economy in the right direction and protecting our small businesses," said Finegold in a release. "This bipartisan effort transcends district lines and will be beneficial to business communities statewide," Finegold said in a release.

Finegold office hours

State Sen. Barry Finegold and he staff will hold open office hours in the district on Friday, Jan. 20, for residents to stop by with any questions or concerns.

They will be at Andover's Memorial Hall Library, 2 North Main St., from 10 to 11 a.m.

You should have received town census

The Annual Town Census was mailed to residents Dec. 29. People who have been out of town for an extended period should contact the town clerk's office at 978-623-8255 so that they will not be dropped from the voter or census rolls.

QUOTE, UNQUOTE ...



I absolutely was inspired by school bands and music teachers. I remember (the late) Mr. (Allan) Minkkinen letting me play whatever I wanted. He gave me some scales, played piano in the background and I loved it.

— Saxophonist and Andover native Pete Robbins who will return to town to give a free concert Jan. 20.

Story in Arts, page 11.

The focus is on our customers. Because the other branch is nearby, it made sense to us to combine the branches.

— Valerie Carlson, spokeswoman for People's United Bank, on closing two bank branches in town. People's United has taken over a former Butler Bank, Danversbank and RiverBank in town, and will keep open its location at 16 North Main St., next to the Andover Public Safety Center.

Story in Business, page 4.



Actual real-estate tax bill mailed, due Feb. 1

The town of Andover has mailed the actual tax bills for fiscal year 2012, which started July 1, 2011 and ends June 30, 2012. Third quarter payment is due Wednesday, Feb. 1. Taxes unpaid after that date are subject to interest charges of 14 percent.

Questions about property

valuations and appeal procedures should be directed to the assessor's office at 978-623-8265. Applications for abatements must be received in the Assessors' Office no later than 4:30 p.m., Wednesday Feb. 1.

The Town Offices at 36 Bartlet St. are open Monday to

Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Payments can be mailed in the envelope provided or dropped in the white mailbox with a blue Town of Andover seal in front of the offices.

If you have not received a bill, call the tax collectors' office at 978-623-8246 or email to treasurer@

andoverma.gov. It is not possible to pay real estate bills electronically or with a credit card with UniPay Online. Go to the Andover website andoverma.gov and click on the e-Service box along the top of the website for instructions.

Help your kids 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. 19 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. (The event has been moved from the originally scheduled Jan. 18.)

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, she works with school professionals and families with children and teens struggling with developmental, learning, or emotional challenges.

Speaker, author Scott Hahn at St. A on Saturday

On Saturday, Jan. 14 St. Augustine Parish will present Dr. Scott Hahn, speaker and teacher.

Hahn has delivered numerous talks nationally and internationally on topics related to Scriptures and the Catholic faith. Organizers say his talks have been effective in helping people to (re) embrace the Catholic faith.

He is a professor of theology

and Scripture at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, where he has taught since 1990, and is the founder and director of the Saint Paul Center for Biblical Theology. He has served as the Pope Benedict XVI Chair of Biblical Theology and Liturgical Proclamation at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pa.

Hahn and his wife Kimberly have six children and

five grandchildren.

He is also the bestselling author or co-author of more than 40 books including the Lamb's Supper.

People can register online for the one-day retreat at staugustineparish.org/scotthahn. The cost is \$15.

Doors open at 9 a.m. and talks begin at 10 a.m. and end at 2:30 p.m. St. Augustine Parish is at 43 Essex St., Andover.

Town managers and mayors breakfast forum tomorrow

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

Confirmed special guest speakers include Andover Town Manager Buzz Stapezynski, 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 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 or call 978-686-0900.

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Opinion

Preparation was needed on \$25,000 report

You would expect that some town workers would be upset with a report that calls for reorganization of town departments and the outsourcing of some town-employee functions. But the widespread criticism of a recent report on the Public Works and Plant & Facilities departments seems to indicate Andover rather poorly spent \$25,000 on an outside consultant to compile the report.

With such criticism aired, any valuable suggestions in the report may also fall by the wayside.

What makes the report seem destined to be another Andover dust collector?

For starters, some rather obvious bases weren't covered before recommendations were made. Matrix Consulting Group didn't talk to any of the school principals, even though 80 percent of the work done by the Plant & Facilities Department is done for the schools. It made no mention of multi-million-dollar operations such as snow plowing and solid waste disposal. The acting P&F director believes it did not adequately take into account how reorganizing the departments would affect use of a new town yard, which will be a \$17 million or more investment if supported.

Former Plant & Facilities Director Joe Piantedosi, who has retired and will not be affected by any decision made as a result of the report, was so incredulous over the recommendations that he pounded out a six-page typed critique and attended the meeting where the report was presented. Even Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski, who came up with the scope of work for the consultant, was unimpressed. He told Townsman reporter Dustin Luca last week that none of the recommendations "in my estimation are earth-shattering. A lot of it we knew about."

This isn't the first time the town has seemed to throw money away on a consultant rather than relying on those paid or elected to perform analysis and take action. In 2010, the town paid \$8,500 to the Massachusetts Association of School Committees to help with its superintendent search. Thirty-two people applied for the job and a search committee made up of parents and school staffers met with 10 of these applicants.

The Massachusetts Association of School Committees presented the town with four candidates. One was then-sitting Andover assistant superintendent Susan Nicholson. Another was a former Andover assistant superintendent, Marinel McGrath, who ended up being hired. The two others were Kelly Clenchy, a Maine superintendent who was looking to move closer to his wife's Massachusetts job, and Christopher Farmer, then superintendent of Gloucester schools, both of whom had applied for other superintendent jobs in the immediate area.

In other words, the \$8,500 consultant provided the town with no candidates Andover wouldn't have quite easily found and attracted on its own.

Hiring an outside consultant can be a worthwhile endeavor, under specific guidelines. Here are two: Leaders - in this most recent case, the town manager - must very clearly and narrowly provide the scope of work for the consultant. Before the study begins, those with knowledge of the area should put together important information and be sure this information is understood by the consultant. Such simple preparatory work will allow the consultant to make the best, targeted use of its expensive time.

WEB QUESTION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Andover native Kurt Seifert is biking to Green Bay, Wisc., to raise money for charity, and as the result of a bet. Assuming you had no work obligations, what would it take for you to bike 1,000 miles in the dead of winter?

- Not much. I love riding my bike.
- Encouragement from friends and family.
- A charity. A really, really good charity.
- A bet that I should have reconsidered.
- Incredibly poor judgement on my part.
- Clinically-diagnosed insanity.
- The end of the world, if biking guaranteed my survival. Maybe.
- Nothing could make me do it.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Last week's question was "What will be the biggest story of 2012?" With 69 people responding, the answers were:

- Police break case, make

arrest in double-slaying: 33 votes, 47.83 percent

■ Andover Nationals team makes playoff run with new players: 14 votes, 20.29 percent

■ Teachers settle contract with School Committee: eight votes, 11.59 percent

■ Other (supply answer): seven votes, 10.14 percent

■ Bancroft School project underway: four votes, 5.8 percent

■ Town Yard passes/fails Annual Town Meeting: three votes, 4.35 percent

■ Bancroft School project stuck in courts: no votes

THE "OTHER" STUFF

Seven visitors of our website submitted their own answers. One responder said the Cormier Youth Center will be built. Two referred to the recent double murder on Orchard Crossing, with one of those responses saying there would be no arrests in the incident through 2012. One person forecast the re-election of incumbent President Barack Obama, and another said Andover High girls basketball star Nicole Boudreau would continue "keeping Andover in the lead."

HAPPY DANCE



JAN SEEGER/Staff photo.

