



RAIN CAN'T DAMPEN
 KRIT CLASSIC

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PHILIPS
 ACADEMY
 GRADUATION

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OUR 124TH YEAR

Andover Townsman

Issue No. 31

JUNE 7, 2012

75 CENTS

Special singing group given Own Voice, own choir

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
 STAFF WRITER

They are a small and special singing group whose pitch may never be perfect. Their very first concert last Tuesday night opened with a rhythm stick introduction that helped them settle down a bit. The concert lasted less than 10 minutes.

Music sheets dropped as nervousness kicked in for some. Just four songs were performed by the 10-member group. But the smiles were infectious as the group "My Own Voice" performed on stage at West Parish

Church.

My Own Voice is a pilot program for kids with special needs who like to sing. After school music programs are scarce if not nonexistent for these kids who have a variety of issues including Down Syndrome, autism and Asperger's syndrome.

For five weeks leading up to the concert, they rehearsed on Tuesday nights under the direction of Valerie Becker.

Calm and confident, Becker played piano while the youth opened with "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing."

"Music is a passion for everyone,"

Becker said. "These kids just love music and why shouldn't they? They deserve a chance to sing."

Singer Alyssa Clark, a fourth-grader at High Plain Elementary School, looks forward to Tuesday night rehearsals, said her mom, Lisa Clark. In fact, Alyssa had perfect attendance.

"There just isn't anything like this for these kids," Lisa Clark said. "When school is over they are done for the day...there is nothing for them."



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

From left, Angelina, 16, William, 14, and his twin sister Francesca Lionetta sing "It's in Every One of Us" while practicing on stage at West Parish Church hall.

See VOICE, Page 5

CLASS OF 2012 READY TO RIDE



ANGIE BEAULIEU/Staff photos

Shannon Tully is congratulated by a teacher at the Andover High School graduation held at the Tsongas Arena in Lowell.



Erik Troy struggles to stay on while riding a mechanical bull at the Andover High School "Senior Safari," an all-night, drug- and alcohol-free party for graduates held at the school on graduation night. For more on Andover High's graduation and senior class see pages 11-13.

Sex offender released after violating probation

By PAUL TENNANT
 AND DUSTIN LUCA
 STAFF WRITERS

A convicted sex offender was released from jail Monday after spending two weeks behind bars for violating his probation terms by talking to children in March.

Superior Court Judge John Lu ordered that Peter Placet, 57, of 29 County Road, be released on the condition that he stay away from Andover schools and playgrounds. He is not required to wear a GPS monitoring

device, according to Carrie Monahan, spokeswoman for District Attorney Jonathan Blodgett.

Placet will remain on probation until Dec. 19, 2014, as originally ruled.

If Placet does violate his probation terms again, Lu said he wanted to be informed of it.

"He [Judge Lu] retained jurisdiction of the case, and he'll sort of be monitoring it himself," said Monahan.

Andover Police Lt. James

See PLACET, Page 4

Veterans upset that Pakistani helped place Memorial Day wreath

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
 STAFF WRITER

Selectman Brian Major will visit the American Legion Post 8 next week to talk with veterans upset that he asked a Pakistani government visitor to help place a wreath honoring American war dead during Andover's Memorial Day ceremony.

Ted Witman, Commander of Andover's American Legion Post 8 said he received "16 or 17 letters and 18 emails" from veterans about the wreath-laying. Osama Bin Laden was hiding in Pakistan when he was killed by U.S. Navy Seals last year.

"Not all of them were negative," Witman said. "But, some veterans were concerned...and I want to resolve this."

Major dined with Witman this Tuesday to clear the air

about the breach of protocol for a patriotic ceremony.

"There was no intention on my part to upset anyone. If I did, I'm sorry," Major said.

"We've resolved the issue and have a better understanding on most parts," said Witman after the meeting. "As far as I'm concerned we've resolved the issue. We've got a better understanding from both sides and maybe can kind of get through with this." Witman said he believes Major a patriotic man and is in no way intended to be disrespectful of veterans.

"Things like this happen out of human ignorance, not disrespect," Witman said. "Most (letter writers) are just looking for an apology."

Meanwhile, Major said it was

See WREATH, Page 5

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In Brief

PAST & PRESENT



THEN: The Punchard Free School at 36 Bartlet St. was founded in 1856 with a bequest from Benjamin Punchard. It went from a private to a public school in 1901. In 1957, when a new school was built on Shawsheen Road, that school was renamed Andover High School. The original Andover High building is now West Middle School.



NOW: The Andover Town Offices building was once the Punchard Free School.

Market trip benefits Kaleidoscope kids

On Tuesday, June 12, Whole Foods Market on Railroad Street in Andover will donate 5 percent of net sales that day to the Kaleidoscope Program's Scholarship Fund.

Kaleidoscope is a local non-profit summer enrichment program that has operated in Andover for 32 years. Each summer, children (ages 3-13) take classes in music, art, theater, science, math,

languages, technology, writing and many other intriguing subjects. This year's program runs from July 9-July 27 on the campus of Pike School. Kaleidoscope staff members will be at Whole Foods on June 12 to answer any questions and/or to help with enrollment. More information can be found on the program's website, kaleidoscopekids.com.

June health clinics

The Andover health department will offer mini clinics on Monday, June 11 from 2 to 3 p.m. at Andover Commons and Monday, June 25 from 1 to 2 p.m. at Frye Circle.

It will offer senior center clinics on Wednesdays, June 6, 13, 20 and 27 from 2 to 3 p.m. No appointment is necessary. For more information, call 978-623-8295.

QUOTE, UNQUOTE ...



Under the circumstances, the crews did an excellent job getting to the interior of the building and knocking down the fire as rapidly as they did. It's just unfortunate that the fire did have so much headway built up before the initial arrival of the companies.

— Fire Chief Michael Mansfield on a fire to a 6 Atwood Lane home. It took fire crews eight minutes to reach the cul-de-sac on the far western end of town last Thursday. Story, page 10.

I like how it looked so hard, and how she could do it so easily.

— Liam Fahey, 10, talking about an acrobat balancing and spinning multiple umbrellas with her hands and feet as part of a show at South Elementary School by the Beijing's Dragon Show Culture and Arts Company. Story, page 17.



Pulitzer Prize nominee, Civil War expert offers free seminar at MSL

The American College of History and Legal Studies and Massachusetts School of Law will host a free seminar

entitled "McClellan Takes Richmond! Really?" on Saturday, June 16 from 9 a.m. to

noon at the law school, which is located at 500 Federal St., Andover.

The seminar will be led by Professor Michael B. Chesson, the founding professor and dean at the American

College of History and Legal Studies, and former professor of history at the University of Massachusetts/Boston.

Chesson is the author of four books about the Civil War, and was nominated for the

Pulitzer Prize in history. Seating is limited; RSVP by June 13.

For more information or to RSVP, visit achls.org or email info@achls.org or call 603-458-5145, ext. 11.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Small Business recognition June 8

Annual Small Business Recognition and Awards Presentation Program will be held on Friday, June 8 from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at DiBurro's Function Hall, 887 Boston Road, Haverhill.

Businesses being honored are Andover's Royal Jewelers for retail, Phillips Academy for education, the Andover Townsman for media and Melmark New England in the "innovative" category.

Guest speakers include Robert Nelson, director of Massachusetts United States Small Business Administration, and Anne Struthers, director of Massachusetts Office of Business Development.

The cost is \$25 for members, \$35 for nonmembers. For more information or to register, visit merrimackvalleychamber.com or call 978-686-0900.

Daniel, Hargreaves Pierce to be honored today at Andover Chamber breakfast

The Andover Chamber of Commerce, a division of the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce, will hold its

annual awards program on Thursday, June 7 at 7:30 a.m. at the Indian Ridge Country Club, Andover. The speaker will be Massachusetts Secretary of Education

Community Service Awards will be presented to Nancy Hargreaves Pierce and Reverend Jack Daniel.

Scholarships will be given to local graduating seniors.

The event features a full hot breakfast buffet. Tickets are \$25 per person or \$250 per table of 10. A 72-hour cancellation notice prior to event for a full refund.

For more information or tickets, visit merrimackvalleychamber.com or call 978-686-0900.

Elementary-school-age track meet

The annual Fourth and Fifth Grade Track & Field Relay Meet will be held on Monday, June 11 from 9:30 a.m. to approximately 1:15 p.m. at the Eugene V. Lovely Stadium at Andover High School.

All fourth and fifth grade Andover Public School students will be participating in the meet. All events are relay events. The Andover Public Schools Physical Education Department sponsors the meet. The public is invited to attend.

Red Cross blood drives

The American Red Cross will hold a community blood drive on Saturday, June 16 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Masonic Lodge, 7 High St., Andover.

All eligible and new blood donors are encouraged to give blood. Blood donors are needed everyday to ensure an adequate blood supply for patients in need.

All presenting donors will receive a collectible Red Sox T-shirt and a coupon for a

free 24-pack of Nice! Spring Water, as well as a coupon for up to 20 percent off at participating Walgreens.

Prizes are non-transferrable and not redeemable for cash.

To make an appointment to donate blood, visit edcrossblood.org or call 800-733-2767.

Emerald Necklace presentation

The Friends of Flint Memorial Library present "The Emerald Necklace: Restoring the Vision and Preserving the Olmsted Legacy" on Monday, June 11 at 7 p.m. at the Flint Memorial Library, 147 Park St., North Reading.

Jeanine Knox, of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, will talk about the six-mile linear park system that winds its way from Boston's Back Bay Fens to Franklin Park in Dorchester.

Knox will explore the history of the Emerald Necklace, the unique landscapes of each park, as well as the vision and effort it took to create them, and the role of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy.

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy brings people together to renew, enliven and advocate for the Emerald Necklace parks designed by Frederick Law Olmsted.

Before the program begins, the Friends will hold a brief meeting to elect officers for next year.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 978-664-4942.

MVCC Women in Business Series

The Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce Women in Business Series presents "A Very Special State Update," with State Auditor of the

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Suzanne M. Bump, on Friday, June 22 from 7:30 to 9:15 a.m. at the Indian Ridge Country Club, 7 Lovejoy Road, Andover.

Complete hot breakfast buffet included.

Cost is \$25 members, \$45 nonmembers. A 48-hour cancellation notice prior to the event is required for a full refund.

For more information, visit www.merrimackvalleychamber.com or call 978-686-0900.

State rises in bicycle league's ranking

In its annual ranking, the League of American Bicyclists promoted Massachusetts from ninth to third most "Bicycle Friendly State."

Last year the Commonwealth had vaulted into the Top Ten from nineteenth in 2010.

"Massachusetts has continued to advance through the ranks of Bicycle Friendly States," said MassDOT Secretary Richard A. Davey. "MassDOT was recently lauded as a Bicycle Friendly Business, the first DOT in the nation to receive this recognition. These accomplishments mark our commitment to the MassDOT mission of providing safe, healthy and efficient transportation, and the importance of our innovative GreenDOT policy."

The League of American Bicyclists compares states across a set of objective scoring criteria in the five categories: Legislation & Enforcement; Policies & Programs; Infrastructure & Funding; Education & Encouragement; and Evaluation & Planning.

LGH TeamWalk for CancerCare breaks previous records

The 13th annual TeamWalk for CancerCare, hosted by Lowell General Hospital on May 20, collected \$908,000 to provide services and support for local cancer patients and their families, once again breaking previous records.

The Merrimack Valley's largest single-day fundraising event brought more than 5,000 walkers, volunteers, and supporters on a day that featured gorgeous sunshine and comfortable temperatures.

All funds raised directly support patients at the Cancer Center at Lowell General Hospital and those fighting cancer throughout the Merrimack Valley.

Elder Services calls for agencies to apply

Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley Inc. announces that Requests For Proposals are available to non-profits and other organizations and agencies that want to apply for federal Title III Nutrition funds under the Older Americans Act. These funds are available to agencies and organizations that offer Nutrition programs for older Americans, aged 60 and over, who live in the 23 cities/towns of the Merrimack Valley. Elder Services is requesting all applicants submit a Letter of Intent which must be received this week.

Based on the responses received, a Bidders Conference may be held at Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley on Tuesday, June 12 at 8:30.



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TOWN TALK

Governor to help open Navidea in Andover

Today, Thursday, June 7 Governor Deval Patrick and other leaders from Massachusetts' biotechnology and health sciences communities will join Navidea Biopharmaceuticals to mark the official opening of the company's new commercialization facility in Andover. The event will include remarks delivered by Navidea CEO Mark Pykett and Gov. Patrick as well as other dignitaries.



John Teichert, Andover Police dispatcher is all smiles before (left), during (center) and after having his head shaved during a fundraiser for St. Baldrick's Foundation to benefit childhood cancer research at Palmers Restaurant in Andover.



Dennis Tavares, 11, has his head shaved by Christina Thibault.

SBC clarifies cuts from Bancroft construction

The School Building Committee chairman believes that at least two items included in proposed cuts to remove \$2.9 million from the new Bancroft Elementary School design will be in the final project.

