



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB HONORS VOLUNTEER PAGE 14



AHS STUDENTS TAKE CRACK AT CODE PAGE 7



WITTEN IS GO-TO FOR LADY WARRIORS PAGE 16

OUR 126TH YEAR

Andover Townsman

Issue No. 7

DECEMBER 19, 2013

75 CENTS

Jolly Old St. Nicholas, lean your ear this way



Hailey Annarelli, 3, shares a laugh with Santa as her sisters, 5-year-olds Charlotte and Hailey, look on at this month's community Breakfast with Santa at Free Christian Church. The fundraiser for the Andover High School Golden Warriors girls hockey team was sponsored by Century Bank. More photos, page 11.

RYAN HUTTON/Staff photo

Medical pot clinic bylaw in works

Plan would establish districts for dispensaries

By BILL KIRK
bkirk@andovertownsman.com

Town officials are taking the first step to establish controls should a medical marijuana dispensary sets its sights on Andover. Although a marijuana dispensary has not yet been proposed in town, planning officials have begun the process of writing a bylaw that would regulate such businesses and limit where they could be located. This week, Planning Director Paul

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BILL KIRK/Staff photo

The wooden frame is in place for an ice rink in The Park off Bartlet Street. Volunteers plan to install a tarp and fill it with water this weekend in the hopes that St. Nick will bring cold weather for skating by Christmas.

Sharpen your skates: Park rink may be ready by Christmas

By BILL KIRK
bkirk@andovertownsman.com

Pray for cold. While to some, that sentiment is anathema to comfort in New England, to others it's de riger for good ice.

A 40-by-60-foot wooden frame — the first sign of a new seasonal ice rink — is now in place at the Park off Bartlet Street, adjacent to the parking lot to the Town Offices.

And with any luck, residents could be skating on it by Christmas.

Ted Teichert, the former selectman who is spearheading the project, worked with a group of volunteers, overseen by town employees, to build the framework out of heavy-duty lumber last weekend.

The frame now awaits a plastic tarp, which should be installed with flashing this weekend.

Then, Teichert said, when the forecast calls for sustained cold — and no snow — crews will fill the temporary structure with water.

"I'm hoping Santa brings cold weather," he said. "We hope to fill it Saturday."

Even though the region has been hit with cold air this week, Teichert said it's probably a good thing that the rink wasn't ready because the recent snowfall would have created a lumpy surface.

"We would have had hard mounds of ice," he said.

"We decided to just frame it. We'll put down the liner and fill it this weekend."

The rink was approved by the Board of Selectmen Nov. 18 after it was proposed by Teichert working in concert with the Department of Community Services and several volunteers.

He said that once the ice hardens, he will try to get approval for some benches to be placed around the perimeter of the rink so people can more easily lace up their skates or sit alongside and enjoy hot chocolate while others glide along the ice.

Raagini liquor license renewed despite controversy

Selectmen split over Indian bistro's future

By DUSTIN LUCA
dluca@andovertownsman.com

Less than a week after coming to a tenuous, legally dubious agreement with the owners of Raagini Indian Bistro, the Board of Selectmen Monday night almost undid all that work — first voting to reject the renewal of the embattled eatery's liquor license before changing course and approving it.

The board, acting in its capacity as liquor licensing commission, ultimately voted — narrowly — in favor of granting the year-old North Main Street restaurant renewal of its annual liquor license, but not before a heated debate among selectmen and the attorney for owner/manager Jasbinder Pabla.

The final vote had selectmen Brian Major, Mary Lyman and Alex Vispoli in favor, with Paul Salafia opposed and Dan Kowalski abstaining.

An earlier vote, however, had only Major and Lyman voting in favor, with Salafia against and Kowalski and Vispoli abstaining. Because liquor license renewals need the support of a majority of the board, the motion

originally failed, leaving Pabla's attorney confused.

"I am somewhat perplexed by the whole situation," Haverhill lawyer Joseph Edwards told the board, as he stood at the podium with his client and his client's interpreter.

Last week, selectmen and town counsel Tom Urbelis hammered out an agreement with Edwards that imposed a 10-day liquor license suspension starting Jan. 2, 2014 on Raagini.

The agreement also forced the restaurant's former manager, Jaspreet Pabla, who is Jasbinder's son, to resign as manager, and imposed a number of other restrictions, including a provision that the restaurant no longer employ women under the age of 21.

The agreement came on the eve of a hearing before the state Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission in Boston, which was to hear Raagini's appeal of what was originally a 30-day liquor license suspension handed down by selectmen in June.

The suspension was ordered after Jaspreet Pabla admitted to serving alcohol to an underage girl at the restaurant.

Shortly after last week's agreement was reached, Raagini withdrew its appeal and the ABCC hearing was canceled.

But the matter of Raagini's

See RAAGINI, Page 2

Townwide solar push powers up

Andover picked for state incentive installation program

By BILL KIRK
bkirk@andovertownsman.com

It's official: Andover has gone solar. Rick Sullivan, the state secretary of energy and environmental affairs, announced earlier this month that Andover is one of 15 so-called Solarize Massachusetts communities, allowing its residents and businesses to participate in a discount solar installation program.

Anil Navkal of Rock O'Dundee Road attended the Dec. 2 ceremony in Amherst on behalf of Andover to hear the good news.

"The Green Advisory Board and the Solarize Andover Committee are delighted to announce we have been selected for participation in the program," said Navkal, who may now adopt the official moniker of Solar Coach.

"This gives the town a unique opportunity for residents to participate in harvesting solar energy in an affordable package. The more people participate, the bigger the discount.

"The Solarize Andover team is committed to bringing this message to the entire community — both business owners and residents."

Under the program, discounts for potentially costly solar installations, which usually run in the tens of thousands of dollars, will

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DISTRICT: Officials hope to have bylaw ready by May Town Meeting

Continued from Page 1

Materazzo and Planning Board Chairwoman Joan Duff discussed the creation of a Medical Marijuana Overlay District with the Board of Selectmen.

Without such a district, someone could open a pot clinic just about anywhere in town.

"We can't just ban them and we can't tuck them away," said Materazzo, noting that the state attorney general has outlawed both practices.

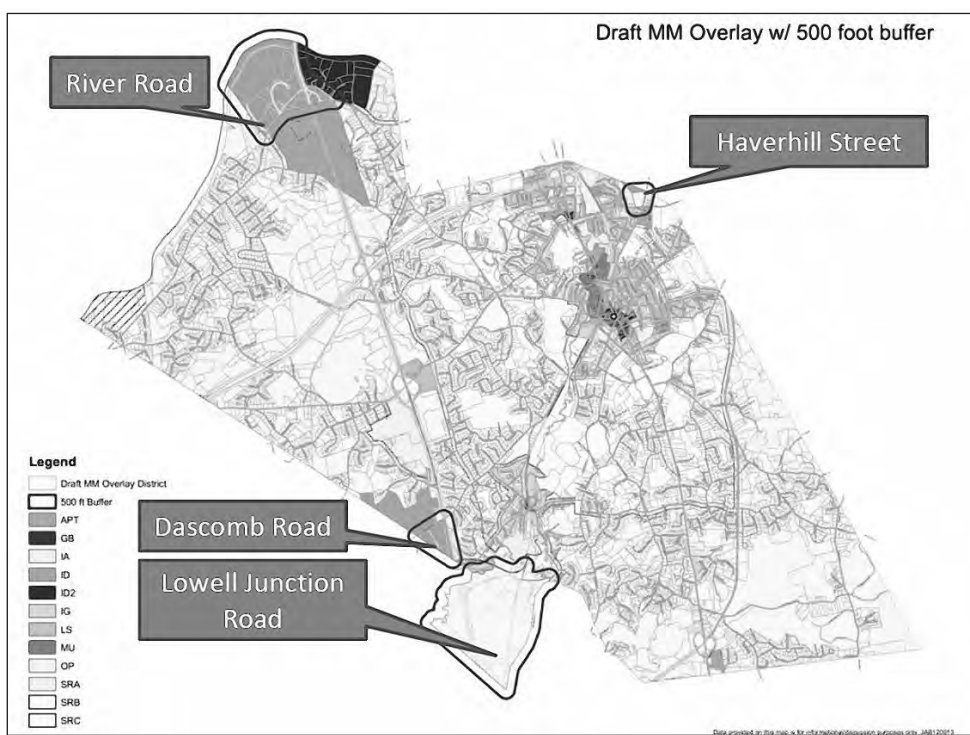
Instead, he said, the town needs to identify locations and create a bylaw that complies with state law.

"If we do nothing, we take our chances," he said. "They can go into any part of town that allows medical uses — Dascomb Road, Lowell Street, River Road or downtown. They would be allowed by right."

The state does set some limits on where such dispensaries can be located, including prohibiting them within 500 feet of a school or where children congregate.

Monday night, Materazzo and Duff identified four locations as suitable for marijuana dispensaries, including areas along Dascomb and Lowell Junction roads, and locations on Haverhill Street and River Road. (See graphic.)

Last November, voters statewide approved the Massachusetts Medical Marijuana



Courtesy graphic/Andover Planning Department

The Andover Planning Department has proposed zoning districts that would allow for the establishment of medical marijuana dispensaries. Town Meeting would have to approve the final wording of a bylaw and the districts where the businesses would be allowed.

Initiative, with more than 63 percent voting in favor of the referendum legalizing medical marijuana. In Andover, the measure passed by nearly 59 percent in favor, or 11,170 votes, to 37 percent against, or 7,065 votes.

The law, dubbed the Humanitarian Medical Use of Marijuana Act, took effect this past January. It aims to provide medical marijuana to people

suffering from debilitating and painful diseases or conditions that traditional medicine has been unable to treat effectively.

The state then began accepting applications from people interested in opening clinics, placing a limit of 35 in Massachusetts, with five in each county.

Earlier in the year, a businessman from Newburyport met with a number of local

officials and expressed interest in placing a medical marijuana clinic in Andover. At the moment, however, he has focused his attention on other communities, including Salem.

But Materazzo said things could change and someone could end up applying for a clinic in Andover.

Under state guidelines written by the Department of Public Health, the so-called

registered marijuana dispensaries are defined as "not-for-profit entities that acquire, cultivate, possess, process, transfer, transport, sell, distribute, dispense or administer marijuana and products containing marijuana and related supplies to registered, qualified patients or their personal caregivers," Materazzo said.

The purpose of the overlay district would be to provide for the placement of the dispensaries "in locations suitable for lawful medical marijuana facilities and to minimize adverse impacts ... on adjacent properties, residential neighborhoods, historic districts, schools, playgrounds and other locations where minors congregate by regulating (their) siting, design, placement, security and removal."

Selectman Paul Salafia wanted to know if someone could start growing marijuana, and Materazzo said that under the law, cultivation is allowed. In fact, he said, "we don't have control over agriculturally exempt properties. Any existing agricultural use can choose to go that way if they have an exemption. They have to grow it indoors and it would be a highly regulated facility."

A zoning bylaw governing dispensaries would need approval from Town Meeting. Officials are planning on placing a bylaw proposal on

the May 2014 Town Meeting warrant.

Selectman Mary Lyman suggested the Board of Selectmen hold a joint public hearing with the Planning Board in the coming weeks to get input from police, health workers and others on the wording of the proposed bylaw. A date for that hearing has not yet been set.

The current proposal would create districts near North Reading, Wilmington and Tewksbury to the south, or Lawrence to the north.

Selectmen Chairman Alex Vispoli suggested reaching out to neighboring communities so that they know Andover is planning on locating the districts near their boundaries.

Materazzo said he has already talked to officials in Wilmington and Tewksbury and has reached out to businesses in the River Road area.

"We are getting the word out there," he said, adding that he hoped selectmen and other town officials could "marinate on it and after the holidays we can define where we're going on this."

Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski said that in order to get the bylaw on the warrant for May, the wording has to be worked out by the end of January, although it could be amended up to March.

"We want a heads up on what you're looking for," he said.

Andover Townsman

Established 1887

ISSN 1524-1432

USPS 025-440

Published Thursdays by North of Boston Media Group

33 Chestnut St.
Andover, MA
978-475-7000
Ad fax 978-475-5731



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RAAGINI: Board voted to reject license first time

Continued from Page 1

annual liquor license renewal remained to be decided.

After the first vote Monday night, which would have rejected the liquor license, Edwards said, "We did work this agreement out in good faith. We spent a good deal of time here."

"... We agreed to this on the 11th hour," Edwards continued. "The next day was to be the hearing before the ABCC, at which point (the restaurant's) rights were going to be further protected. We withdrew the request for the hearing based upon this. ... I can't go back and have the hearing again."

Major agreed, saying Monday night that the board's approval of the agreement the previous week implied that they would also vote in favor of the annual liquor license renewal.

"Both the town and the facility worked hard to come to an agreement," he said, adding that while he "wasn't happy" with what happened, he felt the agreement was fair.

"I feel confident in recommending approval," Major said. Salafia, however, countered that the board had an obligation to the citizens, not the owners of the restaurant.

"I've given this a lot of thought," he said. "This board issues licenses and I have to be comfortable I'm putting the citizens of this town in a safe environment. This

violation was so severe ... I'm very concerned. We should have revoked the license that night, in the spring."

Prior to Monday night's initial vote, Vispoli cited concerns over the enforceability of the agreement as his reason for abstaining.

"Even though both parties agreed, is it enforceable?" he asked.

Town Clerk Larry Murphy said he wasn't sure, adding that the questions were becoming too legal and should be directed to Town Counsel Urbelis, who was not at the meeting.

Vispoli broke the logjam when he offered to change his vote to one in favor, because "if that (enforceability) becomes an issue, I think there's the opportunity to have the conversation with the applicant."

