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OUR 124TH YEAR

Andover Townsman

Issue No. 26

FEBRUARY 23, 2012

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► In your schools

Ball chairs said to provide more well rounded health education



DUSTIN LUCA/Staff Photo

Health classes throughout Andover's three middle schools have replaced their desk chairs with stability balls, which educators say improve posture, strengthen the core of the students' developing bodies and keeps them awake and attentive in class.

By DUSTIN LUCA
STAFF WRITER

Rubber stability balls are used for exercise and physical therapy across the country. In Andover they're serving another purpose: student chairs.

The school department purchased around 90 stability ball chairs for use in middle school health classrooms. The chairs look exactly like stability balls, except they also have small legs to keep them in place when they're not in use.

Logan Bravo, a 12-year-old student at Wood Hill Middle School, described the chairs as "different, but I like that."

"It's not like a chair. It's like a rock, but comfortable," said Logan. "Normally, kids lean back in their chairs and it doesn't help them with their posture. This focuses on how

"It's not like a chair. It's like a rock, but comfortable. Normally, kids lean back in their chairs and it doesn't help them with their posture. This focuses on how you sit."

Student Logan Bravo, 12

you sit." It focuses on posture so much, that students even find it difficult crossing their legs when seated. They have to maintain two feet on the ground at all times, according to health teacher Stacey Consiglio.

"All three of us health teachers say you can pulse — you can't bounce," said Consiglio, very lightly bouncing herself up and down by no more than an inch to demonstrate. "I absolutely love it. I never want to go back to normal chairs."

Brian McNally, director of Health and Physical Education at Andover

Public Schools, said he heard about other districts using the chairs and was eager to see how they worked. Key to his interest is that the chairs force the students to balance themselves while seated, which strengthens the core abdominal muscles and encourages healthy sitting and exercising habits.

"You have to balance on the ball, or you will fall," said McNally. "You have to learn how to use it fast."

"It definitely takes getting used to," said Consiglio. But getting

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Ballardvale fire station project takes heat

Resident group organizes, proposes alternatives

By DUSTIN LUCA
STAFF WRITER

A small group of South Elementary-area residents believe they have better alternatives to building a new Ballardvale Fire Station on school property, and are frustrated a task force disagrees.

Their frustration boiled over at a task force meeting last Thursday that was attended by around 60 people including town officials. Seven residents spoke on behalf of 13 who live in the South School area and have organized. Their presentation was referred to as "community reaction" to the proposed fire station

relocation.

"We stand shoulder to shoulder with the task force and selectmen and others as it relates to building a better fire station," said Joel Mittelman, a Winterberry Lane resident. "We're trying to help that process. But there are other things that are important to us, including the schools, the quality of life, our children, maintaining the character of our neighborhoods."

"We fully appreciate the effort of other folks in town who have been put on this task," continued Mittelman. "We appreciate it, but we respectfully and strongly

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ANGIE BEAULIEU/Staff photo

Parents, including, from left, Amy Smith, Danielle Matton, with son Noah, 4, and Sue Meaney, with son Dylan, 3, are trying to stop the Ballardvale Preschool from closing.

Boudreau scores 2,000th point, eyes record

By DAVID WILLIS
STAFF WRITER

Nicole Boudreau, the guard with the golden jump shot, didn't believe the awkward layup was going to fall when she released it.

"I didn't think it was going in," said Boudreau with a laugh. "It seemed like there was a lid over the hoop for a while. I got 10 points quick, but that 11th point just didn't want to drop. I threw up the shot and it hit the rim — then it just kind of creeped in."

Like so many shots in Boudreau's career, the outcome was perfect.

With that bucket late in the second quarter Friday night, Boudreau became the first female athlete in Andover High history to score 2,000

points for her career, and only the second overall in school history.

"It's just kind of unreal that it actually happened," she said. "It has taken a lot of hard work from me and my team, and it's a pretty awesome accomplishment."

Through Monday, Boudreau has now scored a stunning 2,060 points for her amazing career, just short of All-Scholastic boys star Chris Vetrano's all-time school record (2,090).

"I was so relieved when it happened," she said. "Devon (Caveney) was right there and gave me a big hug and I saw the whole team rushing towards me."

The game Friday, against arch

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CARL RUSSO/Staff photo.

Andover's senior co-captain Nicole Boudreau acknowledges the fans after scoring her 2,000th point. Head coach Jim Tildsley walks beside her holding the ball she scored with.

Parents fight to save local preschool

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
STAFF WRITER

A group of parents wants to save a small Andover preschool that has served the community for 40 years and expects to close.

Licensed for 39 preschoolers, there are just 15 children now attending the Ballardvale Preschool and eight of them will move on to kindergarten in September.

"We need more kids," said

Lina Gruca, director of the preschool, which is housed at Ballardvale Church on Clark Road. "We've been here for 40 years and it's very hard for us right now."

As this preschool director has watched Andover's birth rate decline dramatically, she's sadly watched her enrollment dip just as fast at the Ballardvale Preschool.

"I belong to a local preschool collaborative," Grupa

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In Brief

State Reps. Adams, Lyons to hold office hours Feb. 27

Andover state Reps. Paul Adams and Jim Lyons will hold joint open office hours on Monday, Feb. 27 from 9 to 10 a.m. at the Andover Senior Center, 36 Bartlet St. The representatives would like to extend an invitation to citizens who wish to meet with them to discuss issues of concern. The offices of both representatives are located in Room 39 at the State House in Boston. Any citizen wishing to meet with the representatives may do so by scheduling an appointment. Lyons may be reached by appointment with his legislative aide, Paul Gangi, at Paul.Gangi@mahouse.gov or 617-722-2800, ext. 8671. Adams may be reached by scheduling an appointment with his legislative aide, Joseph Sheehan, at Joseph.Sheehan@mahouse.gov or 617-722-2800, ext. 8661. Citizens requiring special accommodations to meet with the representatives are asked to advise the staff when making an appointment.

QUOTE, UNQUOTE ...



It's less of, 'Yay! We won something!' and more of us feeling proud of being recognized for what we've been doing all season, something we're not really recognized for by the school itself.

— Morgan Gundrum, one of four student captains of the Andover High School Dance Team that won a Boston dance competition this month. The team does not have an adult coach or faculty advisor. Story, page 20.

Just like the U.S. Supreme Court. You get a majority opinion and if it isn't unanimous, you also get a minority opinion...[T]his will provide more information to the voters in town who ultimately have to make the final decision on each one of these articles.

— Resident Bob Pokress, who would like to hear before Town Meeting from officials on each side of Town Meeting issues. Story, page 8.



PAST & PRESENT



Photo copied from the Andover Townsman, February 28, 1957
THEN: City Cleaners had moved to 8 Park St. during February 1957. Prices for dry cleaned and pressed included: dresses 89 cents; trousers 45 cents; shirts laundered and refinished 21 cents; and sheets 12 cents.



TIM JEAN/Staff photo
NOW: Dellaria Salons at 6-8 Park St., occupies what was the location of the City Cleaners in 1957.

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COPY DEADLINES

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.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Democrats to elect delegates to state convention at caucus

Democrats in Andover will be holding a caucus at Memorial Hall Library on Saturday, Feb. 25 at 10 a.m. sharp to elect 17 delegates and three alternates to the 2012 Massachusetts Democratic Convention, where Democrats from across Massachusetts will select candidates to compete for the Democratic nomination for U. S. Senate.

The convention will be held on Saturday, June 2, 2012 at the Mass Mutual Center in Springfield.

The caucus is open to all registered democrats in Andover. Delegates will be divided equally between men and women, and all ballots will be written and secret.

In the spirit of inclusion, youth, minorities, and people with disabilities who are not elected as delegates or alternates may apply to be "addon" delegates.

For more information, contact Patricia Commene at 978-474-6047.

LWV addresses 'Political Advertising and the Voter'

The League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover will sponsor an important discussion on the regulation of political advertising and the practical implications of false advertising by candidates

and their supporters on Wednesday, Feb. 29 at 7 p.m. at the Andover Memorial Hall Library.

"Political Advertising and the Voter" will feature Dr. Harry Wessel, Chair of the Political Science Department at Merrimack College and a specialist in the role of mass media in politics.

With the help of videos of some famous past political ads, Wessel will explore the role of advertising in the political system and the parameters of permissible political advertising.

This event is free and open to the public. It will broadcast live and also be taped for rebroadcast on local access television.

For more information, contact Stefani Traina at steftraina@verizon.net or Maureen Sundberg at rrsundberg23@gmail.com.

Service Club candidates forum March 9

The Service Club of Andover will host the 2012 Town Election Candidates Forum at The Links Restaurant, on the lower level of the Andover Country Club, during the morning of Friday, March 9. The Service Club will have a free breakfast at 7 a.m., followed by the candidates forum, from 7:30 to 8:45 a.m.

Each candidate will have one minute for an opening statement, and then

there will be a question-and-answer period, with questions posed by those in attendance. Each candidate will also be given one minute for a closing statement.

Residents interested in attending are asked to contact club President Gary Morelli at gmorelli@mymca.org.

February health clinics

The Andover health department will offer a mini clinic on Monday, Feb. 27 from 1 to 2 p.m. at Frye Circle.

It will offer senior center clinics on Wednesdays, Feb. 22 and 29 from 2 to 3 p.m. No appointment is necessary.

For more information, call 978-623-8295.

Heart Association CPR/AED certification classes

The Merrimack Valley YMCA now offers American Heart Association CPR/AED certification classes to its members and the community.

Trainings on the schedule through March are:

■ Feb. 23 from 9 a.m. to noon at YMCA Administrative Offices in Lawrence.

■ March 14 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Andover/North Andover YMCA.

■ March 31 from 9 a.m. to noon at Andover/North Andover YMCA.

Cost is \$60 for Merrimack Valley YMCA members, \$90 for the community.

For more information, contact Bobbi Williams at bwilliams@mymca.org or 978-685-3541.

Assessing Breast Cancer Risk

A free medical Meet the Expert seminar with Surgeon Kathryn Hughes, MD is offered on Tuesday, Feb.

28, 6 to 7 p.m. in Merrimack Valley Hospital's first floor auditorium.

Hughes will help attendees understand the incidence of breast cancer, identify risk factors, define and identify "high risk" for breast cancer, understand breast cancer screening for normal and high risk patients, and identify and understand risk-reducing strategies. One free contact hour for nursing. The event is free and open to the public, with light refreshments. Registration is required. For more information or to register, contact Jean Macdougall-Tattan at 978-420-1168 or email jean.macdougall-tattan@steward.org. Merrimack Valley Hospital is located at 140 Lincoln Ave., Haverhill.

Free memory screening event

A free memory screening event will be held today, Thursday, Feb. 23 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the North Andover Senior Center, 120R Main Street.

The screening is being conducted by Elder Services of Merrimack Valley and is open to anyone (regardless of age) who would like to have their memory screened.

The event is confidential and the results of the screening are immediately shared with you.

Limited space available and appointments are assigned on a first come-first served basis. Screening takes 20 minutes to complete.

For more information or to register, contact the North Andover Senior Center at 978-688-9560.

Rotary seeks nominations for Citizens Who Care

The Rotary Club of Andover is now accepting nominations for the annual Citizens Who Care Awards, to be held Thursday, May 10 at the Wyndham Andover Hotel.

The nominee must have an Andover connection: residence, workplace or place of community efforts. For example, a recipient may live in Andover but perform his/her community service in Lawrence.

The volunteer work that is done must be beyond the nominee's job description. For example, a paid worker for Andover Youth Services is still eligible for consideration if the work he/she undertakes is far outside the scope of what his/her job entails.

Past recipients are not eligible. Current members of the Rotary Club of Andover are not eligible.

You may nominate more than one person.

The deadline for submission is March 15.

For more information or to nominate worthy recipients, fill out the form found at RotaryAndover.org.

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Not all home health care agencies are the same, so it is important that you know the facts. Home Health VNA is your local, not-for-profit agency providing exceptional nursing, rehabilitation and support services since 1895. Over the years we have grown and now provide care in 90 cities and towns in the Merrimack Valley, Northeastern Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire. Our home health care professionals are renowned for their advanced medical expertise and commitment to patients and families. And, our broad array of specialty programs is designed to treat even the most complex conditions such as stroke, heart and lung disease and joint replacement. Most importantly we take great pride in our reputation of providing extraordinary care. In fact, Home Health VNA was honored to again be named among the Home Care Elite — one of the top agencies in the country for quality care and patient satisfaction.

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■ POLICE LOG

COMPILED BY DUSTIN LUCA
dluca@andovertownsmen.com

Due to space constraints, last week's log featured only arrests, though due to a reporter's error, two arrests were omitted. This week's log includes those arrests.

ARRESTS

Tuesday, Feb. 7 — At 8:03 a.m., Lori Cote, 44, of 6 Fleming Ave., Andover, was arrested on Route 125 and charged with having no registration in possession, driving with no inspection sticker, operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, subsequent offense, driving with a revoked registration, driving an uninsured motor vehicle or trailer and on a warrant for driving with a suspended license.