A \$90,000 savings incurred by removing the project's playground allowance, and bookcases along the perimeter walls of each classroom valued at \$128,390 can be covered through other means, according to Tom Deso.

With regards to the playground equipment, "we're actually going to look at seeing if we can get that put into the Capital Improvement budget for next year," said Deso. As for the bookcases, they will be bought and installed at the school as part of the project's furnishings, along with desks, chairs and other items.

The changes allow for the School Building Committee to lower the construction cost of the building, which must come in at \$34.5 million before the Massachusetts School Building Authority will allow the project's construction to be bid on by contractors. As of last week, around \$173,000 of the projected \$2.9 million deficit remained.

- Dustin Luca

Talk with an Olympian during Summer Olympics

Residents will be able to hear from a two-time Olympian during this year's Summer Olympics.

Molly Sullivan Sliney, a member of the 1988 and 1992 United States fencing teams, will speak at the Andover Senior Center during the Summer Olympics. She will be at the center Aug. 10 at 1:30.

Sullivan Sliney also was a member of the 1987 and 1991 Pan American teams where she won two gold medals. She lists her proudest accomplishment as earning a bachelor's degree in marketing from Notre Dame, according to her web site. While at Notre Dame she won two NCAA titles and the university named her its 1980s Female



Event organizer Nigel Keenan has his head shaved by Donna Degou during a fundraiser for St. Baldrick's Foundation to benefit childhood cancer research at Palmers Restaurant, on Elm Street.



Andover residents Ned Williams, Bill Souza and Dan O'Toole had their heads shaved Thursday night at Look Salon for the St. Baldrick's charity, ahead of the weekend event. Although the men play soccer on Saturday, they still wanted to participate, said Laurie Labrie.

Athlete of the Decade.

Sullivan Sliney also teaches a fencing course in town through the Department of Community Services.

Stratford Road: Blue state of mind

The Democratic delegation from Andover to the Springfield Convention on Saturday included three women who all happen to live on the same street, Stratford Road.

The three, Elizabeth Bell, Susan McKelliget and Kathy Wilson managed a picture together with U.S. Senate candidate Elizabeth Warren and Town Democratic Committee Leader Pat Commene.

Book on town's 'Fathers and Mothers'

For months, Gail Ralston, who refers to herself a former selectwoman, has been combing through the town's annals to learn the stories of Andover's 85 selectmen. A book presenting her findings — their stories — is now available.

Highlighting every member of the Board of Selectmen dating back to 1855, when the town of Andover was split into Andover and North Andover, the book explains who the selectmen were, when they held public office and more.

The book was presented to the current Board of Selectmen Monday, June 4, and it's expected that the document will be made available online.

For the time being, hard copies can be found at the Memorial Hall Library and the Andover Historical. Copies will be available for those who don't have computer access on a first come, first serve basis.

For more, contact Ralston at gralston@andover.edu.
- Dustin Luca

Buzz about town over hair-shaving, fund-raising event

More than \$46,000 was raised at Saturday's head-shaving event for the St. Baldrick's Foundation to help childhood cancer research (Townsmen, May 24, page 1).

Tech School standouts to be honored by state treasurer

Two seniors, Kayla Duchemin and Danielle Kane, from Andover's Greater Lawrence Technical High School who participated in the U.S.

Department of Treasury's 2012 National Financial Capability Challenge ranked in the top 20 percent nationwide.

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■ POLICE LOG

COMPILED BY DUSTIN LUCA
dluca@andovertownsmen.com

The following items were taken from Andover police log from Tuesday, May 30 through Monday, June 4:

ARRESTS

Wednesday, May 30 — At 3:48 p.m., Judit Vajda, 32, of 190 Chickering Road, North Andover, was arrested on Lowell Street and charged on a warrant.

At 10:50 p.m., Ernest Guarino Jr., 57, of 26 London St., Lowell, was arrested on North Main Street and charged with assault and battery on a person with an intellectual disability.

Thursday, May 31 — Beginning at 9:52 a.m., police arrested two teenage boys from Andover, age 16 and 15, on Stevens Street, after a reported assault at Andover High School earlier that morning. Both were charged with two counts of assault and battery and individual counts of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, disturbing school and conspiracy to commit a crime. Sister paper The Eagle-Tribune filed a story on this incident, and it can be found online at andovertownsmen.com.

At 9:14 p.m., Jody Yameem, 51, of 4 Pilgrim Drive in Andover, was arrested on Reservation Road and charged with operating a motor vehicle while unlicensed, having a motor vehicle not meeting Registry of Motor Vehicles safety standards and operating under the influence of liquor, third offense.

Friday, June 1 — At 8:10 p.m., Ian Adams, 18, of 9 Flint Circle, Andover, was arrested on Main Street and charged with possession of

a class D drug with intent to distribute and having controlled substances in, on or near a school or playground.

Saturday, June 2 — At 11:58 p.m., Stephen Nadherny, 58, of 311 Lowell St., Andover, was arrested at his home and charged with resisting arrest, leaving the scene of property damage and operating under the influence of liquor, second offense.

Sunday, June 3 — At 3:18 a.m., Eddie Santos, 20, of 181 Bailey St., Lawrence, was arrested on River Road and charged with operating a motor vehicle while unlicensed, having an open container of liquor in a motor vehicle and a miscellaneous motor vehicle equipment violation.

Beginning at 3:51 a.m., police made five arrests on Bridle Path Road, all involving liquor. The arrested included: Bradford Miller, 18, of 18 Dale St., Andover, charged with operating under the influence of liquor and using a motor vehicle without authority; two teenage boys from Andover, each charged with being a person under the age of 21 in possession of liquor and disorderly conduct; Julia Brem, 19, of 100 Long Ridge Road, Carlisle, Mass., charged with being a person under the age of 21 in possession of liquor; and Kaitlin Mitchell, 18, of 16 Bridle Path Road, Andover, charged with being a person under the age of 21 in possession of liquor, selling or delivering liquor to a person under 21 and keeping a noisy and disorderly house. Miller was arrested at a different location on Bridle Path Road than the others, who were all arrested at the same location.

Monday, June 4 — Starting

at 1:40 p.m., police made two arrests at the Public Safety Center on North Main Street. The arrested were as follows: a teenage boy from Lawrence, charged with leaving the scene of property damage, a junior operator license violation and possession of a class D drug with intent to distribute; and a teenage boy from Andover, charged with possession of a class D drug with intent to distribute.

At 3:55 p.m., Andrew Grayson, 26, of 12 Sanderson Ave., Lynn, was arrested at the Public Safety Center on North Main Street and charged with breaking and entering at daytime with intent to commit a felony and keeping a person in fear, disturbing the peace and two counts of threatening to commit a crime. The arrest was made by police in Lynn and was handled in Andover as a courtesy booking for crimes committed in Andover.

THEFTS

Wednesday, May 30 — At 12:20 p.m., two boats were reported stolen at a boat house on Abbot Street. One of the boats were later recovered on a nearby pond.

Thursday, May 31 — At 6:10 a.m., an attempted robbery was reported at a gas station on North Main Street. Moments later, a vehicle believed to be involved in the attempted robbery crashed into the front of Royal Jewelers on Main Street in what police believed to be an attempted break on the store. The vehicle was believed to have been stolen out of Dracut.

Friday, June 1 — At 2:56 p.m., a theft of license plates from a motor vehicle was reported on Lovejoy Road.

Monday, June 4 — At 8:16

police arrived, explained “that she watches Bones and she is concerned that they may be clothes belonging to someone in a crime.” Police determined the clothes were nothing of interest or value. The clothes were left in the trash can.

At 10:49 p.m., police were called to Flint Circle after a resident reported that her house was shot by a BB gun.

Wednesday, May 30 — At 5:52 p.m., police were called to Walnut Avenue on several reports of a “male walking down [the street] naked.”

Thursday, May 31 — At 11:29 a.m., vandalism to a building was reported on Brookside Drive.

At 5:38 p.m., a police officer was called to Swan Lane on a report of kids skateboarding in the street. The responding officer, Patrolman Evan Robitaille, spoke with the kids and advised them to stay out of the street. When he turned around to respond to another call, “the kids were back on the street,” so “he took the skateboards and told them to come to the station with a parent to pick them up.”

Sunday, June 3 — At 5:47 a.m., police received a call from a Post Office Avenue resident who was seeking advice for “pictures his neighbor has of him and his wife.”

At 3:10 p.m., police were called to Harold Parker Road involving a man who was attacked by two pitbulls.

At 7:52 p.m., police were called to Post Office Ave after a resident on the road reported that he “can hear his upstairs neighbor planning to have him bushwacked by 10 guys.” Police reported that there was no issues, “as his neighbor is not even home at this time.” A little over an hour later, the same resident called police reporting “his neighbor is out to get him and is currently watching him through the floor tiles.”

At 9:36 p.m., a Castle Heights Road resident called police to report she “can see something on the trunk of her car and it’s moving.” A responding officer reported that “it is not an animal” and that the car “is all set.”

INCIDENTS

Tuesday, May 29 — At 4:09 p.m., police were called to Salem Street on a report of a resident who “found some clothes in her trash can that don’t belong to her.” The resident, before

PLACET: No GPS bracelet for offender

Continued from Page 1

PLACET CASE

Hashem said there will be no special efforts by Andover police to monitor Placet locally.

“We don’t have the manpower to do that,” said Hashem. “He has conditions of probation. As long as he abides by those, we’re not going to be monitoring his activities.”

In 2008, Placet, 57, plead guilty to indecent assault and battery on a person under 14 and open and gross lewdness and lascivious behavior. The Level 3 sex offender was released from prison and placed on five years probation in December 2009.

After a hearing this Monday, Lu placed restrictions on where Placet can travel based on the individual locations of the town’s schools and playgrounds, including sidewalks adjacent to school properties and sidewalks across the street from those sidewalks, Monahan said.

Due to his employment with generator service company, Placet would be allowed to enter school property but only after school hours and only if he notifies the Probation Department first, Lu said.

Assistant District Attorney Marcia Slingerland said recently that Placet walks while reading a book around 3 or 4 p.m., when school buses are bringing children home. Neighbors have expressed concern, she said.

The probation violations stem from two incidents in late March, when Placet interacted with a 10-year-old boy and 12-year-old girl. On one occasion, Placet retrieved a stray hockey puck that had landed near his feet while he was walking, Probation Officer Eddie Colon said at a recent hearing.

“He said something along the lines of ‘Keep up the good work, you’ll make a hockey star someday’ and kept walking,” Colon said. Placet’s attorney, John Swomley said in court Monday that a neighbor was “looking for a violation” to get Placet into trouble. He later said the neighbor “didn’t like him walking around her neighborhood.”

Swomley said Placet did not do anything criminal. He merely retrieved a stray hockey puck, like just about any other person would do, he said.

Swomley said there is a

MAY 19, 2008: Placet pleads guilty to charges of indecent assault and battery on a person under 14 and open and gross lewdness and lascivious behavior. He is sentenced to two years of prison for the assault and battery charge and five years of probation for the second charge.

DEC. 19, 2009: 19 months into his prison sentence, Placet is released. His five years of probation begin, the beginning of which is served with a GPS bracelet.

APRIL 2011: 16 months into probation, GPS monitoring is removed from the terms of Placet’s probation.

MARCH 2012: Nearly 28 months into his probation term, Placet violates probation by speaking to two children, according to court documents.

MAY 21, 2012: At a probation hearing, prosecutors ask for Placet to be placed on GPS monitoring and not be allowed within 500 feet of a school or playground. After concerns about how the 500-foot restriction would affect his work, Judge John Lu offers Placet another option, which he chooses: to serve two weeks in jail and appear at a future probation hearing.

JUNE 4, 2012: Prosecutors again request that Placet wear a GPS bracelet after he is released. Lu says GPS monitoring would “hinder his employment but it will not prevent it.” Monitoring is not included in the terms of Placet’s release and continued probation. Instead, Placet is banned from playgrounds and from schools during school hours. If his work requires it, he can go to a school building, but only after school hours and only after the Probation Department is notified first.

possibility that Placet will try to get a new trial on his original charges.

“He is adamant about his innocence,” said Swomley. The attorney who represented Placet three years ago pressured him to plead guilty, saying he could not get him acquitted, Swomley said.

“He was very incompetently represented,” said Swomley, who has been preparing a motion for the new trial. Many lawyers, Swomley said, will urge a client to plead guilty so they can get a case resolved.

The timeline for that motion is “in flux,” according to Swomley. For the time being, he has been retained to look into the possibility, he said.

For feedback or inquiries on this article, please email dluca@andovertownsmen.com.

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Ballardvale Preschool saved from closing

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
STAFF WRITER

A small preschool housed in a local church will not close as had been feared by parents.

Like a small struggling business in this economy, Ballardvale Preschool has downsized and tightened the fiscal belt to survive. As a result, the 40-year-old preschool at Ballardvale Church on Clark Road will remain open.