After the vote, Edwards said he was surprised by what happened. However, he said, "we worked it out ... once they understood the full terms of the agreement."

Kowalski said Tuesday that his concerns rested with the agreement that was reached last week. While he felt his concerns should be discussed in public, he said he first wanted to check with town counsel before bringing the matter forward.

Prior to the liquor license discussion Monday night, selectmen approved a change of manager for the restaurant from Jaspreet Pabla to Jasbinder Pabla.

Under the terms of the agreement reached last week, Jaspreet Pabla will only be allowed to work part-time at the restaurant until July, after which he can return to full-time status. But he is restricted from ever again serving as manager, according to the agreement.



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Lola Blazonis, 3, gets a push from her dad, who gave her some sledding advice before she took off on the hill.



Two sledders pair up on their run down the hill.



Tate Blazonis, 13, is all smiles as he flies down the high school hill on his snow tube.

Getting down to snow business

Andover youngsters took full advantage of the one-hour early dismissal time from school Tuesday afternoon to get in some serious sledding. All ages grabbed their sleds and tubes and headed for the hill at Andover High School to test out the freshly fallen snow. Tuesday's snowfall coupled with the one last weekend had many in town hopeful for a white Christmas next week. But the forecast for warmer temperatures and rain this week-end may put a little damper on that dream.

RYAN HUTTON/ Staff photos

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Danvers High awarded \$50K to help recover from slaying

By ETHAN FORMAN
Staff writer

Danvers High will get a federal grant of nearly \$50,000 to help students and staff cope with the aftermath of the October slaying of math teacher Colleen Ritzer of Andover.

Officials plan to put measures in place to make the school safer and to help heal those affected by the tragedy allegedly carried out by one of Ritzer's own students.

"In light of this senseless tragedy, we want to provide support to the students, school staff and community of Danvers who were impacted by the loss of this young teacher," U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said this week in a prepared statement. "These grants will help provide the necessary services needed to restore the learning environment."

"We are very appreciative," Danvers Superintendent Lisa Dana said, adding that the money will allow the high school to call on specialists who have expertise or unique skills in dealing with incidents like this to work with the students and staff.

The money comes from a School

Emergency Response to Violence, or SERV, grant, available to schools that have experienced a traumatic event and need resources to re-establish a safe learning environment.

Dana said the administration and the high school are working with school counselors and additional local resources.

"We will be pulling a plan together for the second part of the year," she said.

Ritzer, 24, of Andover, was attacked after school in a school bathroom on Oct. 22. Her body was found in a wooded area outside. A 14-year-old freshman, Philip Chism, has been charged with her murder. Danvers High was designated a crime scene and closed for two days after the incident.

Chism pleaded not guilty in Salem Superior Court to charges of first-degree murder, aggravated rape and armed robbery. A status hearing in the case is scheduled for Jan. 30.

The federal grant money will help the school provide extra security for after-school hours, with support staff rather than police, Dana said. The money will also pay for substitute teachers to cover

for staff members who are still in distress, so they can seek help.

The grant also will allow the school library to open after hours, so teachers can give extra help to students in a more public space near the office. Dana said this is in addition to other ways students are provided extra help after school.

Finally, the grant will help provide additional mental-health services to students, staff and others who are still grieving.

"I think it's absolutely a wonderful thing, and we are grateful to the Department of Education for helping us out," School Committee Chairman Eric Crane said.

Crane said it was good to know these kinds of resources are available when such a tragic incident happens to a school community, and he was appreciative of U.S. Rep. John Tierney for helping to secure the grant.

Tierney issued a statement saying the funds would "support the ongoing efforts to return a sense of normalcy and safety to Danvers High School, and above all, restore the commitment to learning to which Ms. Ritzer was so devoted."

Jury acquits NJ man in alleged 'modeling agency' hotel rape

By JILL HARMACINSKI
Staff Writer

Jared Martinez lied to the woman, telling her he ran a modeling agency and he wanted to meet and photograph her at an Andover hotel.

But he did not rape her, said his defense attorney. A Salem Superior Court jury agreed.

Martinez, 25, of Jersey City, N.J. was found not guilty on Friday of three counts of rape and a single count of drugging for the purpose of sexual intercourse.

He was charged in September 2011 with luring a woman to the La Quinta hotel in Andover on a promise of a modeling agency interview. When she went to the hotel, the woman said Martinez drugged and raped her, according to police.

In his defense, Martinez admitted he lied to the woman with a fraudulent story about running a modeling agency. Defense attorney Hank Brennan said Martinez did the same thing other men do when they go to bars or try to pick up women; they lie, perhaps about their profession or age, or borrow a friend's flashy car and say it's their own.

"He duped her. He misled her. He lied to her," Brennan said. However, Martinez said the sex he and the woman had was consensual.

Martinez did not testify at trial and Brennan said no other witnesses were called in his defense.

When questioned by Andover police, Martinez admitted he had consensual sex with the woman and agreed to provide investigators with a DNA sample, said Brennan, who worked with fellow defense attorney Gina Baxter on the case.

Then age 20, the woman told police she received a Facebook message from the man identifying himself as David Rodriguez from "AIP Modeling."

The message stated "AIP Modeling is currently looking for young ladies to be part of our small, but rapidly growing company. If you are interested in becoming a model, feel free to send me a message for details."

The two arranged to meet on Sept. 20, 2011 at La Quinta.

According to police, the woman's mother and sister drove to the hotel for the 4 p.m. meeting. After speaking with Martinez about the photo shoot and her daughter's safety, the mother and sister left.

Martinez gave the woman paperwork to fill out and then photographed her with a small digital camera. She also said he offered her a drink, which made her feel dizzy, although she did not lose consciousness, according to police.

The photo shoot continued with her on the hotel room bed, wearing lingerie. But when she refused to remove the lingerie, she said Martinez threw her down on the bed and raped her, according to police.

During their investigation, police were able to identify David Rodriguez as Martinez, found an address for him in Jersey City and obtained warrants for his arrest.

During their encounter, Brennan said Martinez did have the woman fill out some paperwork, background information he pretended to need for his modeling agency. "His story was a work in progress," Brennan said.

The trial lasted a week. Brennan thanked jurors for their work. "Their diligence was remarkable," he said.

■ POLICE LOG

The following incidents were recorded in Andover police logs from Monday, Dec. 9 to Sunday, Dec. 15:

ARRESTS

Wednesday, Dec. 11 — At 1:44 p.m., Brittney Zagarella, 20, of 145 High Plain Road, Andover, was arrested on North Street and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and on a warrant for a single charge.

Thursday, Dec. 12 — At 10:39 a.m., Rebecca Pokress, 36, of 12 Florence Ave., Haverhill, was arrested on Essex Street and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, driving with a revoked registration and driving an uninsured motor vehicle or trailer. She was also arrested on two warrants carrying three charges.

At 10:25 p.m., Susan Kerr, 54, of 21 Central St., Methuen, was arrested on Main Street and charged with operating under the influence of liquor, leaving the scene of property damage and a marked lanes violation.

Friday, Dec. 13 — At 12:30 a.m.,

Scott Bird, 26, of 32 Tappan St., Melrose, was arrested on Lovejoy Road and charged with operating under the influence of liquor.

Saturday, Dec. 14 — At 3:38 p.m., Kevin Murray, 47, of 209 Main St., North Reading, was arrested on South Main Street and charged on a warrant.

THEFTS

Tuesday, Dec. 10 — At 9:56 a.m., a house break was reported on Karlton Circle.

Wednesday, Dec. 11 — At 8:37 p.m., a backpack and laptop computer were reported stolen from a vehicle on Bancroft Road.

Thursday, Dec. 12 — At 2:02 p.m., a theft was reported on Algonquin Avenue.

Friday, Dec. 13 — At 12:42 p.m., a theft of a package was reported on River Road.

INCIDENTS

Monday, Dec. 9 — At 9:43 a.m., a caller at a business on Main Street downtown reported that she "thinks her (motor vehicle) has been stolen." Moments later, the caller

reported that "she was just notified it was towed."

At 11:10 p.m., vandalism to a motor vehicle was reported on Haverhill Street.

Tuesday, Dec. 10 — At 9:31 a.m., vandalism was reported on Burr Road.

Wednesday, Dec. 11 — At 6:41 p.m., police were called to Chestnut Street on multiple reports of a 92-year-old woman with a laceration to the side of her head lying in the road. Calls via 911 offered conflicting reports that the woman was either hit by a car or the victim of an assault, but police determined the woman fell on her own. She was transported to an area hospital.

At 8:53 a.m., an assault involving a driver of a construction truck who "just punched one of the workers in the face and is leaving" was reported on Newport Circle.

Sunday, Dec. 15 — At 10:18 p.m., as the town continued to recover from a foot of snow, police received a report of "cars parked on the street and in bad spots along Stevens Street." An officer on the

scene reported finding the two cars, but he added the scene looked "like any other night."

ACCIDENTS

Monday, Dec. 9 — At 10:22 a.m., a one-car crash involving a vehicle into a utility pole was reported on South Main Street. The car was towed from the scene.

Tuesday, Dec. 10 — At 5:47 p.m., a three-car crash requiring two tows was reported on Haverhill Street.

Wednesday, Dec. 11 — At 6:45 p.m., a two-car crash requiring one tow was reported on Andover Street.

At 8:57 p.m., an accident with injury, requiring one tow, was reported on River Road.

Friday, Dec. 13 — At 7:16 a.m., a two-car crash, requiring one tow, was reported on South Main Street.

At 11:46 p.m., a two-car crash with injury, requiring two tows, was reported on Route 125 in the area of Wildwood Road.

Sunday, Dec. 15 — At 11:44 a.m., an accident involving a car that had to be pulled out of the woods was reported on Rutgers Road. Once the car was freed, no further tows were necessary.



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Teen overdose patient is sent to the hospital

By DUSTIN LUCA
dluca@andovertownsmam.com

Two teens attempting to purchase a drug intended

to combat a heroin overdose triggered a fast police response last week that ended in one of the youths being rushed to the hospital from downtown Andover.

Police were called to Main Street at 10:38 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10, after an employee at CVS at the corner of Main and Chestnut streets reported "a male subject just left the store saying his friend was overdosing on heroin," according to police dispatcher notes.

The two 18-year-old males from Andover were at the store to purchase Narcan, "a remedy for somebody who's overdosing on heroin," police Lt. Edward Guy said.

The drug, known more formally by the Federal Drug Administration as naloxone, works as an opiate blocker to stop overdoses dead in their tracks, according to Guy.

"Instead of having to go to the hospital, they were just trying to see if they could get it there," Guy said. "I've seen it a few times in my career, where the paramedics show up to someone who is overdosing, and they give them the injection and the person comes back."

But the two teens, whose identities were not released by police due to the medical nature of the call, didn't find the drug at CVS, Guy said. They left and started walking south on Main Street when police were sent to the scene.

Guy said when officer David Carriere located the two teens in the area of Main and Locke streets, he observed one of them holding the other up as they walked.

"That subject said his friend was overdosing on heroin, and he was walking him back home," Guy said, adding Carriere was told by the friend that the youth "had injected a little under a gram" of the drug.

Carriere, a veteran of area substance abuse units who Guy said is familiar with the signs of drug activity, radioed for the Fire Department to respond with an ambulance. The teen was taken to Lawrence General Hospital for treatment, and his father was notified.

HEALTH BRIEFS

NAMI Family to Family education course on tap

The National Alliance on Mental Illness is sponsoring the Family to Family education program for loved ones of individuals living with serious mental illness starting next month in Middleton. The free, 12-week course will begin on Thursday, Jan. 9, from 7 to 9:30 p.m. The course will be taught by trained family member

volunteers. It will cover information about schizophrenia, bipolar, major depression, panic disorder and obsessive compulsive disorder; coping skills for crisis and relapse, basic information on medications, listening and communication skills, problem solving, recovery and rehabilitation, and self-care. For more information or to register, call or email Sheila at 978-304-0146 or ShePow-Gir45@gmail.com.

Red Cross blood drives seek donors

The American Red Cross is holding three community blood drives next month in Andover. The blood drives are scheduled for:
 ■ **Tuesday, Jan. 7, 1:30 to 7 p.m.**, Temple Emanuel, 7 Haggetts Pond Road
 ■ **Thursday, Jan. 23, 1:30 to 7 p.m.**, Saint Augustine Church, 35 Essex St.
 ■ **Thursday, Jan. 30, 10 a.m.** to 3 p.m., CBRE Richard Ellis, One Tech Drive

Donors are needed every day to ensure an adequate blood supply for patients in need. All eligible and new blood donors are encouraged to give. To make an appointment to donate blood, call 800-RED CROSS (800-733-2767) or log onto redcrossblood.org. To submit an item for the Health Briefs column, email townsmen@andovertownsmen.com.

Sen. Finegold sets office hours

Sen. Barry Finegold, D-Andover, is holding office hours on Friday, Dec. 20, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the first-floor activities room in Memorial Hall Library, 2 North Main St., Andover. Finegold will also be available the same day at Lawrence Public Library from 10 to 11 a.m., at Parker Memorial Library in Dracut from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. and at Tewksbury Public Library from 3 to 4 p.m.

BUSINESS BRIEFCASE

Olans named MGH Institute assistant professor of nursing

Rita Olans, a former Andover public schools nurse and community fundraiser, has joined MGH Institute of Health Professions as an assistant professor in the School of Nursing. Olans teaches courses in pediatrics and community health at the Boston graduate school. In addition, she works part-time as a nurse practitioner hospitalist at Spaulding Rehabilitation Center.

Prior to joining the MGH Institute, Olans held various clinical and faculty positions with the New York City STD/HIV Prevention Training Center, Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital, Simmons College, Simmons School Health Institute at UMass Amherst and the State University of New York at Buffalo. Most recently, she returned from the U.S. Virgin Islands where she worked with its Department of Health in HIV/STD/TB care.