At 4:13 p.m., Colleen Dortona, 28, of 2 2nd St., Woburn, was arrested on River Road and charged on a warrant for shoplifting and larceny over \$250.

Tuesday, Feb. 14 — At 12:04 p.m., Justin Martin, 21, of 34 Woodland St., Lawrence, was arrested in Lawrence and charged on two warrants for trespassing, breaking and entering into a building at night time with intent to commit a felony, resisting arrest, disorderly conduct and being a person under the age of 21 in possession of liquor.

Friday, Feb. 17 — At 12:32

p.m., Eddie Anderson, 54, who said he was homeless and out of Lowell, was arrested on Haverhill Street and charged on a warrant for failing to register as a level two sex offender.

At 4:14 p.m., Brad Thibodeau, 37, of 1 Washington St., Haverhill, was arrested on Main Street and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, driving with a revoked registration, driving an uninsured motor vehicle or trailer, and on a warrant for driving an uninsured and unregistered motor vehicle.

Sunday, Feb. 19 — At 12:08 p.m. and 12:34 p.m. respectively, police made two arrests on North Main Street. Judit Vajda, 31, of 311 Lowell St., Andover, and James Alex, 45, of 112 Abbott St., Andover, were both charged with violating an abuse prevention order.

At 6:51 p.m., Richard Campbell, 48, of 24 Maple Ave., Andover, was arrested at his home and charged with assault and battery on a household member.

Monday, Feb. 20 — At 1:36 a.m., David Martinez, 21, of 13 Shepley St., Andover, was arrested on Sutherland Street and charged with being a fugitive from justice on a court warrant, and on three warrants for disorderly conduct, driving a motor vehicle while unlicensed and using a motor

vehicle without authority. At 9:55 a.m., Stephen Breau, 43, of 2 Punchard Ave., Andover, was arrested on Bartlett Street and charged on a warrant with possession of a class B drug.

BREAKS

Friday, Feb. 17 — At 5:12 p.m., a house break was reported on Stevens Street.

THEFTS

Wednesday, Feb. 8 — At 1:39 p.m., a fraud by bad check was reported on Chestnut Street.

At 3:18 p.m., identity theft was reported on School Street.

Saturday, Feb. 11 — At 3:16 p.m., a theft of cash was reported at a business on North Main Street.

At 4:16 p.m., a theft was reported on Salem Street.

At 4:53 p.m., fraud by bad check was reported on Center Street.

Thursday, Feb. 16 — At 8:16 p.m., a possible theft was reported on River Road.

At 2:27 p.m., a theft was reported on Main Street.

At 4:07 p.m., a case of identity theft was reported on Dartmouth Road.

At 5:49 p.m., identity theft was reported on Elm Street.

At 8:09 p.m., a theft was reported on Haverhill Street.

Friday, Feb. 17 — At 1:34 p.m., identity fraud was reported on Delphi Circle.

POINTS: Boudreau hits 2,000 mark

■ Continued from Page 1

rival Central Catholic, was stopped for a ceremony and the basketball that she shot for No. 2,000 is sitting in her house with the one from point No. 1,000.

"It was really special for me to walk out and give her the flowers," said her sister and fellow Andover guard Danielle Boudreau. "I wanted to make sure I had that little task. I got that little hug and it made my day. I'm sure it made her day, too."

Noting all of her accomplishments, including the points and a pair of state titles, Andover coach Jim Tildsley did not hold back his praise for the player he called the best in program history.

"Charlotte Muller is a close second but what (Boudreau) has done over her four years here is incredible," said Tildsley. "We're 89-9 and we've won two state championships. She thinks about winning. And to get 2,000 points is really incredible because some games she only plays half the game because we're up by so much."

Even days later, Boudreau struggled to comprehend the accomplishment.

"Early in my career I never really dreamed it would happen," she said. "As a freshman, Ally (Fazio) and I made the team and we were just hoping to do everything we could. It was about winning titles, not counting points."

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CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

Senior co-captain Nicole Boudreau watches along with hundreds of fans as the ball slowly drops through the basket after an off-balance layup for her 2,000th point. She made it with a minute left in the first half of last Friday's game.

fall, Boudreau isn't distracting herself with the final number that will fill the empty spot next to her name on the banner for 1,000-point scorers that hangs in the Dunn Gym.

"We're looking for a

(state title) three-peat," she said. "If we can win the state championship and I can break the record, that would be a pretty good final season."

STATION: Project taking some heat

■ Continued from Page 1

disagree with some of the analysis and we strongly disagree with the [task force]."

The group opposes the task force's recommendation to put the station on a playing field at South Elementary and believes the recommendation does not follow the Manitou Inc. study the town paid for to look into fire-station options.

"How will this benefit our overall education environment?" said Lidya Cardin, a Glenwood Road resident. "There is no upside to allowing a fire station next to this school. There are too many risks, uncertainties and sacrifices."

MANITOU WEIGHS IN

The hearing was attended by Charles Jennings, a principal official with Manitou Inc.

One complaint is this study refers to moving two stations — both Ballardvale Fire Station and West Fire Station — but the task force recommendation is to only move one.

"Indeed, we recommended that both stations... be moved," said Jennings. "It was not our indication that they need to be done simultaneously, nor was it our indication that you couldn't move one without having to move the other."

Another topic at the meeting was the coverage that the town's three stations provide to Andover homes, and how that would change by moving the station to South School land. The residents group presented charts they believe show that several other changes could be made to provide quick fire-response time to more of Andover geographically.

"When we're looking at coverage, we're looking not just at covering the map," said Jennings. "We're looking at the ability to serve actual calls of service. Where there is a concentrated demand for service, you want to have your resources closer to there."

That methodology is what the task force to recommend putting the station near South Elementary School, the task force has said.

STUDENT SAFETY

But Ballardvale Road resident Neil Cashman said putting the station next to the school is "just looking for

trouble."

"I have seven cases right here of children that have been killed by fire equipment responding to emergency calls with schools right next to the fire stations," said Cashman. "We put our children in danger every single day just walking down the street, or walking out of the school, being abducted, all sorts of different things. If you want to add to that danger every single day, then put a fire station on a school ground."

Task force Chairman Dan Casper asked for a copy of the seven cases before saying that he wasn't aware of any incidents of that nature taking place in the state.

"We've located schools that are near fire houses. [Fire Chief Mike Mansfield] has sent out communications to fire chiefs throughout the state as to whether there's any problems," said Casper. "He got some responses that there were no problems, and he didn't — to my knowledge — get any responses that there were any problems."

Mansfield spoke as well, saying the National Fire Protection Association doesn't have information on this because "it happens so few times, if at all, that they don't even track that type of data."

School Superintendent Marinel McGrath relayed that she is in contact with superintendents and school principals throughout the state to learn whether problems exist at schools placed next to fire stations.

SIDES CLASH OVER RECOMMENDATION

Additionally, Casper said the task force's responsibility was "to make a recommendation as to whether or not we need a new fire station" and where it should go if one was needed.

"You wanted us ... to make a recommendation that was in the best interest of fire protection and rescue protection services in our town. That's what we tried to do," said Casper. "Whether people agree or disagree with us, we come back to this site as the best site."

On multiple occasions, members of the public spoke over and interrupted town officials, prompting Selectmen Chairman Brian Major, who ran the meeting, to plead, "Folks, please, let's be respectful. We're all

neighbors."

"We've come to these meetings, we've voiced our concerns, we've raised many other alternatives. Nobody seems to listen," said Marianne Cashman, later in the meeting. "We put a lot of work into this presentation. We're smart people. We have a lot of good ideas. And the first thing that happens is these guys get back up on the stage and just start ramming it down our throats again."

"If we're going to talk about respect, I think we should go back to the drawing board and consider what everybody's thinking," said Cashman.

BOUDREAU AND THE BEST

Here is how Nicole Boudreau ranks in the top all-time scorers in Andover High history:

NAME	YEAR OF GRADUATION	FINAL POINTS
Chris Vetrano	2004	2,090
Nicole Boudreau	2012	2,060*
Charlotte Muller	1998	1,616
Tommy McLaughlin	2001	1,564
Jenny Muller	2003	1,496
Natalie Gomez-Martinez	2011	1,412
Tim Perry	1986	1,401
Jack Barrett	2004	1,178
Meghan Thomann	2008	1,173
Ashley McLaughlin	2004	1,150

*- Through Monday

According to banner in Andover's Dunn Gym

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Education

Teachers rally calls for union solidarity Contract talks exceed 77 weeks since last agreement ended

By DUSTIN LUCA
STAFF WRITER

Nearly 18 months since their last contract expired, Andover teachers gathered outside Old Town Hall last Thursday with a message: "we shall not be moved."

An Andover Education Association rally on Feb. 16, attended in light rain by as many as 100 Andover teachers, featured Tim Sullivan, vice president of the Massachusetts Teachers Association, the statewide teachers union.

"You are not alone," said Sullivan. "The 110,000 members of the [MTA] stand with you with your struggle to maintain quality education for the students and residents of Andover."

"You are now in week 77 without a contract, and that's

77 weeks too long without a contract," said Sullivan. "But I tell you, it's not long enough to give up the fight. You keep going, and you keep going, and you keep going."

That message was also conveyed at the rally by Jen Meagher, AEA vice president.

Meagher said the teachers need to hold together. "If one level falls, the rest will follow," said Meagher.

"We're counting on you to continue this effort. Your bargaining team needs you," said Meagher. "Your action team is acting. We need your

help. We need your resolve. Stay strong. This is the time. Andover needs to hear from teachers."

The rally was held only a week after news broke that mediation between the

See **CONTRACT**, Page 6

Time to address the slacker factor

Ken Seifert



What does our fragile economy, a massive national debt and a feeling of despair have in common?

There are at least a dozen reasons that might qualify. The one that is rarely discussed in public, yet is quite significant, is the slacker factor.

The number of slackers is small yet critical in our daily lives. The British and Irish are not bashful when they talk about slackers but we are more politically correct and dare not discuss the topic in campaigns, talk shows or national policy.

What is a slacker? One who practices "slackery"! They can be identified by the following characteristics:

- People who always try to beat the system. They are experts in finding loopholes.

- People who know their rights but feel no obligation for responsibilities.

- People who take more than they give. They look for the free lunch and expect someone else to pay for it.

- People who literally sleep on the job, phone a friend five times a day, take two hours for lunch, and create new ways to avoid work. This is done while receiving a fair day's wage for what should be a fair day's work.

- People who know the law and yet practice moral fraud within the law.

You can without a doubt add to the list.

Such people can be found in every social class, occupation, race and religion. They are usually of average and above average intelligence.

We, as Americans, are compassionate, generous and, above all, believe in fair play. In a democracy there is a basic assumption citizens are honest, hard working and accept personal responsibilities. We provide education, welfare programs, rehabilitation programs, a goal of health care for all, liberal laws of capitalism, social security and more.

However in such a government with more freedom it is easier for capable people to not to pay their dues, to demand only rights and to allow others to provide goods and services for

them and their families. Probably the biggest flaw in any government is the practice of citizens doing something that is basically wrong yet within the law. It is the thought that anything goes, that "we are a nation of laws" (not morals).

I am no psychiatrist, but I do sense a growing sense of despair among productive, hard working and conscientious citizens. They may feel they have become victims of the slacker factor.

There are many people who truly need food stamps, unemployment benefits, disability pensions, welfare and a hand-out to get over some tough times. It is the slackers who do not.

