



TREE TIME ENTERS FINAL WEEKEND PAGE 9

SHARING THE GIFT OF READING PAGE 5



COMEAU SETS SIGHTS ON STATES PAGE 14

OUR 126TH YEAR

Andover Townsman

Issue No. 8

DECEMBER 26, 2013

75 CENTS

A bit of Andover 'Hustle'



Becki Dennis and her husband, Justin Buchman, pose at the New York Film Critics Series special screening of "American Hustle" on Dec. 9. David O. Russell, the award-winning director of the film, was in attendance for the screening.

Courtesy photos

Local actress scores screen time in Hollywood blockbuster

BY JUDY WAKEFIELD
jwakefield@andovertownsman.com

Becki Dennis herself will say it's a very small role.

But that small role just happens to have her sharing screen time with Academy Award nominee Amy Adams, not to mention credits with Hollywood heavyweights Bradley Cooper, Christian Bale and Jennifer Lawrence.

The Andover native plays a nanny named Rebecca in the just-released "American Hustle."

Viewers will spot Dennis about a half-hour into the movie pushing a child in a stroller while walking with Adams' character. Listen carefully and you'll hear Dennis talking at the top of the scene. While she said her



Becki Dennis, left, with Academy Award nominee Amy Adams, second from right, in a trailer for "American Hustle." While the scene did not make it into the film, Dennis appears on-screen with Adams in another scene in the movie.

See ACTRESS, Page 2

Toxic sludge case settled

Berberian wins \$500K award in contamination suit

BY DUSTIN LUCA
dluca@andovertownsman.com

The town has officially settled a lawsuit with Bancroft Road resident James Berberian, bringing an end to a toxic sludge case dating back to 2010.

Berberian stands to be paid \$500,000 in the settlement, finalized by a unanimous vote of the Board of Selectmen at an open meeting last Thursday, Dec. 19, according to Town Counsel Tom Urbelis.

As of last Friday, the agreement was signed by Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski and on its way to Joseph Wadland, the attorney representing Berberian in the case, according to selectmen Chairman Alex Vispoli.

Of the settlement amount, \$450,000 will be paid by the town, with \$50,000 coming from the engineering firm Pennoni Associates, which had done work on Berberian's 2-4 Bancroft Road property, according to Urbelis.

The settlement follows a similar agreement that ultimately fell apart in October. That agreement included a \$440,000 payment from the town and a contingency for a separate

See BERBERIAN, Page 3

Raagini hiring clause under review

Selectmen to revisit ban on underage female staffers

BY DUSTIN LUCA
dluca@andovertownsman.com

The Board of Selectmen is reconsidering a provision in an agreement that would have restricted an Indian restaurant in town from hiring women under the age of 21.

Selectmen earlier this month reached a deal with the owner of Raagini Indian Bistro, reducing what was originally a 30-day suspension of its liquor license to 10 days after the manager admitted to serving an underage girl alcohol after hours.

Among the provisions of the agreement, reached after Raagini appealed the 30-day suspension to the state Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission, is no woman under age 21 would work at Raagini while it had a liquor license.

But last week, selectmen Chairman Alex Vispoli said that he felt upon further consideration that the restriction is illegal, bringing the

See RAAGINI, Page 2

Post-holiday purge

Clear out the old at giveaway event

STAFF REPORTS

If your house is suffering from post-Christmas overload, the Andover Recycling Committee is here to help.

The committee is hosting a drive-through giveaway event to help people de-clutter and recycle on Saturday, Jan. 11, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Brickstone Square on York Street.

Clothing, kitchenware, kitchen and bath linens, toys, car seats and more will be accepted for donation to Goodwill and the Community Giving Tree, a Boxford-based organization that assists young families in need.

Only specific items will be accepted at the event and donated items should be in such condition that one would feel OK passing them on to a friend.

Community Giving Tree is specifically seeking high chairs, car seats, baby swings, safety gates, cribs, toddler beds, various toys like Legos and K'NEX, Little Tykes ride-ons, toy kitchens and workshops, puzzles, books and Barbie dolls. All donations will be passed directly on to families in need and should include all pieces intact so they're safe

See RECYCLING, Page 3

Police Chief Keefe working to install a drug drop box

BY BILL KIRK
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In response to an outcry at a recent forum on teen drug abuse, Police Chief Pat Keefe is working to install a prescription medication drop box at the Public Safety Center

within the next month so residents can throw away pills that might otherwise get into

the wrong hands.