When low enrollment threatened to close the

preschool, parents jumped into action. They hosted communitywide events, including a spring egg hunt and a pancake breakfast, to get the word out about their preschool. The Townsman wrote a page 1 article about their efforts earlier this year.

"These parents were committed and it has paid off. They have saved the preschool," said Lina Gruca, director.

Ballardvale Church played a big part, too, she said.

"The church has been very

accommodating. We are renting a smaller space at the church...it's a perfect size," Gruca said.

Already 12 children are enrolled for September and Gruca said she will cap enrollment at 15.

"My son graduates preschool Wednesday. (June 6) and I am thrilled that my daughter can attend Ballardvale in the fall. It was great to see the school, the church and the community work together to give such a deserving organization a

second chance," reported parent Danielle Matton of Andover.

Fellow Andover parent Sue Meaney, who attended the preschool herself in the 1970s, also was thrilled with the news.

"We are proud that our efforts were successful, but the real credit must go to Lina and the teachers. When they were faced with many difficult issues they came up with solutions," Meaney said in an email. "[Parents and staffers] all came together

when the future of the school was grim and we came out on top. It speaks volumes about how dedicated Lina and her teachers are to the preschool."

Licensed for 39 preschoolers, the preschool had only 15 children attending this school year. Eight of them will move on to kindergarten in September. After it was announced in February that if the preschool did not get more enrollees it would close the "Save Our Preschool" movement was launched.

The economy, the recession and lost jobs played a role in reduced numbers as a preschool tuition is not a must-have in many struggling families' monthly budgets. Add that to the shrinking number of births in Andover toward the end of the last decade, and it equals trouble for preschool enrollments in general, Gruca has said.

But, the worry that Ballardvale Preschool will fold is over.

"We're open and our plan is to stay open," Gruca said.

Deadline passes, contract report awaited

The deadline passed June 4 for a fact finder's report covering contract talks between the School Committee and Andover Education Association to be delivered from the state.

As outlined in the state's labor laws, a fact finder's report on stalled negotiations must be made available to the state's labor board and both parties involved in the negotiations within 30 days of the record initiating fact finding being closed.

As of Tuesday evening, June 5, the report had yet to be delivered, according to Kerry Costello, AEA president.

If the report is late, there's not much the two sides can do beyond just waiting for it to arrive, said Paula Colby-Clements, chairwoman of the School Committee.

"Like most statutes, [the 30-day deadline] is not one with a penalty associated with it," she said. "If they don't file it, you just wait for them to file it."

- Dustin Luca

June 19: Plea change in water-plant case?

A plea change hearing has been rescheduled for a fired town employee charged with stealing while working at the Andover water treatment plant. Cynthia Vaughn, a West Newbury resident and previous Water Treatment Specialist for the town, is expected to change her plea from her original "not guilty" on Tuesday, June 19 at Salem Superior Court, according to First Assistant District Attorney Jack Dawley.

WREATH: Veterans upset

Continued from Page 1

a last-second decision to ask the Pakistani national to join him for the wreath-laying.

"There was no planning, no forethought, no intention," Major said. "I just thought it was something positive."

After meeting with Witman, Major said that when he meets with Post 8 he hopes to "highlight the notion that it was a last-second idea and it was one of friendship, extending my hand across the pond, if you may, to ultimately these folks who spent the previous two weeks with our town government, learning what we do, so they can bring it back to their homeland."

"I saw this as a great opportunity to have them share an experience, what makes America the great country that it is and how we pay respect, and we honor so deeply our veterans, especially those that gave the ultimate sacrifice," he said.

The Pakistanis were in town for two weeks to learn about town government and school operations. The trio visited local schools and businesses, and one night they had dinner at Town Manager Buzz Stapezynski's home.

"They cooked a Pakistani chicken dish," Major said.

Major said he thought inviting Pakistani official Qayyum Khan, a provincial district officer of social welfare, to join him at the traditional wreath-laying was a way to show the visiting officials "what we do when we honor those who have given the ultimate sacrifice."

"I saw it as a last hurrah... they were soon leaving," Major said. "I just thought it would be nice."

Michael Burke, Andover's

Veterans Services director, was unaware that an invitation would be extended to the Pakistani visitor. He said he followed town protocol by asking three Andover public officials to come forward and lay the wreath. He asked Major, Selectmen Chairman Paul Salafia and School Committeeman Dennis Fergie. Burke said he looked up from reading the program on Memorial Day and the Pakistani official was with Major.

"There was no planning for this and there was no intention," Burke said.

"If folks took offense to it, then I sincerely apologize. The intent was purely from a perspective of friendship and being able to build bonds that tie countries and communities together," said Major. "They took time out of their experience here in the United States to experience our Memorial Day, and they were really impassioned about it. Part of my thought process was, gee, this is great they're doing it."

Dustin Luca contributed to this article.

VOICES: Special needs kids get own program

Continued from Page 1

Alyssa's family - Nana Lillian Gagliardi, her brother Harrison and friend Brooke Durbeck, all of Andover - clapped loudly after each song.

"I think of them as the Baby Treble Chorus...they are just great," said Maddie St. Amand, a member of Andover's Commission on Disability.

Her group helped pay for refreshments after the show.

"My Own Voice" is now considered a key part of the Treble Chorus of New England. It's the brainchild of Bernadette Lionetta of Punchard Avenue. Her daughters, Francesca and Angelina, are active with the Treble Chorus. Her son, William, 14, performs with My Own Voice as he has Asperger's.

"I have always wanted to do this...it's been on my bucket list," Bernadette Lionetta said of starting the group. "These kids love music, love singing and should be able to be in a performing chorus."

Lionetta's daughters are among the four Treble Chorus mentors who help the My Own Voice chorus with dropped music sheets and help calm singers' nerves.

"They are so pure and good. They just give so much love," said Angelina "Angie" Lionetta, who is also in the show choir at Andover High School and the St. Augustine Church choir. "I loved coming here on Tuesday nights. I am going to miss it."

She will not have to wait long as her mom said My



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

From left, Angelina, 16, William, 14, and his twin sister Francesca Lionetta sing "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing"

MY OWN VOICE SINGERS

Peter Alexandris
Alyssa Clark
Devan Desisto
Joshua Dunlavey
Brett Hanley

Emily Jurek
Katie McNally
Colleen MacPhee
Will Rullo
Alex Talbot

"These kids love music, love singing and should be able to be in a performing chorus."

Bernadette Lionetta

Own Voice will be back. With financial support from the Andover Service Club and Andover's Commission on Disability, "My Own Voice" is growing.

It's a bucket list item that will continue to pour opportunity for special singers in Andover.

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ON CAMPUS

Salem State Class of 2012

The following students graduated from Salem State University: Stephen D'Addario, Michael Haugh, Carlene Holloway, Peris Mbugua, Ashley Silva and Wendinyide Tenkodogo.



Courtesy photo

Laura Davis earns Gordon degree

Laura Davis, daughter of Richard and Virginia Davis of Andover, received a bachelor's degree in communication arts from Gordon College on May 19. A 2008 Andover High School graduate, Davis participated on the dance team while at Gordon. She plans to attend UMass Boston for a masters in elementary education.

Andover resident Lucia Calderon receives her juris doctor degree from Suffolk University Law School at its commencement ceremony in Boston.

and 2011 in the Southern District of Iowa, Federal Court, in addition to a judicial intern at the District Court level in 2011.

Schaefer graduates from law school

Former Andover resident Katrina Schaefer, Sanborn Elementary School Class of 1998, graduated from the University of Iowa, College of Law on May 11.

During her last year in law school, Schaefer served as a student legal intern representing parents in child removal cases, and assisted in drafting an ordinance for a local Civil Rights Commission.

Schaefer was a contributing editor of the Iowa Law Review, activities director for OWLSS (Organization for Women Law Students and Staff), a member of Phi Alpha Delta Service Law Fraternity, and Philanthropy Council Representative.

Endicott endings

The following students graduated from Endicott College on May 19: Joshua Bruno, bachelor of arts; Kathleen Kelly, bachelor of science; and Vincent Patsios, bachelor of science.



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Sports

Softball delivers best tourney run since 2003

By DAVID WILLIS
STAFF WRITER

As the No. 18 seed, Andover softball knew it faced a tough task against No. 2 seed Masconomet on Sunday afternoon.

But the Golden Warriors were also poised to make some history, with their best postseason performance in nearly a decade.

"It was a little nerve-racking," said junior shortstop Meaghan Leary. "But we knew we had the skills, and we knew we had the attitude needed to win it. It was incredible to beat the No. 2 team."

Behind a 10-run explosion in the fourth and a stellar pitching performance for Cassandra Hunt, Andover shocked favored Masconomet 13-1 on Sunday in the Division 1 North first round.



Photo by Andy Baumgartner

Cassandra Hunt prepares to release a pitch during Andover's upset tournament victory over Masconomet on Sunday.

With the victory, the Golden Warriors advanced to the Division 1 North

quarterfinals, the furthest an Andover softball team has advanced since

2003, when the Warriors also made the North quarterfinals.

"This is the furthest we have gone in the tournament in a long time so that is very exciting," said Hunt. "That means a lot to us. We have beaten the No. 2 team, so we feel pretty good."

Having started the season 5-8, it was a May 18 loss that Golden Warriors credited with sparking their current run.

"I think it really started with the second Dracut game," said sophomore outfielder Nicole Ericson. "We really stayed in that game (5-3 lost) after a tough first loss to them (11-1). We brought the fire with us that day, and it was a huge changing point for us."

Change point it was.

Following that loss, the Golden Warriors delivered an 8-1 run, including the two wins in the Division 1 North tournament, their first tourney wins since 2003, making their record 13-9, their best record since 2005 (also 13 wins).

"Everyone has been hitting so well," said Leary. "Once one person gets the ball rolling, everyone starts to hit better. We earn that moment, and it just keeps rolling from there."

The offense was certainly rolling on Sunday, when the Golden Warriors turned a 2-1 lead into a 12-1 advantage with a 10-run fourth inning, in which they sent 14 batters to the plate.

The offense was paced by seniors Molly Awiszus and Taylor Farris, who

both had three hits, while Eugenie Moffitt drove in three runs and Awiszus scored three times.

"Our offense has definitely been hot," said Ericson, who also had two RBIs. "Taylor, Shannon Tully, Meg Leary, our bats are working."

They also received another outstanding performance from Hunt, who allowed just five hits and struck out four in seven innings.

"Cassandra has been amazing," said Ericson. "She has that wicked changeup that catches a lot of people off guard. She has really stepped up for us."

The Golden Warriors were scheduled to face No. 10 Acton-Boxboro on Tuesday in the Division 1 North quarterfinals.

THE ACCIDENTAL STAR



Courtesy photos

Jill Beucler is right at home in net. Once a field player, the senior goalie has been a key for the Golden Warriors, who surge into the Division 1 North semifinals.

Goalie by chance, Beucler becomes star for girls lacrosse

By DAVID WILLIS
STAFF WRITER

Who could have imagined that a simple sprained ankle could change Jill Beucler's life, and be the best luck she ever had.

"It's so crazy," said Beucler. "I say it to my mother all the time. I hurt my ankle, and I never would have known it would lead me to my college plays and influence my entire life."

Looking to fight her way back onto the field after injuring her ankle, Beucler volunteered to give goalie a try for the first time in her life.

Fast forward three years, and the Division 1 college recruit is one of the key players on the Andover High lacrosse team, which was set to play Westford Academy in the Division 1 North semifinals on Wednesday.

"I never wanted to play goalie," she said. "Now, here I am a varsity goalie off to play college lacrosse. It's wild."

Growing up, Beucler had always been a field player, but admitted she was hardly a star in the youth lacrosse ranks.

"I was average," she said. "I was not really that good." She planned to continue as a field player when she arrived at Andover High, but never had a chance to try out for the Golden Warriors as a freshman.

"I was playing at a clinic at a field player at the beginning of the spring," she remembered. "It was a week before tryouts and I collided with a girl."

"I ended up with a high ankle sprain and strained Achilles' tendon. I was in a boot, so I wasn't allowed to try out and said I would manage the team."



Jill Beucler's injured ankle led to her success as goalie for the girls lacrosse team.

But as the season went by, Beucler no longer needed to wear her walking cast, and at the same time the Andover freshman team was in need of a goalie.

"Right after I got my boot off coach asked if anyone would try goalie," she said. "No one was saying anything, so I spoke up and said, 'I'll try it.'"

"In youth lacrosse I always refused to play goalie. I thought it was so scary. But I wanted to get back on the field so much, and I couldn't run (because of ankle pain) so goalie was the only option."

Once she gave goalie a try, she quickly fell in love with the position, and after a few games on the freshman team she was called up to the varsity team to be with the club during the postseason run.

"Something just clicked in my head," she said. "Once I started playing goalie, that was when I knew I loved

lacrosse and I wanted to be a goalie. The support of my teammates and coach (John McVeigh) helped so much."

The following season, Beucler stepped up and won the starting goalie job, and right away embraced the position.