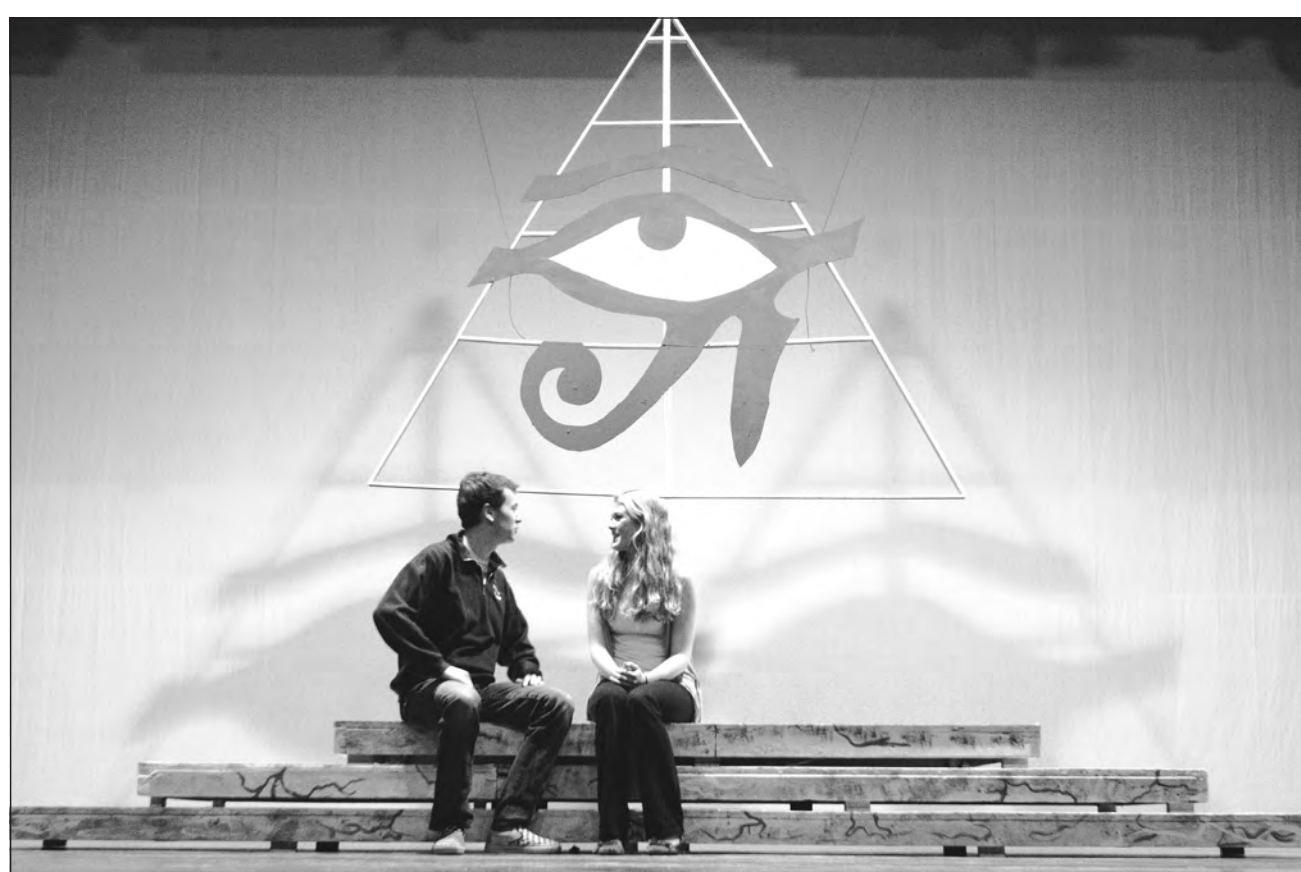
There are those who invest their hard earned bucks for their children's education, the evening of life, and a little nest egg for a few nice things. They invest in capitalism only to find out it is wiped out in a moment because some slackers devised a scheme within the law and they are too big to be put in jail and nobody knows where the money went. Most lawyers and corporate executives are decent and honest people. It is the slackers who are not.

I am not in favor of more government. But I would like to see a department of Slacker Reduction in America (SRA). It would be based on a merit program. The department would receive 3 percent of all the profit made and the reduction of slacker. No one would be spared. It would start in Congress and the largest corporations.

For every social program we would eliminate the slacker factor and publish the names of all the slackers in the country. They would be placed at the bottom of the employment list and would not qualify for government social benefits. The president could then say to all America, "Ask not what your government can do for you, ask what you can do to eliminate slacker."

OK, I know the department idea has problems. I still think the slacker factor is an issue that needs a national conversation, followed by action. We better take action, or we will be bled to death by our compassion, generosity and sense of fair play.

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



DUSTIN LUCA/ Staff photo

Connor Richardson, playing the role of Benny, and Emily Byrne, playing the role of Louise, rehearse a scene of the Andover High one-act play on Tuesday.

Free one-act production: 40 minutes, 'Epic Proportions'

Residents can see a play in Andover next Wednesday night, with plenty of time left over to do something else as well. The Andover High School Drama Guild will present a free showing Feb. 29 at 7:30 p.m. of its 40-minute

performance of "Epic Proportions" by Larry Coen and David Crane. It is shown with permission of Dramatist Play Service Inc. of New York. The play will be staged at the Collins Center for the Performing Arts, Andover High

School, 80 Shawsheen Road.

This free performance serves as a dress rehearsal for Andover High School's entry into the 2012 Massachusetts Educational Theatre Guild Festival, a competition of one-act plays.

ON CAMPUS

Endicott announces dean's list students

Beverly, MA Endicott College has announced its dean's list for 2011 fall term. To qualify for the dean's list, a student must obtain a minimum grade point average of 3.5, receive no grades below a C, and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits for the semester.

The following Andover students have met these requirements:

Joshua Bruno, the son of Ferdinando Bruno of Andover and Jeri Bayer of Andover, a senior majoring in international studies.

Olivia Deary Evans, the daughter of John and Jennifer Evans of Andover, a junior majoring in psychology.

Located in Beverly, Mass. on 235 acres of oceanfront property, Endicott College offers doctorates, and

master and bachelor degree programs in the professional and liberal arts.

Bedford graduates from Fitchburg State

Tyler Bedford graduated from Fitchburg State University on Jan. 27, 2012, with a bachelor of science degree in communications media.

Andover dean's list students at Holy Cross

Nicole Giroux, a second-year student at the College of Holy Cross, in Worcester has been named to the dean's list for the first semester of the 2011-12 academic year.

She is the daughter of Susan and Mark Giroux of Andover. She majors in economics and accounting.

Caroline O'Donnell, a first-year student at the College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester has

been named to the dean's list for the first semester of the 2011-12 academic year.

She is the daughter of John and Michele O'Donnell of Andover.

Two locals make Delaware dean's list

Laura Massey, daughter of Michael and Beth Massey of Andover, was named to the University of Delaware dean's list for the fall semester. Massey is a public policy major with a leadership minor, and just returned from spending her winter semester in Vietnam and Laos with a group from her Leadership Program.

Rachel Stern, daughter of Fred and Linda Stern of Andover, also was named to the university's dean's list.

Stern, who is enrolled in the Honors Program at the university, is a freshman

arts and sciences major.

She was also nominated to The University of Delaware chapter of The National Society of Collegiate Scholars - an honor society for high achieving first- and second-year college students.

To meet eligibility requirements for the University of Delaware dean's list, a student must be enrolled full-time and earn a GPA of 3.33 or above on a 4.0 scale, for the semester.

Marketing standout at Canisius College

Jessica Mancini, a sophomore marketing major, was named to the Canisius College dean's list for the fall 2011 semester.

Approximately 15 percent of undergraduate students qualified for the school's dean's list.

Judges, volunteers wanted for annual West Middle Science Fair

West Middle School is looking for volunteers to help judge its upcoming science fair on Friday, April 13 from 8 to 11 a.m.

More than 150 seventh grade students will be

presenting their projects.

Judges are needed to determine the prizes and which projects should represent West Middle School at the Massachusetts State Science & Engineering Fair

at the University of Massachusetts Lowell in May. Volunteers are also needed for project setup, serving refreshments and cleanup after the fair.

For more information or

to serve as a volunteer or judge, contact Sheila Harrington at SHarrington@aps1.net or Teresa Kelley at Teresa@effectivestudent-marketing.com or 978-618-8151.

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SEATS: Stability balls help health students work on posture all through class

Continued from Page 1

used to it only takes one day. “The first day, we are talking about what the curriculum is. That’s their time to sit, get adjusted.”

She believes there are additional health benefits that stem from using stability ball chairs in the classroom. Students who are diagnosed with attention deficit disorder are given an outlet for their trademark fidgeting when using the balls, and those who become tired in class are more likely to stay alert, as maintaining balance keeps them more active, according to Consiglio.

Kids seemed excited about coming to a recent health class. As the students filed in, they competed over having particular sizes or colors of chairs. When they broke into groups and needed to move elsewhere in the room, some students opted to carry their special chairs instead of sitting on ones near where they were going.

Flipping through a file of student comments, Consiglio reads what some of the students have said. “They are a nice choice and make me sit up straight,” one student wrote. Some call the chairs relaxing and comfortable,

while others highlight that using a stability ball chair “makes the student focus.”

Stability ball chairs cost around \$22 each, according to McNally.

Because all middle school health classrooms have the balls instead of normal chairs, every student is exposed to the chairs for one nine-week quarter during the school year. Currently, there are no plans to expand their use into other subject areas like math or social studies, but Wood Hill Middle School Principal Patrick Bucco supports increasing their presence.

“I think it is great,” said



DUSTIN LUCA/Staff Photo

Students complete class work in a health class while sitting on stability balls. Pictured from left are Wood Hill Middle School seventh-graders J.T. Lowe, Sydney Tassinari, Matt Szarek, Michaela Verrette and Brendan Maye.

Bucco. “It would be great if we could get the money to put these in other classrooms.

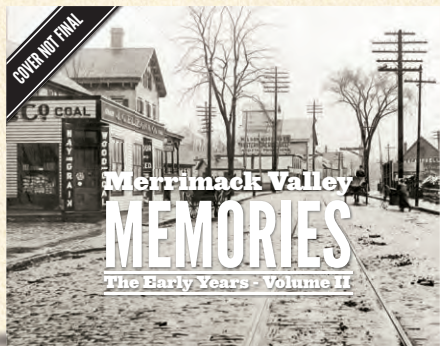
Why wouldn’t we, if we saw success?”

For feedback or questions about this story, please email dluca@andovertownsmam.com

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The Eagle-Tribune



DUSTIN LUCA/Staff Photo

Andover educators join in the singing of “We Shall Not Be Moved.” Pictured from left are Mary Kierstead, Andover High School math teacher; Brian Stevens, Doherty Middle School art teacher, and Toni Kirby, Andover High School social worker.

CONTRACT: Negotiations stalled

Continued from Page 5

Andover teachers union and School Committee failed to yield an acceptable contract agreement, and that the process is moving to fact finding, where the state uses what can be a lengthy process to arrive at its own recommendation for a teachers contract. The rally wasn’t a response to the news, however, as it had been scheduled for some time.

Andover teachers continue to work under the terms of their last agreement.

At the end of the rally, Sullivan led the members of the union in a rendition of “We Shall Not Be Moved,” an American folk song commonly associated with labor and civil rights movements. Once the rally ended, many teachers moved to a social event on the second-floor of Dylan’s Bar & Grill on nearby Park Street.

Outside of the rally, Sullivan said Andover’s teachers

are in “a difficult situation,” but one with which he is familiar.

“I went through it personally in Brockton, ... having to take the ultimate step in terms of a strike. And that’s something you don’t wish for anybody to have to make,” said Sullivan. “To get back to the song, We Shall Not Be Moved, the teachers stay together. And that’s what this association is doing. They’re staying together — elementary, middle school and high school.”

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Eighth-grader takes first in InvestWrite competition

Victoria Wu, an eighth grade student at Doherty Middle School, is a Massachusetts first place winner of the SIFMA Foundation’s InvestWrite student essay competition, sponsored by the SIFMA Foundation and SIFMA member firms.

Wu claims the top prize for the middle school division of the Fall 2011 Massachusetts competition.

As a culminating activity for the country’s 600,000 annual Stock Market Game participants, InvestWrite challenges fourth through twelfth graders to analyze an investment scenario, think critically and write a long-term financial plan. Students address real-world economic factors and trends, better preparing for their own financial futures.

In her essay, Wu was asked to select a real world company from the stock market, and describe one thing that could increase the price of

the stock and one that could decrease the price.

She selected Apple and wrote, “after the death of Steve Jobs, many people were concerned for the company’s future, but Apple continues to develop and put out new cutting edge products.”

The fall 2011 winning InvestWrite essay composed by Wu was chosen through rigorous judging by thousands of teachers and industry professionals who evaluate students’ analysis of asset allocation, the investment potential of various publicly traded stocks, their overall understanding of the stock market, and the manner in which they express their investment ideas in essay form, according to the foundation.

Wu was awarded her state InvestWrite prizes during a surprise presentation in front of her peers on Wednesday, Feb. 15, at Doherty Middle School.

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Opinion

Sheriff should be law man, not politician

Several decades ago an Essex County sheriff would reward political supporters by appointing them as honorary deputies. The title did not come with any police powers, but did provide the holder with an official-looking badge that some found useful in talking their way out of speeding tickets and for other purposes. So numerous were these deputies that a colleague once observed it might have been easier for the sheriff to swear them in over the radio than have them all gather at a local function hall to take the "oath" of office. Of course, that would have negated the purpose of these events which was to collect money for the sheriff's next election campaign.

The practice of handing out those shiny badges ended with Frank Cousins' appointment as sheriff by Gov. William Weld in 1996. Unfortunately, the need to raise money to run for reelection did not; nor did the practice of seeking donations from those employed by the sheriff's department.

Which is how Cousins found himself the object of a WBZ-TV I-Team investigation last week featuring unverified allegations by anonymous sources of employees being pressured to donate or suffer the boss' wrath.