A double board-certified nurse practitioner in pediatrics and school health, Olans' specialty areas of interest include pediatric cardiology, primary and acute care delivered in the school and nonconventional settings, as well as in community health.

Olans earned a bachelor's degree in thanatology from Boston University in 1978, a master's degree in nursing in 1995 from Simmons College in Boston and a Doctor of Nursing Practice in 2013 from the MGH Institute.

Local man opens family law practice

Peri S. Kutchin of Andover has partnered with Alison L. Sheehan to open Kutchin & Sheehan, Attorneys at Law. The Boston-area practice focuses on family law including adoption, child custody, divorce, paternity, domestic violence, mediation, guardianships and limited-assistance representation with a focus on personalized service for each client. Kutchin & Sheehan, LLC handles family law matters throughout Massachusetts. For more information, call 781-281-8960 or visit www.kutchin-sheehanlaw.com.

Attorney named to Mass. Super Lawyers

Andover attorney Richard Giunta of the intellectual property law firm Wolf, Greenfield & Sacks, P.C., of Boston was one of 20 attorneys at the firm named to the 2013 list of Massachusetts Super Lawyers. Giunta is co-chairman of the firm's electrical and computer technologies and co-chairman of post-grant proceedings group. Super Lawyers is a rating service of outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. The multi-phased selection process includes independent research, peer nominations and peer evaluations. For more information, visit www.super-lawyers.com.

To submit an item for the Business Briefcase, email townsmen@andovertownsmen.com.

SOLAR: Coach has sunny outlook for new customers

Continued from Page 1

range from a low of 5 percent to a high of 25 percent. Combined with federal and state incentives along with energy credits, the cost of installations will be reduced significantly, decreasing the number of years it takes to pay off a rooftop or ground-based system of solar panels.

Ever the optimist, Navkal believes — and even has it on his new business cards — that the Solarize Andover Committee will sign up 100 new customers in 100 days thanks to the program.

"You only need 40 to get the full discount," he said. "We will definitely get that discount. I think it's possible we'll get 200 installations. I'm very optimistic."

Once Andover was designated a Solarize Massachusetts community, Navkal and his committee began accepting applications from potential solar installation companies. The deadline to apply was Dec. 12. Working with staff from the state's Clean Energy Commission, Solarize Andover will cull through the applications as part of a competitive process and narrow the field of potential installers down to three finalists.

The three finalists will be interviewed Jan. 22, he said, and then one installer will be chosen. In order for residents or business owners to receive the maximum discount offered by the program,

"Programs like Solarize Mass allow people across Massachusetts to join the clean energy revolution right at their own homes and businesses, while creating local jobs here in the commonwealth."

State Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Rick Sullivan

they need to use the installer chosen by Solarize Andover.

Any homeowner or business interested in finding out more about the program can go on solarizeandover.com to register their interest. The committee will also hold information sessions in January, describing the program in detail. People can fill out applications until the end of June, after which no more applications will be accepted.

Navkal said that in other communities, the program has worked very well, with extensive participation leading to customers getting the maximum discount available. "The job for me is to educate people as honestly as possible," he said, adding that he will even be approaching local banks to get their support in financing solar installations.

He said one of the benefits of the program is that the Solarize Andover Committee will be doing a lot of the advertising and outreach, saving the installation company time and money. "The sales cycle is shorter," he said. "The

installer spends very little money marketing this."

He said one of the intended goals of the program — to create a strong, grassroots support network for renewable energy — seems to be working quite well.

Navkal said he's gotten calls of support from people inside as well as outside of town.

"People are coming out of the woodwork to help me," he said.

For example, he said, Susan Stott of Andover Community Trust has expressed interest in installing solar panels on the affordable homes her organization has helped build around town.

Navkal also held a meeting with the superintendent of the Greater Lawrence Technical School in town about creating internships for teams of students to work with the town's solar panel installer.

He also plans on encouraging local banks to come up with creative financing packages for people who want to install solar panels. And he was recently contacted by

a North Andover business executive who can help do presentations to those banks about the value of investing in solar and other renewable energy projects.

In addition, he has employed two interns from Andover High School to help set up the website and do other work on the group's successful application.

"There are multiple dimensions on this," he said.

Sullivan said his office has seen that the program works.

"The popularity of Solarize Mass highlights the growing interest in renewable energy across the state," the secretary said. "Programs like Solarize Mass allow people across Massachusetts to join the clean energy revolution right at their own homes and businesses, while creating local jobs here in the commonwealth."

In addition to Andover, communities participating in the second round of the 2013 Solarize Mass program are Adams, Amherst, Bedford, Chesterfield, Egremont, Great Barrington, Lexington, Needham, Salem, Swampscott, Watertown, Wellfleet, Whately and Williamsburg. Great Barrington will be partnering with Egremont; Salem will be partnering with Swampscott; Lexington will be partnering with Bedford; and Williamsburg, Whately and Chesterfield will be working as a group during the program.

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TOWN BRIEFS

Sense of Wonder Sleepwear Drive for Lazarus House

Local retailer Sense of Wonder is hosting its fifth annual Sleepwear Drive to benefit women served by Lazarus House Ministries in Lawrence. The downtown Andover shop is collecting new women's bathrobes, nightgowns and pajamas, and slippers of all sizes to make sure the mothers served by Lazarus House shelters aren't forgotten at the holidays.

"When we started this tradition, we really had no idea how much of an impact we could make," Sense of Wonder owner Jean Smith said in a

release. "During conversations with Lazarus House staff, we learned that during December particularly, moms staying at Lazarus House shelters focus on insuring that their children have holiday presents. We wanted to make sure that those moms received something nice, too."

Smith said the drive has been quite successful, with off-site space required in the past to hold all the donations.

"In our own small way, we helped brighten the holidays for a number of women," she said. "That's what being a community business is about."

Sleepwear donations will be accepted at Sense of Wonder's Andover shop at 27 Main St. as well as its Reading location

through the end of the year. For more information, contact Sense of Wonder at 978-475-5544 or email js@senseofwondergifts.com.

Car Fit, Tree Time with Andover Chroniclors

The Essex County sheriff highlights the Car Fit program in this month's installment of "There's Something About Andover."

Car Fit offers tips for modifications to cars to make them fit people better as they age.

The second segment of the December edition of "There's Something About Andover" is all about trees — Christmas trees. It features a tour of the

Andover Historical Society's Tree Time exhibit.

The local-access show airs Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday at 9 a.m. and Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 7 p.m. on Comcast Channel 8 and Verizon Channel 47.

The show is produced by the Andover Chroniclors, an all-volunteer group of seniors from the Center at Punchard. The group welcomes new members; prior experience is not necessary. Anyone who might be interested in any aspect of video production from planning to taping can email seniorcenter@andoverma.gov with the subject line Skip Wilkins.

To learn more about the group and watch previous

shows, visit www.andoverseniorcenter.org/programs-activities/groups/andover-chroniclors.

'Give Bread' collection at Whole Foods Andover

Whole Foods Market has joined with Project Bread this month to provide for people in need. Through Whole Foods' "Give Bread" program, shoppers can add \$2 or \$5 donation coupons to their grocery bills to help children and families struggling to put food on the table and eat healthy during the holidays.

"Give Bread" donations at Whole Foods in Andover will support local programs,

including Greater Lawrence Family Health Center Inc.'s Hunger Prevention Program, Neighbors in Need's Farming for Our Neighbors, and Groundwork Lawrence Community Gardens Program, among others.

In addition to the "Give Bread" program, Whole Foods Markets throughout Massachusetts are selling Project Bread holiday cards, proceeds from which will also fund the charity's initiatives. To learn more, visit www.projectbread.org/donate_wholefoods.

To submit an item for the Town Briefs column, email townsmam@andovertownsmam.com.

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Education

Actor shares story of perseverance and courage

Actor David Harrell, who was born missing his right hand, took the students and staff at Doherty Middle School on a "journey of humor and perseverance" last month during his inspirational visit to Andover.

Vice Principal Tracy Crowley said Harrell's one-man performance depicting his life and how he learned not to let "circumstance and limitation define who you are" was the most powerful performance of her 16-year career as an administrator. Crowley said Harrell received a standing ovation following the all-school show, which was presented to students in grades 6, 7 and 8 and their teachers.

"It truly speaks to the choices we make and the positive impact we can have on others," said Crowley in describing Harrell's performance in a press release. "The kids were on the edge of their seats the entire performance. His message truly inspired all of us not to be defined by limitations or circumstances."

Raised by parents who offered the message that "life is really about perseverance and courage," Harrell grew up playing sports and reaching the life goals he set for himself, including pitching for the varsity baseball team and serving as quarterback for the

football team in high school and earning his much-coveted letterman jacket.

Harrell's one-man show, titled "A Little Potato and Hard to Peel," has been performed at numerous theaters, universities and schools throughout the country.

The New York performer has a master's degree in fine arts/theater and has appeared on stage, film and TV. He was nominated for a 2010 New York Innovative Theatre award for Outstanding Solo Performance and was a 2012 selection to the United Solo Festival in New York City.

Harrell has said since he personally found middle school to be his most difficult years, he knew when he created the program that it would resonate with young people trying to find themselves and be recognized for who they are within.

Doherty health teacher Cheryl Todisco said of the performance, "David hit it out of the ball park, Boston style!"

The DMS Parent Advisory Committee sponsored the enrichment program as part of its volunteer effort to enhance arts education and support the school curriculum with live shows and demonstrations. Wyndham Andover provided Harrell with complimentary lodging during his visit.



DUSTIN LUCA/Staff photos

Andover High School teacher Minda Reidy discusses how to send code to a two-wheeled programmable robot known as a finch with sophomore Liam Moynihan.

A 'code' for life AHS students dabble in computer programming

By DUSTIN LUCA
dluca@andovertownsmen.com

For many Andover High School students, a global effort to get kids writing computer code proved more than a reprieve from the rigors of their typical daily syllabus. It was a chance to dabble in what one student called "a life skill" for today's youths.

Last week, 60 classes at Andover High participated in an "Hour of Code," an initiative organized as part of Computer Science Education Week.

Throughout the school, students in English, math and even physical education classes were working in environments with names like Java and Python — two popular computer programming and scripting languages.

Many of the students were using drag-and-drop instructions to tell programs what to do. Others were writing straight code.

Angela Vu, a freshman, worked with the Python computer language to set up a "jump" instruction for an on-screen character.

"You have to tell the computer how to do it," she said.

Angela said even a base level of familiarity with writing computer code will become helpful in the future.

"If you're on a team and have to explain to a programmer what you have to do, having that understanding improves so much," she said. "You're a better communicator."

In another classroom, enriched algebra teacher Krista Lambroukos watched as a couple dozen USB-powered "finch" robots buzzed around on



Students in an enriched algebra course at Andover High School work with programmable finch robots as part of last week's "Hour of Code" initiative.

computer benches and the floor.

"Now here's a challenge," she told her students, who were using a computer in the class for the first time.

"Can you make it move in a square?"

Molly Rocca, a sophomore, proceeded to send instructions to two wheels on the front of one of the robots. Mismatching the power levels of the wheels would cause the robot to turn or change direction while in motion.

Molly said programming has become an important life skill for every high-schooler.

"I absolutely love this," Molly said. "It's just so cool that, in computer language, you can talk to a machine and make it do something — transfer what you want to happen to a little light-up robot, a satellite or surgical machine, the kind of thing you couldn't do without programming."

Minda Reidy, a teacher who helped run the Hour of Code at the high school, said the goal of the initiative

was to get 10 million students worldwide, many of whom aren't even taking a computer course, to simply try their hand at code.

"(The intent) was to give the students a chance to just see what it is and how to do it. They'll see it isn't so mystical, so scary," Reidy said.

By mid-afternoon last Thursday, almost 800 Andover High students had participated in the program. Feedback showed the lesson was more than a success.

"Eighty percent enjoy it; 71 percent think programming couldn't be too hard," Reidy said as she scanned her cellphone for live data coming out of student surveys.

Perhaps most telling, she said, was that 62 percent of students had no interest in programming before they tried it. After their "Hour of Code" introduction, the number of disinterested dropped to 21 percent.

"That's pretty good," she said. "I'm excited by that."



Courtesy photo

Actor David Harrell received a standing ovation from the students and staff at Doherty Middle School following his performance last month.

PHILLIPS ACADEMY HONOR ROLL

The following local students have been named to the Phillips Academy honor roll for the fall term. To qualify for the honor roll, students must maintain at least a 5-point grade average on a 6-point scale.

SENIORS

David C. Belluche, Adam R. Brody, Rosalyn B. Chen, Rebecca H. Cheng, Michael D. DeLaus, Peter T. Fanikos, David B. He, Sierra M. Heneghan, Laura K. Ippolito, Samantha L. Johnson, Eunji Kim, Sophia L. Landay, Josiah K. Legaspi, Kristin F. McIntire, Stephen T. Moreland, IV, Elizabeth M. Rao, Jacob S. Rauh, Nathan Y. Sheng, Leah T. Shrestinian, Andrea C. Yopez

JUNIORS

Michael A. Adams, Thayer L. Anderson, Alexandra S. Barr, David N.