"I remember my first varsity start against Needham," she said. "That was really the first time I played goalie in a real lacrosse game. It was so back-and-forth. As disappointed as I was that we lost (8-7), it made me hungry and motivated to get better."

Beucler started 15 games as a sophomore, 17 more as a junior and started all but two games this season for the Golden Warriors, who were 19-3 going into Wednesday's contest.

"Now I really feel like I understand the technique," she said. "When I was a sophomore I didn't know what I was doing. It was self defense. I was just trying to get my stick in the way of the ball so it wouldn't hit me. Now I have confidence."

"As bad as it sounds, you don't even feel the ball hit you after a while. You really get used to it. It is the best feeling in the world when you make a save. It may hurt, but I helped the team."

She also received a taste of what life could have been like as a field player, scoring a goal while playing attack late in a win over Dracut.

"It was so weird," she said. "I was so out of my element. There was no strategy. The field players were just trying to get me the ball, and I just threw it and lucked out it hit the net."

Once this season is over, Beucler will be moving on to play college lacrosse at Division 1 Quinnipiac.

But, for the moment, she is focused on closing out her

high school career in style. "I hope we can put everything into the games as we can," Beucler said. "This is my last season as a Golden Warrior, so I want to give it every little thing I can."

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

Boys lacrosse taste playoffs

BOYS LACROSSE

Andy Hook made 10 saves for his first career varsity shutout as No. 11 Andover topped No. 22 Braintree in the Division 1 East preliminary round last Tuesday. **Andrew Eriksen** and **Matt McIver** each scored three goals and **Tim Oteri**, **Tom LoMedico**, **Alex King** and **Andrew Gross** each scored one for the winners.

Despite three goals for **Will Eikenberry**, No. 11 Andover lost to No. 6 Needham 10-6 in the Division 1 East first round on Saturday. **Andrew Eriksen** added two goals and **Matt McIver** scored one for the Golden Warriors.

GIRLS LACROSSE

Torres' return helps lacrosse keep surging

Jaclyn Torres showed no rust after missing 10 games due to an injured ankle, scoring three goals to lead No. 2 Andover to a 14-4 drubbing of No. 10 Chelmsford in the Division 1 North quarterfinals on Friday. **Kate Farnham** also tallied a hat trick while **Ally Fazio** chipped in with two goals and three assists for the winners.

Weezie Gross led the way with three goals as No. 2 Andover blasted No. 15 Medfield in the Division 1 North first round 15-4 last Wednesday. **Anne Farnham** and **Charlotte Lenes** each scored two goals while **Ally Fazio** added a goal and three assists and **Meagan Keefe** chipped in with a goal and two assists for the winners.

BOYS TENNIS

Bendetson, singles roll

Led by a win at No. 1 singles by **Austin Bendetson**, No. 5 Andover crushed No. 4 Chelmsford 5-0 in the Division 1 North quarterfinals on Friday. **Varun Penamatsa** scored a win at No. 2 singles while **Arun Padykula** made it a singles sweep by winning third singles.

BASEBALL

Farnham's effort for naught

Cam Farnham was 3 for 4 and scored twice, but No. 13 Andover lost to No. 20 Cambridge Rindge & Latin 5-2 last Thursday. **Burton Deady** and **Andrew Deloury** each had a hit and drove in a run while **Andrew Johnian** allowed just one earned run in six innings despite suffering the loss.

SOFTBALL

Farris, Tully score win behind Hunt

Taylor Farris tallied two hits, scored one run and drove in another as No. 15 Andover beat No. 18 Peabody in the Division 1 North preliminary last Thursday. **Shannon Tully** and **Allison Conway** each had two hits and an RBI while **Cassandra Hunt** allowed just three hits for the victory.

ANDOVER JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE

2012 SEASON FOR FOOTBALL AND CHEERLEADING

ON-LINE REGISTRATION IS ON-GOING FOR BOTH IN-TOWN AND TRAVEL FOOTBALL/CHEERLEADING.

IN-TOWN PLAYERS MUST BE 9 AS OF 9/1/2012

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PRACTICE BEGINS AT THE START OF SCHOOL

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VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE 2012 SEASON AND BEYOND

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Questions: e-mail ajfffootball@comcast.net

Obituaries

Scott Allen Hedrick, 57

BOCAS DEL TORO, PANAMA — Scott Allen Hedrick passed away at his home on April 27, 2012. Scott was born in Worcester, MA on May 26, 1954 and raised in Andover by his late parents James G. and Gwen B. Hedrick, a graduate of Andover High School. Scott moved to Naples, FL, where he owned and operated Sunset Auto Repair for more than 30 years. His energetic personality and quest for adventure will be missed by all.



Scott lived his life by helping others, always there to lend a hand and give to those less fortunate than himself. In Panama he was known for hosting an annual Pig roast in appreciation of all who were involved in the happy and satisfying life he lived.

Most important in Scott's life was his love for his family and friends. He will be sorely missed by his daughter, Rebecca Harnish, her husband Daniel and grandson Logan of PA; his son Kent A. Hedrick of Naples FL. He is survived by his sister Nancy Simili of Andover, brother Kent G. Hedrick and wife Marya of Marco

Island FL; sister Sally Bailey-Gates and husband Charlie of Londonderry, NH; brother-in-law David Simili of Bourne MA., as well as many nieces, nephews and friends.

ARRANGEMENTS: A Memorial service will be held at the West Parish Chapel, 210 Lowell St. Andover, MA on Sunday June 10th, 2pm. Burial to follow at the West Parish Garden Cemetery. Relatives and friends are invited to attend, celebrate his life and share memories.

RELIGION

'Walk for Life' 2-miler at St. Augustine

A "Walk for Life" fundraiser will start at St. Augustine Church on June 9.

The Pregnancy Care Center is holding its 20th annual two-mile event on Saturday, June 9, from 9 to 11: .m. (rain or shine) at several locations including St. Augustine Church, 43 Essex St.

Free t-shirts will be given to those walkers reaching \$150 in pledge donations or who have built a team of five walkers. To register and fund raise or to print a registration form www.PCCFriends.org/walk or call the Pregnancy Care Center at 978-373-5718 for a pledge form.

The Pregnancy Care Center has three locations: Amesbury, Haverhill and Lawrence. It opened its doors 27 years ago and reports that last year it had more than 1500 client visits. It describes itself as providing "life-affirming services designed to empower women and men in making informed choices about unexpected pregnancy, sexual integrity and recovery from post abortion trauma.

Tangible assistance through a food pantry, baby items (children's

clothing, cribs, strollers etc.), diapers and formula are also available at each center."

Additional locations for "Walk for Life" events include:

- Amesbury: Holy Family Parish, 9 Sparhawk St.
- Andover: St. Augustine's Church, 43 Essex St.
- Haverhill: King of Grace Church, 28 Chadwick St.
- Newburyport: Hope Community Church, 11 Hale St.
- North Andover: St. Michaels Church, 196 Main St.
- Reading: St. Agnes Parish, 186 Woburn St.

Temple Emanuel upcoming events

Today, Thursday, June 7 at 9:30 a.m. the seniors from Temple Emanuel will finish the year with a bus trip along the North Shore.

The temple will host a networking open house on Tuesday, June 12, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. It is free and open to the public.

Temple Emanuel is located at 7 Haggetts Pond Road.

For more information or to RSVP for either event visit templemanuel.net or call 978-470-1356.

ALL THOSE YEARS AGO

100 Years Ago - June 7, 1912

The foodshop and tea room on Main street will be closed about the 15th of the month. It will reopen in September.

The school savings bank closed on June first for the current school year. It will reopen October first. The total amount of deposits is about \$1800. \$118 was deposited during the week beginning May 27.

Mrs. Burton Flagg and children have gone to Kennebunkport, Maine for the summer. Mr. Flagg will join them at the weekends.

Mrs. Myerscough and son are now occupying the Mason house on the corner of Whittier and Park streets, which they recently purchased.

About fifty couples attended the dancing party held by the Friendship club in Garfield hall last Friday evening. Music was furnished by the Columbian orchestra.

75 Years Ago - June 4, 1937

One officer was suspended for two weeks without pay and another was severely reprimanded this week when the selectmen decided that disciplinary measures were necessary as the aftermath of a police dispute at the recent Shawsheen Dairy labor trouble.

The possibility of supplying the central school system with electricity from a diesel generator was discussed at the school committee meeting on Tuesday evening. It was reported that the cost of electricity for the year would be about \$3,000, several members stating that they felt the present rate was too high. The rate is about 7½ cents per kilowatt hour for light and 4 cents for power.

A mother and her 14-months-old baby were slightly injured yesterday afternoon when a car struck

them on Essex street near the railroad crossing. Mrs. William Taylor of 6 Springfield St., Lawrence, was wheeling her 14-month-old son, David, in carriage up Essex Street, and while attempting to cross from the right to the left they were bumped by a car driven by Emma Holmes of South Main. The baby was tossed out of the carriage, and the mother was thrown about eight feet and the carriage badly damaged.

50 Years Ago - June 7, 1962

Philip F. Wormwood, 11 Lowell Junction Road, has been elected principal of the High School, succeeding Lindsay J. March, whose resignation is effective June 30.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry I. Carr, 14 Carisbrooke St., celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary Sunday, with over 50 members of the family, and friends, gathering to wish them well.

25 Years Ago - June 4, 1987

Monday morning found Stephen Richardson, assistant principal of Andover High School, in the sticky heat trying to get 366 seniors ready for the next day's graduation ceremonies. Class essays were delivered by Lance Lee and Dawn Fater. Kathryn Pierson was valedictorian; Lynne Brockelsby was salutatorian.

North Street residents are up in arms over yet another comprehensive permit proposal in their neighborhood and spoke at length in opposition to the proposed "Brookside Estates" at Monday's hearing before the Zoning Board of Appeals.

"I concurred with the selectmen to call this Special Town Meeting," said Moderator Jim Doherty. "It's pretty much something that had to be done." But Doherty added "I have no idea whatsoever" as to the likelihood of drawing a 350-voter quorum to address the eight article warrant.

Free skin cancer screening in Beverly

Cancer Services at Beverly Hospital will conduct a free community skin cancer clinic today, Thursday, June 7 from 9 a.m. to noon in the Hematology & Oncology Clinic at Beverly Hospital, 85 Herrick St., Beverly.

Individuals who are concerned about a mole or other

skin abnormality are welcome to attend. This is not a dermatology clinic and surgical procedures will not be performed. The clinic's purpose will be to determine whether any treatment is necessary. To schedule an appointment, call the Health Connection at 1-888-253-0800.

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Opinion

Memorial Day offer was mistake

Applause for Ted Witman, Commander of Andover's American Legion Post 8, for doing his part to help defuse an emotional situation created by a very poor Memorial Day decision. On the spur of the moment, Selectman Brian Major asked a Pakistani national visiting Andover for two weeks to help place a wreath honoring fallen American soldiers during Andover's Memorial Day ceremony. The request was unintentionally disrespectful to veterans. Memorial Day is a solemn American holiday meant to honor Americans who gave the ultimate sacrifice, their lives to protect Americans' freedom. Veterans and their families expect Americans with a deep understanding of the day to have the ceremonial roles. For some, having a foreign national help lay the wreath was outrageous.

But anyone who knows Major knows this was a mistake made out of ignorance of protocol at the patriotic celebration, and out of Major's always present enthusiasm to be a welcoming host. With America using an all volunteer military, there is a type of cultural gap between those who have served and those who have not. Those upset by Major extending an invitation should not automatically look to ascribe a hidden reason for Major's offer. He simply did not understand the effect it would have on military families and others who were offended.

Witman seems to understand this, and he met with Major on Tuesday to discuss the matter. Afterward he said, "We've resolved the issue and have a better understanding on most parts." People make mistakes. When they do, apologies are in order. Major will attend an Andover American Legion Post 8 meeting to do so.

If Major wanted to show friendship toward the visiting Pakistani official he would have been better served to have the man help with some small ceremonial activity at a selectmen's meeting, such as giving a citation to a resident. Had Major done that, few might have batted an eye.

Asking a foreign national to lay a wreath to American war dead on Memorial Day is something quite different, and was inappropriate.

In other news...

Boos for a package of questionable election-law "reforms" passed by the House this week. The House attempted to respond to protests from the clerks' associations by establishing a task force to look into possible changes in the way elections are conducted, yet let the changes espoused by advocacy groups go through without further study. Some of the so-called reforms, such as allowing 16- or 17-year-olds to pre-register, are likely to hurt as much as help. Most 18-year-old Andoverites pre-registered in our town will be away at college for their first elections, for instance, and will discover when they show up to vote in the city or town in which they go to college that they are not on the rolls there.

Efforts to make voting registration even easier have not led to an increase in participation in recent times, but we have noticed an erosion of public confidence in the integrity of elections. Of course, the House rejected the idea of having people show IDs at the polls.

Applause to those who participated in the recent St. Baldrick's Foundation event at Palmers Restaurant and Tavern, where people had their heads shaved and raised an amazing \$46,000 to help find a cure for childhood cancer.