While issuing a blanket denial that he had done anything improper (he did pay a \$10,000 fine to the state Office of Campaign and Political Finance last year for various accounting errors and accepting illegal cash contributions), Cousins now says he will no longer accept donations from non-managerial employees. Wise move.

But the archaic practice of electing our sheriffs – whose primary responsibility is the administration of regional correctional facilities – ought to be abolished. The framers of the Massachusetts Constitution got it right when they called for sheriffs to be appointed by the governor with the consent of the Governor's Council. In the modern era this is a job where professional qualifications should count more than political popularity.

More information, more direction at Town Meeting

Resident Bob Pokress has asked town officials to list by priority Town Meeting articles each year. He wants to hear from both those who support and oppose projects when there is disagreement on town boards. He wants more information about how Town Meeting proposals will affect people's tax bills and the long-term town debt.

These are common sense requests made by a town resident. We support each of them. In particular before each Town Meeting, we'd like to see a clear ranking in importance of proposed projects by those charged to run Andover.

Andover officials do provide some of the information sought by Pokress, but they can do more. They should do more. If you want Town Meeting to survive as a vibrant body, it needs the lifeblood of information.

WEB QUESTION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Do you support using stability ball chairs in classrooms?

■ Yeah! Students will stay awake in class, and their posture will improve.

■ Yeah! Glad to see something new tried.

■ No! The idea will deflate and the chairs not be worth the effort or expense in the end.

■ No! Wrong expense during a tight time.

■ Need to wait and see. I'm still kind of bouncing around the idea.

■ Yes for another reason.

■ No for another reason.

■ Sigh. Only in Andover.

■ Yes. People have a First Amendment right to speak in public: 27 votes, 27.84 percent

■ No. Board or committee chairs have the power to recognize speakers to protect the meetings' integrity: 22 votes, 22.68 percent

■ Yes, and limit the time for each person substantially if needed: 18 votes, 18.56 percent

■ No, there need to be some reasonable limits: 15 votes, 15.46 percent

■ Yes. They may have ideas that the governing body must hear: 6 votes, 6.19 percent

■ No. Letting everyone speak if they want would slow down town business: 5 votes, 5.15 percent

■ Other: 3 votes, 3.09 percent

■ Yes, for another reason: 1 vote, 1.03 percent

■ No, but for another reason: no votes

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

Last week's questions was "Should Andover committees let all interested residents and employees speak at meetings?" With 97 people responding, more than half answered, "Yes." Specifically, the answers were:

SPRING FEVER



MARY SCHWALM/Staff photo

Shawn Khetarpal, 11, of Andover works on his cricket game as he follows through with a swing on a bowl from his dad, Aneesh.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Minister: Three Strikes bill tough on taxpayers, inhumane to others

Editor, Townsman:

I write to speak out against the Habitual Offenders – or "Three Strikes" – bill currently in conference committee at the Massachusetts State House. This bill is ill-conceived and goes too far. While the bill aims to be "tough on crime," it is instead tough on taxpayers, and it constitutes cruel and unusual punishment in the case of many offenders.

At this present moment, there is only one crime (first degree murder) that mandates a life sentence without parole. But if the "Three Stikes" bill becomes law, 22 different crimes will force the judge to hand down a sentence of life in prison without parole. The judge would have to hand down a sentence of life in prison without any room for discretion – without having a chance to "make the punishment fit the crime."

California has a "Three Strikes" law that has contributed to overfilling its prisons and bankrupting the state. My fear, along with many other members of the clergy and people of faith across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, is that a "Three Strikes" law here would turn our prisons into expensive nursing homes as criminals who committed their third crime many years in the past grow old and sick and die in prison. This is exorbitantly expensive, as well as inhumane.

At present, it costs \$47,000 per year for each person imprisoned in Massachusetts. Medical costs can add a great deal to this figure (perhaps \$100,000 per inmate). In the meantime, many of the Commonwealth's cities and towns struggle to get state funding for schools, infrastructure, firefighters and police.

I was one of 100 Unitarian Universalist ministers in Massachusetts who signed a petition against the "Three Strikes" bill last week, joining a growing chorus of religious leaders across traditions. It is my hope that our leaders will stop this injustice before it is too late.

REV. M. LARA HOKE
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation
6 Locke St.

Union head: Let all speak within reasonable limit

Editor, Townsman:

I am writing to correct the context of a statement attributed to me in the Feb. 16 article on the current state of the contract negotiations ("Contract mediation up in smoke," page 1). I want to be crystal clear that my remarks about understanding the authority of the chairperson of the School Committee to limit

speakers was just that. I am very familiar with the Open Meeting Law and the conduct of publicly elected boards. That, in no way, should be construed to mean that I do not support members of the Andover Education Association being allowed to speak at a School Committee meeting.

The tape of the meeting clearly denotes that the 15-minute time limit announced by the chairperson had expired, but by less than a minute. Jennifer Meagher had indicated she would be brief and wanted to clarify a point only. She was denied that opportunity.

It is my sincere hope that in the future, all members of the AEA who wish to speak are recognized within a reasonable time limit for citizen input. If speakers identify themselves by raising a hand or on a sign up sheet, the chairperson can then advise each speaker about an individual time limit. That would also allow a speaker to shorten remarks and yield remaining time if needed. As I was the last identified speaker, I would certainly have done that had I known the time limit was nearing completion.

KERRY A. COSTELLO
President
Andover Education Association

S&P evaluation indicates money for teachers contract

Editor, Townsman:

For the past 18 months the School Committee has argued and continues to argue that the schedule currently in place at Andover High School is not "sustainable." The use of ecology-movement rhetoric to justify the dismantling of the crown jewel of the Andover Public School system is stunning in its audacity and frightening in its deception.

According to Standard & Poors most recent evaluation available at andoverma.gov/aaabondreport.pdf, the town of Andover has received a "AAA" bond rating, reflecting their opinion that the town has, "strong and stable economic base...very strong household income levels...extremely strong and diverse property tax base...good financial position...and low overall debt burden."

Furthermore, unemployment, according to their report, "was just 5.7% as of September 2011."

In terms of more explicit economic numbers, the report states unequivocally that the town of Andover has a "\$951,000.00 general fund surplus, bringing the unreserved general fund balance to \$3.25 million. The town's stabilization fund, which is available for any purpose with a two-thirds vote at town meeting, increased \$261,000.00 to \$4.8 million for the close of fiscal 2010."

So, whom to believe? The School Committee that claims there is no money

to fully fund the schools in town? Or Standard & Poors evaluation which seems to support the claim that a fair contract for the teaching professionals is, in fact, readily in the hands of Annie Gilbert and her School Committee colleagues?

THOMAS POWERS
8 Dale St.
Andover High Class of 1983
Spanish teacher,
Andover High School

Help! Artists Guild looking for home

Editor, Townsman:

"There's no place like home," as Dorothy Gayle put it so long ago.... That is the sentiment of the Andovers Artists Guild that has had a presence in the Merrimack Valley and beyond for more than 40 years.

What is a community without the arts? It is less than it can be for sure.

As we go about our lives as a community, and do what needs to get done each and every day, we tend to forget that art, music and the creative spirit is also a basic human need. We have all seen the art programs decline in our schools throughout our community and country; the AAG is keeping it alive in our own neighborhoods.

The guild has been meeting monthly to share ideas, display art work and offer monthly demonstrations of prominent artists for many years, but always in a church basement or a borrowed space. The North Parish Church gave us a space for many years and the AAG is forever grateful. We now occupy the art space in the Furbur Mills on High Street, North Andover, also greatly appreciated by the association.

As we grow and progress, bringing in new members and new ideas, we will need a building to call our permanent home. Many other art associations throughout New England already have what we need, a gallery to show our work, provide art shows, and give classes and demonstrations. What an asset to the Andovers it would be to have such culture and creativity at our fingertips.

We know, as a group of positive thinking, creative adults who have a passion for art, that there is someone reading this - an individual, company or philanthropist that knows how to help. Do you have a space to donate? The mills in Lawrence and the surrounding areas are a perfect spot. Could it be a vacant school or perhaps an empty apartment building? We are open to suggestions! A donation of that magnitude is surely a fantastic tax deduction and would make the donator a hero in our community.

Bringing the arts to the Andovers will bring new business, activity, excitement and a positive atmosphere to our community. If you have

ideas and would like to share them with us we would love to talk. We are always looking for new members to join our group as artists or art lovers. Visit andoversartistsguild.com

BETTY POGOR
North Andover
Artist Member
AAG Board of Directors

Look at the books: Library expense hits Andover wallets

Editor, Townsman:

I don't usually take the time to respond to misguided items that end up in print, but the page 1, paragraph 1 statement that "Memorial Hall Library is undergoing an extensive cosmetic upgrade, and so far it hasn't cost Andover taxpayers a dime" is just too wrong to ignore ("Curl up by the fire – at Memorial Hall Library: MHL undergoing extensive upgrade, all with state cash so far," Feb. 16 Townsman).

Of the \$20.5 billion Massachusetts state budget for FY2011, about \$17 billion came directly from citizens in the form of income tax, sales tax and gas taxes with the balance being corporate taxes and various fees. Andover's share of that is just under 1 percent, according to Mass DOR data, so about \$160 million goes from Andover residents to the state coffers.

Now, it is true that the state sends some of that budget back to towns in the form of local aid, the vast majority of which is for schools, but also included is \$7 million earmarked for public libraries across the state. Andover netted about \$5.9 million in total local aid in FY2011 or about 3.7 percent of the tax dollars paid by town residents to the state.

Memorial Hall Library is a fine institution and I'm sure the renovation will be wonderful, but let's not get confused about who is paying for it. If the article's author thinks it hasn't cost Andover taxpayers a dime, I suggest he give me \$100 and I will return to him \$3.70 which won't cost him a dime either!

PETER MORRIS
112 Pine St.

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 letters sent via email is Monday at 9 a.m. for the next edition.

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Man: Share more information with Town Meeting voters

DUSTIN LUCA
STAFF WRITER

Officials should prioritize Town Meeting spending articles, and voters should know how individual board members voted on articles, says Cherrywood Circle resident Bob Pokress.

Pokress has asked the selectmen, School Committee and Finance Committee to change how Town Meeting warrant articles are presented.

Central to his suggestions at recent meeting is the idea that votes taken by boards that are not unanimous should identify who recommends approval and

who wants to defeat the articles. Currently, materials circulated by the Finance Committee leading up to the meetings only offer a one-sentence explanation outlining whether the boards as groups voted in support or opposition. That means a positive 5-0 vote, a 3-2 vote and a 2-1 vote with two

people abstaining will each say only that "[the board] recommends approval."

Pokress also asked that those in the minority be able to offer their opinion, along with a committee member who speaks to the majority opinion of the board. "Just like the U.S. Supreme Court. You get a majority

opinion and if it isn't unanimous, you also get a minority opinion," said Pokress. "We'd like the same thing done, because this will provide more information to the voters in town who ultimately have to make the final decision on each one of these articles."

Pokress would like the

Board of Selectmen and School Committee at every Town Meeting to prioritize the warrant articles and publish that list. Similarly, Pokress asked that financial information be circulated detailing current tax information and the extent taxpayers' wallets will be affected if articles are approved.

PRESCHOOL: Parents fight to keep school open

Continued from Page 1

said. "We have researched this. We've gone from 1,250 births in Andover to 250 in 2008."

Sitting by and accepting closure is out of the question for parents with preschoolers now attending the school. Fortieth anniversary party plans are now themed "Save Our Preschool" events, starting with a pancake breakfast tentatively planned for next month. Mothers are working hard to get the word out about the preschool's predicament as well as its long history in town.

Some of the parents attended Ballardvale Preschool and have great memories, like Susan (Sharpe) Meaney. She attended Ballardvale Preschool in 1975 and now sends her son, Dylan, 4.

"It was very important to my husband and me that our son feel just as much at 'home' during a big transition in his life," Meaney said in an email. "I knew, without a doubt, that Ballardvale Preschool was the right place for him."

Gruca said the preschool's student-to-teacher ratio is 5-to-1, so youngsters get lots of attention. "That's half of the state-mandated 10-to-1



ANGIE BEAULIEU/Staff photo
Sue Meaney and her son Dylan, 3, sit with their class photos from Ballardvale Preschool.

ratio," Gruca said.

Play time rules at this preschool, a selling point for many parents of 3- and 4-year-olds.

"Not everyone wants their child learning Spanish in preschool," mom Danielle Matton joked. "Play time is important."

Her son, Noah, 4, attends Ballardvale Preschool. She was turned off by a larger preschool housed at a big daycare facility. The smaller environment works better for Noah, she said.

"It felt corporate to me. And he used to cry," Matton

said.

Moms interviewed agreed the preschool offers a "Back to Basics" environment they appreciate.

"My husband and I chose Ballardvale Preschool as we wanted our son to be in a 'play-centered' environment," Amy Smith wrote in an email about the preschool. Her son, Ieuan, 4, attends.

Ballardvale Preschool reminds Smith of the cozy preschool she attended in England in the 1970s.