Jim Toomey of Andover receives affection from Rowan, 3, a King Charles Cavalier dressed in a walking coat and sporting pink bows in her hair. The dog is owned by Robin Randall-Curtin of North Andover.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Keep focus on teachers contract dispute, provide information

Editor, Townsman:

We appreciated the coverage you included in last week's Townsman related to the teachers' contract dispute (Jan. 5 Education page). We found the side-by-side letters from the union and School Committee most interesting and helpful.

We will definitely participate in an upcoming "coffee and conversation" event hosted by the union and upcoming School Committee meetings including the one this Thursday, Jan. 12 at 7 p.m. to gather more information and offer whatever help we can. We hope that lots of other parents will participate in both as well since our children are being impacted the most by the impasse and without all of our understanding, participation and support there is no telling when this dispute will be resolved and if the resolution will be one we believe in.

There is clearly a buzz among the Andover parent and student populations about the Andover Public Schools and the more accurate information we can get out there the better it will be for everyone. Hopefully the Townsman can continue to keep a strong focus on this topic until it is fully resolved.

JULIE AND MICHAEL DAY
84 Sunset Rock Road

Andover should remember great benefactor Punchard

Editor, Townsman:

Every time I have to enter Town Offices at 36 Bartlet St. (nee Punchard High School) to pay taxes or do other business, I always think, *why not recognize that it was once a school?* There is no plaque except for one acknowledging the war veterans of Punchard High.

How many residents know it was Benjamin Punchard's generous funding that gave Andover its first secondary school? Addison LeBoutillier was the architect of the current building and well known for his artistry. Yet there is absolutely no recognition in this new town hall of its historical background.

Andover is not the only town to convert a high school to a town hall, as I refer to West Hartford, Conn. According to my sister Anna, the town hall there is recognized as it once was, a high school.



DUSTIN LUCA/Staff Photo

Teachers leave Andover High School last Tuesday promptly at 2:35 p.m., the end time specified in the most recent version of their contract. Teachers began a strict work-to-rule action this month.

not sure who Johnson was but Searles made his fortune as one of Gustav Stickley's employees, one of America's most important furniture makers. Searles actually built castles!

It's unfortunate when towns expand, the way Merrimack Valley's Andover and Methuen have and they casually erase part of their history. Since these schools now have alumni that are diminishing in numbers, it is not too late to remember what Searles, Johnson and Punchard meant to their respective communities.

ROBERT STAFANI
332 South Main St.

Deer hunting puts town at risk

Editor, Townsman:

Recent events involving deer-hunting tragedies raise again the issue of whether the town of Andover's deer-hunting program presents unacceptable financial - and personal - risk to citizens.

Last month an Andover resident residing off Bailey Road, near the Pheasant Ridge Green Area, found a dead deer on his front lawn with an arrow through it. While the location was not adjacent to town conservation land where deer hunting has been approved, the disturbing incident nevertheless raises serious concerns.

Bow hunting, with its 50-percent "kill rate," enables wounded animals to travel distances from the kill site before dying. Under the town's current program, where hunting borders on school playing fields, the risk of children encountering seriously wounded and dying deer is real. When only half the time the deer are actually killed where shot, and as the program's participants admitted, it is not uncommon for hunters to wait until later before tracking down and killing the wounded animal, the likelihood that our children might encounter dying "Bambis" while at school should make

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
E-mail: Neil Fater at nfater@andovertownsmen.com. Please include the letter in the body of the e-mail, not just as an attachment.

based on a rational risk-verses-benefit approach (and we believe facts show any benefits to our forests to be negligible and less effective and more costly than other alternatives), allowing deer hunting with bows on town conservation land just does not make sense.

LOIS KARFUNKEL
22 Orchard Crossing
DIANE SULLIVAN
North Andover
CAROL VAN BOREN
KRISTEN BURNS
DEBORAH CUMMINGS

Rare air of Moor & Mountain will be missed in town

Editor, Townsman:

It's quite a bittersweet time for me right now, as the imminent closure of a true Andover gem draws near - one of my favorite stores of all time - Moor & Mountain.

Far, far more than just a place where you can go to buy outdoor gear, Moor & Mountain has, for my 14 years in Andover, always been one of those very special stores where the proprietors not only talk the talk, they truly walk the walk.

Alan French and Burt Batcheller represent an almost unfathomable wealth of local and global outdoor knowledge and passion - and are always more than willing to share it all. It's a store where I know that anytime I stop by, I'll be able to engage in conversation about many issues close to my heart - the trails of Andover, the Shaw-sheen River, the Bay Circuit Trail and more.

While I know that Alan and Burt are looking forward to winding things down and moving on to the next great adventures in their lives and I'm really happy for them, I surely will miss the place when it's gone.

Thank you, Alan and Burt - I'll never forget Moor & Mountain!

DAVID BUNTING
3 Wagon Wheel Road
Andover Trails Committee

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VILLAGE: Businesses given one-month notice

Continued from Page 1

Olde Andover Village's new owners, Avison Young, a partnership, bought the site for \$7.4 million and plan significant improvements. The business partnership of an undisclosed number of people includes state Sen. Barry Finegold, Scott Jameson and John Fenton, all of Andover.

The plaza was built as a single family home in 1910 with a commercial section added around the large home in 1961.

One-month notice

Business owners returning from New Year's found notices dated Jan. 4 slipped under office doors telling them they needed to vacate within 30 days.

"I set up a meeting that day with Chris Arruda... and pleaded for at least 60 to 90 days since the work we do is sensitive and it takes time to prepare clients for a new move, and being the winter makes it all the harder," reported Landry in an email. "Chris was unable to offer that option unless we rented basement units from him that needed to be completely renovated and would cost double and offered no client parking along with an uncertain future as major renovations are planned in his new property."

Landry also said "the heat in the common area is no longer functioning (it was 21 yesterday)," and "the Internet and cable service stopped working so we are unable to file claims and generate income for the clients we serve."

Arruda argued that offering temporary office space in the same building during renovations is a good deal. He called the interruption "minimal."

"We can't control what needs to be done. Rarely have we seen a building that needs this much renovation," he said.

As for a lack of heat, he said, "that's news to us." The heat was on in the building Monday, when the Townsman visited to take photos for this story,



A rendering of Olde Andover Village, which will be renamed Andover Village Square when work is completed later this year. Demolition and construction started on the building this week.

Landlord inherited tenants

Arruda said his company "inherited" the second floor tenants as they were sub-tenants of Peter Beaven. Beaven ran a tutoring business in Olde Andover Village on the second and third floors for 32 years. He moved his business to Dundee Park on Dec. 28. His sister, Betsey Beaven, who operated her holistic food consulting business on the second floor of Olde Andover Village, moved with him.

Peter Beaven said there are now three tenants left on the second floor - Landry and psycho-therapists Sharon Reagan and Sarah Silva.

He said he was "forced out and at no time did the new owners offer any other space" to him.

His rent was raised substantially when Avison Young bought the site last September, he said. He has not paid that rent increase for four months because it was not written in his lease and he has hired a lawyer regarding the matter.

Beaven's lease was terminated Dec. 31, 2011. Arruda said the sub-tenants were "at will" and this status expired when Beaven terminated his lease. Now, Arruda's management company is the only landlord at Olde Andover Village.

Tenants are scrambling to find new space, said Landry.



DUSTIN LUCA/Staff Photo

Christopher Arruda, managing principal of property manager Lincoln Essex Group, talks about the outdated systems in a recently-vacated third-floor apartment at Olde Andover Village. Next to him is an old panel of switches that control utilities throughout the apartment.

"Needless to say finding a new spot for TIP and my private practice within 30 days is quite a challenge," Landry said.

But she has been flooded with emails and calls from friends of TIP who want to help. The "Grinch" feeling has been somewhat replaced by a "It's a Wonderful Life" feeling, she said.