More than 200 residents attending a forum last month on teen substance abuse and the recent scourge of drugs, including prescription medications and heroin, sweeping through affluent suburbs like Andover, urged the town to put a drop box in place.

Keefe, who was on hand for the forum in Old Town Hall, vowed to get one installed as soon as possible.

See CHIEF, Page 2

Santa visits Andover



A group of children pose with Santa at Saturday's weekly coffee hour at Old Town Hall. See more, page 3.

RYAN HUTTON/
Staff photo

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Youths call for action on prescription drugs

Editor's Note: A group of students at Doherty Middle School are speaking out about teen drug use and abuse in town.

Following The Townsman's coverage of last month's forum on substance use among youths, students in Cheryl Todisco's health class discussed the issue and what could be done to combat the growing problem.

Todisco says seven of her eighth-graders elected to take the discussion one step further, writing an opinion piece for The Townsman that offers their thoughts on the battle against medication misuse and abuse in Andover. Their piece, which has won the support of Doherty Principal Robin Wilson, was penned before this week's news that Police Chief Patrick Keefe is actively pursuing the installation of a prescription drug drop box in town.

■ ■ ■
We were compelled to write after reading the report of the recent drug forum in Andover. First, we would like to thank Andover Youth Services for beginning the difficult, but necessary discussion on prescription drug misuse and abuse in our town.

The forum led us to question, "What actions can be taken to combat the growing issue of prescription drug misuse and abuse in our community?" As we researched solutions to this problem, we found that many neighboring communities have implemented kiosks for safe and legal disposal of prescription drugs as well as narcotics, over-the-counter drugs, painkillers and vitamins. The disposal of these

chemical compounds is necessary to a growing society, but disposing of them in the wrong way can be just as bad. When people flush pills down their toilets or pour liquid medicine down the sink, it can contaminate groundwater and affect the ecosystem. Prescription drug drop boxes are the only feasible alternative to these harmful methods of disposal.

It is imperative to respond to the dramatic increase in the misuse and abuse of prescription medications. Having these drugs lying around the house was not previously a public health problem. However, as the Centers for Disease Control reports, "The death toll from overdoses of prescription painkillers has more than tripled in the past decade. Overdoses involving prescription painkillers are at epidemic levels and now kill more Americans than heroin and cocaine combined." The Partnership at Drug Free.Org states that "every day, 2,000 teens use a prescription drug to get high for the first time."

Drug addiction doesn't discriminate; it crosses social, economic, and cultural boundaries. Even here in Andover, a peaceful suburb, three teens have died from overdoses that may have involved prescription painkiller abuse. Prescription painkillers are like a stepping stone to harsher, more damaging drugs. The time for action is now before more lives are lost, before more families are devastated.

But how do we know that prescription drug drop boxes will help solve our problem? To find out, we

spoke with Jennifer Welch, Tewksbury safety officer, who was instrumental in bringing a drop box to her community. In the course of a year, Tewksbury collects more than 160 pounds of over-the-counter drugs and prescription medications. Ms. Welch walked us through the step-by-step process of acquiring a lock box:

First, the Andover Police Department needs to develop a specific plan detailing the logistics of a drop box operation.

Next, the Police Department needs to write a memorandum to the Drug Enforcement Agency that includes that plan and apply for permission to install a drop-off box.

Then, the Police Department needs to acquire a waiver for the disposal of hazardous wastes from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

Finally, the cost of the actual box and its installation (approximately \$1,000) would need to be paid by the community. Once in place, the drop box would have to be constantly monitored by the Andover Police Department via audio and video recordings. In addition, a designated evidence office must document and photograph all medication in the box.

We understand that the investments to acquire and maintain a drop box are very significant, and that the Police Department already has a lot to deal with each day. We are also very grateful for the department's unwavering commitment to keep our community safe. Therefore,

we must join forces, citizens and safety professionals alike, to address the rising misuse of medication.

Andover is a smart, concerned community that has the resources and vision to understand the positive impacts of a medication drop box. In the big picture, adding a drop box to our town will be worth infinitely more than the time and money we will spend to get one, for the value of a human life has no price tag.

But remember, this isn't all up to the Police Department. The citizens of Andover must do their part and dispose of their own prescription drugs in a timely manner, perhaps in neighboring drop box kiosks. It takes one trip to the box to ensure the safety and health of the people around you. Even now, before we receive our box, even if we don't get a box, we explore you to do your share and help keep our town safe. Please be certain that your medications are always locked away in a place where children, grandchildren, friends, other loved ones and visitors can't get them.