"Even though our son will be finishing preschool in June, I feel that Ballardvale

SAVE OUR PRESCHOOL

A pancake breakfast fundraiser is tentatively set for Saturday, March 10 from 8 to 10 a.m. at Ballardvale Church, 23 Clark Road. On Wednesday, March 28, a portion of the sales at DISH! in Andover, will be donated to the Ballardvale Preschool.

Preschool is worth trying to save as it exactly the kind of learning environment in which children flourish," Smith said.

Moms praised the teachers, including those who have been there 25 years or more.

"We don't have turnover," Grupa said. "Teachers stay here."

The economy, the recession and lost jobs have played a role in her preschool's possible demise, Grupa said. A preschool tuition is not a must-have in a struggling family's monthly budget. Add that to the shrinking number of births in Andover toward the end of the last decade, and it equals trouble for preschool enrollments.

But, Matton said their preschool matters to them and parents hope their fight will save it.

Selectman seeking higher office

Vispoli aiming for state senate run

By DUSTIN LUCA
STAFF WRITER

Selectman Alex Vispoli is planning a bid for the state Senate, which would put him against current state Rep. Paul Adams in September's state primary election.

"I'll be making a formal announcement in the upcoming weeks," said Vispoli. "The first step was pull the papers, and get signatures, and make a formal announcement."

Candidates need to collect 300 signatures to run for the senate position, according to Vispoli.

He has been a selectman since 2007.

Vispoli said his aim is to take "my experience, my energy and my focus — my municipal experience — to Beacon Hill."

The winner of the Sept. 6 state GOP primary will face incumbent Sen. Barry Finegold (D-Andover) in the Nov. 6 presidential election. Finegold declined to comment on Vispoli's bid for Beacon Hill.

If he were to become a state senator, Vispoli would need to resign from the Board of Selectmen. That would leave the board with a vacant position to fill until a few months later, when Vispoli's seat would be up for re-election in March 2013.

5 percent have new polling station for presidential primary

The Presidential Primary will be held on Tuesday, March 6 with polls open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. - and some residents will need to go to a different voting location than they are used to.

Precincts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 9 will vote at the Andover High School Field House on Shawshen Road. Precincts 1, 7 and 8 will vote at the Andover Senior Center on Whittier Court.

But new precinct boundary lines went into effect on Jan. 1. This is the first election since the precinct lines have been redrawn. Following the 2010 Federal Census, Andover, like other Massachusetts cities and towns, was required to redraw its precinct boundary lines, to provide, as nearly as is practical, that all precincts are evenly populated. This results in some voters being moved from one precinct to another. Voting precincts are determined by the address of the voter. Most of Andover's voters will vote in the same precinct, but a small number, approximately 5 percent of all voters, will find themselves voting in a different precinct.

Another change is the creation of sub-precincts in Precincts 7 & 9. This is the result of the creation of new U.S. Congressional districts

which split these Precincts. Voters in Precinct 7 will find there are two voter lists for Precinct 7, designated 7 & 7A. In Precinct 9 there will also be two lists, 9 & 9A.

The new precinct map, including the new state representative and senatorial districts, and U.S. Congressional districts, can be found on the town web site at andoverma.gov. The map can be found in the "What's New" section of the home page by choosing "New Andover Voting Precincts."

Voters can also search for their precinct by address by going to the town clerk's web page. Under "Main Menu" on the town web site home page; choose "Department Directory," then "Town Clerk," then "Precinct Search." This will bring you to the Secretary of the Commonwealth's web site where you can search for your precinct by address.

The last time to apply for an absentee ballot is noon Monday, March 5. Absentee ballots are now available at the town clerk's office.

Voters will cast their votes for what is known "Presidential Preference, State Committee Man, State Committee Woman and Town Committee" for each of three political parties; Democratic, Republican and Green-Rainbow.

Troop 79 food drive

Boy Scout of America Troop 79 of Saint Robert Church Andover is holding its winter food drive from March 10 through 17,

covering the northwestern section of Andover.

For more information, or to participate in this year's food drive, email ywang63553@verizon.net.

Super-Couponing Tips

Jill Cataldo saves hundreds on groceries by making the most of the common coupon. You can too. Here's how:

Back to Basics: Overage

By: Jill Cataldo
CTW Features

Fried Haddock Boat \$7.95

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Expires 3/29/12

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28 Chestnut Street, Andover, MA
978-475-7426

Last week, I answered some frequently asked questions about multiple coupons. In this week's column, another beginner has a question about coupon overage - when the value of a coupon exceeds the cost of the item you're trying to purchase.

Dear Jill,
If retailers get reimbursed for the face value of a coupon, why do some reduce the coupon's value when it exceeds the cost of the item you're purchasing? This seems like coupon fraud. The store profits by cheating the shopper out of the full value and pocketing the difference. One nationwide retailer gives the full coupon value to the customer, no matter what the sale price of the item may be, and it's spelled out in their coupon policy. This is something that really bothers me, and I am hoping you will have the answer. - Mindy C.

Dear Mindy,
Coupon overage can be a tricky topic. If I have a \$4 coupon for a product that is on sale for \$2.99, I'll take it home for free. But what happens to that extra \$1.01? Do I get that back, or does the store get to keep it?

Both answers are correct. The store may opt to keep the overage, or it may pass the overage to the customer. If a store keeps the overage, the value of the coupon typically will be adjusted to match the selling price of the item. But, as you noted, the manufacturer will reimburse the store for the entire value of that coupon, so the store makes an additional profit on your purchase.

While this may not seem fair, it's the store's right to determine how to handle overage. Keeping it may help a store offset losses from shoplifting, for example. Supermarkets operate on very small profit margins, so overage money helps the bottom line.

Of course, your store may opt to give coupon overage back, to the delight of shoppers! This typically happens one of two ways. The store might return the overage in cash. Or the store might automatically subtract the value of the coupon and let you immediately apply it to other items you're buying in the same transaction. Let's say that I buy a \$2.99 item with a \$4 coupon, and I also buy a second item that costs \$2. My total at the register after the coupon is 99 cents. The register automatically applies the \$1.01 overage to the second item.

In my experience, the cash back policy is not typical, although one major supermarket chain uses it. To determine how your store handles overages, ask at the service desk or look online.

Even if it is your store's policy to give cash back for an overage, note that some coupons may carry the statement, "If the value of the coupon exceeds purchase price, cash should not be given back to the consumer." The manufacturer is entitled to specify limits and restrictions on its own coupons. And in this case, the manufacturer clearly communicates that it will not reimburse the store for more than the actual sale price of the item.

No matter how your store handles overage, don't get too caught up worrying where the additional money goes. Whether the store keeps it or you do, you're still getting an item for free - and that's always the best price!

© CTW Features
Jill Cataldo, a coupon workshop instructor, writer and mother of three, never passes up a good deal. Learn more about couponing at her website, www.jillcataldo.com. Email your own couponing victories and questions to jill@ctwfeatures.com.

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Townspeople

■ TOWNSPEOPLE

In the Military: Whiting awarded Bronze Star

Former Andover resident and United States Army Officer Bradford Whiting has been awarded a Bronze Star Medal for service in Afghanistan.

Whiting, who was recently promoted to captain with the 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment

based out of Vilseck, Germany, completed a 12-month deployment to Kandahar, Afghanistan under Operation Enduring Freedom from June 2010 to June 2011. A 2004 graduate of Andover High School, Captain Whiting was commissioned into the United States Army in May 2008 after graduating magna cum laude from Norwich University with a

bachelor's degree in criminal justice. He is the son of David and Carol Whiting of Methuen.

Andover man helps lead MV YMCA

The Merrimack Valley YMCA has announced its newly elected board leadership to the Y's Board of Directors. Among those

elected to a two-year term, beginning in 2012, is new Treasurer Kevin Smithson of Andover, partner at PriceWaterhouseCoopers in Boston.

The role of YMCA policy volunteers is to provide leadership, guidance and financial support to the organization as it works to provide programs and services to youth and families of the Merrimack Valley area.

Meet your selectmen candidates

Five vie for two seats

By DUSTIN LUCA
STAFF WRITER

seat last year. But don't let that give the impression he's a veteran.

This year's selectmen race features a leader of the League of Women Voters, a retired DEA agent, a town watchdog, the board's current chairman and a school PTO head.

Five residents are vying for two open seats on the Board of Selectmen in the town's March 27 election. The positions, currently occupied by Selectmen Brian Major and Ted Teichert, are both for three years.

LARRY BRUCE

254 Chandler Road

Many people around town know Larry Bruce by name. Having run for the Board of Selectmen in recent years, the election process is no stranger to Bruce.

He has lived in town since 1989, and has been associated in the past year with efforts

to replant trees that were cut down along Interstate 93 and calling for an investigation into the use of town youth services vans to transport Andover teenagers who campaigned for Selectman Paul Salafia, who defeated Bruce in last year's election.

Describing himself as "an advocate for the residents," Bruce said he entered the election because "the tremendous waste in Andover spending compels me to run for office."

"Every department needs a top-down review and right-sizing to our needs," said Bruce. "This is something the selectmen promise but never deliver."

In office, Bruce says he aims to "make public all of the financial detail which now is hidden from view. Every check written should be available for public viewing. I think we need to look at staffing levels in town and readjust to meet our needs."

ANN COBLEIGH

21 Magnolia Ave.

Watching democracy in action and helping people get involved has been a calling for resident Ann Cobleigh, who recently resigned as treasurer of the League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover so she could run to become a selectman.

"I'm as committed as ever to support democracy, voting, and encouraging people to stay with it," said Cobleigh. "I see an exciting future, and I see that we still have concerns and issues to deal with. Since Ted Teichert isn't going to run for re-election, somebody needs to step up."

Cobleigh is involved with the Andover Choral Society, the Andover Affordable Housing Partnership Committee and has worked with several other groups and organizations in the past.

In office, Cobleigh said she would watch how large projects on Andover's horizon impact town departments that have already faced significant cuts over the years.

"I'm suspicious that we've possibly reached that point of diminishing returns, where [passing large projects] could have a detrimental effect on these departments' abilities to provide these services," said Cobleigh.

She said she also would focus on "a communication disconnect between the downtown merchants and the town officials."

DAN KOWALSKI

24 Enfield Drive

Dan Kowalski has been a frequent visitor to different board and committee meetings during the last couple years, and finished second in the selectmen race for one

"I have only lived in town for five years, but I feel like a lifelong resident," said Kowalski. "I am passionate for my community. Ever since moving into the town, I have been involved. I have been on the board of the South School PTO for three years, including co-president for the last two years. I was a board member of the Andover Youth Foundation, and recently a member of the Andover Finance Committee."

"People move to Andover for many reasons; the school system, the feeling of community, the downtown atmosphere, strong real estate values and much more. We need a selectman that has shown a passion for the community. Someone who has proven diverse community involvement; but still offers a fresh perspective," said Kowalski.

If elected, he said he will work with selectmen and town manager to "identify priorities in our community such as education, public safety, elder care, etc. and work within the constraints of our budget to make sure that these priorities are adequately funded."

BRIAN MAJOR
11 Odyssey Way
Current selectmen Chairman Brian Major has been on the board for more than 15 years. First elected in 1997 and running for the board for his sixth time, Major said, "I still have strong passion and love for the job."

"It's a role that continuously changes because the issues that we're dealing with continuously change," said Major. "Our passion remains extremely strong for being able to serve the citizens of Andover, and serve them well."

If he is voted onto the board for a sixth term, Major said a large focus for him would be on building a new Bancroft Elementary School and the Cormier Youth Center, two construction projects approved by town voters last year.

"I'd like to see those have construction under way and completed in the next three-year block," said Major. "Additionally, we need to identify and move forward with practical solutions for both the municipal maintenance services facility [Town Yard] as well as the Ballardvale Fire Station."

But "most important is being able to maintain Andover's AAA bond rating," said Major.

PAUL L.D. RUSSELL JR.

2 Pine Cone Lane

At 67 and having just retired after decades of service in the public safety field, Paul L.D. Russell Jr. carries his family name proudly.

His great grandfather, George Stevens, was a North Carolina slave who fought in the Civil War from Beverly, he said. Russell's children — 18-year-old twins who graduated from Andover High School last year — are both named after his parents, Paul and Pauline.

After years of service as an agent in the Drug Enforcement Agency, from which he retired in May 2011, Russell said he brings law-enforcement experience to the table of the selectmen race.

"Prior to becoming a DEA agent, I was a customs inspector and, prior to that, I was a firefighter," said Russell. "I believe in giving back to the community."

In office, Russell said he'll



Michelle Walsh samples the butter she made by shaking cream as part of a school-vacation week program.

LITTLE HOUSE, AND A LITTLE HISTORY

The opportunity to learn what it would have been like to really live on the "Little House on the Prairie" drew young girls to the Andover Historical Society Tuesday, Feb. 21.