"You know who your friends are when you need them most and the good will we have contributed over the past 20 years to others in crisis continues to shine through," Landry said.

year and plan to rename it Andover Village Square.

The \$7.4 million purchase was filed by a limited liability company called Lincoln Essex OAV, according to documents on file with the Registry of Deeds. It was purchased from Peter Onanian, a Weston resident who owned Olde Andover Village for at least the last three decades.

Investors in the sale include Finegold; Scott Jameson of Andover, a real estate broker who said he is a partner in Musgrove LLC with Finegold; and John Fenton of Andover, principal and managing director of a New England office for Avison Young, a commercial real estate services company based in Canada.

Purchase history

A business partnership of an undisclosed number of people purchased Olde Andover Village last

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 hold the annual "Running for Office" Seminar 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.

Officials: \$25K report lacking

By DUSTIN LUCA
 STAFF WRITER

Andover officials are criticizing a new \$25,000 report meant to study two large town departments, saying the consultant failed to consider key facts or interview important leaders before making its conclusions.

While the report recommends consolidating the town's Department of Public Works and Plant and Facilities operations, officials felt it did not properly address how this will affect the \$17 million plan to replace the Town Yard. It neglected to mention key service areas such as solid waste or snow removal. School Superintendent Marinel McGrath said school concerns were not reflected in the report, and none of the town's 10 school principals were interviewed.

Such criticisms were aired at a joint meeting of selectmen, Finance Committee and School Committee members last week, held after Townsman deadline.

The report, as filed, makes a number of recommendations that would save Andover anywhere from \$262,085 to \$392,085 annually through staff reductions, additional hires and outsourcing operations currently done by town staff.

It was completed by Matrix Consulting Group, which was commissioned by the town midway through last year to study DPW and Plant and Facilities, two leaderless departments following retirements, and it was presented last week by Robin Haley, senior manager for Matrix. "It's obvious that your organizational study focuses on the personnel and management structure of the personnel," Joanne Marden, Finance Committee member said to Haley. "But it seems to leave out totally the things that we contract out for that still require management from the town. There's no mention of snow plowing. There's no mention of solid waste, which is a \$2 million budget."

SCHOOLS INCLUSION

It was also noted that many of the recommendations could damage a sensitive relationship between Andover schools and the town staff that maintain them.

"I'm not sure you can appreciate how big a problem it was to get the school department and the town department working together so well that everyone was comfortable with the work being done, with the communication, with the work-order system, the whole thing," said Marden. "So then to say, 'Well, let's just divide it and put it back where it was,' which is effectively what some of this does, may or may not make people real comfortable."

Haley said it was difficult getting a historical perspective for the report due to his brief relationship with the town.

"That's a limitation of being a consultant," said Haley. "Almost by definition, you haven't grown up here and seen the history."

School Superintendent Marinel McGrath said she didn't see

"our recommendations for the schools and concerns for the schools reflected in the report."

Haley acknowledged interviews with Andover's 10 school principals, whose schools are affected by Plant and Facilities maintenance work "should have been done, certainly up front." A 45-minute interview was conducted with McGrath, McGrath said.

"We did rectify [the inclusion of the schools] once the draft report was done," said Haley. "It couldn't go down to the nitty-gritty levels in the school system. Shame on me."

"But the situation, in my estimation, was rectified," said Haley. "We did recommend the addition of a design planner."

"That was hardly the essence of our conversation," said McGrath in response. "I respectfully disagree with you."

TOWN YARD PLAN

Many comments focused on upcoming plans to replace Andover's Town Yard on Lewis Street, which could cost the town at least \$17 million.

"Generally speaking, one should always go into the design of the facility based on the design of the organization," said Haley. "Not only what you know about it currently, but projected over a 10- to 20-year period as to the likelihood of growth."

When asked if the combination of the two departments would lead to a smaller Town Yard project, Haley said, "in theory, yes."

Maria Maggio, acting director of Plant and Facilities, said that wasn't the case.

"The only administrative staff that was going there was the Plant and Facilities staff, not the DPW," said Maggio. "If we consolidate those two departments, you'd have to add space to the Town Yard to bring those administrative functions there. Right now, the Town Yard study doesn't include the DPW administrative staff."

Due to time constraints, audience members weren't given a chance to speak. Without that opportunity, Joe Piantadosi — who served as head of Plant and Facilities for several years before his retirement last year — circulated a letter to members of the three boards that said "if the goal of the study was to save money, it is my opinion that their recommendations would do just the opposite and jeopardize the town-school building maintenance and grounds programs."

Piantadosi's letter went on to say that due to efficiencies implemented in the town over the past 15 years, "the Plant & Facilities Department is saving the town well over \$2 million annually."

At Monday's selectmen's meeting, Cyr Circle resident Mary Carbone also commented on the Town Yard replacement and the report's recommendations.

"We should get everything in order as it relates to what you're going to do with those two departments before you decide about a Town Yard," said Carbone.

POLICE LOG

The following items were taken from Andover police logs for Tuesday, Jan. 3 through Monday, Jan. 9:

ARRESTS

Tuesday, Jan. 3 — At 11:39 a.m., Bennie Montgomery, 43, of 59 Hevey St., Lewiston, Maine, was arrested on Brown Street and charged on a warrant for operating a motor vehicle while unlicensed.

Wednesday, Jan. 4 — At 11:45 a.m., Daniel Simard, 25, of 140 Third St., Manchester, N.H., was arrested in the city of Lawrence and charged on a warrant for possession of a class A drug, possession of a class B drug and violating an abuse-prevention order.

Saturday, Jan. 7 — At 10:39 a.m., a warrant arrest was made with the involvement of six police officers, including one police sergeant. Daniel Provitola, 28, of 6 Capes Trail in West Barnstable was arrested on River Road and charged with resisting arrest and 29 other charges from seven warrants. Those charges include four counts of forgery of a document; three counts each of assault and battery on a police officer, and larceny under \$250; two counts each of attempting to commit a crime, forgery of a check, resisting arrest and uttering a false check.

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Townspeople

Destination: Cheesehead country Crazy bet has Andover native pedaling 1,100 miles with friend

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
STAFF WRITER

On some road in the Amish area of Ohio, two aching cyclists pedal away, most likely wondering *why, why, why*.

It's January. It's cold, especially on a bike. And they are pedaling more than 1,000 miles — from the National Battlefields of Manassas, Va., to Green Bay, Wisc. — in the winter because of some bet. Really?

It's true. Andover native Kurt Seifert, son of former School Superintendent Ken Seifert and Norma Seifert of Andover, and his friend, Rick Dignus, 44, of Hampton Bays, N.Y. are on an adventure.

"It all began as a joke," Kurt Seifert said last Friday on a bike break somewhere near Millersburg, Ohio, as he headed for Lima, Ohio. "A bet was wagered and quickly turned into an unbelievable challenge."



Andover native Kurt Seifert, left, and Rick Dignus of New York are pedaling to Green Bay with plans to be there for the NFC Championship Game.

That's somewhat of an understatement, as these guys are not the Lance Armstrong type. Both men admit they are untrained cyclists. In fact,

Seifert got his bike on Dec. 24, just a few days before he embarked on this ride of his mid-life. Dignus bought his bike Dec. 26, just for this ride.

"Yeah, I just got the bike and had two rides on it," said Seifert, 41. "Insane, I know."

That daring bet is all about Dignus becoming a proud one \$250 share owner of the Green Bay Packers football team. This pair of soon-to-be official Cheeseheads are betting they make it to the Packers NFC Championship Game.

Seifert and Dignus met 20 years ago. They worked as bouncers together when Seifert worked as a teacher on Long Island. Dignus eventually moved to Gainesville, Va., in 2009 to caddie at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Club in Gainesville, where Seifert is now caddie master and heads his company, 4C Limited. Seifert's caddie company manages seven golf courses and has some 500 employees.