Benedict, Sarah E. Cronin, Viviane G. Garth, Frank D. Geng, Angela J. Gu, Jack B. Harrington, William H. Hubschman, Julia H. Jackson, Margaret M. Kobelski, Vivian Y. Liu, Caroline D. Lu, Scott B. MacDonald, Liana Margolese, John D. McGovern, Bryan A. McGuiggin, Rebecca G. Savord, Kailash S. Sundaram, Justine A. Wang, Derek J. Yau, Christine Zhang, Allen Zhou

SOPHOMORES

Darian Bhatena, Gabriel J. Blanchard, Nicodem R. Ciccio, James F. Coombs, Robert C. DeLaus, Claire E. Glover, Alexia D. Hagler, Samantha J. Dagler, Brooke Z. Keene, Eric D. Lee, Gabriel K. Mahaniah, Sitara P. Rao, Jessica L. Schmitt, Caroline C. Shipley, Mihika V. Sridhar, Haley A. Tomaszewski, Meghan R. Tucker

Student headed to state robotics meet

Sixth-grader Joshua Kazmer of Andover and his Nature's Fury Cougars robotics team at Austin Preparatory Middle School in Reading advanced to the Massachusetts State First Lego League Robotics Championship this weekend after a successful showing in the qualifier round Saturday, Dec. 14, in Melrose.

In addition to earning a trip to the states, the Austin Prep team won the Presentation Project Award, which recognizes the team that effectively communicates the problem it has identified and proposed solution to both the judges and other potential supporters.

This year's FLL competition theme is "Nature's Fury" about handling natural disasters in local communities. For

the competition, the Austin Prep team designed and built a robot that was programmed to autonomously execute multiple timed tasks. Additionally, the team researched, developed and presented a concept to "get the word out" about Reading's Community Alert System, which sends alerts via cellphone. The team's solution includes a public service announcement video, a comic strip and a flier displayed around town.

Joining Kazmer on the Nature's Fury Cougars team are sixth-graders Matthew Fish and Charlie Burnham and seventh-grader Marie Mellor.

The states will be held Saturday, Dec. 21, at WPI in Worcester.



Courtesy photo

Andover's Joshua Kazmer, third from left, will be competing with the Nature's Fury Cougars team from Austin Preparatory School in Reading at the state robotics championship this weekend.

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School redistricting an early 2014 decision

Community center construction delayed until spring

By DUSTIN LUCA
dluca@andovertownsmen.com

While new district lines for the town's elementary schools won't be in place until fall 2015, the plan for where students will eventually end up should be set by early next year.

School Committee Chairman Dennis Forgue said this week that an official presentation of new district lines is expected at the Jan. 9 School Committee meeting.

That plan will reflect the increased capacity of the new Bancroft Elementary School, which will be able to accommodate 180 more students than the current

school.

Even though the new Bancroft School will be open next fall, the School Committee voted earlier this month to delay the implementation of the district lines until the 2015-2016 school year to allow for the completion of remaining site work. The final work would be complicated by the increase in the student body, officials said.

But the School Committee wants to have the new district lines in place this year to aid parents as they consider their students' future placements.

A final vote to establish the new lines is expected in early February, allowing

one month for feedback from the public before the districts are finalized, according to Forgue.

The new district lines were generated by bringing what will eventually be five elementary schools as close to 93 percent capacity as possible, while also affecting as few households as necessary, Forgue said.

"The goals were really balancing enrollment in all five schools, move as few students as possible, and both of those things were accomplished," he said.

The redistricting will mean all students in kindergarten and higher grades will be moved out of Shawsheen School starting

in fall 2015. The choice elementary school popular with parents has been at the center of discourse throughout the redistricting process because of the assumption that it would be closing.

Only pre-kindergarten students will remain at Shawsheen in 2015-2016. Meanwhile, what the school will look like next year is still being determined, according to Superintendent Marinel McGrath.

"We will have to make a decision about this prior to kindergarten registration," she said. "We are reviewing the data and possible scenarios to determine the best strategy for going forward next year."

By BILL KIRK
bkirk@andovertownsmen.com

Although the contract has been signed, construction on a new community center behind Doherty Middle School isn't scheduled to start until as late as next March, town officials are now saying.

Cormier Youth Center, which has been delayed numerous times, appears to be on track for a late-winter/early spring construction start, said Bill Fahey, executive director of the Andover Youth Foundation.

"My heart was intent on having a ground-breaking in October," he said. "But because the contract was not signed, and now it's bad weather, the construction company isn't doing anything until winter breaks."

Over the summer, members of the youth center building committee vowed that the project would start by the first week in October. But a series of setbacks, including the withdrawal of the low bidder on the \$5.8 million project, led to a number of delays.

Chris Huntress, chairman of the building committee, said last week he doesn't care when the project starts. He just wants it done right.

"I'm more concerned about the quality of the job," he said. "The most important thing is what we deliver."

The second low bidder, Dagle Electric of Woburn, won the \$4.6 million contract, which was signed by town officials last week. Town Manager Reginald "Buzz" Stapczynski said town employees have already held a pre-construction meeting with company officials.

"It's happening," Stapczynski said. "A construction trailer will be on-site before the end of the month. The contractor is getting everything ready so construction can start. A lot of work is going on, preparing for construction."

Tom Wadkins, the town's purchasing agent, confirmed the contract is signed and

Construction on the foundation is expected to begin in March. Once the foundation is in, town officials say things should get moving at the site fairly quickly.

we are ready." Dagle is being paid \$4,643,655.

Some of the work has already been done at the site. When Doherty Middle School was worked on over the summer, utility lines were brought in from Bartlett Street to the site of the youth center's foundation. Trenches were even dug and crushed stone put down where the foundation will be built.

Construction on the foundation is expected to begin in March. Once the foundation is in, town officials say things should get moving at the site fairly quickly.

"The foundation is more complicated than others, so it has to be perfect," Fahey said. "It's not just putting a slab up. Two, pre-engineered buildings are being constructed off-site, and those buildings go on top of the foundation."

Fahey said of the 21,000-square-foot building, 13,000 square feet involves pre-built structures that will be fastened to the foundation. The result is that the foundation has to exactly match up with the structure.

Andover Youth Foundation has its annual telethon March 19 and 20 and will be televising live interviews and ground-breaking activities remotely from the construction site as part of the fundraiser.

The telethon coincides with the first day of spring March 20. But Huntress said it's possible construction could start even sooner than that.

"We'll be on schedule regardless of the weather," he said. "The better the weather, the faster we can move."

D-Day survivor delivers keynote address at 'Salute to Veterans' book release

By TRACEY DEE RAUH
North of Boston Media Group

Before joining the 29th Infantry Division, the young men who splashed through the ocean and stormed Normandy's Omaha Beach mostly enjoyed carefree lives.

"We were pretty young and ordinary when we went into military service," said Morley Piper, who was 19 years old and a 2nd lieutenant in charge of a rifle platoon of 42 soldiers on June 6, 1944.

After D-Day, those who survived that epic battle that would change the course of the war would not be innocent or ordinary anymore, however.

"Bravado comes easily to young men," Piper said, "but the baptism of fire on Omaha Beach was heart-stopping."

Piper was the keynote speaker for last week's release of "North of Boston: Salute To Veterans," a coffee-table book featuring thousands of local veterans. The Dec. 13 event drew about 100 people to the North Andover offices



FRANK J. LEONE JR./Courtesy photo

Karen Andreas, publisher of North of Boston Media Group, the Andover Townsman's parent company, chats at last week's "Salute to Veterans" book release event with Peter O'Shea of Andover, a Korean War veteran who lost his son, John Patrick O'Shea, in combat.

of The Eagle-Tribune, the Andover Townsman's sister paper.

Published by North of Boston Media Group, the parent company of the Townsman as well as The Eagle-Tribune, The Daily News of Newburyport, The Salem News and the Gloucester Daily

Times, "Salute to Veterans" pays tribute to local veterans from the Civil War forward.

Individuals who fought in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War and Iraq and Afghanistan were represented at the release party, along with family members, friends and many

people who just wanted to be present to show their appreciation.

The crowd gave Piper a standing ovation following his speech about D-Day and the importance of talking about war experiences, even when it's difficult because the memories are tragic.

North of Boston Media Group Regional Publisher Karen Andreas thanked the crowd for coming and invited comment, which led to a series of moving and at times even humorous tales of wartime experiences.

Piper said it was a pleasure to hear these people speak and also a relief because for too many years, no one would talk about their experiences.

"Veterans are certainly more interested in preserving their stories now than they used to be, as this book certainly shows," he said. "We have an obligation to the younger generations to tell our stories. The war years were such an important era in history."

"Salute to Veterans" is being sold at the Townsman office at 33 Chestnut St. in Andover and can also be ordered. For more information, visit www.eagletribune.com.

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Opinion

A sackful of holiday cheers to local newsmakers

CHEERS to Ted Teichert and his merry band of volunteers on what will surely be a fun gift to the community in the form of an ice rink at the Park at Bartlet and Chestnut streets. Last weekend, the frame for the temporary rink adjacent to the Town Offices parking lot was put in place. This weekend, Teichert and his team are hoping to lay the tarp and fill the rink with water. With any luck — and a hard freeze — townspeople could be skating by Christmas. We're looking forward to lacing up our skates and enjoying what will certainly be a welcome new attraction to the community this winter.

CHEERS to Solarize Andover, the town's Green Advisory Committee and especial local resident Anil Navkal. Andover this month got the nod from the state as one of 15 new Solarize Massachusetts communities. The designation opens residents and businesses to deep discounts on solar installation projects — as much as 25 percent — as an incentive to encourage property owners to pursue the energy-conservation projects. Navkal is nothing if not ambitious. While Andover must sign on 40 new customers to qualify for the maximum discount allowed under the state program, he is vowing to sign on 100 customers in 100 days. What's more is he thinks it's not out of the question to lock in 200 new installations. Optimistic, yes. But if anyone can do it, we suspect Navkal can, and we wish him and the rest of his committee lots of luck in the process.

CHEERS to Lou Bernieri, who won the 2013 Jeannie Melucci Award from the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence. Bernieri, executive director of Andover Bread Loaf, introduced the writing, arts and performance program to the club's elementary school students. His Slice of Bread Loaf initiative is being credited with having a life-changing impact on the club's members, according to executive director Markus Fischer. Like any selfish volunteer, the humble Bernieri says he has gained more than he has given through his work with the youths served by the club. He calls the honor, given annually to someone who goes above and beyond to inspire children to achievement, "the most important award" he's ever received. Bernieri deserves all the accolades he's receiving and more.

CHEERS to Morley Piper, the longtime newspaper association executive who spoke at the launch for the North of Boston Media Group's "Salute to Veterans" book last week. Piper, who wrote a chapter for the book, spoke about his experience landing on Omaha Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944, as a 19-year-old Army second lieutenant. It was an understated but unflinching account of the horrors of that day and of war in general and a tribute to the incredible bravery and sense of duty of the men who turned the tide against Nazi Germany. Piper said for years he and other combat veterans of World War II would not talk of what they saw and did and felt because they did not want to revive those memories. He believes the survivors now have an obligation to tell their stories because they are a part of our history. May Piper's example and "Salute to Veterans" encourage others to speak — and the rest of us to honor them for their service.

CHEERS to the memory of Ellen F. Fraser, who grew up on a farm in West Andover near the Merrimack River and retained a lifelong love of nature. When she died at age 96 in 2011, she left a bequest of more than \$60,000 to the Andover Village Improvement Society, the venerable land trust that has helped preserve open space in its natural state as the town grows. The gift was the largest of its ever kind received by AVIS. Fraser and her late husband Robert loved the outdoors and often hiked AVIS' more than 35 miles of trails and cross-country skied on its 1,100 acres held in trust for the public to use. AVIS was one of 16 local organizations to benefit from Fraser's estate and will use the money to acquire more land, a fitting use.

WEB QUESTION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Where do you stand on proposed medicinal marijuana zoning slated to go before next year's Town Meeting?

■ I support medicinal marijuana and don't think the zoning is necessary.

■ I support medicinal marijuana, but zoning is necessary so we control its presence.

■ I don't support medicinal marijuana whatsoever.

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Last week, with the two-year anniversary of the double homicide on Orchard Crossing fast approaching, we asked our readers when they think the case will be solved. With 68 responses, the answers were:

■ I don't see it ever getting solved: 61 votes, 89.71 percent.

■ Solved by 2015: four votes, 5.88 percent.

■ Solved by next year: three votes, 4.41 percent.

Remembering Sandy Hook: One Year Later

John Waters
Pike School



It has been one year since the tragic events at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn. The news of that tragedy hit many of us as hard as any event in recent memory. These mass shootings are always incomprehensible, but the fact that 20 young children (along with six adults) were murdered made it even harder to understand. Have we learned anything from this tragedy that will be helpful moving forward?

We live in an age where any disaster anywhere in the world causes the device in our pocket to ring or vibrate and demand our attention. The relentlessness of the news cycle makes me want to look away so as not to be overwhelmed by the sadness. I do worry about the impact

of these events on our children and us, because I have seen it cause otherwise rational adults to become so fearful that they spend more time trying to insulate themselves and their children from the world.

There was just an investigative piece on the "Today Show" where a reporter with a hidden camera went to five elementary schools in New Jersey to see how easy it was to gain access to the students. Four out of five schools had buzzers, locks or guards that made it harder to access the children. Most of the airtime was given to showing the one school where the reporter was able to gain access to classrooms fairly easily.

I understand that we have to be prudent about security in our schools to keep our students safe. What I worry about is that there are costs, some of which are hard to quantify to this mind-set. I know of schools that have added more than \$100,000 a year to their operating budgets to have guards, more cameras and more barriers.

... *What about the hidden cost of raising children who feel they need to be in a protective bubble in today's world?*

That is the monetary cost, but what about the hidden cost of raising children who feel they need to be in a protective bubble in today's world or the missed opportunities to provide more professional development for teachers or more technology in the classroom because of the seemingly endless desire to turn schools into fortresses?

Two final thoughts as we remember the one-year anniversary of Sandy Hook. The first is that Sandy Hook Elementary School had many of the protections that people are adding in other schools. As scary as it may be, we all know that at the end of the day, there is no way to guarantee absolute safety. The good news is that as dramatic as these events are, the statistics tell us that schools are safe places for children.