The time to act is now. We must respond to the concerns voiced at the town drug forum. Together, as a community, we can do our part to keep Andover safe and tackle the growing problem of prescription drug abuse.

**GRADE 8 HEALTH STUDENTS
DOHERTY MIDDLE SCHOOL
RYAN GIGGEY
NATHAN GOLDTHWAITE
WILLIAM HAMILTON
PHILIP LEBLANC
JOHN MAROTTA
JILLIAN POWERS
JACLYN ROMANO**

CHIEF: Seeks to install a drug dropoff box

■ Continued from Page 1

"We want to service the community the best we can," he said. "There's a need for it, so we will see what we can do."

Experts have found that along with marijuana and alcohol, prescription drugs found in medicine cabinets are among the leading causes of long-term addiction problems. Several speakers at last month's forum said their children started with marijuana and booze and graduated to prescription drugs and heroin.

Police Sgt. Greg Scott said it is a pattern he has seen many times. He and others at the forum urged parents to remove expired prescription drugs from their medicine cabinets and dispose of them safely and securely.

But flushing the pills down the toilet is considered harmful to the environment and there is concern with tossing them in the trash. So the federal Drug Enforcement Agency and other law enforcement agencies in recent years have held drug take-back programs. The federal one is offered twice a year.

Some communities, including North Andover and Tewksbury, have gone a step further, installing drop boxes in their police station lobbies to make it easier for residents to dispose of drugs at any time. The boxes resemble postal service mailboxes found on sidewalks and are often available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Lt. Charles Gray of the North Andover Police Department said his town

purchased a drop box a couple years ago for a relatively low price and the service is working well.

"It's full now," he said recently. "We have to empty it again. It's a good resource to get rid of medications."

The boxes accept all types of drugs, with the only restrictions being liquids and needles. Communities then must comply with state Department of Public Health rules on disposal of the medications, something Keefe said he has been researching.

"We can hold onto them until the next DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency) drop-off or, depending on how much we get, take it to the state and get it destroyed," he said. "It depends on the volume we get. If we get increased volume, we'll change what we do."

Once purchased, Andover's drop box would be available at the police station and maintained by the department.

Calling it a positive forum, Keefe said last month's drug program was a good way for people to learn about substance abuse problems in town.

"I'm sure it was eye-opening for a lot of people," he said. "People are getting educated on trends and what to look for."

Keefe hopes to work with Andover Youth Services, which co-sponsored last month's event, and other groups in offering a week-long drug awareness education program next year.

"It (the drug problem) has been a little worse than it's been," he said. "We need to jump in as quick as we can."

ACTRESS: Shares screen with Hollywood stars in film 'American Hustle'

■ Continued from Page 1

more substantive lines didn't make the final cut, her face certainly did.

The 2003 Andover High School graduate also scores an appearance in one of the trailers for the film. Although the scene did not make it into the final footage, it lives on in the previews.

"It was just so much fun to be part of (the movie)," she

said.

Dennis learned about the opportunity for screen time with "American Hustle" through her company, Talent Tools. The business, which offers marketing tools and services, such as demo reels, resumes, websites, taped auditions and more, to actors has allowed her to become well-connected with the film industry in Boston. From there, she eventually landed the part.

She did five scenes in all with Adams when the movie was shot around Boston last year, with her parts filming on location in Malden and Melrose.

Susan Choquette, her former acting teacher and director who is chairwoman of the Drama Department at Andover High, is thrilled with Dennis' success.

"She has really carved out a great career for herself here

in the Boston area as an actor and a talent professional," Choquette wrote in an email.

Dennis played Madame Thenardier in a production of "Les Miserables" in Andover with Choquette. She went on to major in theater at Point Park University in Pittsburgh.

"She is a fabulous dancer and choreographer and has choreographed a number of shows for me here at the high school including 'A Chorus Line' and

'Rent,'" wrote Choquette, who said she was excited to see her former student in "American Hustle." "She is very gifted and is incredibly motivated."

Dennis also does television commercial work. She was recently featured in a commercial for the Massachusetts Health Connector.

But it's movie reviews that have her talking the most these days. "American Hustle" has already scored seven Golden

Globe nominations and is generating lots of Oscar buzz.

Dennis and her husband, Justin Buchman, went to the New York Film Critics Series special screening of "American Hustle" on Dec. 9. They walked the red carpet ahead of the film's award-winning director, David O. Russell.