See BIKE, Page 10

ALL THOSE YEARS AGO

COMPILED BY
SUSAN MCKELGIGT

100 Years Ago - Jan. 12, 1912

On Saturday morning the fire department was called out by a slight blaze in the cellar at the home of M.F. D'Arcy on Gardner avenue. No damage resulted, and the "all-out" sounded almost immediately after the ringing in of the alarm.

J.P. Wakefield has had his house on Maple avenue wired for electricity. Dane & Manning did the work.

Charles G. Willard has purchased a lot of land on Punchard avenue from the Cochran estate. He intends to build a two-tenement house on the same.

Owing to the extreme cold on Sunday morning, the service at the South Church was held in the vestry.

75 Years Ago - Jan. 8, 1937

Andover had a very poor year, as far as vital statistics are concerned, for the town clerk's annual figures show that the town is going up in deaths and dropping in marriages and births.

A request for a new police car will be made at the annual town meeting, it was learned this week. The car would replace the car bought in 1934. Another car bought in 1935 is still in very good condition.

The lot at the corner of Lowell and North Main streets, long the subject of a controversy which finally reached the State Supreme court and which indirectly led to the adoption of the town zoning law, will be a town park in memory of William M. Wood, according to plans of members of the Wood family who recently bought the lot.

50 Years Ago - Jan. 11, 1962

The school committee has adopted a 1962 budget of \$1,613,460 — greater than last year by \$151,174. The bulk of this increase comes in salaries — boosted by \$128,000. Increases in the department's expenses amount to \$23,000 over the appropriations of a year ago.

The selectmen are preparing to recommend many street acceptances to the town meeting for favorable action. The streets, all of which are old, familiar ways in the town, have never been properly acted upon at town meeting. But they have been in use for many years — some for over half a century — and have been maintained by the town.

Residents of Andover will have an unusual opportunity next Tuesday evening to get the inside story on alleged corruption in Massachusetts. Elliot L. Richardson, the United States Attorney who prosecuted and obtained a conviction in the Bernard Goldfine case and who prosecuted the Thomas Worcester case, will speak at the Central Elementary School Auditorium on political corruption in Massachusetts.

See ATYA, Page 10

INSIDE VOICES

Kids rehearsed for the Treble Chorus of New England on Monday at West Parish Church off Reservation Road.

The group has three choirs, for ages 7-9, 9-13 and 13-18.

The Treble Chorus offered a half hour music theory class for its youngest singers, before its rehearsals began.



Melanie Powers grabs her song book with excitement during the youth rehearsals for Treble Chorus of New England.



ABOVE: Emilia Sanz-Rios smiles while chatting with friends.



AT RIGHT: Anye Kachulas-Moriarty reads along with the lyrics.

Photos by Angie Beaulieu



Lana Crosson sings during the youth rehearsals for Treble Chorus of New England.



Nathaniel Margolin sings during rehearsals for 7- to 9-year-olds.

Musician remembered: Joan (Simeone) Takesian

Bill Dalton



I'm looking at a picture of Joan Ellen Simeone in the 1960 Andover High School Yearbook, the year she graduated. She was a good person, friendly to everyone and quick with a smile that brightened a room. Everyone liked her. She was a Simeone from that old Andover family that has been a bulwark of the town. Her mother, Madeline, is also in the yearbook but as a teacher. She too was a friendly soul, who had a ubiquitous quality about her, as

she was everywhere always wanting to help. There was nothing about either of them not to like, and the two had a fine relationship.

Joan Ellen (Simeone) Takesian passed away on Dec. 17. Her family was with her, including her husband, Daniel, to whom she'd been married 44 years. Her obituary said she'd had a long battle with cancer, but toward the end, I am told, her passing came relatively fast. I received a couple of stories about Joan Ellen a few days before she died, and I wanted to write a column about her while she was alive, but that proved impossible; however, the stories still exist, and I will tell them.

Joan was a wonderful musician and was selected by her senior class as one of the two class musicians. When you look at the credits next to her yearbook picture, they are filled with music-related information. The last few comments are, "loves music — listening and playing... full of laughs... hopes to teach music."

The stories come from Barry Low, who grew up in Andover and now lives in North Andover. Barry says, "I remember going to the Fireman's Ball as a young kid in the late 1950s. It was the first time I ever heard a big band live. The band was Frankie Kahn's. I remember Joan Ellen Simeone played

the saxophone with the band for a number of two, and I was very impressed with how well she played.

"I was just starting music lessons at Metro Music in Lawrence and had already made my decision to become a professional musician. Hearing Joan play made me realize I had made the right choice. Joan went on to major in music education at Lowell State College, as I did. When she was a senior, and I a freshman, we did a show together — 'Oklahoma.' We often talked and laughed about our Andover Fireman's Ball experience."

Joan's playing the saxophone at the Fireman's Ball became a tradition that folks

looked forward to.

The second story involves a long-running television show called "Community Auditions." I believe it used to be on midday Sundays. The show went off the air from 1987 to 2007, but has been revived.

The original show consisted of four or five presentations made by talented amateurs. Joan appeared on the show and beforehand it went around town that she would be on it, so lots of us watched. Joan was relaxed and did a terrific job. The winner was decided by a vote between shows. Joan's mother, Madeline, full of energy as usual and as ubiquitous as I described, was everywhere, passing out postcards to vote for Joan.

If you were in the cafeteria, Madeline was there handing out postcards; if you were in the parking lot, Madeline was there as well. I don't know whether Joan won or not, but she did a great job and so did her mom.

Joan's dream to teach music was fulfilled, and she taught in Enfield, Conn., as well as Amesbury and Andover. She retired to devote time to her family and her children.

She was a talented person and her wonderful smile and shining personality will be remembered.

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

■ TOWNSPEOPLE

Residents help charities through MVGF work

Twenty nonprofit organizations serving the Merrimack Valley region will receive over \$40,000 in grant awards from the Merrimack Valley General Fund, a fund managed by the Essex County Community Foundation. The money will help stock shelves at local food pantries, support a variety of after-school programs,

as well as fund programs for the elderly and the disabled. This year's MVGF Awardees are: Acting Out! Theater Company, Asian Center of Merrimack Valley, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lawrence, Bread & Roses Housing, Bread & Roses, Essex Art Center, Family Service, Inc., Food for the World, Lawrence Community Works, Lawrence Family Development and Education Fund Inc., Lawrence History Center, Lazarus House Ministries, Melmark

New England, Merrimack Valley YMCA, Neighbors in Need, Northeast Senior Health, Notre Dame High School, Open Heart Ministries, Opportunity Works/Greater Newburyport Opportunities, and the YWCA of Haverhill. The committee also awarded a \$5,000 grant to the Greater Lawrence Summer Fund to support summer programming at over 45 agencies next summer. The Merrimack Valley General Fund is a permanent fund of the Essex County

Community Foundation serving agencies in the Eastern Merrimack Valley. The 2011 MVGF committee members are Richard Blain of North Andover, Peter Caruso Sr. of Andover, Sheila Doherty of Andover, Patricia Driscoll of Lawrence, Chairwoman Julie Gadziala of Andover, Paul Hegarty of Newburyport, Patricia Karl of North Andover, Lisa McDonald of Andover, Daniel Murphy of North Andover, Marianne Paley of Newton, and Len Wilson of Andover.