Children learned about the Ingalls family and what it might have been like to travel West, and pack trunk for a covered wagon journey. The kids learned about churning butter, training oxen, and making punched tin lanterns. Girls were able to sample the butter they made.



Charlie Gualtieri smiles as she starts to hear butter shaking around in a container that just prior held only cream.



Lolly Ferraro (left) pounds a nail into a pattern to make a metal lantern.



Leah O'Neill places a toy in a chest as youngsters learn how to pack a wagon at the Little House on the Prairie program at the Andover Historical Society on Main Street.

MARY SCHWALM/Staff photos

B.F. Holt kept Andover iceboxes packed

Bill Dalton



In 1912, B.F. Holt was Andover's iceman and the town's oldest businessman. According to an

Andover Townsman story that year, Holt opened "B.F. Holt Ice" 51 years earlier, in 1861, to supply ice to Andover homes and businesses. Two small ponds next to his house in the old Holt District, in the southeast corner of Andover, served as the source of his ice inventory. Subsequently, when he moved his house — the Townsman didn't say when — this energetic and enterprising man dug a three-acre pond at the new

location and used it, as well as Poms Pond, to provide ice service to an increasing customer base.

In 1873, Holt and his brother, Lewis T. Holt, bought an ice business in Lawrence and formed the Lawrence Ice Company, which became a major regional ice supplier, taking its inventory from several sources, including the Merrimack River. B.F. Holt became president of Lawrence Ice Co. and his brother became treasurer. Although B.F. was competing with himself to some extent, B.F. Holt Ice was small, selling 5,000 tons of ice to Andover customers, while the much bigger Lawrence Ice Company sold 55,000 tons of ice to businesses far and wide.

There were other retail ice suppliers, but their ice business was a side

operation to their primary delivery items such as coal and milk. For example, my grandmother, owner of Metropolitan Bakery in 1912, had a daily-recurring expense of \$2 paid to Thomas Rhodes, a well-known Andover gentleman, who was primarily in the ice cream business, but he sold ice to her, as well. There were few ice companies that handled the ice from harvesting to delivery, and they sold wholesale ice to retailers delivering ice as side operations.

As an aside, at the same time the Holt brothers were running local ice operations, "T.A. Holt Grocery" was a robust Andover business. I don't know the blood line between B.F. and T.A. but surely they were relatives.

The 1912 Townsman story about B.F. explained

that, in the 51 years he had been in the ice business, the industry had grown substantially, because ice, once considered a luxury, became so common that "only the very poorest of families get along without it." The writer stated that the increased demand for ice was due to the growing popularity of ice cream. People wanted to make ice cream at home, and ice cream required ice to make it. However, the writer's explanation for the ice industry's growth is incomplete. The industrial revolution expanded the country's economy, and that produced more income for more people, making ice and iceboxes relatively more affordable. This, coupled with population growth, created a higher demand for

See DALTON, Page 10

See CANDIDATES, Page 10

TOWN TALK

Want to visit Andover, England?

Andover-North Andover Sister Towns Association monthly meeting will take place at Atria Marland Place on March 10 at 2 p.m. The meeting offers interested travelers the opportunity to learn details of the group's planned May 15-22 excursion to Andover, Hampshire, England.

"Our host families are planning a series of fun-filled informative tours, and if the past is any indication, this, our third, looks like the best yet," says the group in a release. "Spring gardens are almost guaranteed, as well as social, historic, culinary and cultural highlights. Although the upcoming trip is filling up fast, there are currently a few accommodations available with host families, clearly a terrific way to inexpensively tour one of England's most beautiful areas."

The March meeting will feature a 40-minute DVD photo summary of past trips' weekend, free-time explorations, with narrations by enthusiastic members. The public is welcome and refreshments will be served during a brief business meeting. For more information, contact Don Robb at 978-475-1966 or via email at donald-robb6@yahoo.com.

Gardner to visit gardeners

Andover Garden Club membership meeting and program, "A Visit with Isabella Stewart Gardner," will be held on Tuesday, March 6 at 10 a.m. at South Church, 41 Central St.

Acclaimed performer Jessa Piaia will take attendees back to 1910 with her dramatic portrayal of Isabella Stewart Gardner, America's first patroness of the arts and lover of plant material. Piaia

studied performance at London's Oval House Theatre.

Admission is free for members, and \$5 for guests, which includes refreshments.

For more information, contact Anne Feeny at pianopasta@comcast.net or 978-475-7119.

Rugged Bear re-launch

As the former Rugged Bear retail site on Park Street is being made over into a restaurant, the former children's clothes store is also undergoing a makeover.

TRB Acquisitions purchased the rights to a bankrupt Rugged Bear in April 2011 and sent out press releases last week announcing their re-launch of the brand. The Rugged Bear will be available July 2012 at department and specialty stores nationwide.

The Rugged Bear was in Andover for 12 years, at 34 Park St. and was an original occupant at the mini-mall. It closed in March 2011. Salvatore's Restaurant plans to open in that space by the end of the year.

— Judy Wakefield



Melissa Lee, an Andover High junior, won a gold medal in the Figure Skating Senior Ladies division of the 27th Bay State Winter Games held Feb. 10-12 in Williamstown. She qualified to attend the National Championship of the 2013 State Games of America in Hershey, Pa. Andover's Pippa Johnson also skated at the Bay State Winter Games.



File photo

The town has captured the stories of dozens of Andover World War II veterans in its "Heroes Among Us" book series, including Warren J. Kearns, who stands while being honored at a 2010 ceremony.

Know a World War II vet? Let town capture history

If you know a living World War II veteran in Andover, the town wants to hear about it.

The Andover Veterans Services Office is writing its fourth book spotlighting living World War II Andover veterans, titled "Heroes Among Us."

To date, this book project has documented the stories of veterans that served mostly overseas.

This final World War II book will be presented to these veterans during Veterans Day Ceremonies on Nov. 11, 2012.

People who know of any living Andover World War II veteran, not already interviewed as part of the town's effort to document their service to our country, are asked to contact the Andover Veterans Office at 978-623-8218.



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Your Dental HEALTH

by Nicholas T. Papapetros, DMD, FAGD

TOOTHBRUSHING REDUCES HEART-DISEASE RISK

The more we learn about the connection between oral health and general overall health, the more we understand how healthy gums and teeth help keep serious chronic conditions at bay. The underlying factor seems to be inflammation-causing bacteria that can travel from diseased gums to other parts of the body through the blood stream. Thus, it makes sense that keeping our teeth clean and our gums healthy may help reduce the risk of heart disease. In fact, recent research has found that people who have their teeth professionally scraped and cleaned had a 24% lower risk of heart attack and a 13% lower risk of stroke compared to those who had never had a dental cleaning. That's quite a benefit!

Good oral hygiene includes brushing your teeth twice a day and visiting your dentist every six months. People who do that will not only be repaid with better dental health, they are also less likely to develop heart disease. At **DENTISTRY BY DESIGN**, we provide the best possible care for every patient. Our office of highly trained, skilled and experienced staff is located at 19 Barnard St. Call us at 978-475-5333 to schedule an appointment. We look forward to hearing from you.

P.S. Gum disease is much more prevalent among diabetics. In fact, periodontal disease is often considered the sixth complication of diabetes.

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Arts & Entertainment

Keeping up with AYS

Andover Youth Services

Tony Lombardi
Program Coordinator

The Andover Youth Services next session of after-school programming, classes and activities is available now in schools, at the AYS office and on our website. This six-week session, begins Monday, March 5 and runs through Friday, April 13, and will include some returning favorites, such as Cooking with Tony and Fashion; the return of some instant classics, such as Indoor Karting and Airsoft; as well as some brand new offerings, including AYS Boxing Club and Cosmetology School.

Check outandoveryouthservices.com for information about these programs and others like Street Hockey, Media Minds, Girls: Get Up & Go!, Rock Climbing and Ultimate Frisbee.

Spaces are limited in these programs, so don't hesitate. If you have any questions about these programs or how to get involved, email ays@andoverma.gov or call 978-623-8241.

PEARSON STREET

Over the last six weeks, the AYS office on Pearson Street has been teeming with activity. Each week, visitors could be treated to the wonderful aromas and rich flavors of the Cooking with Tony and Laurel's Bakeshop culinary classes. These groups of future chefs have been creating amazing dishes and even been kind enough to share with others. Cooking with Tony will culminate with an invitation-only four-course meal, prepped, prepared and served by program participants. Aside from wonderful aromas, the sweet melodies of Guitar and the thumping sounds of Jamming with Jack filled the air at Pearson Street on a weekly basis.

Things were also happening outside the confines of 37 Pearson St. Each Monday and Thursday, the AYS Floor Hockey League stormed the Wood Hill Middle gym for two hours of some of the most competitive floor hockey ever played, highlighted by the first ever Half-Day Tournament & Pizza Party.

Both the Boys: Expeditions and Girls: Venture Out

programs spent six weeks moving around the area and trying new activities to challenge themselves and the group. Whether they were rock-climbing, boxing, snow tubing or doing yoga, the participants were asked to put down their cell phones, step away from the computer screen and move outside of their comfort zone - even if only for a couple of hours.

The newly formed Ping Pong Club and Mechanic School both had fun getting to know each other and learning from their respective programs.

NIGHT RIDERS

This ever popular program saw its greatest success this season with more than 50 middle school students participating each Friday. Despite the lack of snow from Mother Nature, each week at Pat's Peak provided us with something to ski and ride and the group themselves had a great time regardless of the conditions. We will miss our lift rides, chicken fingers and songs on the bus.

VOLLEYBALL

Over the last month or so, youth services have been offering a free open gym volleyball session at the Wood Hill gym. The program is designed to offer new volleyball players the opportunity to give this sport a try and give experienced players a chance to stay in shape between seasons. To learn more about AYS volleyball, email gwilson@andoverma.gov

WRESTLING

The youth wrestling season is quickly coming to a close and it has been amazing to see the success of the program. With great showings at both the Big East Tournament and the Youth Wrestling State Tournament—the program is starting to build itself into a true contender at every weight class and will hopefully continue to be a great foundation for the wrestling team at Andover High School. Good luck to those wrestlers headed to the New England Tournament.

YOUTH CENTER

Following the epic victory at Special Town Meeting on Dec. 5, the Andover Youth Foundation presented a

See AYS, Page 13



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Darth Vader (Hayden Christensen) in Star Wars: Episode III Revenge of the Sith.

The Force to be felt at MHL

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
STAFF WRITER

STAR WARS SYMPOSIUM

It's been nearly seven years since Mike Horvath of Andover threw out the first pitch during a Red Sox game dressed as Chewbacca from the Star Wars movies.

Horvath still works for the Museum of Science in Boston. He threw that pitch in October 2005, as a promo for the museum's then-showing Star Wars exhibit.

That exhibit is still touring, Horvath said, as die hard fans of all ages still come to see it. They are numerous and, now, young fans joining their fathers and grandfathers.

"It's a whole new demographic," Horvath said. "A younger generation is joining a strong core of fans."

Some of those Star Wars lovers in Andover may enjoy an event at Memorial Hall Library this week. On Sunday, Feb. 26, Memorial Hall Library, 2 North Main St., will welcome purists and this new generation of Star War fans to a special event.

When: Sunday, Feb. 26, 2 p.m.
Where: Memorial Hall Library
What: Dress as a favorite character, compete in costume and trivia contests, learn about the history of Star Wars, more.
Who: For ages 6 and up, families welcome
Register: mhl.org/eventcalendar, 978-623-8401 Ext. 39

The Children's Room hosts a Star War Symposium starting at 2 p.m. that day. A costume contest is planned along with a trivia contest. This event is for all ages, 6 and up, and families are welcome. Star Wars is back at the forefront of pop culture as 3D versions of the movies are being released.

The 3D version of "Star Wars: Episode I" has been playing in some local theaters. Episode I of the drama/scifi/fantasy, directed by George Lucas, is pre-Darth Vader and all about his earlier life

as a hopeful 9-year-old boy named Anakin Skywalker. Anakin pursues his dreams and confronts his deepest fears in the midst of this galaxy in turmoil.

Obi-Wan Kenobi is just a brash young Jedi Knight in this first episode.

But Star War purists are a bit peeved as Lucas has tweaked some scenes in the movies since they first were created. Dave Waller of Andover is one of those purists.

"There's an alien shooting scene in 3D that (director) Lucas has tweaked and it makes purists cringe," said Waller, who has seen all six Star War episodes "multiple times" since the movie series premiered in 1977.

Hardcore fans of Star Wars can be found worldwide, which is why the former Museum of Science exhibit has gone from Alaska to Australia, Horvath said. Now showing in Santa Ana, Calif., there are two more stops, in Wichita, Kan. and Orlando, Fla., before the tour is scheduled to finally end in March 2013.

Annual 'A Cappella Night' at Merrimack College

The Rogers Center for the Arts at Merrimack College presents its annual A Cappella Night on Saturday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m.