"That was very exciting," she said. "People should see 'American Hustle.' It's really good and well worth seeing."

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

RAAGINI: Selectmen to revisit hiring clause

■ Continued from Page 1

enforceability of the entire agreement into question.

Selectmen will meet next Tuesday, Dec. 31, at 8:30 a.m. to discuss amending the settlement and striking that clause from it.

The issue of the enforceability of the hiring restriction on women under 21 first surfaced at the Monday, Dec. 16 selectmen's meeting as the board considered renewing Raagini's annual liquor license.

The first vote on the renewal fell dead after Vispoli and Selectman Dan Kowalski abstained and the

"Removing that one provision from the agreement, I have absolutely no problems or concerns with the approval of the liquor license."

Selectman Dan Kowalski

measure failed to win majority approval. Selectmen Brian Major and Mary Lyman were in favor; Selectman Paul Salafia was opposed.

In abstaining, Kowalski cited a missing piece of information. Vispoli later changed his vote to one in favor so the license could be renewed, but not before saying he had a question about "the enforceability of the agreement" on the license suspension.

At the board's next meeting last Thursday, Dec. 19, Vispoli said he felt after reviewing the agreement that the provision prohibiting the hiring of women under 21 is "discriminatory." He added that the language surrounding the restriction was included in the agreement by the restaurant. "It wasn't something that the board put in,"

he said.

Vispoli then asked the board to consider removing it "because of the unenforceability and illegality of it from a discriminatory standpoint." A vote was delayed until Dec. 31 to allow the restaurant to be notified.

Town Counsel Tom Urbelis agreed with the unenforceable nature of the provision.

"If a female, who has standing under the age of 21, were to file a lawsuit challenging that provision against the town and against Raagini, in my opinion, that clause would be found to be unenforceable," Urbelis said. "It would be a violation, among other things, of the Massachusetts equal rights amendment."

Kowalski said that he didn't feel comfortable taking a position on the license

renewal at the Dec. 16 meeting with that provision included in the agreement.

"Removing that one provision from the agreement, I have absolutely no problems or concerns with the approval of the liquor license," Kowalski said.

Selectman Brian Major said the board's major concern "was the protection of the youth. With the other parts of the agreement, there are a number of different actions that are still there, that do continue to add protections for our youth, our citizens."

The initial suspension agreement was unanimously approved by the Board of Selectmen on Dec. 9. Kowalski made the only comment about the hiring provision prior to that vote, pledging support for it. He told a restaurant employee that he "liked your recommendation that you not employ females under the age of 21, and I agree with the board's agreement to your recommendation."

In hindsight, Kowalski admitted that his comments "came out the wrong way."

"I thought about it after, and thought I said the wrong thing. The wrong words came out," Kowalski said. "I was trying to get on public record that it was the applicant's proposal, and that he made the suggestion."

In the days following, Kowalski raised the issue with Vispoli and Town Manager Buzz Stapeczynski. He told them he felt uncomfortable with the restriction on hiring women under 21, he said.

Other provisions in the 10-day license suspension settlement include that Jaspreet Pabla resign as manager and work under limited hours until July 1, that all employees complete alcohol over-serving training yearly, and that the restaurant be on probation until Jan. 2, 2015. The 10-day license suspension will be served starting Jan. 2.

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Spreading holiday cheer



Bunny Downs poses with Santa and his elf, Brenda Afshin, during last Saturday's weekly coffee hour at Old Town Hall in Andover.

RYAN HUTTON/ Staff photo

BERBERIAN: Resident wins \$500K award in toxic sludge lawsuit

Continued from Page 1

agreement from Pennoni. Other changes to the agreement from the previous one amount to rephrasing of some wording, Urbelisi said.

The agreement is not yet available to the public. Wadland couldn't be reached for comment after multiple attempts. Berberian also couldn't be reached for comment.

The case began in November 2010, when Water Department employees were cleaning out the 6 million-gallon water storage tank at Bancroft School as part of routine maintenance on the water system.

However, town workers were videotaped by Berberian dumping dark-colored water into leaking trucks and into a nearby storm drain. That drain flowed down Bancroft Road and onto Berberian's property at the corner of South Main Street.

The brownish water contained dark sediment, which ended up settling in a wetland on Berberian's property. When that sediment was tested, it showed high levels of toxic metals, including arsenic, cadmium and nickel, among others.