BIKE: Andover resident pedaling to Wisconsin on bet

■ Continued from Page 9

These pedal-pushing newbies left the National Battlefields of Manassas, Va. on Dec. 27 and planned to get to Green Bay on their bikes, just in time for the game. They are pedaling to raise money for three charities: Thanks U.S.A., Wall Street Warfighters and the National Math and Science Initiative. There's been no snow to slow them down — yet — and the plan was to get to Chicago, Ill. by Wednesday, Jan. 11. Seifert was feeling good about the goal as weather has been on his side. The trek from Chicago to

Green Bay is 226 miles, he said. He'll walk the final leg if he has to, he added. That would probably be much easier as Seifert has caddied for years. He grew up caddying at the Indian Ridge Country Club in Andover and caddied in the Rogers Tournament for years. He's still good friends with John Gilmartin of Andover who went to St. John's Preparatory School with him and plays in the Rogers golf tourney every year. Now married with three children all under 2 1/2, Seifert keeps thinking of those three charities benefiting from his very sore thighs, and he keeps pedaling. (He insisted he was not trying to

get away from diaper duty.) Already, \$50,000 has been pledged to this ride, which has even had some Hollywood glamour. "We saw the childhood homes of Clark Gable and Dean Martin," he said. "And two television stations interviewed us." His van driver stays ahead of the cycling duo and alerts local folks about the ride. "People are really nice," Seifert said. "They hear what we are doing and it's great." He got a thank you from a veteran that he will never forget, because Wall Street Warfighters is benefiting from the bike ride. The group, based in Philadelphia, places disabled veterans in careers

in the financial services industry. "He said 'thank you' and I was like, 'no, thank YOU.' The guy had tears in his eyes," Seifert said. "I will never forget him." Seifert keeps a sense of humor about the effort. For example, when streets with no names set him back 22 miles in Ohio, he noticed a lake and dove in. "It was a polar bear plunge on the bike ride," he laughed. It seems to be a working strategy for him. To donate, see *pedalthepack.com*. Pledge a minimum of 10 cents a mile and you will be able to watch scenes from the bike ride on video.

■ WEDDING



Stephanie Banos and Alex Dubanowitz

Len and Janis Banos of Andover are pleased to announce the recent wedding of their daughter, Stephanie, to Alexander Dubanowitz, son of Joe and Nadia Dubanowitz of Allendale, N.J. Stephanie is 1997 graduate of Andover High School, a 2001 graduate of Trinity College and a 2005 graduate of Northeastern University School of Law. She is currently a real estate attorney with Anderson & Kreiger LLP in Cambridge, Mass. Alex is a 1998 graduate of the College of William and Mary and a 2000 graduate of Columbia University. He is currently an engineer with CSL Consulting in Cambridge. The couple wed on Oct. 9, 2011 at St. Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church in Peabody and had their reception at Glen Magna Farms in Danvers. They honeymooned in South Africa and now make their home in Cambridge.

■ SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES

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 *andoverseniorcenter.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.
 ■ 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. 23 from 1 to 3 p.m. Cost is \$4 plus parts for seniors (ID required); \$10 plus parts for non-seniors/non-residents.
 ■ "Great Art" on Tuesdays, through 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.
 ■ "Mindful Meditation" on Tuesdays, through Feb. 14, from 7:30 to 8 a.m. The practice of meditation soothes and refreshes mind, body, and spirit. Facilitated by Joanne Dahlgren, meditation practitioner. Cost is \$12.
 ■ "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

■ RELIGION

Temple Emanuel upcoming events

■ 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. 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* or call 978-470-1356.

'Welcoming Faiths' group formed

A new 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, also known as Welcoming Faiths, aims to promote equality and inclusivity of LGBTQ individuals and families of faith locally encouraging active rather than passive openness within the participating faith communities. Spearheaded by the Committee for Open Dialogue of Andover's South Church, the coalition currently includes eight other member congregations. For more information, contact: *welcoming-faiths@gmail.com*.

ATYA: Years

■ Continued from Page 9

25 Years Ago - Jan. 15, 1987

The South Church petition for a reduction in the number of required parking spaces for an addition at 41 Central St. was met by numerous arguments from abutters at the Zoning Board of Appeals hearing last Thursday night, and was then withdrawn by the church during the board's deliberation meeting on Saturday. The mid-winter dinner of the League of Women Voters will be held Wednesday, Jan. 21, at the Lanam Club. State Representative Sue Tucker will speak on "Abused Women and Emergency Services."

PROFESSIONAL CONNECTION

<p>QUALITY TUTORING</p> <p>Cathy Wallace Director</p> <p>Smart Start Tutoring, Inc.</p> <p>21 Central Street Andover MA 01810 978-470-4920 smartsstarttutoring@hotmail.com</p>	<p>DENTISTS</p> <p>MGS DENTAL</p> <p>FAMILY DENTISTRY</p> <p>Svetlana Gomer D.M.D. FAMILY DENTISTRY</p> <p>Gentle Touch One Stop Dentistry For The Whole Family</p> <p>1756 Main St. Tewksbury Across from the post office 978-851-7012</p>	<p>LAWYERS</p> <p>LAW OFFICES OF ELISE A. BRASSIL</p> <p>20 YEARS LEGAL EXPERIENCE</p> <p>ELISE A. BRASSIL</p> <p>WORKER'S COMP EMPLOYMENT, FAMILY & ACCIDENT LITIGATION</p> <p>300 Brickstone Square, Suite 201 Andover, MA 01810 • (978) 662-5116</p> <p>WWW.EABLAWOFFICES.COM</p>	<p>LAWYERS</p> <p>ATTORNEY</p> <p>DAVID F. BERNARDIN</p> <p>40 Years Experience</p> <p>Real Estate - Probate Matters - Accident Claims</p> <p>GENERAL PRACTICE OF LAW</p> <p>21 Central Street, Andover (978) 470-3270</p>	<p>ACCOUNTANTS - CERTIFIED PUBLIC</p> <p>TOSCANO & ARDITO, P.C.</p> <p>CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS</p> <p>Specializing In <i>Business, Financial and Tax Planning</i></p> <p>Forty Bayfield Drive, N. Andover, MA 01845 Voice (978) 688-2880 Fax (978) 688-2759</p> <p>Two Greenleaf Woods Drive #301 Portsmouth, NH 03801 (603) 427-0900</p>	<p>LAWYERS</p> <p>Law Offices of Marybeth McInnis</p> <p>Concentrating in the areas of Estate Tax and Business Planning. Probate Administration and Elder Law</p> <p>Of Counsel - James J. McInnis</p> <p>Please call today for our FREE Estate Planning Information Packet</p> <p>(978) 686-6112 807 Turnpike Street North Andover, MA 01845</p>
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As we begin a new year, **Smart Start Tutoring** is enjoying tremendous success. It's owner, Cathy Wallace, has been tutoring for the past 25 years. Prior to that, she taught in both private and public school systems. **Smart Start Tutoring** is currently scheduling spring SAT and ACT prep courses in both small group sessions and one-on-one sessions. We will also help with the college application process as well as assist with editing college essays. **Smart Start Tutoring** also offers tutoring in all academic areas for Grades 1 through 12,

as well as one-on-one tutoring for all prep classes including MCAS. There are certified Wilson trained reading teachers as well as a total of six tutors with education degrees. They will assess your child to determine the appropriate program. Tutoring in foreign language is also available. **Smart Start Tutoring** offers a "kid-friendly" atmosphere with a comfortable waiting room for parents, well-equipped offices, private tutoring rooms and tutors to

fit your child's personality and needs. A snack is also available should your child come right from school. **Smart Start Tutoring** is located at 21 Central Street, Andover, a convenient downtown location within walking distance of most schools. The hours of operation during the school year are Monday through Friday 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Summer hours are also available. Please call **978 470-4920** or email at **smartsstarttutoring@hotmail.com**. **www.smart-start-tutoring.com**

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Courtesy photo by Michael J. Lutch

BYSO students performing on Oct. 23, 2011 at Symphony Hall. Pictured at front right is Andover cello player Sasha Scolnik-Brower.