North Shore A Cappella, Boston Jazz Voices and "Mackapella" will perform at the event.

The concert will open with Merrimack College's own "Mackapella," comprised of 18 students of all year levels. The group arranges original music of all genres, reaching new heights with unique harmonies and beats.

For the last 30 years, North Shore A Cappella has entertained listeners throughout the Boston area with songs from the 40s right up through today. The voices belong to Tommy Duarte, Paul Lopes,

Jimmy Martin, Vinny Straccia, and Guy Chiapponi.

The award-winning group offers a continuously fresh repertoire of hundreds of popular hits that cover the last five decades.

Over the years, Boston Jazz Voices' repertoire has expanded to include jazz arrangements of the American songbook. Their performances have taken them to medieval churches in Paris, to white colonial churches in New England, to schools and libraries and assisted living facilities all over the region, and to local radio and television. They've sung the national anthem at Fenway Park in Boston, celebrated Christmas at Old Sturbridge Village and have rung in the



New Year at First Night in Boston. Boston Jazz Voices offers a unique combination of those old sounds and contemporary vocal jazz idiom. Advance tickets are \$15, \$20 at the door. For info or tickets, call 978-837-5355.

The Rogers Center also soon will celebrate a late St. Patrick's Day in style with an appearance on Friday, March 2 by the Makem and Spain Brothers (pictured above).



The Northeast Massachusetts Youth Orchestras perform during the group's winter 2011 concert.

Free youth concert a proving ground for honors players

The Northeast Massachusetts Youth Orchestras will present its annual Chamber Music Concert on Sunday, March 4 at 3 p.m., at the Free Christian Church, 31 Elm St., Andover.

NMYO provides the opportunity of performing in small groups to the group's Symphony Orchestra members. "Each year we divide all

of the Symphony Orchestra students into chamber ensembles which rehearse for the months of January and February. All of the groups work with outstanding professional musicians from the Greater Boston area as they prepare substantial works from the chamber repertoire," said Trudy Larson, string

director and the organizer of this program.

The Chamber Music Concert is a free family event that showcases the instruments of the orchestra as they are heard in small ensembles. The top groups from this concert will be chosen to perform in an honors performance at another venue this spring.

In the weeks following the Chamber Music Concert, NMYO chamber ensembles will travel to perform at senior residential homes, senior centers, and a rehabilitation center as a musical service to the community. For more information on NMYO and its performances, visit the website nmyo.org.

EVENTS CALENDAR

THURSDAY, FEB. 23

SCHOOL GIRL SAMPLER, explore traditional Andover samplers made by girls as young as 7 and textile treasures from our collection. Learn to sew a cross stitch sampler like young girls did in the past, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., \$10 per child, or sign up for three school vacation events for \$24; reservations required, 978-475-2236.

KIDS QUILTING, join Haverhill Historical Society getting ready for their summer exhibit "Haverhill's Women in the Civil War" and learn more about 19th century quilting, stitching squares for doll-size quilts, viewing quilts and Civil War artifacts in the museum's collection, Buttonwoods Museum, Haverhill, for students in grades 1 through 6, snack and all craft materials included, \$10 for non-members, \$7 for member; space is limited. Register by emailing programs@haverhillhistory.org, 978-374-4626.

FRIDAY, FEB. 24

FREE INTRO TO YOGA, UnionStudio Yoga, 305 North Main St. (rt. 28/Tactician Building), Andover, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.,

teaches principles of correct alignment, guidelines for breathing and basic poses for strength, flexibility and balance; union-studioyoga.com, Connie 978-376-1100.

CHILDREN'S AUTHOR READING, David Elliott will read from "In the Sea," Andover Bookstore, 10 a.m.; 978-475-0143.

LEGENDARY LADIES OF SONG, this concert will pay tribute to three of the most famous "girl singers" from the big band era, Doris Day, Rosemary Clooney and Peggy Lee, The Rogers Center for the Arts at Merrimack College, North Andover, advance, \$30, door, \$35; 978-837-5000.

SATURDAY, FEB. 25

DIAPER DERBY, new crawlers race against each other in a fun competition, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., free, Center Court, The Mall at Rockingham Park, Salem, N.H.; 603-894-4411.

PROM EXPO, Lowell Memorial Auditorium, noon to 6 p.m., 50 East Merrimack St., Lowell, 978-454-2299, lowellauditorium.com.

EMPTY NESTERS MOVIE, Empty

See EVENTS, Page 13

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Business

Leaner Andover government produced — thanks to workout challenge

Teams of Andover government workers dropped a total of more than 500 pounds during a five-week workout contest.

The second annual Municipal Team Biggest Loser Contest involved more than 60 municipal employees and wrapped up on Valentine's Day. The contest included

teams from most Andover schools as well as the town police and fire departments.

The more than 500 pounds lost in just over five weeks exceeded the mark set during last year's inaugural competition.

Just like last year, the winning team came from West Elementary School, which

had two teams in the competition. The winning team, led by captain Tim Harkins, dominated again this year with a total of 8 percent weight lost.

"I am very proud of my team. We worked really hard at both working out and eating healthy. As a team, we pushed each other to do our

very best," said Harkins in a release from Matrix Strength & Fitness, the Wildwood Road facility that offers the contest.

"This contest is really getting competitive," said Andover resident Art McDermott, Matrix owner and contest organizer. "Losing 8 percent of starting weight

means that everyone on the team had to stay focused on their nutrition and workouts the entire time. If even one member slacked off, it could have cost them the victory. It didn't hurt that there was over \$1,800 at stake for the winning team. Everyone was really motivated."

Second place went to the

team from the Andover Fire Department. It featured the individual weight loss leader in Firefighter Terry Retelle, who dropped 30 pounds during the contest.

"We had a house fire three weeks into the boot camp, and I felt an incredible difference in strength and aerobic endurance," said Retelle.



Courtesy photo

Phillips Academy graduate Ai-jen Poo, Class of 1992, initiated a nationwide labor movement of nannies, home health aides and housekeepers demanding basic labor protections.

'Nannies' Norma Rae' returns to PA for speech

Ai-jen Poo organizes for domestic, home care workers' rights

Ai-jen Poo, a social justice advocate who started a labor movement of nannies and other home workers, will speak on the Phillips Academy campus tonight, Thursday, Feb. 23 at 6:30 p.m.

This event in Kemper Auditorium is free and open to the public.

Poo graduated from Phillips Academy in 1992 and is the founder and lead organizer of the National Domestic Workers Alliance and the Caring Across Generations Campaign

Poo is the leading force behind a nationwide labor movement of nannies, home health aides and housekeepers demanding basic labor protections from their municipal and state governments. Gloria Steinham has called her a "genius

organizer" and Barbara Ehrenreich dubbed her the "Nannies' Norma Rae" for her ability to organize a dispersive workforce of mostly immigrant women into a united, worker-led movement.

In 2000 she founded the New York-based Domestic Workers United (DWU) that pushed through the nation's first state-level Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights. After signing DWU's bill into law on Aug. 31, 2010, then-governor David Patterson called the enactment a historic "injustice undone."

In 2007, Poo unified 33 domestic worker organizations from across the country and forged the National Domestic Workers Alliance. The organization oversees campaigns for domestic worker labor rights

in 11 cities and 17 states, with bills gaining significant traction in four states, according to a release from Phillips Academy. California is at the forefront of the legislation debate.

Poo is also the founder and co-director of the Caring Across Generations campaign, which she launched last July in Washington D.C., with an inaugural congress of 700 delegates. The campaign calls for the federal government to provide labor protections to home health workers, a sector facing exponential growth in the era of aging baby boomers. The workforce is currently excluded from the Fair Labor Standards Act, which guarantees federal minimum wage and overtime protection.

Navidea Biopharm opens Andover office

Navidea Biopharmaceuticals Inc., a specialty pharmaceutical company that bills itself as being focused on precision diagnostic radiopharmaceuticals, has opened a business and commercial development office in Andover, at 10 New England Business Center, Suite 112.

The new office will house the company's commercialization team handling in part the activities surrounding the anticipated launch later this year of the company's major pipeline drug Lymphoseek, a cancer diagnostic.

The European Medicines Agency just accepted Lymphoseek for a Marketing Approval Application,

according to a release for the company. Navidea is also awaiting FDA review results for Lymphoseek, which are expected mid-year.

"We are pleased to announce this expansion into the Boston area, a major hub of the biopharmaceutical industry, which will enhance our access to industry partners, key business and technical leaders, and major academic medical centers," Dr. Mark Pykett, Navidea president and CEO, said in a release.

Navidea's corporate headquarters, with clinical, manufacturing, regulatory and administration functions, remains in Dublin, Ohio.



Courtesy photo

Michael Mancuso and Carl Berger have been named the new chairman and vice chairman of the Merrimack Valley YMCA Board of Trustees.

New trustees, new donation at Y

Two men with Andover ties have joined the Merrimack Valley YMCA Board of Trustees, and the local organization has received a sizable donation.

The Merrimack Valley YMCA has received a donation of \$15,000 to support its annual "Reach Out for Youth and Families" campaign. The support comes from a long time partner, Merrimack Valley Federal Credit Union, and will provide needed financial assistance to families to participate in the YMCA's programming including after school child care, sports teams, camping programs and other health and wellness activities.

"We are proud of our partnership with the Merrimack Valley Federal Credit Union. Thanks to their support we are able to be there for children and families when they need us most. Our staff team truly appreciates the effort put in by Credit Union employees to raise these dollars on our behalf and we look forward to putting these funds to work to deliver much needed programs and services," Stephen C. Ives, Merrimack Valley YMCA president/CEO, said in a

release. "The Merrimack Valley YMCA is an extraordinary organization, and we appreciate the positive impact they have on our community and in turn our members. We know that the dollars we raise are supporting important programs and initiatives and most importantly, the people in need," said Peter Matthews, Merrimack Valley Federal Credit Union president/CEO.

Trustee chairman, vice chairman named

The Merrimack Valley YMCA also has announced its newly elected board leadership to the Y's Board of Trustees. Elected to a two year term, beginning in 2012, are Michael Mancuso, vice president/general manager at Philips Healthcare in Andover and Carl W. Berger, an Andover attorney, of Reading.

The role of YMCA volunteers is to provide leadership, guidance and financial support to the organization as it works to provide programs and services to youth and families of the Merrimack Valley area.

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

Protecting IP, trade secrets seminar

"Hacking, Whacking, and Tracking: Protecting IP and Trade Secrets" will be held during the North Shore Technology Council breakfast on Wednesday, Feb. 29 from 7 to 9 a.m. at the Danversport Yacht Club, 161 Elliott St., Danvers.

Michael Sullivan, former United States attorney and director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and current partner at Ashcroft Law Firm in Boston; and MacDonnell Ulsch, CEO and chief risk analyst at ZeroPoint Risk Research in Boston, will talk about what information is targeted, why and how it is stolen, and who you need to keep your eyes on.

Registration fee is \$25 for NSTC members, \$50 for non-members.

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

Online home-business course offered at NECC

"Making Money in Your Online Home Business," a new, one-night, noncredit class now offered by Northern Essex Community College's Division of Workforce Development and Community Education, is designed to help start a home-based online business, invest in one of the myriad internet business opportunities available today, or earn more if you are already involved.

Taught by Michael Salach, an experienced instructor and business owner/consultant for the The Bay State Consulting Group, the class will explore who makes money in these businesses, how to best evaluate the opportunities, how they work, what you need to know and do to be successful, and how you can make or lose significant money in these.

The class will meet Monday, Feb. 27 at NECC's Riverwalk campus, 360 Merrimack St., Lawrence.

Cost is \$39 per person. For more information, visit necc.mass.edu/noncredit.

To register, call 978-556-3700.

Publishing Grants Resource Center opens at ECCF

The EBSCO Publishing Grants Resource Center is now open at the Essex County Community

Foundation.

In partnership with Associated Grant Makers and sponsored by EBSCO Publishing, the GRC is a research database for nonprofits seeking new funding sources through regional, national and international granting foundations. The center provides access, free of charge, to two databases: AGM's Grant Makers Directory that consists of in-depth data on 400 funders that grant in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, and the Foundation Center's Foundation Directory Online that includes over 100,000 foundations, corporate donors, and grant-making public charities.

The center is available by appointment only Monday through Friday (except holidays) from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Beginning in March, extended hours will be available one day per week until 7 p.m. and one Saturday per month from 9 a.m. to noon (dates TBA).

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Sports

Man in the middle

► Roundup

Mullins wins Division 1 title

GIRLS TRACK

Maggie Mullins continued to dominate, winning the 2-mile in 10:59.56 at the Division 1 meet on Sunday. Andover placed seventh as a team. Also for the Golden Warriors, the team of Terra Organisciak, Sydney Gillis, Alex Puccia and Michaela Soucy were second in the 4x200, Puccia teamed with sister Lily Puccia, Abbie Pustis and Courtney Grygiel to take fifth in the 4x400 and Courtney Comeau was seventh in the 55 hurdles.