It was a true community effort, involving police, firefighters and a host of others from town. Three men who couldn't attend Saturday had their heads shaved in advance. According to those involved, students from Sanborn Elementary School attended to see their fourth grade teacher, Mike Votto, and school custodian, Charlie Croteau, shave their head. Sanborn collected more than \$1,300 through a school-wide coloring competition.

A group of girls the Andover Freedom, U11 soccer team, even came straight from a wet game in Manchester-by-the-Sea to see their coach get his hair removed.

Boos to people deciding clothes are optional in public. The town has had three reports of naked men in the last two weeks. In the most recent incident, a man was found walking naked down Walnut Avenue last Wednesday afternoon. Police took him to a hospital for a mental evaluation.

On May 24, police received two calls about naked men. One was spotted in the woods near Harold Parker Road and then two hours later another unclothed man was seen on Abbot Street. It appeared both may have been swimming in nearby bodies of water.

Let's hope this isn't the start of a summer trend.

LETTERS POLICY

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

Mail to: 33 Chestnut St., Andover, Mass. 01810

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

Andover Townsman

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'ONE' FINE DAY



JAN SEEGER/Staff photo

Kids take off at the start of the Kids fun run 1K race, during the Krit Classic 5K Run/Walk at Andover High School Sunday.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Destination Imagination team that competed globally appreciated community support

Editor, Townsman:

Our Destination Imagination team wanted to acknowledge everyone who supported our team's participation in the Global Competition recently in Tennessee. As a team of fifth-graders from Bancroft, having to raise money outside of our school was challenging, but we learned a lot about the generosity of our larger Andover community. We were touched by so many of you who listened to our "DI Journey" and the work we did on our solar energy challenge. Your contributions made a big difference to our team.

DI is a great educational outreach program that challenges kids, so thank you, Orange Leaf and National Grid, for choosing to support our group with your generous donations. We couldn't have done this without you, and we will always remember how much you helped us.

We hope to spread excitement for Destination Imagination and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) efforts to other kids in town. This wasn't just about the funds we received; it was about the support we had behind us to represent what Andover students can do on a global stage. We appreciate all the Andover youth groups who offered unconditional support to our team. You embody the true spirit of advocacy by asking, "How can we make this happen for the kids?"

Andover students have big ideas, but sometimes need the help of our Andover community to share them. Thank you for believing in the Antover Ants from Andover. By the way, we placed 14th out of 78 teams from around the world! Go Andover.

FLORENCE GRENON & MELANIE AUCLAIR-FORTIER
EMILY & CAROLINE REN JACKSON
HANNAH & DEBORAH SHELL
Holt & Wildwood Roads

Town should not make cuts to Latin, German

Editor, Townsman:

The Town of Andover has decided to eliminate Latin from the middle schools and completely do away with German. Students need different language options because different people have different goals. For instance, people who wish to pursue medical school or law school would benefit more from Latin than they would from any other language. Forcing a future doctor or lawyer to take a language other than Latin at the middle school is a waste of money because this child will grudgingly be put into another language for three years only to drop it once he enters the high school. That's a waste of time and money. Additionally, this child will not be able to take AP Latin because he will not have taken Latin I by the start of high school.

German should remain an option as well. German is

valuable for those who wish to pursue business, especially because Germany has one of the healthiest economies in Europe. There is a lot of great literature written in German, and some students will undoubtedly go on to study either comparative lit or German. If anything, German should be extended to the middle school so that students who take German in the middle school can take AP German during their senior year.

It is absolutely necessary that we keep different language options. Education is an investment and our money is better spent if students can choose classes that best suit their needs.

Additionally, the idea that we need to cut Environmental Science to improve standardized test scores is utter rubbish. Our scores are bad because classes are huge. By the same token, if our scores are so bad, why are we cutting Latin, a language that provides a rigorous grammatical and etymological grounding for Anglophones?

RONAN MAYE '13
3 Windsor St.

Lack of respect shown on Memorial Day, in coverage

Editor, Townsman:

Last week, we celebrated Memorial Day as we always do in Andover; however, something was very different this year. Three citizens from Pakistan were visiting Andover and when it came time for the wreaths to be placed on display, one of the selectmen invited a Pakistani visitor to assist him. I was attending the event with special interest this year because my son just returned from a deployment to Afghanistan and was to receive a War on Terrorism Medal from the town.

We all gasped when this attempt at a "peace initiative" took place. Certainly all are welcomed to visit our country and to attend the ceremony but having this shared honor of laying a wreath does not belong to citizens from a country that harbored Bin Laden has a culture that continually violates the human rights of their citizens, especially women, and frequently is responsible for putting out soldiers in harms way. This day was supposed to honor all US veterans, both living and dead, and to extend "open arms" to the three returning soldiers who were being honored. Part of the intent of the ceremony was to help them feel welcomed by the community with the hope of easing the difficult transition to life at home. Apparently some of the lessons we should have learned in the Vietnam era about how we treat our returning soldiers were not remembered in this situation.

The lack of respectful acknowledgement did not end there. This past week's Townsman had an article about the visiting Pakistanis (and the Tribune had a huge color picture of them on the front page).

In contrast, it was extremely disturbing to me that the Townsman article describing the Memorial Day event didn't even mention

the names of the returning soldiers and did not include their pictures when the editor, somehow, found space for a picture of the three visitors as they sat in the front row during the Memorial Day ceremony. I found this to be insensitive and unappreciative of the sacrifices made by the soldiers and their families.

As a mother of one of these soldiers, I sincerely hope that the bias demonstrated doesn't reflect the general feelings of the community toward our soldiers. My son not only serves his country but also serves Andover as a police officer. Another soldier serves the community by working in the town offices, and the last soldier, a Marine, a recent graduate of Andover High, has aspirations to be a policeman in Andover. All three are dedicated to the concept of selflessness and service to others.

These Andover heroes who have all had multiple deployments were disrespected by the action of this selectman and ignored by the community newspaper. The joy of having our family members back home will never be compromised by the thoughtless actions of others, however, they certainly have discouraged and disappointed our family and friends.

LILLIAN ARLEQUE, ED.D.
48 Pleasant St.

Editor's note: A page 4 article about the two-week visit by the Pakistani officials, and their photo, ran on separate pages from the Townsman's color page coverage of the Memorial Day ceremonies, a column about Memorial Day parade grand marshal Tom Busta and an editorial about the meaning of Memorial Day on the Opinion page.

Golf outing in town helped Jimmy Fund

Editor, Townsman:

Jimmy Fund Golf extends its sincerest acknowledgement to the organizers and sponsors of a golf outing held on May 7, at Indian Ridge Country Club in Andover. Special recognition and appreciation goes to Jeff Lipson and Ann Flannery, and the committee who organized the 21st annual event. The dedicated sponsors, participants, and volunteers helped raise critical funds to support lifesaving cancer research and nursing and patient resources at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

The Legal Sea Foods Golf Outing was one of the many golf tournaments that will be held in 2012 to raise funds for the Jimmy Fund and Dana-Farber.

From traditional golf tournaments and country club member events to mini golf tournaments and all day golf marathons, volunteers create golf fundraisers that combine their love of the sport with their desire to support the fight against cancer. Each event is an incredibly rewarding and fun way to support a great cause. Those interested in finding out ways to support Dana-Farber and the Jimmy Fund through golf may visit jimmyfundgolf.org to learn how.

NANCY ROWE
Director, Jimmy Fund Golf

Senate candidate Vispoli will 'clean up mess,' honor laws

Editor, Townsman:

I am glad Alex Vispoli, candidate for Massachusetts Senate, is calling for ethics reform on Beacon Hill. It is time we got rid of the people who make the laws and cannot seem to obey them.

Vispoli has been an Andover selectman for over eight years and during his tenure he has proven to be a very honorable individual. I know when he is elected to the state senate we can count on him to not only serve honorably, but also fight for the needed reforms to clean up the mess.

It is important the Republicans nominate a candidate who has not been fined due to illegal campaign activities. That's why I am with Alex Vispoli.

TOM HOERNER, MD
Jenkins Road

WEB QUESTION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

During the Memorial Day ceremony, Selectman Brian Major asked one of three visiting Pakistani leaders to help lay a memorial wreath. What are your thoughts?

■ I approve of it. His gesture was one of inclusion to a guest of Andover.

■ I'm OK with it, but I can see how others wouldn't be.

■ I don't have an opinion of this. It has no effect on me.

■ It bothers me, but I understand his intention.

■ It is an insult to our servicemen and women that somebody other than an American participated in this part of the ceremony.

■ Other (supply your own comment.)

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Last week's questions was "The town needs to cut \$2.9 million from its original plan for the new Bancroft Elementary School project. What should be immune to cuts?" Multiple answers could be selected. With 127 votes registered, the answers were:

■ Anything having to do with the building's infrastructure, including heating and cooling systems: 50 votes, 39.37 percent.

■ Any elements of green or sustainable energy: 20 votes, 15.75 percent.

■ Any playgrounds or community space: 17 votes, 13.39 percent.

■ Elements of the school's cosmetic appearance: 16 votes, 12.6 percent.

■ Anything having to do with ball fields or sports-related spaces: 13 votes, 10.24 percent.

■ Anything that impacts the West Knoll Road neighborhood: nine votes, 7.09 percent.

■ Other (supply your own answer — "Everything should be up for review and possible cut back" and "nothing that impacts the integrity of teaching and learning"): two votes, 1.57 percent.

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DUSTIN LUCA/Staff Photo

Crews from other communities were called in when Andover responded to a two-alarm blaze at 6 Atwood Lane last Thursday afternoon, May 31.

Two-alarm fire leaves family homeless

By DUSTIN LUCA
STAFF WRITER

A two alarm blaze last Thursday afternoon left four residents homeless and caused an estimated \$700,000 in damage to a single-family home on Atwood Lane.

The home is owned by John and Laurie Konevich, who live there with their two children, according to town records. Two of the Konevichs who were home when the fire started escaped with a pet dog, according to Andover Fire Chief Mike Mansfield, but a pet cat died

in the fire.

The cause of the fire is pending an investigation by Andover's Fire and Police departments and the state fire marshal, according to Mansfield. There was still no word on the cause as of Tuesday afternoon.

By the time crews arrived, the fire had already spread to a large portion of the back of the home and part of the home's attic, according to Mansfield. It took fire crews eight minutes to reach the scene of the fire, which was a factor in how extensive the damage was to the home.

Two 20-pound liquid propane canisters were also destroyed in the fire, which may have caused the fire to spread faster, said Mansfield. Whether that is the case has yet to be determined.

Mutual aid was needed from Lawrence, North Andover, Tewksbury and Wilmington to either put the fire out or cover empty fire stations while the fire was being fought, Mansfield said.

"Under the circumstances, the crews did an excellent job getting to the interior of the building and knocking down the fire as rapidly as they did," said Mansfield. "It's just unfortunate that the fire did have so much headway built up before the initial arrival of the companies."

He did not know if the home could be repaired or if it will need to be torn down. That decision is up to insurance companies, according to Mansfield.

The building was assessed by the town at \$827,900 for the 2012 fiscal year according to the town website.

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

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Andover High Class of 2012

Scholarships earned by Andover High seniors

Information about scholarships given to Andover High School seniors at a senior breakfast the morning of graduation was provided by Andover High School.

DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Money for the following scholarship awards are managed by the Trustees of the Punchard Free School.

Amy and Albert Trow Education Fund: Joshua Chevalier, \$1,000

Fred W. Doyle Scholarship Fund combined with Punchard Trustee Scholarship: Lily Daigle, \$1,000

Nathan Hamblin Scholarship: Samantha Marton, \$1,000

Funds for the following scholarships awards are managed by the Andover Chapter of Dollars For Scholars.

Andona Society \$2,000 scholarships: based on academic excellence, leadership qualities, and community service, awarded to:

- Marianna Heckendorn
- Robert Hsu
- Samantha Marton
- Charles Schleifer

Andona Society PAC Scholarship: \$2,000, given in recognition of diligence, motivation, and enthusiasm in embracing challenges and embodying the core values of Andover High School: Danielle Stevens

350th Scholarship: Blake Finlayson, \$250

Larry Robinson Scholarship: Anthia Mo, \$500

David Robichaud Scholarship: Linda Wang, \$250

Dr. James and May Shorten-Bell Scholarship, \$1,400 each: Marianna Heckendorn, Robert Hsu, Michaela Olson, Melanie Zakin

Margaret M. Collins Trust Scholarship: Charles Schleifer, \$1,000

Elizabeth Cotter Memorial Fund of the Community Foundation of Broward: Emily Ishihara, \$750

Claudia Bach Scholarship: \$1,000 given in honor of former superintendent of Andover, to a student who will pursue a degree in engineering: Andrej Samardzic

Peter Anderson Scholarship: established in appreciation for a lifetime of dedication and service to Andover's youth: Elizabeth Pellegrino

Brenda O'Brien Scholarship: Evan Gaj, \$1,000

Amy Hopkins Larson Scholarship Fund: Hyungji Park, \$500

David K. Lau Memorial Scholarship: Berlenise Castillo, \$1,000

Andover High School \$500 Ultimate Frisbee Scholarship: Robert Hsu, Melanie Nesteruk

Andover High School \$300 Girl's Volleyball Scholarship: Ava Bakhtyari, Molly Burke

Jo-Ann Samra Marketing Scholarship: given by Jay Leno, \$250 is awarded to a student displaying achievement in marketing: Meghan Doherty

A.J. Leno Television Award: also given by Jay Leno, \$500 is awarded to students displaying achievement in television production: Derek Witt, Joseph Kuykendall

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Andover Sportsmen's Club Scholarship: awarded based on scholarship who has been involved in outdoor sports, ecology, and conservation. Rebecca Long

See **SCHOLARS**, Page 12

DESTINATION: GRADUATION



Robert Hawes hugs a classmate at the Andover High graduation held at the Tsongas Arena in Lowell.