Falstaff Four: Young Andover musicians to play BYS opera

Four young Andover musicians will be among the 118 Boston Youth Symphony members helping to create a one-time performance of the Verdi opera Falstaff, adapted by Arrigo Boito from the works of Shakespeare.

The Andover players are:
■ Tiffany Lam, 16, viola
■ Jina Lee, 17, cello
■ Miki Nagahara, 17, violin
■ Sasha Scolnik-Brower, 16, cello
The lyric comedy tells the

story of the clever Falstaff, and his intricate plot to swoon two wealthy wives. Verdi's captivating music is performed by Boston Youth Symphony (BYS) musicians center stage, professional singers in the main roles, and a chorus, all coming together.

Verdi's Falstaff was first performed in 1893 in Milan, and was the composer's last opera. It is also one out of three operas he wrote based on Shakespearean characters, Macbeth and Othello being

the other two.

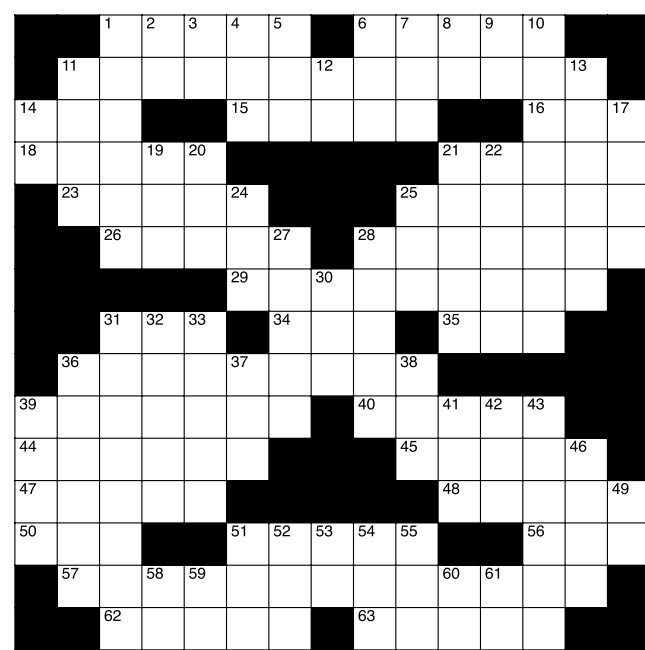
This is the fifth consecutive year that BYSO presents a full, semi-staged opera performance and is the only U.S. youth orchestra to do so. This semi-staged production will be sung in Italian with English supertitles. This performance of Falstaff will feature the Handel and Haydn Society Chorus. This opera is in collaboration with the Consulate General of Italy in Boston.

This one time only performance takes place on Sunday,

Jan. 22 at 3p.m. at Sanders Theatre at Harvard University, 45 Quincy St., Cambridge. Tickets start at \$25 and discounted student and senior tickets are available. Call Sanders Theatre Box Office at 617-496-2222. Free parking is available at the Broadway Garage on Felton Street.

More information about the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras and its 53rd season schedule is available at BYSOweb.org.

Crossword puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- Winter capital of Kashmir
- So. African Music Awards
- The Bay State
- A disorderly crowd
- Actress Greta
- Expression of surprise
- Storybook elephant
- John Jacob ____, capitalist
- Mulled wine
- Membrane around the lungs
- Shows how something works
- Cannonized
- Layers bonded together
- A vessel or duct
- The fire had been
- Female sibling
- Israeli capital
- Blocked in fencing
- 98942 WA
- Gasoline hydrocarbon rating
- Light snacks with drinks
- Supplementing with difficulty
- Am. composer & diarist Ned

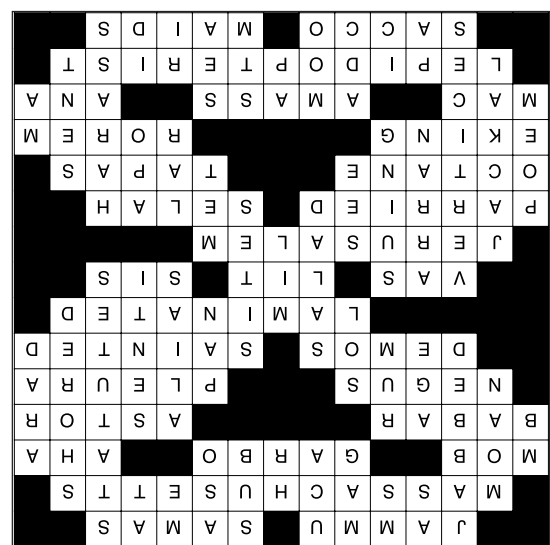
CLUES DOWN

- Poked at
- Equally
- Manuscript (abbr.)
- Periodical (slang)
- Fiddler crabs
- Hero sandwich
- Volcanic mountain in Japan
- Of I
- Indicates position
- Legislative acts
- Low sustained cry
- 60 minutes (abbr.)
- Supported by a prop
- Megabyte
- 9/11 Memorial designer Michael
- The years someone has existed
- Distilled from fermented molasses
- a.k.a.
- Estonian kroon = 100

CLUES ACROSS

- A waterproof raincoat
- Accumulate a large quantity
- Am. Newspaper Assoc.
- Butterfly collector
- __ and Venzetti
- Female servants
- The sun
- Wide metal cooking vessel
- Caesar or cobb
- Building lots
- 1/1000 inch
- Apexes
- Firth of Clyde's largest island
- Bringing suit
- Forsyth novel "The Day of the __"
- Perceive with the eyes
- Was introduced to
- Lines of verse
- Household god (Roman)
- Military mailbox
- Challenge aggressively
- Posted
- One thousandth of an ampere
- General's assistant, abbr.
- Bovine sound
- Associated press
- Opposite of LTM
- A very large body of water
- Ma's partner
- Integrated circuit
- Rhode Island
- Potato state

Solution



ADDISON: Winter events at Andover art museum

Continued from Page 11

Jan. 28 to March 18: Land, Sea, and Sky: Contemporary Art in Maine
Complementing John Marin: Modernism at Mid-century and curated by Brian T. Allen, the Addison's Mary Stripp and R. Crosby Kemper

Director, Land, Sea, and Sky: Contemporary Art in Maine features works by nine contemporary landscape painters: Dozier Bell, Katherine Bradford, Alan Bray, Terry Hilt, Michael Lewis, Dennis Pinette, Vivien Russe, Susan Shatter, and Robert Solotaire.

As the two exhibitions attest, Maine's rugged coast and rocky topography has long been a fertile source of artistic inspiration. In addition to Marin, Maine has historically attracted a large and varied group of artists among them, Frederic Church, Winslow

Homer, George Bellows, Rockwell Kent, William and Marguerite Zorach, Georgia O'Keeffe, and Andrew Wyeth. Representing a similarly diverse range of artistic styles and approaches, the nine contemporary artists included in Land, Sea, and

EVENTS CALENDAR

Continued from Page 11

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.
FREE INDOOR ROWING CLASSES, Essex Rowing Club Inc. is accepting registrations for a free introductory session for Andover Public Schools faculty and staff. No experience is necessary, all fitness levels welcome. Session starts Jan.

THURSDAY, JAN. 19

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

FRIDAY, JAN. 20

FREE LIVE MUSIC, Pete Robbins Quartet, Andover native Pete Robbins, alto saxophone, compositions - and Carlos Homs, piano, Aryeh Kobrinsky, bass,

Tyshawn Sorey, drums, 7:30 p.m., Timken Room, Graves Hall, Phillips Academy; 978-749-4000, andover.edu.