BOYS HOCKEY

Campbell's hat trick nets stunning victory over Central Catholic

Scott Campbell scored the first hat trick of his varsity career as Andover shocked Central Catholic, the No. 5 team in Eastern Mass., 3-0 on Saturday.

"Words can't describe how happy I am," said Campbell. "I'm speechless. We had this game marked on our calendar all year. They beat us last time, but to go out and beat them this time was just the best."

Liam Centrella added a pair of assists, including passing up on an open shot in the closing seconds to let Campbell shoot for his hat trick. Colby Gilbert made 24 saves for the shutout.

Ryan Oteri and Liam Centrella each scored a goal as Andover played Reading to a 2-2 tie on Monday, hindering a team's Super 8 chances for the second straight game.

Scott Campbell scored a goal, but Andover fell to Acton-Boxboro 2-1 last Wednesday.

BOYS GYMNASTICS

Manning, Warriors take second in state meet

Brian Manning won the parallel bars (9.2) and pommel horse (8.5), was second in the all-around and vault and took third in the high bar, rings and floor exercise to lead Andover to a second-place finish in the MIAA state meet last Wednesday. It was the Golden Warriors' best finish since 1995 (also second).

"The kids were thrilled beyond belief," said Golden Warriors coach Steve Sirois, who was named Coach of the Year. "I am very proud of this team."

Cody Flaherty added fourth-place finishes in the parallel bars and rings and was fifth in the all-around and Jason Ho was sixth in the pommel horse. Manning was name Gymnast of the Year.

GIRLS SKIING

Ganley, Andover dominate on slopes

Julia Ganley placed third and Jess Kearns was fourth overall as Andover rolled to victory at the state Interscholastic Meet last Tuesday. Also for the Golden Warriors, Sara Faigel was sixth and Nicole Ericson was 10th.

Andover's Kerry Christopher (41.89) and Jess Kearns (42.42) took the top two placed overall in the 11th-12th grade division of the Bove Meet last Thursday. Sophie Sherman, also of Andover, placed first overall (43.71) in the middle school competition.

BOYS SWIMMING

Belanger stars

John Belanger took second in the 100 freestyle (46.57), was fourth in the 50 freestyle (21.65) and swam on the 200 medley relay and 400 freestyle relay that each placed fourth as Andover took fifth as a team at the Division 1 state swim meet. David Hunter was sixth in the 500 freestyle and 200 freestyle and swam with Belanger on both relays.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Boudreau second to none in Sunday contest

Nicole Boudreau poured in 39 points, including five 3-pointers, grabbed 15 rebounds, made seven steals, had seven assists and blocked three shots in 30 minutes as Andover beat Westford Academy 76-67 in the Westford Tourney on Sunday. Devon Caveney added 14 points while Ally Fazio chipped in with 11 points for the winners.

Nicole Boudreau entered the record books with her 2,000th career point and Ally Fazio chipped in with 22 points as Andover blew out archrival Central Catholic 73-47 on Friday. Boudreau finished the night with 32 points.

Nicole Boudreau drilled six 3-pointers on her way to 31 points as Andover rolled over Billerica 64-42 last Tuesday. Devon Caveney added 12 points, including three 3-pointers for the winners.

BOYS SKIING

Suglia, Risman lead way

Tom Suglia placed third and Adam Risman was fifth for Andover, which placed third overall at the state Interscholastic Meet last Tuesday. Sameer Sangal added a 14th-place finish.

Adam Risman took third in the 11th and 12th-grade division with a 42.49 for Andover at the Bove Race last Thursday.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Costello keys win

James Costello was money from the line, knocking down 10 free throws to lead Andover to a 45-39 victory over Lincoln-Sudbury in the Warrior Classic first round on Monday. The Golden Warriors hit 22 free throws as a team, and Chris Dunn added a pair of 3-pointers.

Chris Dunn scored a game-high 20 points, including three 3-pointers, and freshman Max Silveira chipped in with 15 points, but Andover lost to archrival Central Catholic 72-54 last Thursday.

Despite 20 points for James Costello, Andover fell to Lawrence 54-45 last Tuesday. Chris Dunn and Max Silveira each added eight points for the Golden Warriors.

GIRLS HOCKEY

Keefe keeps scoring

Meagan Keefe scored one goal and assisted on another as Andover beat Boston Latin 3-0 last Wednesday. Weezie Gross and Mikayla

See ROUNDUP, Page 16

Bigman Dowden at the heart of boys hoops success

By DAVID WILLIS
STAFF WRITER

For Sam Dowden, like any Andover basketball player, nothing means more than facing archrival Central Catholic.

So, for the junior, being stuck on the bench for last Thursday's loss to the Raiders with a sprained ankle was nothing short of torture.

"That was terrible," said Dowden. "We look forward to that game all year long. That's the reason you work so hard in the offseason. It was really upsetting."

But that absence was a rare speed bump in a stellar season for Dowden, who over the last three seasons has grown into the heart of the Andover High basketball team.

"In my 23 years Sam is one of the hardest workers I have ever had," said Golden Warriors coach David Fazio. "If we are going to do any damage in the state tournament, he is a key factor to our success."

Dowden wasted no time making an impression on Fazio and the Andover basketball program. As a freshman in 2009-10, he earned the starting center position, averaging 5.0 points per game.

That season, he also drew the unenviable task of defending the likes of then-Central Catholic All-Scholastic Carson Desrosiers, now the starting center for Division 1 Wake Forest.

"That was pretty awful," said Dowden with a chuckle. "Playing against a 7-footer (Desrosiers), I'm glad there aren't any in the league right now. I just did anything I could to contain him. Now I get to watch him on TV and say, 'I played against that guy.'"

Dowden continued to improve last season, earning All-MVC honors after averaging 9.9 points per game, good for second on the team behind All-Scholastic Joe Bramanti, including 15 points in the Greater Lawrence Christmas Tourney title game against North



File photo

Sam Dowden, here knocking down a layup against North Andover, has been at the heart of Andover basketball's success both on the court as their leading scorer and off as a co-captain this season.

DOWDEN TELLS HIS STORY

To see a video interview with Sam Dowden, plus highlights from his career, visit andovertownsmen.com or rallynorth.net.

Andover.

The 6-foot-5 standout feels those early experiences, both good and bad, have had a great deal to do with making him the player he is now.

"I feel like my game has improved so much," he said. "I am a much more confident player this season. I'm much more comfortable in the post, and I like to go outside every now and then."

Dowden has been at his best this season. Through Monday, he is averaging a team-high 14.6 points and nine rebounds per game.

A skilled player under the basket, he has also shown impressive touch with 18 3-pointers in 17 games.

His season did hit a snag two week ago when he suffered a severely sprained ankle against Lowell. He attempted to play against Lawrence, but left the game early and did not play against Central or Lincoln-Sudbury. He was hoping to return on Wednesday.

Fazio has no doubt Dowden will do anything possible to be ready to play in the postseason.

"He tries so hard in every game, every practice and every drill," said Fazio. "He is also a great leader and person."

Dowden's leadership earned him the role of co-captain, an honor he received following the Greater Lawrence

Christmas Tourney. With a young roster, which includes three freshman playing key minutes, Dowden's experience has proven valuable as a leader.

"The freshmen are going through the same things I experienced," said Dowden, who plans to play college basketball. "By my third season, I have a good feel for the practice and game plans. I enjoy being a leader."

With the postseason now on the horizon, Dowden hopes to lead his Golden Warriors on an exciting run.

"That's the whole point of the season," he said. "We are 11-8 (through Monday). That is pretty much the same as Lawrence in the regular season last season (12-8) and they made it to the (Division 1) North final at the Garden. I think coach Faz deserves a playoff run."

■ SPORTS FROM THE COMMUNITY

Golden Eagles ready for state games

The Andover Golden Eagles Special Olympic Unified Basketball Program teams competed on Sunday, Feb. 12 at Milton Academy in the qualifier rounds for the state games fast approaching in Worcester on March 11 and 12.

The unified competitive freshman team, ages 15-21, competed against the Nashoba and North Andover teams and won both games.

The unified competitive blue team, ages 8-15, competed against the Nashoba and Haverhill teams, and won the first game, and lost the second; the second team played was a higher level team.

"The program goal is to bring together Special Olympic athletes and team partners in order to build friendship, character, and inspire greatness and development for

all participants," according to founder Audrey DeSisto who acknowledged "all of the amazing families, coaches, athletes and volunteers who are committed to making this program a huge success."

Thomann gets Senior Day sendoff

Before the Senior Day game on Feb. 18, Bentley University recognized Andover's Meghan Thomann as one of

five players on its women's basketball team who are in their final season of eligibility. Combined, the quintet has played in nearly 500 games

See SPORTS, Page 16

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To Get Your Full Local Forecast, Go To <http://www.Andovertownsm.com>

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
A shower	Showers possible	Windy and cold	Partly sunny; breezy	Showers possible	A couple of showers	Rain and ice
High: 51° Low: 34°	High: 49° Low: 33°	High: 42° Low: 22°	High: 40° Low: 23°	High: 39° Low: 25°	High: 34° Low: 26°	High: 46° Low: 23°

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EXIT 45 • LAWRENCE

No coach, no problem

Student-led AHS dance team wins Boston contest

By DUSTIN LUCA
STAFF WRITER

They just won a Boston contest open to dance teams throughout the state, and the new champs say the biggest factor in their win is the status of their coach. They don't have one.

The Andover High School Dance Team, an ensemble of 19 students from Andover High, took top honors last weekend at the Emmanuel College Dance Competition. The team faced 25 other Massachusetts high school- and college-level teams, all who have experienced, adult coaches.

What allowed them to stand out is not just how they perform, but how they are assembled, according to captain Molly Dowell. Lacking a coach, the team is led by student captains, including Dowell, who are members of the team themselves.

"It's less of, like, 'Yay! We won something!,' and more of us feeling proud of being recognized for what we've been doing all season, something we're not really recognized for by the school itself," said Morgan Gundrum, also a captain.

The path the team takes yearly is a time-tested ritual. At the end of every year, the team elects its captains to serve as leaders. Beginning in November, the team runs tryouts, where it views the talents of individual performers and determines if they are a good fit for the team.

But they don't weigh the skill of the performer in this decision. What they look for is what the person could bring to the entire team,

the greater whole of the performance.

"It doesn't matter necessarily how you, as a person, look on the team," said Dasha Agoulnik, another captain. "It matters how you look with the team. You need to be able to conform yourself to the big picture."

This year, the team had four captains — Agoulnik, Dowell, Gundrum and Anthia Mo. All four are Andover High seniors, and all four joined the team as freshmen four years ago.

"We're all very different," said Gundrum. "[There are] four strong opinions, and none of us are passive at all.

"The team wouldn't have come out to what it was if any one of us was missing," said Gundrum. "We each brought our own little piece to it."

With no coach or adult advisors, and no money other than what comes in through fundraising, they handled their own transportation, with members driving each other to Boston for the competition. Because the 25 other teams were led by adult coaches, Gundrum said Andover High's team felt like the odd one out.

"They had all of these intense coaches that were like, 'Now, girls, do your warm-ups,'" said Gundrum. "We looked very unofficial next to them, so to beat them with only our work was really amazing."

"We highlighted specific people with specific talents, like a specific jump, or a specific trick," said Dowell. "We scored a lot of points on originality, our music was so



Courtesy photo

From left, first row are the four captains of the Andover High School Dance Team Dasha Agoulnik, Anthia Mo, Molly Dowell and Morgan Gundrum. Team members are, second row: Julia Pisc, Laura McNaughton, Paige Biederwolf, Sammy Ruthazer, Vivian Liu, Haley Gugger; third row: Sam Sullivan, Mei Houser, Sammy Shepphard, Rachel Donovan, Lisa Salley, Julia Savely and Kaegan Casey.

different, and just the fact that we were so much different than the other teams. That's how we won."

Now, this year's captains are handing the dance team's reins to a group of juniors who will lead the team next year.

"For a lot of years, there's been [this] dance team at the high school, and there's never been a coach," said Dowell. "There's always just been captains. It's kind of like a tradition that just went down the line."

For feedback or questions about this story, please email dluca@andovertownsm.com.

Senior lunch presentation on skin cancer

A senior lunch presentation, "Diagnosis & Treatment of Skin Cancer of the Head and Neck," will be held on Tuesday, March 6 at 1 p.m. in Merrimack Valley Hospital's first floor auditorium, 140

Lincoln Ave., Haverhill. Presenter is Ryan Scannell, MD, Ear, Nose and Throat, and Facial Plastic Reconstructive Surgeon.

Menu is Irish soup, corned beef, boiled potatoes, baby

carrots, cabbage, tea, coffee and dessert. Cost is \$5 and includes lunch and program. Registration required.

For more information or to register, call Katie at 978-521-8140.

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