The town attempted to clean up Berberian's property,

The town attempted to clean up Berberian's property, but he claimed that some sediment remained. In February 2012, he sued the town in federal court over what he said was a violation of the federal Clean Water Act for discharging contaminated water into a wetland.

but he claimed that some sediment remained. In February 2012, he sued the town in federal court over what he said was a violation of the federal Clean Water Act for discharging contaminated water into a wetland.

Following months of closed-door meetings, the Board of Selectmen voted in August to accept the earlier settlement agreement. But by the end of the month, with a counterproposal filed by Berberian, it appeared the agreement was in jeopardy "through no fault of either party," Wadland said at the time.

RECYCLING: Giveaway event will be held Jan. 11

Continued from Page 1

HOLIDAY RECYCLING GUIDE

Unsured of what you can and can't recycle this holiday season? Refer to this handy guide, provided by the Andover Recycling Committee.

RECYCLABLE CURBSIDE

Gift wrap, tissue paper, greeting cards, envelopes, gift boxes and paper gift bags. Items with anything metallic or fuzzy are not recyclable.

NOT RECYCLABLE CURBSIDE

These materials cannot be recycled curbside because they either jam the equipment at the single-stream recycling plants, are impossible to segregate or have other restrictions. However, they can be recycled elsewhere:

Bubble wrap, air pillows, plastic wrap and plastic bags: They can be brought to any plastic bag recycling bin at local grocery stores. Once segregated in these bins, the material can be fully recovered and recycled.

No. 6 white block foam, expanded Polystyrene or Styrofoam: The foam is often collected at special recycling events, like the Jan. 11 Post-Holiday Drive-Through or Zero Waste Day.

Holiday light strings: Lights can be recycled at electronics and/or scrap metal collection events such as the annual Zero Waste Day event on May 3.

Ribbons, bows and tinsel: Save and reuse if possible, but otherwise, these items simply go in the trash.

to share.

The event marks the first endeavor for Community Giving Tree's new social enterprise, "Twice Loved Toy Sales."

The venture aims to resell the items during "pop-up sales" around the North Shore and Merrimack Valley, with proceeds going to support the organization's mission.

Items sought by Goodwill include clothing and shoes of all sizes, bed and bath linens, small kitchen appliances and other kitchen items like utensils, plates, cups and cookware; books, CDs, records

and other media; and home decor and pictures.

Batteries and Styrofoam bearing a recycling triangle with the number 6 can also be dropped off at the event.

For a complete list of items being accepted, contact Bill Labelle at Goodwill at blabelle@goodwillmass.org, Leslie Levenson at Community Giving Tree at leslie@communitygivingtree.org or Eleanor Storch at Andover Recycling at eleonorstorch@verizon.net.

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Norwell man sent to state prison after child rape, enticement plea

By JILL HARMACINSKI
 Staff writer

A Norwell man will spend the next two to three years in state prison after pleading guilty Monday to the rape and enticement of an Andover child this fall.

The victim, a 14-year-old boy, worked with Andover police to apprehend Andrew Whittaker, 50, of 62 Brantwood Road, in October.

In a plea agreement negotiated by prosecutor Kristen Buxton, Whittaker pleaded guilty to rape of a child and enticing a child under age 16

in Salem Superior Court.

He was sentenced to two to three years in state prison followed by five years probation, said Carrie Kimball-Monahan, spokeswoman for District Attorney Jonathan Blodgett.

During his five years probation, Whittaker must stay away and have no contact with the victim, have no unsupervised contact with children under age 16, be monitored by a GPS bracelet, complete sex offender treatment and register as a sex offender, Kimball-Monahan said.

Whittaker was arrested around 1 p.m. on Saturday Oct. 5, as he drove on High Street, en route to meet the victim, according to Andover police.

Police used the victim to arrange a meeting and bring Whittaker to Andover after they were alerted to a previous encounter between them. Whittaker and the victim had met in September in a hotel in the River Road area of Andover, police said.

Police Lt. Edward Guy said they were able to get Whittaker to return to Andover with the "belief there

was going to be another encounter."

Whittaker was held without bail in Middleton Jail following his arrest. He started his state prison sentence yesterday, Kimball-Monahan said.

Aside from details related to his arrest, little information on the case was released publicly. Court documents were also impounded when Whittaker was arraigned in October.

Apart from minor, motor vehicle-related offenses, Whittaker had a clean criminal record, police said previously.

Charter school comment deadline nears

Those who want to weigh in on the STEAM Studio charter school proposal in town have only a few days left to do so.