We should not lose our perspective as the media barrages us with the tragic exceptions.

Secondly, we need to persevere to focus on the many blessings we have. I was struck by a video sent to me recently by a friend that tells the story from the perspective of the mother of one of the children who perished at Sandy Hook. She explains how the crushing sadness of that day and the sense that evil triumphed has been replaced by her faith in the goodness of mankind. Her story is a powerful one.

I cannot think of a better tribute to those who perished a year ago than for us all to strive to support our children by facing the world with confidence and optimism.

John "Muddy" Waters is the head of school at The Pike School in Andover.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Program explores charter school debate

Editor, Townsman:

The League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover has produced a cable television program, "A Dialogue with Andover Public Schools and STEAM Studio Charter School," that explores the STEAM vision and proposed curriculum for both Andover High School and STEAM Studio, as well as the financial impact of the proposed grade 9 through 12 charter school in Andover. Members of the Andover School Committee and STEAM Studio participated in this dialogue moderated by league member Bonnie Zahorik.

Our objective with this program is community education, and we encourage residents who are interested in the topic to view the one-hour program. It is available online at www.lwv-andovers.org and will also be playing on Andover's Comcast Channel 8 and Verizon Channel 47 at various times throughout the day starting on Friday, Dec. 20.

While the process of approving a charter school does not include a vote by the residents or Town Meeting, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is taking public input regarding STEAM Studio's charter school application through Jan. 3. You can send input, either in support of or against the STEAM Studio charter, via email to charter-schools@doe.mass.edu.

As part of its work to increase citizen understanding of major public policy issues, the league encourages dialogue and active involvement of our citizenry. We encourage community members who are interested in citizen education events to join the league. For information, email league@lwv-andovers.org.

STEFANI TRAINA
MAUREEN SUNDBERG
League of Women Voters of
Andover/North Andover
Steering Committee

Thanks for help with Kennedy remembrance

Editor, Townsman:

Heartfelt thanks to the Andover Townsman and The Eagle-Tribune for their interest in last month's JFK remembrance program at Northern Essex Community College in Haverhill.

The pre-event articles by Judy Wakefield and Mark Vogler on Nov. 21 were very much appreciated, as well as the accompanying photographs by Tim Jean. Thanks also to the public officials who represent Haverhill at all levels of government, who took time out of their busy schedules to share their thoughts and memories of JFK at the opening ceremony. This includes Mayor James Fiorentini, state Reps. Diana DiZoglio, Lenny Mirra and Linda Dean Campbell; state Sen. Kathleen O'Connor Ives, Governor's Councilor Eileen Duff and Kate Machet, staff member for U.S. Sen. Ed Markey, who graciously read the senator's own words.

Thanks as well to the following for their participation and involvement in the JFK events: NECC President Lane Glenn, Professors Jim Murphy, Andrew Morse and Ligia Domenech; student Christopher Cox, guest speakers Frank O'Connor of Andover and Ron Martin of

Lawrence, all of the student volunteers, members of the public and the college community who helped in any way; Lawrence Cable TV; Salem, N.H., Cable TV and WHAV Radio in Haverhill.

With so much competing television coverage of the 50th anniversary of the JFK assassination, it was both an honor and a pleasure to organize a remembrance program that was local, hands-on and personalized.

RICHARD PADOVA
High Street
Professor, Northern Essex
Community College

Bloated town budgets the real problem

Editor, Townsman:

At the recent Tri-Board meeting, I pointed out that residential property taxes have increased 46 percent over the last 10 years. Affording these increases is not just a problem for the seniors on fixed incomes.

These taxes are paid from household incomes, which have not risen at the same rate. According to the U.S. Census statistics, Andover's median income rose by 17.8 percent. When property taxes are rising more than 2.5 times as fast as income used to pay the taxes, a crisis cannot be far behind. The town manager said that property taxes may have gone up 46 percent in 10 years, but that's because property values have increased and the taxes are based on the property values.

According to the 2013

Annual Town Meeting Finance Committee Report, the average residential tax was \$5,466 in fiscal 2003 and \$7,967 in fiscal 2013 — an increase of 45.75 percent.

During the same period, the average assessed value increased from \$470,000 in fiscal 2003 to \$549,070 in fiscal 2013 — an increase of only 16.8 percent. Taxes, meanwhile, grew 2 1/2 times faster than home values and they are projected to rise another 13 percent by fiscal 2016.

It's clear that in years when assessed values declined, tax rates were increased to account for lost home value to increase the tax revenue by the Prop 2 1/2 statutory limit. In most years when home values increased, the tax rate decreased or increased slightly, again to increase tax revenue within the statutory limit. Therefore, tax increases are *not* based on home values, but rather on the town's budget requirements as determined by Proposition 2 1/2.

What can we learn from this? First, real estate taxes are *not* based on your home's value, as most people think, but on the budget increase allowed by Proposition 2 1/2. Second, your taxes will increase every year as long as the town officials feel they are "entitled" to use the full tax levy. Third, this will not change unless the taxpayers and town officials introduce controls on spending with significant changes in the way the town conducts its business. Fourth, debt exclusions are a problem, but bloated town budgets are a larger problem. During the last 10 years, taxes from debt exclusions (over-rides) decrease by 35 percent while taxes due to town operations increased by 50 percent under Proposition 2 1/2 from \$5,211 per home to \$7,800 per home.

GREGORY RIGBY
131 Rattlesnake Hill Road

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.

E-mail: townsman@andovertownsmen.com. Please include the letter in the body of the e-mail, not as an attachment.

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To reach the newsroom with a news tip or request, please call the appropriate person:

■ **Editor Sonya Vartabedian** for comments on overall editorial content and quality; 978-475-7000, ext. 8733, svartabedian@andovertownsmen.com

■ **Assistant Editor Bill Kirk** at 978-475-2000, ext. 8732, bkirk@andovertownsmen.com.

■ **Reporter Judy Wakefield** at 978-475-7000, ext. 8726, or jwakefield@andovertownsmen.com

■ **Reporter Dustin Luca** at 978-475-7000, ext. 8723, or dluca@andovertownsmen.com

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Andover Townsman
Established 1887

Regional Publisher
Karen Andreas

Editor
Sonya Vartabedian

Published Thursdays by
North of Boston Media Group
33 Chestnut St., Andover, MA 01810
978-475-7000 •

News fax: 978-470-2819

E-mail svartabedian@andovertownsmen.com
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TownsBeat

He's making a list ... checking it twice

Santa is star attraction at holiday breakfast

The Andover High School Lady Warriors hockey team took a break from the ice earlier this month to play elves at a Breakfast with Santa fundraiser at Free Christian Church on Elm Street.

The jolly old soul posed for photos with kids and listened as they shared their wish lists for Christmas.

There were also plenty of arts and crafts and ornament making to keep the young ones busy.

The Dec. 7 event was sponsored by Century Bank in Andover.



Emily, 7, and Abigail Serrano, 5, of Andover color in Christmas trees.



Andover High School Golden Warriors girls hockey players pose for a photo with Santa at the breakfast benefiting their team.

RYAN HUTTON/ Staff photos



Colin Mackey, 3, gets a candy cane from Santa after he shares his wish list.



Jack Yanowitz, 6, decorates a handmade toy during the community event.

RYAN HUTTON/ Staff photo



Alva Yanowitz, 9, makes a candy cane tree ornament after visiting with Santa.

RYAN HUTTON/ Staff photo

Out & About: Holiday, solstice celebrations

Not so typical 'Silent Night'

Dozens of artists will meld their musical styles for this weekend's return of "Not Your Typical Silent Night" to the Rogers Center for the Arts at Merrimack College in North Andover.

Area artists will join The Choral Majority gospel choir for this contemporary interpretation of the classic Christmas celebration on Sunday, Dec. 22, at 4 p.m.

Produced by the Blue Window Arts Group, "Not Your Typical Silent Night" has sold out the 600-seat Rogers Center at 315 Turnpike St. in past years. Director Eric W. Lindahl says this year's installment will once again feature a diverse repertoire offering new arrangements.

Lindahl's wife, singer/actress Robin Allison Lindahl, will be directing children's choirs in addition to

singing some of the show's highlights, while The Rev. Lyndon Myers of Andover Baptist Church will sing the spiritual, "Children, Go Where I Send Thee," backed by a vocal ensemble.

The program will also feature Boston gospel group Confirmation led by founder/director David Coleman, with first-time featured soloists Bernard Smith of Holyoke and Chantell Cuevas of North Andover joining regulars Gail Dorey of Watertown, Cynthia Faulkner of Lawrence and Ryan Phelps of Bradford. An eight-member horn section helps to close the show with a gospel rendition of the Hallelujah Chorus.

As in past years, every ticket-buyer will receive a button emblazoned with this year's theme: "Spread Joy." Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under; lap-sitters are free with a parent. For

reservations or information, call the Rogers Center box office at 978-837-5355 or 978-794-3778 or Andover Bookstore at 89R Main St., Andover, at 978-475-0143.

Staging an Outdoor Christmas Pageant

West Parish Church on Reservation Road presents its 35th annual Outdoor Christmas Pageant on Saturday, Dec. 21, at 5 p.m.

The public is invited to join the church for the arrival of Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus to the historic West Parish Garden Cemetery arch, which will once again be transformed into the entrance to Bethlehem.

The annual half-hour reenactment of the Christmas story includes a cast of children, youths and adults and a stable of live animals provided by Ironstone and Herb Hill farms.

Through drama, gospel narration and carols, the

audience will share in the miracle of Christmas through the reenactment, which will incorporate such modern-day stories as the "Littlest Angel" and the "Little Drummer Boy." Blake Martin will portray Basil, the innkeeper, and Jim Olson is the narrator.

Refreshments in Fellowship Hall and a chance to photograph the living nativity scene will follow the presentation. The Ministry of Outreach will be accepting nonperishable food items at the archway prior to the pageant for donation to local food pantries.

For more information, call West Parish Church at 978-475-3528 or visit www.westparishchurch.org.

Ring in the winter solstice

The Shawsheen River Watershed Association hosts its fourth

annual Winter Solstice Celebration on Sunday, Dec. 22, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Serio's Grove, 47 Lowell Junction Road, Andover.

The group will meet and park in the field starting at 4:30 p.m., and then begin a short, five-minute walk through the woods to the pavilion at 5.

The program will feature a short presentation on the astronomy, history and folklore of the winter solstice, interspersed with entertainment by local musicians. Solstice observers should bring bells to ring as the Holly King Banner is retired and the Oak King Banner is raised to symbolize the time of lengthening days.

A campfire for the roasting of marshmallows for s'mores will follow. Individuals should bring their own supplies and beverages; alcoholic drinks are not allowed. Admission is free; the public is invited.

Bidding farewell to shortest day

Harold Parker State Forest heralds the arrival of the winter solstice on Saturday, Dec. 21, from 3 to 5 p.m. off Route 114 in North Andover.

The celebration timed for sunset at exactly 4:15 p.m. will usher out the shortest day of the year. A short hike prior to the solstice sunset ritual is planned. Individuals are urged to dress warmly, wear hiking footwear or snowshoes or skis, and bring along water. Hot chocolate will be served.

The free event is co-sponsored by the Friends of Harold Parker and the state Department of Conservation and Recreation. For more information, call 617-828-1728 or visit www.mass.gov/dcr.

Got an item for Out & About? Email townsman@andovertownsmen.com.

All decked out at Crystal Ballroom

The Crystal Ballroom at Old Town Hall took on a festive atmosphere Sunday night for a Holiday Ball hosted by the Andover Senior Community Friends.

Couples dressed in their holiday finest maneuvered through snow-covered streets to dance the evening away to the music of DB's Orchestra.

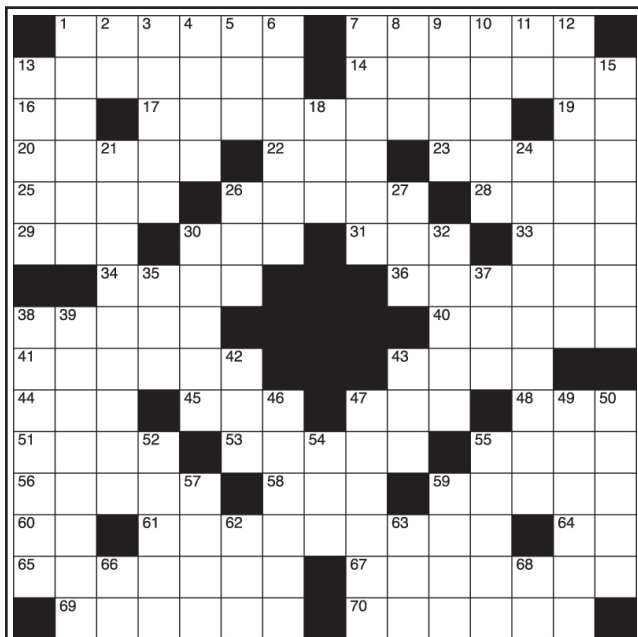


Brenda Afshin and Royal MacDonald, both of Andover, enjoy a waltz at the Holiday Ball presented by the Andover Senior Community Friends.



Andover Senior Community Friends board members George and Audrey Nason share a dance at the Crystal Ballroom.