ANGIE BEAULIEU/Staff photos

Andover High graduates 431 from Class of 2012

By DUSTIN LUCA
STAFF WRITER

High school is like a GPS. A voice guides you and tells you where you should go, but only you can make the turns.

That was the resounding message at Monday's Andover High School graduation, where 431 Andover seniors took the final step in their careers within the Andover Public School district. The ceremony, held at the University of Massachusetts Lowell's Tsongas Center, filled most of the stadium as the graduating class was celebrated for its resiliency and its successes amid adversity.

Several speakers at the school's 153rd commencement highlighted that the class had three different principals in four years, something graduate Taylor Farris, opening the ceremony, suggested was because "we somehow scared away every principal we received,



Graduates flip the tassels on their caps at the Andover High graduation held at the Tsongas Arena in Lowell.

with a new one on his way."

"They say you don't choose your family. You're sort of placed with them," said Farris. "That's how Andover High is. None of us chose one another. We were placed next to each other in kindergarten and told to be nice.

"All 431 of us [are] one big family, but now is the time where our family is torn apart," continued

Farris. "We're moving on and spreading out. No matter how far we get, none of us can forget where we started."

Class Essayist Jaymi Cohen compared the high school experience to a GPS system, with the final destination being commencement.

"We yielded left and right, and sometimes chose to take the route with the least amount of

traffic, even if it wasn't the most direct or easiest way," said Cohen. "Although we're completing this route guidance for our journey at Andover High School, we now have to enter in an entirely new destination. With this comes a whole new set of directions, and

See **GRADUATION**, Page 12

Three-team captain leaves with exhaustive resumé

By DUSTIN LUCA
STAFF WRITER

For some students, it is more a question of "what didn't you do in your high school years" than it is "what did you do?"

By the end of his time at Andover High School, 18-year-old Charlie Schleifer served as captain of the school's cross country, indoor track and spring track teams. He was one of four student athletes who recently set the school's 4x800 relay record. He was responsible for the fiscal planning of the school's composting project and served on the school's Environmental Club. In his off-time, he played with the Andover High Jazz Band and the North Shore All-Star Jazz Project.

Which is his greatest talent? "Handling a lot of work," said Schleifer. "I've done pretty well biting off more than I could chew and not getting stressed about it."

For the high school students wanting to fill their plates with responsibilities, pursuing passions is key. "I've always loved nature. Ever since I was a kid, I would always rather play outside instead of inside," said Schleifer, explaining why he joined the school's Environmental Club. "From there, it became trying to protect nature."

He was always interested in sports as well, although track wasn't his initial choice.

"Freshman year, I did soccer and lacrosse, and I got cut



DUSTIN LUCA/Staff photo

During his time at Andover High, new graduate Charlie Schleifer was captain of three sports teams, helped break a school record, served as head of fiscal planning for the school's composting project and played on both the school's Jazz Band and the North Shore All-Star Jazz Project.

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

Charlie Schleifer is one of 100 national winners of a National Association of Secondary School Principals/Horff Jones Principal's Leadership Award Scholarship. High school principals from across the country could nominate one senior to compete in this year's program. Winners were selected on the basis of their leadership skills, participation in service organizations and clubs; achievements in the arts and sciences; employment experience; and academic record. They also were required to write an essay.

from the soccer team and just did track on a whim," said Schleifer. "I just quit lacrosse to do track. I never realized how much I love running."

Now, Schleifer is on his way to Yale. He hasn't yet decided which direction he's heading in, but with a national scholarship in hand and his tuition being reduced from around \$54,000 a year to \$15,000, he is already considering premed and an area for his graduate studies: neuroscience.

"I have always been fascinated by the mysteries of science, and I think the biggest

mystery left is the human mind," said Schleifer.

Announcing seniors gift... a digital marquee board...

By DUSTIN LUCA
STAFF WRITER

The senior class will give Andover High School a digital marquee board as its class gift.

The sign will be located near the flag pole in front of Andover High School, and it will be used to announce school events, important dates and information, and more, according to Sean McCall, member of the Senior Board. It will help build the sense of community at the school, he said.

At Monday's commencement ceremonies, graduating seniors Danielle Boudreau and Joseph Kuykendall announced the gift, saying the marquee "was a little outside of our price range."

"We will be using class funds from the classes of 2009 and 2010, because their class gifts were unfeasible," said Kuykendall. "So, in reality, it will be a gift of three classes."

A similar project was attempted before, according to



ANGIE BEAULIEU/Staff photo

Zoe Zimmerman shows class pride.

Kuykendall. This type of sign was presented as a gift from a previous class of graduates, but was slated to be built at the driveway entrance of the school on Shawsheen Road. That sign faced neighborhood opposition before its construction and never became a reality. Instead, a wood and granite sign with the words "Andover High School" and "Collins Center for the Performing Arts" above "80 Shawsheen Road" was installed during the fall of 2008.



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SCHOLARSHIPS

Continued from Page 11

Shawsheen Village Women's Club Scholarship: awarded to deserving students who have maintained high academic standards and plan to further their education.
Elizabeth Belbin
Emma O'Leary

Katherine E. Kloss Memorial Scholarship: given in recognition of exemplary achievement in academics, leadership, work ethic and commitment to the community. This recipient emulates the spirit of Kathy Kloss, a former AHS volunteer mentor in the engineering field.
Gregory Calabro

Harry H. Koffman and Faye Koffman Scholarship Fund of B'Nai B'Rith: awarded to a senior boy and girl who have demonstrated an appreciation for human and individual rights in the community.
Jonah Adler
Allison McLeod

Peter Afarian Memorial Scholarship: awarded to an Andover High School senior varsity hockey player who is furthering his studies in college and who has exemplified good character and academic achievement.
Liam Centrella
Kyle Wakefield

William Pfeil Memorial Scholarship: sponsored by Rockstar San Diego, is awarded to an Andover High senior who is planning to major in computer science.
Derek Wang

Andover Educational Secretaries Association Scholarship: awarded to a graduating senior furthering his or her education.
Alexandra Camilo

Andover Educational Association Scholarship: awarded to graduating seniors who are the son or daughter of an active A.E.A. member.
Courtney Stone
Mark Waller

Class of 1979 Memorial Scholarship: awarded to a senior who exemplifies the ideals and principles of Andover High School.
Patrick Dinan

Ann Royal Scholarship: given by the Spade & Trowel Garden Club, awarded to a student planning to continue with post high school level studies in conservation, environmental science, horticulture, forestry, landscaping or floriculture.
Naisy Flannery

Andover High School Chapter of the National Honor Society Scholarship: awarded to senior students who emulate the characteristics of the society: scholarship, leadership, character, and service.
Elizabeth Pugliese
Anna Ryan

Andover High School Drama Guild Scholarship: given to a student who is pursuing the performing arts at the college level, and given for her outstanding contributions to AHS theater.
Gregory Johnson
Nicholas Kalantzakos
Caroline Pramas
Conor Richardson
Matilda Sabal
Nicholas Solimini

Alfio Graceffa Memorial Scholarship, awarded to a graduating senior band member for excellence and leadership in the AHS Marching Band.
Daniel Murray

Andover Band Association Scholarship: awarded to senior band members who have shown exemplary participation in the band program.
John Andon
Summer LeCain
Allison Marotta
Michaela Olson

Andover High School Ski Team Booster Club Scholarships: awarded to varsity ski team members furthering their education.
Robert Banta
Meredith Lawler

Andover High School Girls Swim and Dive Boosters Association Scholarship
Jillian Gray
Audrey Hansen
Courtney Stone

Matthew Biles Scholarship, given to a member of the Andover High School men's swim and dive team.
John Belanger

Andover High School Field Hockey Boosters Club Scholarship
Anne Farnham
Kate Farnham
Taylor Farris
Charlotte Ozirsky
Shannon Tully

Katya Yerozolimsky Memorial Scholarship: awarded to a swim team member for her contribution to team spirit and support of her fellow swimmers.
Anna Ryan

Krit Kearins Memorial Scholarship: awarded to a senior student athlete who exhibits superior sportsmanship and team spirit in the sports of swimming/diving or gymnastics.
Courtney Stone

Andover High School Football Boosters Association Scholarship, awarded to a senior varsity football player for outstanding sportsmanship and character.
James Kelly
Brendan Paquette
James Walsh

Andover Junior Football League Alumni Scholarship: given to both a player and a cheerleader.
James Kelly
Molly Lynch

Andover High School Girls Gymnastics Booster Scholarship
Jennifer Coneeny
Sarah Hill
Maria Tornatore

Andover Girls Varsity Soccer Booster's Scholarship
Molly Lynch
Lauren Pien

Andover High School Girl's Lacrosse Booster's Scholarship
Jill Beucler
Jaymi Cohen
Anne Farnham
Kate Farnham
Allie Fazio
Laura Lilley
Bridget Thibodeau

Andover High School Softball Boosters Scholarship:
Molly Avizus
Taylor Farris
Lauren LeBlanc
Shannon Murphy
Shannon Tully

Fred Fitzgerald Award: sponsored by the Andover Fund for Education, given to Samuel Malakhovsky

Miriam Putnam Scholarship: given by Trustees of Memorial Hall Library, awarded to

seniors who have worked at pages at the library.
Benjamin Harris
Tiffany Lee
Alison Marotta
Victoria Napolitano
Caroline Pramas

College Club of Greater Lawrence Scholarship: Shannon Murphy

Lawrence Vietnam Memorial Scholarship: Julie Brennan, Isabelle Campbell

Merrimack Valley Chapter of Unico Scholarship: Elizabeth Pugliese

St. Alfio, Filadelfo, Cirino Scholarship: Robert Hsu

Merrimack Valley Partners In Service Scholarship: Hyungji Park

Merrimack Valley Striders Scholarship: Margaret Mullins

South Cove Essay Contest: Anthia Mo

A.M.S.I. Foundation Community Service Scholarship: Jaymi Cohen

Comcast Leaders & Achievers Scholarship: Anne Kuan

2011 Bay State Games Future Leaders Scholarship: Joseph Kuykendall

Hood Good Sport Scholarship - State Winner: Joseph Kuykendall

2012 National Merit Scholarship: Linda Wang

Armed Forces Communications & Electronics Association Scholarship: Samuel Masters

Corinne Morris Johnson Memorial Scholarship: Lily Daigle, Molly Machain

NASSP/Herff Jones Principal's Leadership Award Scholarship Program: Charles Schleifer

The following three Andover Rotary Club Scholarships are given in recognition of outstanding community service, scholastic history and future goals:

Philip Mercandetti Memorial Scholarship: Robert Hsu

Barbara Duran Scholarship: Audrey Hansen

Rotary Club Scholarship: Molly Machain



ANGIE BEAULIEU/Staff photo

Guest speaker, teacher George "Joe" Spanos speaks to graduates at the Andover High graduation.

GRADUATION: Look ahead

Continued from Page 11

even a new GPS voice to help you navigate your way."

Retired Marketing teacher George "Joe" Spanos, who addressed the students as the ceremony's guest speaker, further elaborated on the path the graduates had taken, noting their choices aren't over.

"You can choose environmental studies and help save our planet. You might decide to do medical research and find that elusive cure for cancer. You could decide the world of politics needs someone like you," said Spanos. "There [are] no limits to what you can do if you're determined. Whatever you do, or whatever you become, the ground work has been done in your homes and Andover High School."

Spanos also cautioned students to be prepared for greater challenges ahead, and that "how you overcome failure will mark your character."

"Remember, being defeated is only a temporary condition," said Spanos, "but giving up is permanent."

After the ceremony, the graduates exchanged their gowns for their diplomas in a loading area underneath the stadium. Amid the graduates, there was a sense of uncertainty for what will face, with most switching to university life in the fall.

"It's a little scary," said Maria Tornatore, 17. "Transitioning into a new school is going to be hard, but I'm happy to start a new chapter of my life."

For Jonah Adler, 18 and planning to attend UMass Lowell in the fall, graduating

TOP SCHOLARS

VALEDICTORIANS

Linda Wang
Samuel Malakhovsky

SALUTATORIAN

Marianna Heckendorn

where he will soon study "feels like it is a start." "I'm ready to make the leap," he said.