Written comments on the proposed STEAM Studio,

led in part by School Committee member David Birnbach, will be accepted by the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education until next Friday, Jan. 3. Comments submitted

as part of this process will be considered testimony on the proposal.

Comments may be mailed to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education,

c/o Charter School Office, 75 Pleasant St., Malden 02148 or emailed to charterschools@doe.mass.edu.

The state will announce its charter school awards by the end of February.

Selectmen approve capital plan 'in principle'

By DUSTIN LUCA
dluca@andovertownsmen.com

The Board of Selectmen last week gave Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski's five-year capital improvement plan a green light, "funding permitting."

Stapczynski's latest plan recommends just over \$9 million in projects ranging from

school improvements to vehicle purchases as well as engineering for future projects. It will now go before Town Meeting in May for approval.

The plan has raised concerns with school and finance officials, with several calling for restraint as large, projects requiring tax hikes loom on the horizon.

Selectmen approved the plan unanimously with the understanding that various projects would move forward "as funding allows."

Stapczynski called the selectmen's vote to adopt the plan "in principle" one step in the process.

During the discussion, Selectman Dan Kowalski said

he'd like to see town administration considering improvements to all town and school buildings in the same category instead of two distinct areas.

"It just seems more logical to me that we'd want to try to look at all our facilities and prioritize improvements at the building level," Kowalski said.

POLICE LOG

COMPILED BY DUSTIN LUCA

Driver injured, cited after accident with plow truck

A 22-year-old Boxboro woman was injured and issued a court summons after failing to yield to a plow truck in an accident Monday, Dec. 16 at 1:53 p.m. at 10 Ballardvale Road by the intersection of Sunset Rock Road.

Police Commander Charles Heseltine said the woman's vehicle "was struck by a truck that had a plow on it." He said investigating police determined the "plow truck had the right of way, she cut in front of him, he was unable to stop and ended up hitting her."

The female driver, who was bleeding from the head, was sent to Lawrence General Hospital, Heseltine said. After the crash, police issued a court summons against her for failing to yield at an intersection, he said.

The identity of both the Boxboro woman and the driver of the plow truck weren't available due to the medical nature of the accident, according to Heseltine.

The following items were taken from Andover police logs from Monday, Dec. 16 to Sunday, Dec. 22:

ARRESTS

Monday, Dec. 16 - At 1:11 p.m., Daniela Lopez, 23, of 119 Dracut St., Lawrence, was arrested on River Road and charged on a warrant.

Tuesday, Dec. 17 - At 10:19 a.m., James Mezzetti, 28, of 67 Lowell St., Methuen, was arrested on High Street and charged on a warrant.

Wednesday, Dec. 18 - At 10:28 a.m., Ryan Asoian, 23, of 107 Chestnut St., Andover, was placed into police custody at his home on a warrant of apprehension.

Thursday, Dec. 19 - At 12:51 p.m., Damon Beckerman, 19, of 8 Old South Lane, Andover was arrested at his home and charged on a warrant.

At 4:56 p.m., Robert Conneaney, 20, of 26 Tyler St., Methuen, was arrested on Punchard Avenue and charged on a warrant.

At 10:08 p.m., Charles Tedeschi, 38, of 23 Greenwood Road, Andover, was arrested at his home and charged with assault and battery on a household member.

Friday, Dec. 20 - At 3:17 a.m., Jose Colon, 40, of 311 Lowell St., Andover, was arrested on River Road and charged with a marked lanes violation and operating under the influence of liquor.

At 4:03 p.m., Stephen Chote, 32, of 1 Ames Hill Drive, Tewksbury, was arrested on Lowell Street and charged on a warrant.

At 8:31 p.m., Adrian Gilbert, 29, of 700 Bullfinch Drive, Apt. 214, Andover, was arrested at his home and charged with assault and battery on a household member.

Saturday, Dec. 21 - At 11:48 a.m., Timothy Brady, 25, of 5 Christine Drive, Wilmington, was arrested on North Main Street and charged with possession of a class A drug.

At 9:46 p.m., Alfonso Medina, 20, of 44 Ames St., Lawrence, was arrested on North Main Street and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, a miscellaneous motor vehicle equipment violation and on a warrant.

THEFTS

Wednesday, Dec. 18 - At 8:08 p.m., a jewelry box was reported stolen on Hardin Street.

At 8:46 p.m., a package was reported stolen on Lillian Terrace.