PHOTOS BY FRANK J. LEONE JR./Special to the Andover Townsman



Solution in Classified Section

CLUES ACROSS

1. Lawyer disqualification
7. Filled in harbor
13. Die
14. Expected
16. As in
17. Squares puzzle
19. Of I
20. Small depressions
22. Cambridgeshire Cathedral
23. Layout and furnishings
25. Sandhill crane genus
26. Challenges
28. A widow's self-immolation
29. Earth System Model (abbr.)
30. Sound unit
31. A teasing remark
33. Surrounded by
34. Distinctive elegance
36. Imperturbable
38. Gulf of, in the Aegean

40. Ice mountains
41. Rubs out
43. German writer Weber
44. Tub
45. Digital audiotape
47. UC Berkeley
48. Actress Farrow
51. Epic body of poetry
53. Weight unit
55. A mild oath
56. More infrequent
58. One point N of due W
59. More rational
60. Exclamation of surprise
61. Manual soil tiller
64. 24th state
65. Surveyor
67. About ground
69. Something beyond doubt
70. Add herbs or spices

CLUES DOWN

1. Shelves
2. Max. medical unit
3. Religious orders
4. Blocks
5. Volcanic mountain in Japan
6. Close again
7. Clemens hero
8. ___-Jima
9. Rendered hog fat
10. Ocean ebbs
11. Spielberg blockbuster
12. Grade reducing
13. Shirk
15. Treats with contempt
18. Single Lens Reflex (abbr.)
21. Integer
24. Photographers
26. Lair
27. Female sibling
30. Supported a structure
32. German socialist August

35. Angeles, Alomos or Lobos
37. Ripe tomato color
38. Indefinite small number
39. Wind River Res. peoples
42. A baglike structure
43. Flying mammal
46. In poor taste
47. Hosts film festival
49. Evansville Hockey team
50. Ohio tire town
52. Popeye cartoonist
54. Resource Based Economy (abbr.)
55. Hates, Scot.
57. Evaluate
59. Porzana carolina
62. Decay
63. Own (Scottish)
66. Atomic #29
68. Santa says X3

12/19/13

EVENTS CALENDAR

COMPILED BY CHELSEA DeFUSCO

ART AND GALLERIES

ADDISON GALLERY, "Flash Back Nov. 22, 1963," 50th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's assassination, through Jan. 12; "James Prosek: The Spaces in Between," incorporating natural history painting with contemporary influences, through Jan. 5; "Natural Selections," drawings from Addison's permanent collection, through March 2014; "the kids are all right," photography and video exploring notion of family in 21st century, through Jan. 5; free admission; Phillips Academy, 180 Main St., Andover. Gallery hours Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.; 978-749-4000. www.andover.edu/museums/addison/Pages/default.aspx.

ALPERS FINE ART

"(Largely) Small Works,"

end-of-year exhibit; through Dec. 24 and Jan. 9 through 12. 96 Main St., Andover. Gallery hours Tuesdays through Fridays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sundays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; 978-760-1829, www.alpers-fineartonline.com.

DANCE

'NUTCRACKER,' Dance Prism production of holiday classic, Saturday, Dec. 21, 2:30 and 6:30 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 22, 2:30 p.m., Collins Center, Andover High School, 80 Shawsheen Road, Andover; tickets \$24 adults, \$18 children/seniors; www.danceprism.com, 978-371-1038.

LECTURE

EDUCATION TRENDS, Quota International of Andover presents Lane Glenn, president of Northern Essex Community College, speaking on "Top 10 Trends in Higher Education: How Do We Prepare

Students for Careers & Life," Tuesday, Jan. 7, 7 p.m., Memorial Hall Library, 2 North Main St., Andover; free; Marie Flynn, mhflynn.net@gmail.com.

FILM

SCREENING ROOM, Boomer-Venture Screening Room Film Festival series featuring "Herb and Dorothy," documentary on art collecting, Thursday, Dec. 19, 7 p.m., free, snacks available; Center at Punchard, 30 Whittier Court, Andover; 978-623-8321, www.andoverseiorcenter.org.

MUSIC

ATYPICAL HOLIDAY, "Not Your Typical Silent Night," Sunday, Dec. 22, 4 p.m., Rogers Center for the Arts, Merrimack College, 315 Turnpike St., North Andover; tickets \$20 adults, \$10 children 12 and under, available at Rogers Center box office,

978-837-5355; Andover Bookstore, 89R Main St., 978-475-0143; or call 978-794-3778.

BRASSERIE 28, Thursday, Dec. 19, singer-songwriter, Ryan Fitzsimmons, folk rock, indie, pop; Friday, Dec. 20, Marc Fleury, acoustic, country covers; all music 8 to 11 p.m., 2 Elm Square, Andover; <http://brasserie28.com>.

ETC.

TREE TIME, Display featuring more than 30 Christmas trees decorated in historical fashion, through Dec. 29, Andover Historical Society, Blanchard House, 97 Main St., Andover. Hours Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.; admission \$8, \$5 members, seniors and children; kids under 5 free; www.andoverhistorical.org.christmas.

■ ■ ■

To submit an item for the Events Calendar, email townsman@andovertownsmen.com.

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Community Scrapbook



Courtesy photo

Despite the weather, Erica Flowers, left, Grace Wright and Andrew Wright enjoyed the Holiday Happenings festivities in downtown Andover on Friday, Dec. 6, with two of their new winter friends.



Courtesy photo

Andover residents, from left, Mary Leary, Sylvia Tallman, Lina Fossellam and Jill McCann were among 120 women who attended last month's Women of Northern Essex Community College's annual Membership Tea on the school's Haverhill campus. Florist Steve Janavicus of Flowers by Steve in Bradford was the special guest. He demonstrated his unique floral arrangements for the holidays, which were then raffled off. Founded in 1997, The Women of NECC was organized to help the college in its efforts to offer scholarships for needy and deserving students. The annual tea raised more than \$7,100 toward that goal.



Courtesy photo

Miss Massachusetts USA contestant Brooke Riley of Lowell made the holiday season that much merrier when she visited the Wingate at Andover nursing home. William Nagle and other residents were treated to four ballroom dances by Riley and Pete DePapa from the Dance New England dance studio in Chelmsford.



Courtesy photo

Two Andover residents involved with the Merrimack Valley Chapter of Hadassah – chapter co-president Debbie Ginsberg, second from left, and Rhonda Saunders, third from left – were among four area women who attended the Hadassah Northeast Leadership Retreat last month at the Cranwell Resort and Spa in Lenox. The local contingent joined 65 other women from five northeastern states for the "Lighting The Way" weekend, which offered a time to reflect, energize and engage in Hadassah programs. The weekend included an update on "Every Beat Counts: Hadassah's Heart Health Program," which raises awareness that women are increasingly at risk for heart disease. A program on the topic is being planned for the Merrimack Valley. Sharon Cores of North Reading, left, and Linda Davidson of North Andover, right, also represented the local Hadassah chapter at the retreat. For more information on the chapter, visit www.hadassahmv@gmail.com.



Courtesy photo

Nancy Ryan, left, and Paula Kelley, staff members at Edgewood Retirement Community in North Andover, joined residents Roberta Wilson and Maurine Petersen on an invigorating fall walk up Holt Hill recently. Wilson has family in Andover and Ryan grew up in North Andover. The 420-foot Holt Hill, which is part of Andover's Ward Reservation, is the highest point in Essex County, and the Edgewood contingent was able to see as far off as the Boston skyline on the day of their hike. Their canine friend was a friendly passerby who decided to join in the photo.

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Townspeople

Andover man wins Boys & Girls Club volunteer award

Lou Bernieri of Andover, a four-year volunteer at the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence, was honored last month with the 2013 Jeannie Melucci Award given to an individual who goes above and beyond in service to the kids and club.

The recognition took place at the club's annual Thanksgiving celebration on Nov. 27, during which a traditional holiday dinner was served to more than 400 youth members.

Bernieri, executive director of Andover Bread Loaf, collaborated with education staff members at the Boys & Girls Club to create Slice of Bread Loaf. The writing, arts and performance program for elementary school children starts with a two-week summer workshop and continues every other week through much of the year. It is staffed by trained high school writing leaders from the club.

"We're very appreciative to Lou for his remarkable, and at times life-changing, impact on our kids," Markus Fischer, executive director of the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence, said in a release.

"He has opened up a new world of creative writing and arts to our youth members, and unlocked the potential of becoming a writer or poet for many of them."

In addition, Bernieri helps the club's high school members with college essays and has enlisted other writing teachers and organizations to add programming for all ages.



Lou Bernieri of Andover, center, was presented with the 2013 Jeannie Melucci Award by the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence in recognition of his volunteer work with local youths. Rhandy Audate, the club's assistant education director, and Karen Kravchuk, its director of education, were on hand for the recognition, which took place at the club's annual Thanksgiving celebration.

Bernieri said in the release that he has gained more than he has given through his volunteer experience at the club.

"It has been my honor to be able to do this work," he said. "I feel this is the most important award I've ever received, and I thank you."

The award, presented annually to a volunteer, is

named for the late Jeannie Melucci, a former staff member at the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence, whose tough love is credited with inspiring countless children to extraordinary achievement.

Also during the event, Fischer acknowledged two groups of longtime volunteers: the Exchange Club of Lawrence, which has cooked

the food for the annual Thanksgiving celebration for about four decades, and the student-athletes of Triton Regional High School in Byfield, who have served the meal for about 30 years.

For more on the Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence, located at 136 Water St., visit www.lawrencebgc.com.



Courtesy photo

Taking part in the annual cleanup of the area around the Capt. George L. Street Memorial Bridge are, front row from left, Glenn Rogers and Al DeLuca; second row from left, Jane Ritchie, Colleen Coco, Martha Wilson, Emily Wilson and Charley Breen; and back row from left, Dave Louis, Ed Kelley, Jeff Shank, Robin Ellington, Sarah Wilson, Dave Wilson, Chloe Hilson and Mike DeLuca.

Bridge cleanup is in memory of Capt. Street

Members of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Lawrence and the Andover High School Key Club honored the life of Capt. George L. Street this fall by cleaning the area surrounding the memorial bridge named in his honor on Greenwood Road over Interstate 495 in Andover.

A former resident of Andover, Street was a highly decorated submarine commander in World War II as well as a Rotarian. The Town of Andover named the Capt.

George L. Street Memorial Bridge in his memory in November 2000.

Mike DeLuca of the Kiwanis Club led the effort in organizing what was the sixth annual cleanup of the area around the bridge. The volunteer work crew cut weeds, raked leaves, swept sidewalks and removed a small amount of trash from the area. Trucking service was provided by D.J. Walters.

The cleanup coincided with Veterans Day observances.

TOWN TALK

Kids book author scores app

That adorable Jack Russell terrier who stars in the Mr. Pish children's books — and has Andover roots — now has an app available.

TinyTap, an app developer in Israel, approached author K.S. "Kit" Brooks after noticing the precious pooch's knack for getting kids interested in learning about the world around them. The developer is now under contract to create educational games based on Brooks' popular Mr. Pish books.

"Mr. Pish Goes to the Farm" is the first book in the series to have a companion app released. With an Apple

or Droid touchscreen, kids can listen to farm animal sounds, answer fun questions and interact with the story. Within one week of its release, the game had been played more than 1,100 times.

"This is an incredible opportunity for Mr. Pish's message of outdoor learning and literacy to reach an entirely new audience," Brooks said in a release.

Brooks, a 1981 graduate of Andover High School, tells Mr. Pish's travel stories through postcards. The award-winning novelist and photographer grew up in Andover, then went on to live in Methuen, Lowell and Dracut. For more, visit www.KSBrooks.com.



Courtesy photo

The newly elected board of the Andover Sister Towns Association includes, from row from left, Jane Vondell, Kathy Stevens and Belva Hopkins, and, back row from left, Bob James, Fred Snell and Don Robb.

Andover Sister Towns elects new board

The Andover Sister Towns Association recently convened for its annual meeting and election at the home of Frank and Belva Hopkins of Andover.

Officers nominated and elected for 2014 include: Fred Snell, president; Bob James, vice president; Kathy Stevens, treasurer; Marj Snell, secretary; Don Robb, clerk; Jane Vondell, trustee; Elaine Meisinger, program trustee; Diane Huster, exchange trustee; and Belva Hopkins, trustee.

Artist and avid rock and mineral collector Elaine Meisinger was the guest

speaker. She shared the science and history of her collection. Members were asked to bring rocks, minerals and fossils to exhibit, along with questions and commentary.

A luncheon was also held. The Andover Sister Towns Association has begun making preparations to welcome its sister organization from Andover, England, for an official exchange visit next year. New members are welcome to join the group. For more information about Andover Sister Towns, contact Fred Snell at 978-686-3647 or via email at fredsnell@gmail.com.

ALL THOSE YEARS AGO

COMPILED BY
SUSAN MCKELIGET

Editor's Note: We ran short on space last week, leading us to hold Susan McKelliget's All Those Years Ago column. We are publishing two weeks' worth of her column today.

100 YEARS AGO Dec. 12, 1913

William Cheever had a narrow escape from serious injury Monday morning when an automobile ran into the team he was driving and as the result of the shock, he was thrown to the ground. Fortunately, his horse stood his ground and, while quite severely shaken up, Mr. Cheever was comparatively uninjured.

The drug stores including A.W. Lowe and F.H. Stacey, have perfumes, manicure sets, toilet accessories, candy and cigars, not to mention other novelties. The Gift Shop offers many attractions in the shape of brass and leather novelties, pictures, pottery, china, embroidery, etc. The Metropolitan, the Fleur de Lis, Smith & Manning and W.I. Morse carry a full line of toys of all kinds, the latter especially having some fine mechanical toys as well as skates and sleds.

Dec. 19, 1913

A front-page "Christmas Thought" from the editor read, "Let my gift to my neighbor be an acknowledgement of his neighborliness to me and mine, and a renewal of my pledge of neighborliness to him and his."

Readers may have noted the recent transfer of the Taylor homestead property on School Street to the Trustees of Abbott

Academy. The house was built by Rev. Dr. John Lord Taylor when he was pastor of South Church and given to the Andover Theological Seminary by will when there was no thought of his son ever coming back to the old home to live.