SATURDAY, JAN. 21

ECO TRACKING, join the Department of Community Services and search for tracks and signs of deer, coyote, fox, fisher cats and other animals, 9 to 11 a.m., \$18/person, Harold Rafton Reservation, with naturalist and animal tracker David Brown. Come dressed for the weather - wear warm, waterproof boots or snowshoes and bring extra clothes. School-aged children must be registered and accompanied by a registered adult;

andoverma.gov/dcs, 978-623-8274.

FREE THROW COMPETITION, for Boy & Girls ages 10-14, free, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Andover Knights of Columbus, 10 Brook St., Andover; info@kofc1078.com.

AHS ALUMNI HOCKEY GAMES, 5:10 & 6:20 p.m., \$60 per skater, Breakaway Ice Center, Tewksbury; ahshattrickclub@yahoo.com if you would like to skate.

LIVE BLUES MUSIC, award-winning duo Paul Rishell and Annie Raines, 8 p.m., New Moon Coffeehouse, Universalist Unitarian Church, 16 Ashland St. (rtes 110 and 125), Haverhill, \$20; Margot Loomis, newmoon.haverhill@gmail.com, 978-459-5134.

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Education

To hire principal, typical approach is not enough

Ken Seifert



We are in the process of hiring a new high school principal. This will be the third principal in a few short years. The high school is the lighthouse school for a school district. People judge the system by how good the high school is and where it is headed. It is the launching pad to the next step in a college-minded town's dream for its children. Where there is only one public high school in town it becomes more significant.

In addition, we are rapidly closing in on our accreditation. Soon such an event will be over and we will then plot a journey to excellence — or a second route, good scores on the MCAS test.

On the one hand, there is a comprehensive structure for interviewing candidates for a position of such importance. Then there is a typical process, one that gathers interested candidates, conducts an interview or two, and makes the selection.

Just like painting a house, it is the preparation before the application that makes a world of difference.

Interviews

A good interview includes the open and honest sharing of what each other wants accomplished, so when the contract is ultimately signed both the employer and the employee know to what they have agreed.

Most interviews do not achieve this and most contracts never last very long.

Committee preparation

A well prepared committee has examined what needs to be done, the kind of person it would like to hire, has an accurate description of the workplace and knows the expectations of the community. In addition to the formal application, a written summary statement that describes the above is included so candidates know what the community and education authorities are looking for. Such information should be placed on the school website. The community should know what the committee is looking for and the School Committee should know the kind of leader our community desires. It is that information that tells candidates whether they are the type who should apply for the position.

Most committees are not committees at all, but rather a collection of individuals who want to ask their favorite questions. There is no consensus on what is important and what is not. There is not a unified set of criteria to judge the candidates against the job to be done and who would most accurately fill the position.

Members of the typical committee are not equals and those who prevail are usually those who have individual opinions and are forceful. My dad used to say: beware of an empty barrel, they sound the loudest. There is no consistency to the process and no standards for comparison. It is only a summary of gut feelings.

Candidates

Good candidates should have a very good picture of who the authorities want in the job. They would prepare themselves in advance to address the concerns in the document outlining town desires, make focused suggestions and add their creativity and uniqueness on what they would do and why they are the best choice for the job. The candidates might even offer suggested job descriptions of what they would do in the first 90 days, if selected.

Typical candidates usually fall into certain stereotypes. They have "canned presentations" they give in every interview. They speak in generalizations and are not very conversant with local issues and specific educational needs. Not prepared to deal with suggested problems, they need time to conduct a needs assessment. Some will say they believe in involvement, accountability and individual differences. Some will say they are very eager to work in Andover. When they are finished you really don't know who they are and what they would do.

Decision time

After each candidate has completed the final interview, the committee should take the time and gather the results based on criteria and gut feelings. It is so easy to confuse who said what, when five people are interviewed in one evening. Who is involved in the process is also quite a critical step. Everyone cannot be the final judge, but exposure to the candidates is always appreciated. It is especially important for the candidate. It gives him a good picture as to the social kind of community he will possibly lead. He should also meet people who are neutral to the schools as well as the loyal opposition.

Those who have the final say should look at all the data and impressions, think long and hard as to what the school needs and be confident in whom they select. If a person who inspires confidence does not emerge, then don't recommend.

We are a strong community and although we are in the work-to-rule mode and accreditation is just around the corner, the majority of citizens, real educators and scholars want the right person and not just any person. Good luck!

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

Shawsheen hosts tea for prospective K parents

Andover parents with children entering kindergarten in September 2012 are invited to a Prospective Kindergarten Parent Tea at Shawsheen School, a choice school that accepts children from across Andover.

The tea is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 20, at 9:30 a.m., with a snow date, if needed, of the following Friday, Jan. 27 at 9:30 a.m. Residents who plan on attending are asked to R.S.V.P. to 978-623-8850 or email kdougherty@aps1.net by Jan. 18.

The tea will include a tour of the kindergarten classrooms, along with a question-and-answer period for staff and parents. More information is available on the school

website at aps1.net/shawsheen or by emailing Principal Moira O'Brien at m2obrien@aps1.net

Shawsheen School is located at 18 Magnolia Ave., off Poor Street in northern Andover. It is a primary school of choice for Andover residents, educating students in preschool, kindergarten, and grades 1 and 2.

"The entire school focuses on the developmental stages of primary age children. Please come and learn more about our community and converse with some of our current parents and staff," said a release from the school offices. "If you are unable to attend the tea, please arrange for a tour."



Then-Shawsheen School kindergarteners Sammy Daly, left, and Ben Zaeder, worked last year to make Valentine's Day cards for elders at Marland Place.

HISTORY LESSON



Joe Kidawski from Historical Perspectives for Children was at South Elementary School on Monday morning playing Ben Franklin for third-grade students, including Jack Mucher.

17 Andover students make Austin Prep honor roll

The students listed below have made the first-quarter honor roll at Austin Preparatory School in Reading, according to the school.

Seniors: Christopher Arrigg, Christopher Dona, Maura Green, Emily Weidlein

Junior: Anne Green
Sophomores: Corey Bedrosian, Aileen Kim, Talia Shuman

Freshmen: Anthony Diorio, Ryan McDonough, Mary Margaret Sullivan

Grade 8: Matthew Dona, Irina Noonan

Grade 7: Alicia Green, Alessandra Merenna

Grade 6: Matthew Belluche, David Howell
Austin Preparatory School is a private school located at 1 Willow St. in Reading.

Mom sues schools for \$52K in SPED case

By JONATHAN PHELPS
STAFF WRITER

The mother of a 14-year-old girl has filed a federal lawsuit against the School Committee seeking "reasonable attorney's fees and costs" — up to \$52,000 — after claiming the school district didn't provide the proper special education services for her daughter.

The names of the girl and her mother have been redacted from the complaint filed in U.S. District Court at the end of last month by their attorney Jeffrey M. Sankey, who works at Dolan Connelly, P.C., a Boston-based law firm.

The lawsuit only considers the "reasonable attorney fees and costs" based on previous litigation between the mother and school district, which has already been settled.

The mother claims the school district failed to provide adequate special education services during her daughter's eighth grade year and disagreed with her daughter's placement at Andover High School for the 2011-2012 school year.

She requested a hearing before the Bureau of Special Education Appeals concerning her daughter's special education program and placement on July 13, according to the documents. The girl has a specific diagnosis of language-based learning disability manifested by particular difficulties in reading comprehension, written expression and mathematics.

The mother requested "compensatory services" for the 2010-2011 school year and that her daughter be placed at the Landmark School in Beverly for the 2011-2012 school year at the district's expense. Landmark School is a private school specializing in language-based learning disabilities, according to the documents.

The hearing, which took place over a three-day period in October, ruled in favor of the parent "in all respects." The school district was ordered to pay for the out-of-district placement at Landmark

School and provide compensatory services in reading, speech and language, according to the documents.