Sunday, Dec. 22 - At 8:27 a.m., a phone was reported stolen on Brookside Drive.

INCIDENTS

Monday, Dec. 16 - At 2:57 p.m., an assault was reported on River Road.

Tuesday, Dec. 17 - At 11:48 a.m., illegal dumping was reported on Hidden Way.

Thursday, Dec. 19 - At 3:34 p.m., a bus driver reported that "kids were throwing ice and snow at vehicles" on Lowell Street.

At 4:23 p.m., an assault was reported on Bartlet Street.

At 6:53 p.m., vandalism to a motor vehicle involving a smashed window was reported on Lovejoy Road.

Friday, Dec. 20 - At 3:46 p.m., trespassing was reported on River Road.

ACCIDENTS

Monday, Dec. 16 - At 10:16 a.m., a hit-and-run crash involving a tow truck was reported on Andover Street.

At 3:29 p.m., a hit-and-run crash was reported on Main Street.

At 5:58 p.m., a three-car crash requiring one tow was reported on Lowell Street.

Tuesday, Dec. 17 - At 1:55 p.m., a two-car crash requiring one tow was reported on North Main Street.

At 6:41 p.m., police were called to a crash involving a vehicle that slid into an unoccupied vehicle on Shawshen Road. The unoccupied vehicle was towed from the scene.

Wednesday, Dec. 18 - At 8:08 a.m., a Park Street resident reported that his car was hit by a plow overnight.

At 4:03 p.m., a hit-and-run crash was reported on Andover Street.

At 5:51 p.m., an accident involving personal injury and requiring one tow was reported on North Main Street.

Thursday, Dec. 19 - At 7:39 p.m., a two-car crash requiring both cars to be towed was reported on Shattuck Road.

Friday, Dec. 20 - At 7:17 a.m., a hit-and-run crash was reported on Stowe Court.

At 3:22 p.m., a two-car crash was reported on North Street. One of the cars involved required a response from AAA.

Saturday, Dec. 21 - At 2:58 a.m., a hit-and-run crash was reported on Burnham Road.

OBITUARIES

Kathleen Turnbull, 80

November 8, 1933 — December 18, 2013

ANDOVER — Kathleen (Keane) Turnbull, 80, of Andover passed away peacefully on Wednesday, December 18, 2013, at Wingate of Andover with her family by her side. She was a beloved mother, grandmother, and friend.

Kathleen was born in Boston and was the daughter of the late Jack and Ruth O'Connell.

She was raised and educated in Arlington, Mass., and was a graduate of Arlington High School. She later married and raised her family in Reading, Mass.

Kathleen worked for many years in administration at Analog Devices in Wilmington, Mass.

Kathleen is survived by her children, Donna Jorgerson and her husband, Jerry of Milford, N.H., Sandra Kelly and her husband, Daniel of Andover, David Turnbull and his wife, Catharine of Washington, D.C.; her five grandchildren,

Michael LeVeille of Milford, N.H., Emily, John, and Sarah Kelly of Andover, and Patrick Turnbull of Washington, D.C.; her sister, Margaret Wynne of Middleborough, Mass.; and



several nieces and nephews. Kathleen was predeceased by her son, Robert Turnbull, and sisters, Mary Duggan and Helen DeLuca

ARRANGEMENTS: Visiting hours were held Friday, Dec. 20, at Cataudella Funeral Home, 126 Pleasant Valley St., Methuen. Her Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Saturday, Dec. 21, at St. Augustine's Church, 43 Essex St., Andover. Burial followed at St. Augustine's Cemetery.

For online condolences, visit www.cataudellafh.com.

Janet Yedinak, 56

March 19, 1957 — December 8, 2013

WESTFORD, MA — Janet Yedinak, 56, of Westford, passed away on the morning of December 8 surrounded by her friends and family. She dedicated her life to those around her, from her husband, Stephen and her children, Kate and Michael, to the countless children and families whose lives she changed as a social worker in the Andover public school system. She leaves behind a lifetime of joy and meaning, which will continue to be celebrated by her mother, five siblings and immediate family. In lieu of flowers, please consider what she taught so many, to live life with empathy and compassion and an ever-present smile. A memorial service will be arranged by her family and Andover Public Schools in the new year. For service infor-



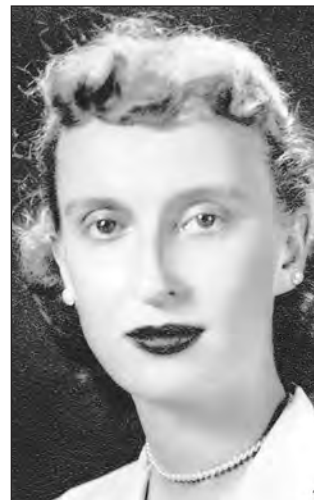
mation and online guestbook, please visit online Memorial at www.HealyFuneralHome.com. JA Healy Sons, 57 N. Main St., Westford, MA 01886. 978-692-6502.