75 YEARS AGO Dec. 8, 1938

A policy against the employment of married female teachers, adopted in 1929, was written into the school board bylaws Tuesday evening, thus overthrowing a vote of the special rules revision committee. The rule does not affect those married before 1929.

There are nine people in town who will receive a good many telephone calls in the coming month, and most of the calls will be from West Andover for on Tuesday night, the school board finance and advisory committee recommended that the North and West Center schools be closed.

Dec. 15, 1938

If it's a white Christmas in Andover, it may be very, very white. Apparently, no money can be spent for removing the snow until the selectmen declare an emergency, and it is a question as to just how severe a snowfall has to be before it can be called an emergency.

Those who frequented the Cape this summer probably noticed a number of little one-room cottages, and if they stopped to investigate further, they probably found that in those cottages were sold jellies, jams, preserves, marmalades and relishes "with the tang of the sea still on them." Today, one of these Cape Cod jelly shops opened in Andover, not in

a cottage, but in part of the shop that formerly housed the S.K. Ames store at 50 Main St.

50 YEARS AGO Dec. 12, 1963

Was an old barn, now at 78 Maple Ave., one of the town's original fire stations? Yes, according to Chandler Bodwell of Worcester, grandson of J.P. Wakefield, who used the barn for many years. No, according to Miss Miriam Carpenter of Burnham Road, one of the town's oldest residents.

The first real breakthrough in industrial development for West Andover may see its beginning Monday night at the Planning Board. Gustave A. Schlott of North Main Street will present plans at that time for development of acreage he owns on the west side of Route 93, off Chandler Road.

Dec. 19, 1963

The selectmen have been severely criticized for failing to engage in long-range planning for the town. Charter Study Committee member Victor Mill Jr. expressed the thinking of his committee when he said, "There's no sign of an inclination to move into this area." By comparison, he said selectmen under the old form of government were leaders and were "ahead of the town."

The town has completed laying some 300 feet of 19-inch drainage pipe along town-owned easement into the Pike School property, off Hidden Road.

25 YEARS AGO Dec. 15, 1988

Two teenagers will be charged in connection with the desecration of 76 tombstones pushed to the ground at West Parish Cemetery

last weekend, police say. The damage was done sometime between Saturday evening and Sunday morning at 8:20, when a visitor to the cemetery discovered the tombstones, Andover Detective Kevin Burke said.

Andover is one of 21 cities and towns entitled to \$160,298 in reimbursements from the state for costs incurred or anticipated for complying with state-mandated regulations for testing and removing underground fuel storage tanks.

With two weeks remaining before a new no-smoking policy covering both firefighters and policemen goes into effect, department chiefs are doing a slow burn over how to enforce the law. Under state legislation to be enacted Jan. 1, 1989, firemen appointed after the new year must be non-smokers. Police have been operating under the edict since January 1988.

Dec. 22, 1988

If the superintendent of schools signs the three-year contract approved by the School Committee, it will be his last three years working in the Andover school system. Annual salary increases are spelled out in Dr. Seifert's pending contract. Next year's increase is 6.9 percent, raising his salary to about \$79,000 a year.

A new Macintosh computer lab has been added to Andover High School to give students greater access to computers and the use of the advanced capabilities of this powerful machine. The lab contains 17 Macintosh SE computers, one powerful Macintosh II system and eight Apple computers.

Andover Girl Scout earns Silver Award

Lucy Schirmer of Andover has earned the Silver Award, the highest award a Girl Scout Cadette can achieve and the second highest award in Girl Scouting.

To attain the award, Lucy completed a community service project that involved conducting a book drive for children at Arlington Elementary School in Lawrence. After hearing that

classes there were in dire need of books, she working closely with Dr. Colleen McBride, principal of South Elementary School in Andover, and the South School community to organize the drive.

The effort collected more than 600 books, which Lucy organized, catalogued and delivered to Arlington Elementary School.



Lucy Schirmer reads to kindergarten students at Arlington Elementary School in Lawrence. Schirmer led a drive to collect more than 600 books for the school as part of her Girl Scout Silver Award project.

Courtesy photo

Andover's love affair with parades marches on



Andover Stories

Gail Ralston
Andover Historical Society

The year was 1951 and the newly formed Andover Board of Trade sponsored the Andover Holiday Decoration Program that included lighting up and decorating Andover's downtown area. Kicking off that year's celebration was a Thanksgiving Eve gala parade helped along by the Andover Boosters Club.

Just four years later, another tradition was born when then recently appointed Fire Chief Henry Hilton, along with firefighters William Downs, Gordon Coutts and Willard Patterson, began decorating the fire house and parading Santa around town on a fire truck. Santa would end at the fire station and take pictures with the children.

It seems the Town of Andover just can't have too many of these events. From a slow, conservative start, the town's citizens decided in the late 1800s that parades, bands and floats brought the community together and the processions were the perfect way to celebrate historic benchmarks.

Town anniversaries in 1896, 1946 and 1996 were all heralded with parades.

In 1896, a grand procession featuring the Andover Brass Band that had been formed in 1878 made its way down Main Street.

■ WHAT'S HAPPENING: CENTER AT PUNCHARD

The Center at Punchard (The Center), 30 Whittier Court, Andover, is preparing for a busy new year. Here are some of the activities on tap:

New Year's Party and Talent Show: Monday, Dec. 30, 1:30 to 3 p.m. Russ McQueen will emcee the countdown to 2014. Refreshments and party favors included; \$5, talent show participants free with prior arrangements.

Beginners Plus Bridge: Mondays, Jan. 6, 13 and 27; and Feb. 3 and 10, 10 a.m. to noon, led by Terry Kay Barger, focuses on planning the play of the hand and expanding one's bidding arsenal; \$139.

Great Literature - Love! Wednesdays, Jan. 8 to Feb. 12, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Love will be the theme this semester with works ranging from Euripides to Shakespeare; sessions begins with a 30-minute "Great Courses" video lecture followed by discussion; no prior reading necessary.

Nourishing Energy: Thursday, Jan. 9, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Say good-bye to the need for coffee, sugary snacks and afternoon naps; participants will learn how to nourish themselves for optimal energy and vitality; \$5.

Healthy Eating Tidbits: Friday, Jan. 10, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. First monthly nutrition program with Pauline Provencher, registered dietician with Merrimack Valley Nutrition Program and the Meals on Wheels program; refreshments provided.

Life Drawing: Mondays, Jan. 13 and 27 and Feb. 3 and 10, 1 to 3 p.m. Learn to draw the human form starting with short gestural poses and moving to detailed half-hour poses; see front desk for supply list; \$28.

Facebook: Monday, Jan. 13, 1 to 2 p.m., and/or Thursday, Jan. 30, 6:30. Learn basic functions such as how to create a Facebook account, add friends, communicate privately and share photos, videos and more; question and answer follows lectures; \$3.

Charles Ward Reservation: Tuesday, Jan. 14, 12:15 to 2 p.m. John Kimball, grandson of Mrs. Charles Ward, who established the property now owned by the Trustees of Reservation, offers a history of Charles W. Ward Reservation and its special geological, biological and cultural features; \$4, includes soup and drink.

High Tea and History - American Soccer League Champions in Andover: Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2 p.m. Step back in time to 1926 and celebrate the national champions of the American Soccer League.



The Andover Santa Parade has been a tradition in town for decades. Here, a float makes its way down Main Street in the 1960s.

In 1946, with World War II not quite a year over, elaborate floats reaffirmed patriotism and pride in our American heritage. Phillips Academy Headmaster and historian Claude Fuess served as chairman of the anniversary committee.

In 1996 with Norma Gammon as chairwoman, the 350th Parade grandly celebrated the town's pride in its rich history and many accomplishments. Jim Doherty, longtime town moderator, was honored as the grand marshal. One highlight of the event was the presence of what was reportedly the largest American flag in the world — the Mt. Rushmore Flag — hanging in Elm Square.

Mrs. Gammon also led the bicentennial committee. That

year, former Selectman Sid White was said to have stolen the show with the inclusion of the Shriners from Boston Aleppo Temple, who rode on magnificent palomino horses, which Mr. White housed in barns at his Wild Rose Farm. Following the horses was a "pooper-scooper" — a miniature street sweeper car leading a train full of clowns.

More low key — but always great fun — is the annual Horribles Parade on July 4, which serves to bring entire neighborhoods together.

Parades also proudly celebrate our men and women in service. Annual Memorial Day processions see participants decorating military graves, always starting with the last veteran to be buried each year. Many parade observers also join in the

town's unique tradition of buying fresh coconuts. The tradition is said to have been started by Mrs. Basso, who ran a fruit and vegetable market on Main Street. In 1951, George and Peter Dantos, owners of The Spa on Elm Street, reported selling 330 coconuts for 20 cents each.

Armistice Day (renamed Veterans Day in 1954) did not become an official national



Andover has celebrated important town anniversaries with a parade, like this one in 1946 for the 300th.

holiday until 1938. However, when the Armistice was signed in 1918, all the town bells rang out at 3:58 a.m. Phillips Academy students marched downtown in a torchlight parade at 5 a.m. and other parades began throughout the day.

Officially, Andover waited until September of the following year to greet its returning veterans and "to tie Andover's entire 8,000 citizens more closely together." That parade was called The Welcome Home Celebration and what a parade it was.

Among the attendees was Massachusetts Gov. Calvin Coolidge, who served as one

of the many speakers. At 7 a.m., the ringing of the bells began, "summoning every citizen, big and little, to march in the parade ... so that the full force of Andover's welcome would be felt by its sons and daughters returning from service."

Some 3,000 marchers responded to the call that proclaimed, "Let this occasion be Andover's greatest get-together!"

Andover is fortunate to have many reasons to celebrate, and parades have become an important part of these events. This holiday season, let us be thankful for each one.

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We are Bill and Leslie Ferris of Andover. We both grew up in this beautiful town. Being natives we have certainly seen all the changes Andover has gone through. From population to more businesses. We started our landscaping business in 1983. We felt the services were needed where there were not even close to enough companies to handle the work residents were requesting. I think there were maybe 3 or 4 other landscapers in town at the time. Today, the landscaping business has grown by leaps and bounds. In 1997 Bill and I purchased a franchise named Christmas Decor. We purchased it for a number of different reasons. One, we love Christmas, and two it was a great idea to keep our staff busy during our off months. Also, not too many people relish the idea of being out in the cold on ladders and roofs trying

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Sports

THE NEW NO. 1



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

Jessica Witten, seen here driving to the basket, led the Warriors with 18 points, including six 3-pointers, in Andover's season-opener last Friday against Lowell.

Witten embracing new role as Andover's go-to scorer

By DAVID WILLIS
dwillis@andovertownsmen.com

The outlook appeared dire for the Andover girls basketball team in its season opener, trailing by seven points with two minutes remaining against a gritty Lowell squad.

Then Jessica Witten spoke up. "Jessica didn't panic and called all the girls together," coach E.J. Perry said. "She said to them, 'This is how we play Andover basketball. This is how we take over a game.'"

With the game on the line, Witten then stepped on the court and delivered, knocking down a pair of 3-pointers — giving her six for the day — as the clock ticked down to turn the deficit to a lead and eventual Golden Warrior victory.

"It was such a blur," Witten said. "I was missing shots early, but I just kept shooting and they finally fell. I wanted to lead my team to victory, and I knew I had to step up and hit some shots. I know I have to be a leader and deliver in the clutch."

"In the past we have had Nicole Boudreaux and Devon Caveney. This year I have to lead my team."

That is the role Witten is now counted upon to fill.

After two seasons as a backup on the



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

Jessica Witten may be known for her shooting touch, but she isn't afraid to mix it up as well. Here, she and longtime teammate Rebecca Alois wrestle the ball away from an opponent during Hoops for Hope play.

powerhouse Andover basketball team, senior co-captain Witten is now taking on the role of go-to scorer for the Golden

Warriors for the 2013-14 season. It's the role most recently held by Boudreaux, the school's all-time leading scorer, and 1,000-point scorer Caveney.

"(Witten) came through Friday night and I know she will continue to come through this season," fellow co-captain Rebecca Alois. "She has big shoes to fill, but she is a terrific shooter and hard worker that will do anything that is needed to win a game."

After playing for the JV team as a freshman, Witten made the Andover High varsity squad for the first time two seasons ago, seeing limited time on the Golden Warrior squad that finished 27-0 and won their third straight Division 1 state title, led by Boudreaux and guard Ally Fazio.

"That was really an unbelievable experience," said Witten, who appeared in 20 games that season and scored 29 points. "Being able to win at the (TD) Garden, then win the title was just amazing. Watching Nicole and Ally and Devon play, I learned so much. I looked up to them."

"Nicole is such an amazing shooter. I love going to see her play at Boston College now. She taught me to just keep

See WITTEN, Page 17

Survival tips for a healthier holiday season

On Fitness

Art McDermott



People often treat the holiday season like a vacation — eating with reckless abandon and halting most workouts. Many people throw the usual health rules out the window, telling

themselves they will get back on track after the new year. However, it is a lot easier to follow some simple rules and not put on any extra pounds in the first place.

If you can put most of these survival tips in place (with thanks to colleague JJ Virgin for helping compile the list), then you will have much less work ahead of you in 2014:

Surviving the potluck. Bring your "friends," which are your favorite, healthy dishes. If you are the host, sneak in some healthy favorites, cleverly disguised as holiday fare (roasted winter vegetables, rosemary-crusting leg of lamb, smashed sweet potatoes), and no one will be the wiser if you keep quiet. If you are going out, it might help to eat a small snack beforehand — maybe 10 raw nuts or a hard-boiled egg, for example — so that you can control yourself in front of tempting treats. It's hard to be rational when you are starving.