James Conley, 18, said the most memorable moment for him was hearing his friends and family cheer as his name was announced in the Tsongas Center, but what stood out more were the teachers at Andover High School.

"I spent a lot of time taking courses in social science," said Conley. "A lot of the teachers were very active to educate you about not only government, but how to be a citizen of the United States."

In the gathering area, many approached Spanos, still a guest of honor even after he finished speaking, as both the students and the teacher are leaving the high school forever.

Saying that the commencement address was his "last hurrah" after 33 years of teaching at Andover High School, there was a sense that he and the class "all graduated together, [are] walking out together."

"You see it all come and go. Teachers come and go. You see kids; four years, they come and go," said Spanos. "To look at these graduates, with what they've dealt with this year, I'm very proud of all of them. [They] kept their eyes on the prize."

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Brown-bound senior had Mass. General internship

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
STAFF WRITER

Bilingual in Russian, involved in neuroscience research at Massachusetts General, and just an amazing student. That's how Andover High guidance counselor Sally O'Rourke describes new graduate Samuel Malakhovsky.

Need you know more about him? When you speak with him, you'll learn he's Ivy-bound, committed to Brown University's eight-year program for medical students, and is the son of Orthodox Jews. A private school student through eighth-



Courtesy photo
2012 Andover High graduate Sam Malakhovsky
which he chaired the Model United Nations Club.

grade, he attended Andover High all four years and primarily earned straight As. "Enjoyed it a lot...no regrets,"

Sam said of those four years during part of

His favorite teacher was Mr. Donovan, who taught him AP Physics. Mature, but humble about his academic achievements, he's still got an enjoyable 17-year-old side. For example, of the senior slide that typically affects seniors during the last semester of high school, he "embraced it," he said. What about his neuroscience research as part of a program at Massachusetts General Hospital? "Sadly, there's no published work," he deadpanned. Interested in shadowing a doctor, but unwilling to pay to do it, he found out about a Mass. General

neuroscience research center in Charlestown through spam on his computer, he said. He called and landed an internship in neuroscience for two summers. He simply likes that brain-disorder field, and would love to help find a cure for Alzheimer's. He enjoys helping researchers review their MRI findings, he said. Reminded that going to a public high school after eight years of private school is unusual, he explained that his mom was an art teacher at the private Merit Academy and got a break on tuition, so he went.

He attended a private magnet middle school for Russian students in Marlborough, but got tired of the long drive from Andover. He happily went to AHS and feels ready for Brown University. He lives on Jenkins Road with his parents, Elena Soboleva and Leonid Malakhofskiy. His parents are from St. Petersburg, Russia, and the family speaks Russian at home. His much older half-sister is married with two children and lives in Newton. "Great memories" is what he is reflecting on as he graduates from AHS.

Senior safari



Chad Buendia and Shannon Watts have caricatures drawn of themselves at the Andover High "Senior Safari" an all night drug and alcohol-free party held at the school after graduation.

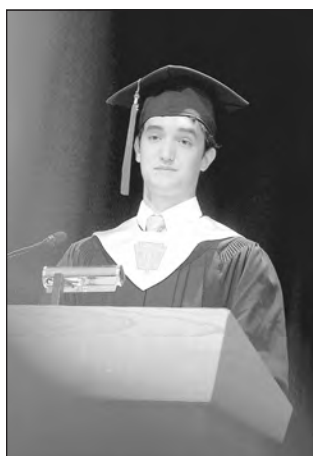
ANGIE BEAULIEU/Staff photo

Andover boy is Central Catholic valedictorian

The valedictorian for the Central Catholic High School Class of 2012 is Jeremy R. Fague, son of Daniel and Jacqueline Fague, 9 Candlewood Drive.

Fague is recognized for earning the highest cumulative GPA over four years among the Class of 2012, while taking seven AP courses and 11 honors courses in the last four years, according to the school. A member of the National Honor Society, he has earned Distinguished Honors consistently, as well as Academic Gold and Silver Medals for Excellence each year throughout his academic career.

Fague has been a member of the varsity soccer and volleyball teams for four years and also played on the junior varsity ice hockey team for two years. Beyond athletics, he is described by the school as a key member of its Mock Trial Team, active in the CCHS Chapter of Amnesty International, the Math League and the Campus Ministry Team. He



JAN SEEGER/Staff photo.

Jeremy Fague gives the valedictory speech as seniors in the Class of 2012 graduate at Catholic Central.

has devoted many hours of volunteer service to the Cor Unum Meal Cente and to Lazarus House Ministries, both in Lawrence.

Fague has been awarded a full Presidential Scholarship to Fordham University, N.Y., where he plans to study mathematics and economics, with an eye to graduate school in economics or law.

MORE PROFILES, LIST OF ANDOVER HIGH SENIOR AWARD WINNERS IN NEXT WEEK'S TOWNSMAN



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Phillips Academy Graduation

Phillips grads, including 38 from Andover, reminded 'be good'

While the weather was damp and drizzly, the spirits of Phillips Academy's 313 graduating seniors remained bright as they gathered with hundreds of friends and family under stately elm trees on Sunday, June 3 to collect their diplomas and say their final goodbyes to classmates and teachers.

The day was made even more poignant because it was the last Andover commencement to be presided over by retiring Head of School Barbara Chase, who is stepping down this month after 18 years as the school's leader.

This year's graduating class includes 38 students from the town of Andover. International students hail from Brazil, Canada, China, England, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Korea, Qatar, Switzerland, and Thailand, among other



Students, left, Sarah Freedman of Andover, Lydia Azaret of North Andover, Julia Quinn of Andover and Sage Hunt, right, congratulate their friend Borkeny Sambou of Chicago, as her name is called during the awarding of diplomas on Sunday.



Thomas Shannon of Andover is applauded as his name is called during the awarding of diplomas.

something. Just goodness. In my time here...I have learned that it is the only measure of a person."

In closing, Singh thanked Chase for 18 years of service to Andover, noting that "her contributions are endless, from need-blind admission to revolutionizing the Andover brand. However, nothing compares to the crusade she has led to develop the character of each and every student who has attended this institution."

Chase, who referred to herself as an honorary member of the class of 2012, talked nostalgically to the graduates of their time together at Andover, saying, "I do believe we have all shared a common experience that will live with you as a kind of poetry, and that is the poetry of this campus. Each of us has walked it

day to day, as if sailing on a sea of beauty."

Phillips Academy, she said, "is a close community, but never closed. Here, young people from across the country and around the world and from many different backgrounds learn and live together. Constantly brushing up against difference—considering it, challenging it, building bridges to span it, learning from it—provides the chance for learning the most important lessons for the 21st century."

"Take from these walls," she counseled, "the lesson that community thrives on closeness and diversity; that being open to the world, while being rooted in one's own culture, is a rare thing and a thing you can take with you as a model wherever you go."

countries. School president Uday Singh '12 of Dubai, United Arab Emirates spoke to his classmates about the values instilled by Andover, identifying the charge to "be good"

as the most important value of all.

"Be good," he said, were the last words his mother said to him before dropping him off at Andover as a ninth grader, and they were the

same two words Chase used when he asked her recently to define the nature of a true Andover student.

"Goodness is what makes Andover special," he said. "Not being good at



Gabriella Cirelli of Andover is called to represent students in receiving a diploma.

Local graduates

GRADUATES NOT PICTURED: Rachel Seelye and Tory Lenzo



Splashing up fun

The Kid is all wet after our kid-friendly adventure in Branson. A stay at a hotel was in order, but it was not just any old hotel. The Kid's family stayed at Castle Rock Resort and Waterpark. Castle Rock was not damaged during the tornado that hit Branson earlier this year.

The family checked in and took the elevator to their floor. When the elevator door opened the Kid looked through the bank of windows and saw a 30,000 square foot indoor waterpark built right inside of the hotel.

Two twisting water slides frame the park. Tipping buckets make for great waterfalls. Several pools feature a rain tree, turtle and fish slides. The Lazy River on the third floor lets the kids grab a tube and float in a swirling trip around the pool. For the really young kids there are kiddie pools with multiple slides and waterfalls.

The Kid made many trips up the three-story flight of stairs to grab a tube. The Kid rode the rushing water down three stories in the enclosed slides. The big thrill was landing in the pool with a huge splash.

Lifeguards are always on duty. The Kid watched a test for the lifeguards. The crew leader, Zach Tucker, filled a plastic baby doll with water and put it in one of the pools. He set a stop watch to see how many seconds it took the lifeguard to see the baby and perform the rescue.

According to operations manager Darran Wiltshire, not all waterparks test their lifeguards this way. At Castle Rock, all guards are certified. Some are water safety instructors and two are EMTs.

The Kid loved the hotel room. It had a kids' alcove with bunk beds and a flat panel TV. Parents could watch their programs while kids watched cartoons.

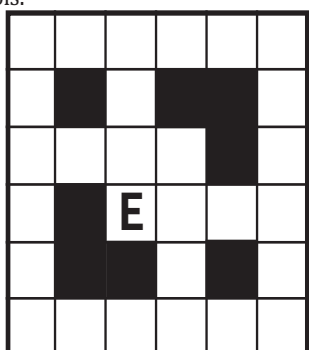
Branson is full of fun activities for kids. More adventures will have to wait for another trip.



Crosswords

Place these words in the crossword grid

Ears, Horses, Inks, Lake, Salt, Slides, Splash, States



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Townspeople



Billy Kearins walks with his son Kristian, 4, during the Krit Classic 5K Run/Walk. Billy, Krit's brother, traveled from his home in Denmark to attend the race in honor of his sister.



Ava Mechelinie, 3, right, shows off the medal she was given for finishing the 1 kilometer kids fun run.



Runners takes off at the start of the Krit Classic 5K Run/Walk at Andover High School Sunday.

JAN SEEGER/Staff photos

Hundreds gather for fourth Krit Classic

Close to 800 runners flooded Andover Sunday to participate in the Krit Classic IV 5K road race, and the results had a decidedly local flavor.

Paced by 18-year-old race winner Simon Voorhees, all but two of the top 10 finishers were from town. Voorhees ran a 16:37, topping runner-up Ryan Miller by 31 seconds.

Caroline Bjune led a similar trend for the women as the top four came from Andover. Bjune turned in an 18:28, just 11 seconds in front of Nina Caron. Melissa Donais (19:12) was third across the



Andover kids, left, Jackson Denio, 8 months, Charlotte Serafino, 2, and Ryley Nugent, 20 months, are lined up with the "Walk with Stroller" participants.

finish line with Mariah Barstow (19:19) following close behind.

But the Krit Classic is more community event than pure hardcore race, and even with a drizzly weekend, strollers, dogs

and walkers abounded.

This year for the first time there was a kids race before the main event, with dozens of youth 12 and younger running a special, shorter course.

The Krit Classic is held in memory of the late Krit Kearins, an Andover High graduate and nursing assistant at Children's Hospital who died following a bike accident in September 2008.

Youth sport codes of conduct can lay groundwork

Bill Dalton



This column is part of short series on youth sports.

When it comes to youth sports the code of conduct for parents and spectators found on the Andover Junior Football League's website is right on the mark: "I will refrain from publicly ridiculing any player from either team. I will not embarrass my child(ren) or others by yelling negative comments at players, coaches or officials. I will refrain from publicly ridiculing any coach or official."

Signs with this language should be placed next to every place that youth sports are played.

The League's code of conduct includes a coaches' pledge that also hits the mark: "I will put the emotional and physical well-being of my

players ahead of my desire to win."

Last week, I wrote about playing on Andover's first Little League teams and how, from the beginning, there were examples of bad behavior by parents and coaches. The question of adult involvement was addressed early in Little League and most other organized youth sports in Andover, and although we occasionally read about parents getting into scuffles with each other and with coaches, we rarely hear of such extreme abusiveness in Andover.

I remember a youth hockey game in Haverhill where one Haverhill adult spectator, perhaps a parent, was extremely abusive to an Andover player, shouting the player's number over and over in a derogatory manner. When the game was over and the player was walking by the bleachers toward the locker room, the guy shouted one last comment from the third row up and, like lightning, the kid's hockey stick flashed up and

tapped the guy on the head just hard enough to force the guy to take a quick seat and shut him up. Hardly anyone saw it happen and the incident ended there, thankfully. I saw it and at the time thought to myself that the guy deserved it, although the situation could have gotten out of hand. Was the kid wrong? Yes, but he was a kid, and he was tired of taking abuse from an adult who should have been thrown out early in the game. Tolerating bad behavior begets more bad behavior.

Youth sports thrive in an environment of stating and enforcing rules of conduct. According to the Andover Little League website, there are 78 teams with 12 to 15 players and three or four coaches on each team. Over 1,000 kids are involved in Andover's Little League. That is a huge success story. As far as I can tell, the town's other youth sports are successful as well.