Sankey said he spent about 149 hours representing the plaintiffs, at a rate of \$350 an hour. This amounts to \$52,115, according to a court affidavit.

Other expenses, such as mailings and parking fees, add up to about \$200, according to the affidavit.

A judge will determine the final amount if the complaint is granted, Sankey said.

The lawsuit argues that the 14-year-old would not have been provided the proper services if it wasn't for the "litigation of the issues before the BSEA."

As the prevailing party before the appeals board, the plaintiffs have the right to seek the "reasonable attorney's fees and costs" in court, Sankey said. The BSEA doesn't have the authority to grant such relief, Sankey said.

An invoice has been presented to the School Committee for \$52,315, but it has refused to pay, according to the lawsuit.

School Committee Chairwoman Annie Gilbert declined comment.

It is the school district's responsibility to provide a "free appropriate public education" to all school-age children with disabilities residing in Andover, according to the documents.

The mother said her daughter has been "denied FAPE through the district's delayed or non-response to parental requests for evaluation, services and accommodations," according to court documents.

Her daughter's freshman year placement at Andover High School for the 2011-2012 school year further denied her an appropriate education, "because it fails to deliver the curriculum in a classroom environment setting with appropriate language-based methodology designed to address her learning disabilities," according to the documents.

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Sports

RETURN TO THE POOL Camin overcomes back fracture, returns to competition

By DAVID WILLIS
STAFF WRITER

Stan Camin could feel something was wrong. But the then-junior — ever the competitor — not only continued to swim through the increasing pain, he swam at a competitive pace.

So when doctors delivered the news he had suffered a fractured back, Camin was stunned.

“I was shocked,” he said. “I just thought it was a muscle problem or sometime. A fractured back was the last thing I was expecting. It was tough.”

But after nearly a full year out of the water, restricted to a back brace and twice working through physical therapy, Camin has returned as a captain for the undefeated Andover High swim team.

“He is so happy to be swimming again,” said his mother, Naoko Camin. “He loves to swim and he loves this team. It was tough being away, so he is so happy to be in the water.”

A member of the Golden Warrior varsity team since his freshman season, Camin began to struggle with increasing discomfort last December.

“There was a lot of pain in my back over the Christmas break,” he said. “Sometimes the pain was pretty bad. But I never thought I broke something.”

Camin continued to compete for Andover, despite the pain hindering his performance.

“He wanted to make sure he did all that he could to help the team,” said Warriors coach Mark Taffe. “We



JAN SEEGER/Staff photo

After nearly a year away from the pool because of a fractured back, senior Stan Camin is focused on returning to form for the Golden Warriors.

VIDEO TEASE

For video of Stan Camin talking about his injury and fight back, visit andovertownsmen.com or rallynorth.net.

told him any time he didn't feel comfortable he could stop. He said he was fine.” But in late January, doctors informed him that he suffered from “spondylolysis,” or a fracture in his lower back.

“There were a lot of factors that caused it,” he said. “Genetics, overworking, not taking care of it. Even tight muscles. All those together made the fracture happen.”

Camin was able to compete in the Merrimack Valley Conference meet, swimming on the winning 200 medley relay, but he had

to sit out North Sections and Division 1 states.

“The doctors told me to stay out of the pool completely for four months and I needed physical therapy,” he said. “I couldn't really start swimming on a limited bases until the summer.”

But the worst part, he said, was having to wear a large and uncomfortable back brace.

“It was horrible,” he said with a laugh. “Sleeping in it was the worst. I had to wear it 23 hours a day for six months. It was especially bad in the summer.”

Finally out of the back brace, Camin began to work himself back into shape, keeping a positive attitude despite a late setback.

“It took almost a full year to heal,” said Naoko, a native of Japan. “He was getting better, then had to go back for more physical

therapy. It was tough, but he handled it very well.”

Camin was finally cleared to return to competition in late December, and two days after Christmas swam on two winning relays in the Golden Warriors' victory over archrival Central Catholic.

“The toughest part has been catching up to where I was,” said Camin, whose brother Vincent is also swims for the Warriors. “I can definitely feel the decrease in endurance. But in some events I was surprised how little I lost. I am feeling pretty healthy right now.”

With the pesky back brace gathering dust in his closet, Camin has his eyes set on finishing with a bang.

“Pretty soon I'll be back to where I was,” he said. “Hopefully I'll be better than before.”

► Andover High roundup

Boys gymnastics, girls track earn victories

BOYS GYMNASTICS

Warriors shock champs

Facing the three-time defending state champions is no easy task, but Andover was far from intimidated.

“They just would not quit,” said coach Steve Sirois. “They were so excited to compete and win.”

Behind two victories and three second-place finishes by Brian Manning, the Golden Warriors upset powerhouse Braintree 155.9-149.3 last Thursday.

Manning won the pommel horse (8.6) and rings (8.0), was second in the parallel bars, high bar and all-around and was third in the vault and floor exercise. Cody Flaherty added a third in the all-around for the winners.

BOYS SWIMMING

Hunter, Belanger dominate

John Belanger won the 100 freestyle (49.89), Dave Hunter took the 500 freestyle (5:12.96) and 100 backstroke (57.25) and they swam on both the winning 200 medley and 400 freestyle relays as Andover downed BC High 96-90 on Monday.

Dave Iannalfo won the 100 butterfly (57.35), Dave Hunter took the 100 freestyle (50.09) and they teamed with Stan Camin and John Belanger to win the 200 medley relay as Andover topped Lowell 100-81 on Friday. Stan's little brother Vince Camin took the 100 breaststroke.

GIRLS TRACK

Freshman runs to win

With the meet coming down to the final event of the day, freshman Lily Puccia turned on the jets with an amazing anchor leg to give Andover a victory in the 4x400 in 4:22.8, one second ahead of Central Catholic to lead the Golden Warriors to a 44-42 victory over their archrivals last Wednesday.

“The placed was rocking,” said Andover coach Peter Comeau. “I haven't heard the field house that loud in a long time. Central led the relay the entire way and Lily pulled away at the end. It was an amazing meet.”

Puccia was joined on the deciding relay, always Andover's specialty, by her sister Alex Puccia, Abbey Pustis and Emily Van Antwerp.

Maggie Mullins added a victory in the 2-mile (11:20.5) and Meghan McPhee took the mile (5:45.2) for the Golden Warriors.

GIRLS SKIING

Kearns leads the way

Jess Kearns placed first in 20.81 as Andover took four of the top five spots on the way to beating North Andover (95-40) and Austin Prep (126-9) on Monday. Following Kearns were Golden Warriors Kerry Christopher (second), Julia Ganley (third) and Nicole Erickson (fifth). Sara Faigel (ninth) added another top-10 finish.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Boudreau helps top rivals

After a tough first half, Nicole Boudreau heated up in the second half, finishing with 23 points including five 3-pointers to give Andover a 53-42 victory over archrival Central Catholic last Wednesday.

“Our win was because of our defense,” said guard Devon Caveney, who scored 10 points.

For more sports roundup, visit andovertownsmen.com



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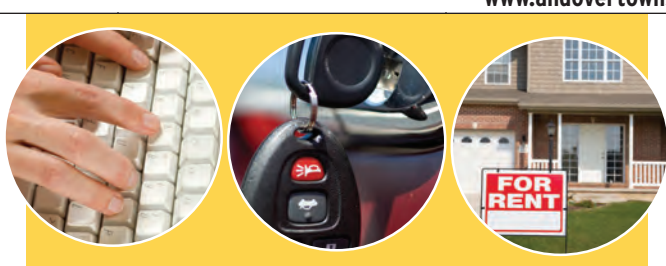
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