Keep active during the holiday season. This is not the time to blow off the gym; this is the time to get a couple extra sessions in and take advantage of dancing at all the holiday parties.

Wear something snug around your waistline. A holiday party is no place to be wearing an elastic waistband.

No alcohol until after food. If you are going to have an alcoholic drink, save it for dessert so you won't be tempted to overindulge. You may find you don't even want it then. Have sparkling water with a slice of lime and fake it. Avoid any drink that has an umbrella in it. That is, beware of the sugary mixers and the liqueurs. Keep a glass of sparkling water in your right hand and a napkin in your left so you can't grab anything.

Engage an ally. Have a friend keep an eye on you and gently remind you if you are going over the edge.

Bust a move. In fact, bust a lot of moves. Keep active during the holiday season. This is not the time to blow off the gym; this is the time to get a couple extra sessions in and take advantage of dancing at all the holiday parties.

Know your numbers. Recognize what you are eating. A good rule of thumb is that most polite bites of the decadent fare are 100 calories each. You could easily eat your meal before you ever get to the table. My advice is to forget the appetizers altogether and wait for dinner. If you are making a dinner of the appetizers, follow the Three-Bite Rule and pick and choose from the healthiest offerings (shrimp, chicken skewers, vegetable crudites, etc.). And remember, never, ever eat while standing up.

Pick your shots. In a buffet situation, go with the healthy stuff first, and limit the decadent choices. If the decadent fare isn't worth it (and oftentimes it looks better than it is), get rid of it.

Everything counts. That means that everything you eat counts and everything you do counts. The message here is that if you blow it with a meal, it doesn't mean that the day is shot. Get yourself back together and recommit to healthy eating and sticking with your exercise program.

Write it down. Research shows that people who write down what they eat during the holidays stick with their program and don't add on any holiday pounds.

Follow the 90-percent rule. If you can stick to a nutrition and workout plan at least 90 percent of the time, you will succeed. Don't get frustrated if you "lapse." It is the length of the "lapse" that matters.

Art McDermott of Andover is the owner of Matrix Strength & Fitness in Wilmington as well as assistant track coach at Andover High School. A certified strength and conditioning specialist and certified nutritionist, he specializes in the testing and training of individuals ages 50 and older through his "Boomer Blueprint" service. Visit www.matrixstrength.com for more.

ON FITNESS WRITERS

The Townsman is seeking On Fitness columnists. Anyone interested in becoming a periodic contributor is encouraged to email townsman@andovertownsmen.com.

Giribaldi, boys basketball ace opener

BOYS BASKETBALL

Star junior David Giribaldi erupted for 27 points as Andover won its season-opener 61-49 over Lowell last Friday, Dec. 13. Fellow junior Connor Merinder added 10 points and 18 rebounds while freshman E.J. Perry IV chipped in with 12 points.

BOYS SWIMMING

Camin, relays dominate

Vince Camin won the 100 breaststroke (1:05.38) and swam on the winning 200 medley and 200 freestyle relay as Andover beat Belmont 95-86 last Friday. Eric Shi added a victory in the 500 freestyle and swam on the 200 medley and 400 freestyle relay and Nate Hamer took the 50 freestyle for the winner and swam on the 400 freestyle relay.

GIRLS HOCKEY

Alois keeps scoring

Veronica Alois continued her scoring ways from the fall with a goal and Caroline Curtin added the



FILE PHOTO

David Giribaldi, seen knocking down a shot last year, started his season in style with 27 points as the Golden Warriors boys basketball team kicked off their season with a win against Lowell.

on Monday. Sean Enright, Will Sauerbrunn and Brad Durling each added a goal, Matt Quercia had three assists, Cam Burton added two helpers and Pat Schena made 23 saves for the shutout.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Killer in the clutch

Trailing by seven points with 2:13 left, Andover delivered a massive comeback that Jessica Witten capped off with her sixth 3-pointer of the day, and Rebecca Alois clinched with a pair of free throws to give the Golden Warriors a 49-45 win last Friday.

Colleen Caveney cut the deficit to three with a layup, then Witten hit a 3-pointer, which she followed with another 3 to give the Golden Warriors the lead for good.

BOYS HOCKEY

Silk clinches win

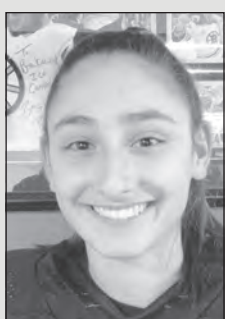
Conor Silk scored two goals and added an assist for Andover in a 5-0 victory over St. Peter Marian

WRESTLING

Warriors fall short

Andover opened its season by going 0-3 at the Battle of the Andovers tourney on Saturday.

Athletes of the Week



JACQUI LEONE
Sophomore
Girls hockey

Jacqui is a sophomore defenseman for the girls' hockey team who is noted for her tough, competitive approach to the game. Coach Liz Keady's comments: "She never wants to lose. She came to tryouts and rose to the occasion and will be a key player for us this year."



ANDREW SOUCY
Sophomore
Boys hockey

Andrew started out strong in Andover High's opener with Chelmsford High, getting an assist. But more importantly, he did his best work on defense, matched up against Chelmsford's top line for most of the game. Coach Mike Ciarletta: "He's only a sophomore, but Andrew is emerging as a key leader and we expect big things out of him this winter."

Winter Softball Clinic sign-ups set

The annual Andover High School Coach Steve Tisbert Winter Softball Clinic will begin Sunday, Jan. 5.

The clinic will be held on Jan. 5, Jan. 12, Jan. 19, Feb. 2 and Feb. 9 from noon to 2 p.m. at the Andover High School Field House.

It is open to players in kindergarten through freshman in high school and will be broken up into the following age brackets: U8, U10, U12, U14. A player's age bracket

is determined by their age effective Jan. 1, 2014.

Andover Girls Softball League is offering a \$25 discount to all players who sign up for both the winter skills clinic as well as spring softball.

The registration choices are:

For U10, U12 and U14 player: Skills Clinic, \$75; Spring Softball, \$150; Combined Skills/Spring Registration, \$200 (\$25 savings).

For U8 Players: Skills Clinic, \$75; Spring Softball, \$125; Combined Skills/Spring Registration, \$175 (\$25 savings).

The U8 league, formerly known as the Primary League, which had traditionally played in the summer, will now be played in spring beginning with the 2014 season.

To register, visit www.sportsmanager.us/RegistrationWizard.htm.

WITTEN: Andover senior scored career-high 18 points in recent game

Continued from Page 16

shooting. Even if I miss 10 3's in a row, the next is going in."

Witten saw increased court time last season, playing in 24 games and averaging 4.0 points, including 12 3-pointers.

"That built up a lot of confidence," she said. "The team encouraged me to shoot when I was in there, and that prepared me. Then, in the summer (Hoops for Hope) and fall league, I was able to hit some 3's and I really started to feel confident."

That confidence was shared by her teammates and coach.

"She came into this season knowing it was her team" said Perry, who won two state titles as boys coach in Salem, N.H. "She is a shooter and I love shooters. She can just shoot the rock. She hits her shots, especially in the clutch."

"But she is also a terrific leader. She is a senior that has seen it all. She has experienced a championship and she, along with Rebecca, have the ability to be amazing leaders."

Witten showed her abilities as both a leader and player on

Friday, scoring a career-high 18 points — her previous best was 11 last season — and knocking down a whopping six 3-pointers, matching Boudreau's single-game high during her senior season.

"It was just crazy," said Witten, who was recently accepted to High Point University in North Carolina. "When I am in the zone, I know I have to hit as many shots as I can as quick as I can. I push myself to keep shooting. It is a great feeling. I know I have to play like that and step up this season, not just in the big games but in every game."

Alois, her longtime teammate and friend, knows she will succeed. "I have been playing basketball with Jessica since the fifth grade when we won our in-town championship together," Alois said. "She is a knockdown shooter, but is also a tough rebounder and always has my back on defense. I have total confidence in her."

Change at the top

Witten's new role as No. 1 scorer isn't the only change for the Andover girls basketball team. The Golden Warriors are also breaking in a new coach in E.J. Perry.

Perry, the school's football and boys volleyball coach,

who takes over this winter after the retirement of long-time coach Jim Tildsley, who led Andover to four titles and 387 wins in 18 seasons.

"Coach Perry has been amazing so far," Witten said. "He really knows the game and knows what he is talking about. He is also very inspirational. We love coach Tildsley, but it is working out great so far with coach Perry."

GIRLS BASKETBALL

2012-13 season: 18-7, lost in Division 1 North semifinals

Returning starters: Rebecca Alois, 5-8, Sr., forward

Returning lettermen: Jessica Witten, 5-7, Sr., forward; Erin Nastari, 5-7, Sr., forward; Rachael Cormier, 5-5, Jr., guard; Colleen Caveney, 5-7, Jr., guard

Newcomers: Emily Connors, 5-7, Jr., forward; Aundrea Grieco, 5-7, Jr., forward; Paige Hartnett, 5-5, Jr., guard; Fatouma Kone, 5-10, Jr., center; Julia Perry, 5-4, Jr., guard; Carissa Reming, 5-5, Jr., point guard; Tori Roche, 5-4, Soph., guard; Meghan Stickney, 5-8, Soph., forward; Alyssa Casey, 5-10, Frosh., forward; Jillian Webber, 5-9, Frosh., forward

Captains: Rebecca Alois, Jessica Witten, Erin Nastari

Candidates: 60

Returning honorees: Rebecca Alois, MVC All-Star

Assistants: Christine Kuchar, Leo Lafond (JV), Kerri O'Dea (freshmen)

Vikings win Super Bowl



Courtesy photo

The Vikings won the 2013 Andover Junior Football League Super Bowl. The league, for grades four through seven, is more than a half-century old. The champions are, front, Jacob Birnbach, Matthew Ross and A.J. Clark; kneeling, Joe Hoar, Aiden Foley, Henry Prussman, Tyler Acheson, Tommy Savino, Mark Burgess, Aidan Ritter, James Mahoney, Owen Finn, Griffin Littlewood, Robbie Postal, Bobby Markus, Kyle Hackett, Kai Bryan, Patrick Currie, Sam Yanowitz; standing, Zach Grover, Michael Slayton, Tommy Duncan, Johnny Gemmell, Vincent Bono, Andrew Kennefick, Romano Duncan, Arthur Baillargeon, Shyan Koul, Ryan Dennehy, Andrew Postal, Charlie Baillargeon, Jackson DeSanto, Derek Silvestro; with coaches Ted Finn, Steve Savino, Rob Markus, Aaron Grover, Kevin Foley, Mike Littlewood, Mark Silvestro and John Hackett.

Brothers claim Jr. Black Belts

Kyle and Sean Vumbaco recently earned their Jr. Black Belts from The Self-Defense Institute in Tewksbury.

The achievement, which enters them in the National Black Belt Club, encompasses outstanding martial arts skills, academic excellence and community service contributions.

The boys began karate lessons in kindergarten and have trained many years for their Jr. Black Belts, attending classes twice a week as well as special Black Belt workshops. They also perform on the Self-Defense Institute's Team TSDI, which showcases karate/self-defense skills at fundraising and social events in



Courtesy photo

Brothers Sean Vumbaco, left, with his instructor Shihan Deb, and Kyle Vumbaco, with instructor Shihan Jeff, have both earned their Jr. Black Belts.

the Tewksbury area. Kyle is in the eighth grade

The brothers are the sons of Beth and John Vumbaco. and Sean in the sixth grade at Wood Hill Middle School.



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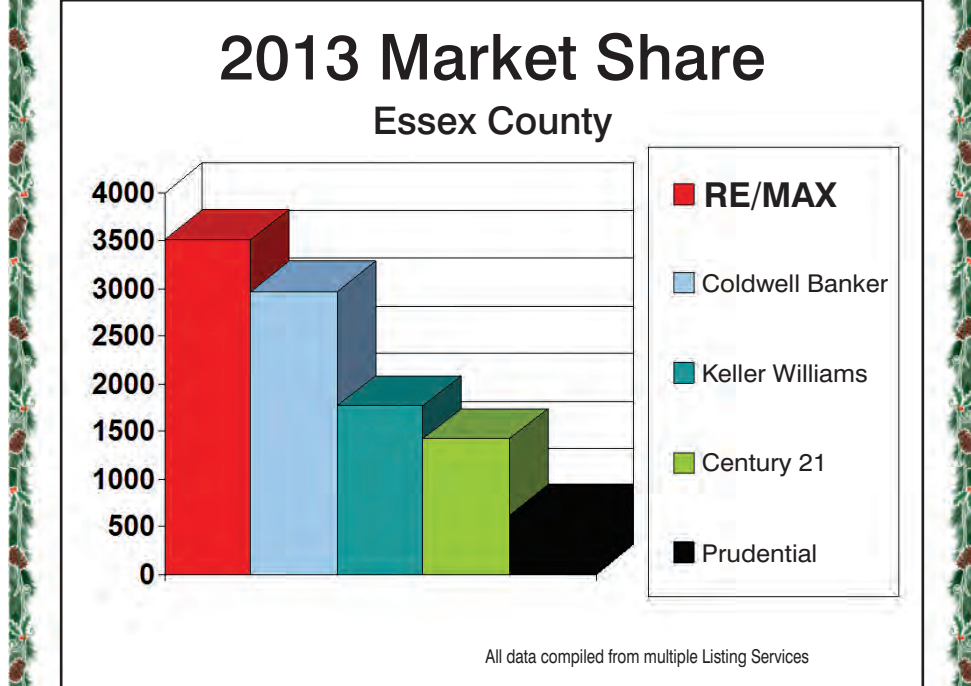
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Next Publication Date: **FRIDAY JAN. 31, 2014**
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