Does this mean there are no problems at all? Of course

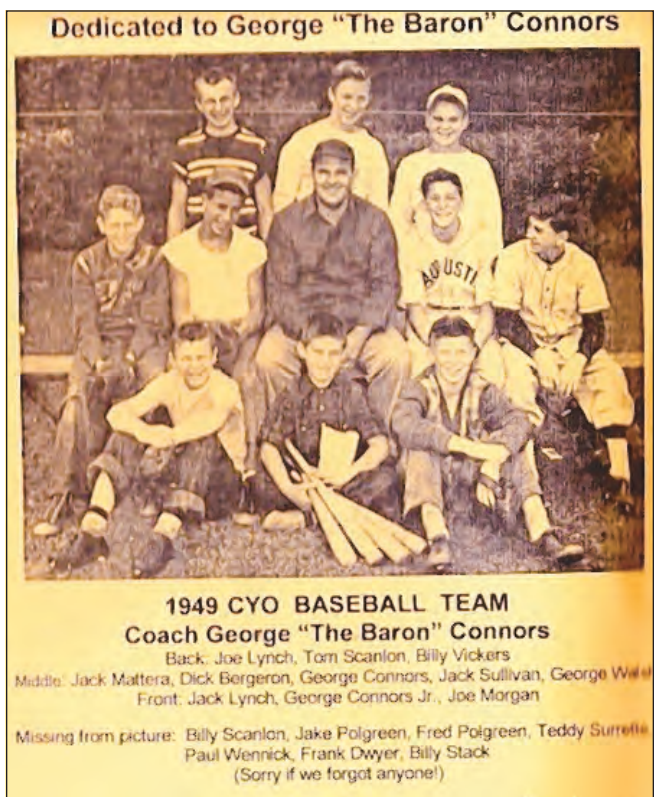
See DALTON, Page 16

Early youth sports: What do you remember?

George "The Baron" Connors was one of the first adults, if not the very first adult, involved in organized youth baseball in Andover from the 1940s into the '50s. It was called the "Pony League" and was for 12- to 15-year-olds. Later, its name was either changed to "Junior League" or else the Junior League superseded it. The story with the picture says, "George 'The Baron' Connors was the first person to start a Pony League baseball team... There were no activities or sports to be played at the time. Pony League got started when Father Smith of St. Augustine's called George in and asked him if he could start a program... in the 1940s. There were three teams, Ballardvale-coached by Jack Barberian, Shawsheen-coached by Bill McCarty, and CYO-coached by George Connors. Games were played on 'The Cricket Field' which was located by the railroad tracks by the cemetery."

The Andover Townsman would like information from anyone knowledgeable about organized youth sports prior to Little League.

Send info to Bill Dalton by email at billdalton@andovertownie.com



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DALTON:

Continued from Page 15

not. I'm sure there are coaches everywhere who get discouraged from badgering parents, especially now that most coaches make themselves accessible through email. I see for myself that there are parents who are too loud, going overboard at games, especially when an official makes a close

call. There are coaches who aren't qualified and discourage some less talented kids by never saying anything positive to them. There are kids who don't know how to behave properly because their parents have been remiss. There are parents who push their kids too hard into playing a certain sport a certain way, as well as parents who show no support. There are officials too officious, such as the official

that changed the outcome of a Mass. high school Super Bowl game by calling a silly penalty when the boy raised his hand in celebration while running into the end zone. These problems have always existed and always will, but it is the limiting of problems that exist and how the problems are handled that separate good programs from bad.

Last year, I witnessed a baseball playoff series (not in Andover) between teams made up of mostly 9-year olds. The host team had an announcer who was overtly biased in the home team's favor, and she showed that bias over and over again, beginning with the tone she used when making introductions. This was a situation designed to create ill feelings and was contrary to what 9-year-olds should be taught about sports. Sure, older athletes will run up against home field bias, but most 9-year-olds are learning how to play the game and about the rules of sportsmanship.

My father, born in 1899, taught my brothers and me that we should always fight

fair, that kicking or hitting someone when he was down wasn't fair, that we should always want to beat a team when the team's best players were on the field and not injured. I thought about my Dad's words when the scandal about the NFL's New Orleans Saints flashed across television and internet for everyone, including 9-year-olds to see. The Saints paid their players a bonus to injure key players from opposing teams. Kids watch examples of unsportsmanlike conduct on every professional basketball, football or hockey game they watch. Shouldn't we be providing those kids with the fundamentals of what good sportsmanship is, and what is right and wrong? Maybe it will be harder to corrupt those values if our children and grandchildren learn right from wrong when they are playing youth sports.

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

WEDDING



Rabbi David Levy Reiner and Ashley Susan Heller

Ashley Susan Heller, daughter of Barbara A. and Paul J. Heller of Andover, was married May 13 to Rabbi David Levy Reiner, the son of Sherry-Levy Reiner and Rabbi Fred N. Reiner of Washington, D.C. The ceremony was led by the bridegroom's father, who received permission from the commonwealth of Massachusetts to officiate at the Smith Barn at Brooksby Farm in Peabody, Mass. The bride installs and configures software for Ariba, a provider of office management software in Sunnyvale, Calif. She graduated from Andover High School and Merrimack College and is pursuing an MBA at Suffolk University in Boston. The bridegroom is the rabbi at Temple Beth-El in Geneva, N.Y. He graduated cum laude from the University of Rochester. He was ordained at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, from which he also received a master's in Hebrew letters. He is on the board of the Human Rights Commission in Geneva and board of the Commission on Christian Jewish Relations of the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester in Rochester, N.Y.

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Arts & Entertainment

Sunrise Singers 'Going to the Chapel' for show

Sunrise Singers, the volunteer chorus of Andover senior citizens, is presenting a special concert at the West Parish Chapel tomorrow, Friday, June 8 at 2 p.m. In addition to the choral selections, piano soloist Marcia Cutlip will perform.

Prior to the concert, chapel trustee, local history buff and retired art teacher Jim Batchelder

will host a garden talk at 1 p.m., speaking about the historical significance of the chapel and grounds.

The event is called "Sunrise Singers: Going to the Chapel." It costs \$5 and tickets can be purchased in advance only, at the Andover Senior Center, 30 Whittier Court, on the first floor of the School Administration Building, behind

Town Offices.

Transportation cost \$2 round trip, with vehicles leaving at 12:30 and 1 p.m. from the Andover Senior Center. The transportation is limited to 24 people by advance purchase only.

Doors for the concert will open at 1:45 pm. Rain will cancel the outdoor talk by Batchelder.

The concert is at the Chapel at West Parish Garden Cemetery, and the cemetery can be entered near 129 Reservation Road, near the intersection of Shawsheen Road, Reservation Road and Route 133. The Chapel at West Parish Garden Cemetery is visible from Route 133, also known as Lowell Street.

"The Chapel at the West Parish

Garden Cemetery is considered to be the crown jewel of this lovely historic district. One of only two Massachusetts churches with windows by Tiffany of New York, this chapel is truly a gem in our community," said Karen Payne-Taylor, acting program coordinator. "[We hope people will] join us for this special concert."

EVENTS CALENDAR

COMPILED BY JUDY WAKEFIELD
jwakefield@andovertownsmen.com

THURSDAY, JUNE 7

SUMMER CAMP OPEN HOUSE, the Merrimack Valley YMCA's Day Camp Otter, 6 p.m., meet the camp staff, for ages 6 to 13; Director Claudia Soo Hoo, 978-975-1330.

FRIDAY, JUNE 8

EDUCATION DOCUMENTARY FILM, "Race to Nowhere," hosted by the Bancroft PTO, Collins Center for the Performing Arts, 7 p.m. Sarah Sobieraj, Associate Professor of Sociology at Tufts University (and Bancroft School parent), will facilitate a discussion immediately following the movie.

LIVE DINNER THEATER, "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change," by Spotlight Playhouse, a non-profit community theater based in Haverhill, featuring Ryan Jennings of Andover, 7 p.m., Maria's Restaurant, 83 Essex St., Haverhill; spotlight-playhouse.org/tickets, 978-380-8509.

BOOK SIGNING, "River Muse: Tales of Lowell & The Merrimack Valley", at the UMass-Lowell Inn & Conference Center, 50 Warren St., downtown Lowell, 7 p.m., free event, open to the public. The book proceeds will benefit Veterans' Charities working through the UMass-Lowell Office of Veterans Services; Publisher@SonsOfLibertyPublishing.com, 978-430-5625.

SATURDAY, JUNE 9

ART OPENING/OPEN HOUSE, of new exhibit "HEAT," for Alpers Fine Art at Paul Fragala & Associates, 76 Main St., Andover, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.; refreshments; free; preview the exhibit at alpersfineartonline.com.

INTERPRETIVE WALK, the Old Eastern Marsh Trail, Friedenfels Road (Meet at Trail Parking Area), Salisbury, 8:30 to 10 a.m. Essex Heritage will guide this easy walk along 1.3 miles of paved rail trail from the bank of the Merrimack River through



The Machine, a Pink Floyd cover band, will be playing Blue Ocean Music Hall on Friday.

woods and pristine sections of the Great Marsh; Reservations required, Essex Heritage members \$5/Non-members \$7, Essex-Heritage.org/membership or send checks to: Essex National Heritage Commission, 221 Essex St., Suite 41 Salem, MA 01972, 978-740-0444.

AFTERNOON CAR SHOW, car exhibition to general public, 1 to 4 p.m., Whistler House Museum of Art, 243 Worthen St. and Hellenic School parking lot, Lowell; Worthen Street will be closed off to traffic; \$10 for afternoon event, with children under 12 free; whistlerhouse.org.

LIVE DINNER THEATER, "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change," 7 p.m., see June 8 listing.

SUMMER CAMP OPEN HOUSE, the Merrimack Valley YMCA's Day Camp Otter, 2 p.m., see June 7 listing.

SUNDAY, JUNE 10

COFFEE HOUSE SANCTUARY, topic is "Intelligent Design of the Universe," hosted by A Different Christian Voice, 4:30 p.m., admission is free. Snacks will be served, conversations about life and faith, 189 North Main St./Route 114 in

See **CALENDAR**, Page 18



DUSTIN LUCA/Staff Photos

As a captivated South Elementary School audience watches, an acrobat with Dragon Show Culture and Arts Company from Beijing, while riding a several-foot tall unicycle, kicks three bowls into the air so they each land perfectly in a pile on her head.

BALANCING ACT

Beijing acrobats delight Andover youth

By DUSTIN LUCA
STAFF WRITER

Their yo-yos practically touched the gym ceiling dozens of feet above them, and they balanced bowls on their head while sitting on a six-foot-tall unicycle.

Acrobats hailing from Beijing's Dragon Show Culture and Arts Company visited South Elementary School Thursday, May 31, where they put on an hour-long demonstration for the school's entire student body.

As they balanced objects precariously on their chins and heads, students laughed, gasped and applauded.

Responding to a balancing act the group of acrobats did, 11-year-old David Ritter said he "thought it was cool that they could do that. I would never be able to do that in a million years."

Liam Fahey, 10, said a stunt involving an acrobat balancing and spinning multiple umbrellas with her hands and feet was his favorite part of the show.

"I like how it looked so hard, and how she could do it so easily," he said.

The Beijing's Dragon Show Culture and Arts Company is part of a four-group traveling act, with another group traveling on the West Coast and two more performing throughout the central United States, according to Alex Chen, team leader for the East Coast-touring group. Many of the acrobats - the rest do not speak English - begin training when they are around 6 to 9 years old, he said.

Chen said he enjoyed performing in Andover.

"The audience was very good," said Chen. "The teachers and the PTA were very nice."



Imogene Kline, 10, successfully executes a loop shown to her by an acrobat with Dragon Show Culture and Arts Company in Beijing. A touring group from the company visited South Elementary School last Thursday for a performance.



An acrobat balances a glass of liquid on two rods, both of which are balanced on her chin.



Three acrobats with the Beijing Dragon Show Culture and Arts Company spin sets of three to four spinning discs while one of the acrobats stands on the shoulders of the other two.



TIM JEAN/Staff photo

Signs mark the new Sakowich Reservation, on Oriole Drive, where a 9-acre homefront was donated to AVIS by Longtime Andover philanthropists Anthony "Tony" and Gladys Sakowich. Learn more about AVIS on "Something About Andover."

Car advice, AVIS history on cable show

Do the lights that come on suddenly in your car's dashboard make you nervous? Relax. John Paul, the car doctor from the Boston Globe, will provide guidance about those mysterious lights and when to worry about them on an upcoming Andover cable television show.

Paul will be part of the June edition of "There's Something About Andover." He will also discuss the Right to Repair law.

The monthly cable show will also answer the question, "What's with the signs bearing the name of the car rental

company all over Andover?" Find out about the history and development of AVIS - the Andover Village Improvement Society - from its outgoing president, Fred Snell.

"There's Something About Andover" will be televised this month on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 7 p.m.; Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 9 a.m. on Channel 8 (Verizon Channel 47). Produced by the Andover Chroniclers, volunteers from the Andover Senior Center, it is one of Andover Community Access & Media's longest running shows.

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