Cathleen Elmer

FLORESVILLE, TX — Cathleen (Burns) Elmer passed away on December 11, 2013. She was born in Andover, Mass., and educated at Abbot Academy, from which she graduated cum laude. An honor graduate of Smith College (A.B. in English) and Boston University (A.M. in English), she taught English, dramatics and Spanish for eight years in Massachusetts and Connecticut secondary schools. After World War II, she entered a national writing-editing contest sponsored by Mademoiselle magazine. Informed by the magazine in 1947 that she was one of the contest's "top and best" finalists, she left teaching for New York and a job as staff writer-editor at Scholastic Magazines. She returned to Boston in 1952 to assume a dual editorial and management role as Assistant to the Editor of Massachusetts Physician, and as Executive Secretary of the Norfolk District of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

In 1953, she married William Elmer, an internationally noted engineer and inventor. Their son, Edward, was born in 1958, and Mrs. Elmer turned to free-lancing at home, first, as a writer-editor for Ginn and Company and Houghton Mifflin; later, as a book reviewer for the New York Times, the Boston Herald and Herald American, the Baltimore Sun, and The Washington Times. Over the years, she contributed articles and short fiction to Mademoiselle, Seventeen, Ingenue and American Mercury.

A younger sister of the late World War II novelist John Home Burns (The Gallery), Mrs. Elmer was perfectionist,



who wrote and rewrote, often against stringent editorial and journalistic deadlines and uncompromising space limitations. When editors or agents she worked with had occasion to characterize her work, they spoke of her "total professionalism" or called her "a born writer" with "very real talent and ability."

Mrs. Elmer was a zestful, year-round lap-swimmer well into her 70's. She was preceded in death by her husband, William. She leaves a son, Dr. Edward B. Elmer, an orthopaedic surgeon practicing in Texas and his wife, Dr. Laura M. Elmer; six grandchildren, Michael, Katherine, Mark, Sarah, Matthew and Marshall Elmer; two sisters and one brother, Anne M. Laskey of Meredith, N.H., Constance Silverman of Sharon, Conn., and Attorney Thomas D. Burns of Boston.

ARRANGEMENTS: Services will be private with cremation to follow in New Hampshire. The family asks that expressions of sympathy or remembrance be in the form of contributions to Boston University's Mugar Memorial Library, the repository of Mrs. Elmer's papers.

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Obituaries in the Andover Townsman are paid notices.

To place an obituary, please visit andovertownsmen.com/submitobit.
 Call 1-800-681-6248 if you have any questions.

Education



From left, Lt. William Loehr and firefighters Scott Weightman and John Senee of Engine 2, Ballardvale Station read "Stormy's Hat" by Eric Kimmel at South Elementary School.

Fifth-graders lift 'spirits' for typhoon victims

High Plain Elementary School fifth-graders Kendall Hyslip and Katie Allen recently stepped forward to help others in a big way by raising funds for the victims of this fall's typhoon in the Philippines.

The girls decided to get their entire school involved in their mission. With the backing of Principal Pamela Lathop and their teacher, Nicole Brezinski, they organized a Spirit Day in which students would wear mismatched clothes to school and donate what they could to the effort.

The girls worked hard to promote the event, making announcements over the loud speaker, hanging posters around the school and creating fliers to go home to parents. Their efforts paid off when a majority of students and staff proudly donned mismatched clothes on the big day and offered donations.



Courtesy photo

High Plain Elementary School classmates Kendall Hyslip, left, and Katie Allen raised \$2,000 through a school Spirit Day to aid the victims of last month's typhoon in the Philippines.

In the end, the girls raised \$2,000, which was sent to the Red Cross Relief Fund to benefit those in need in the Philippines.

Sharing the gift of reading

Community readers offer up their favorite books

All across town last month, firefighters, police officers, business leaders, community volunteers, town officials and others stepped out of their daily roles to become storytellers for a day as part of the League of Women Voters' 19th Community Read-Along.

The community readers visited classrooms in several schools to share information about their jobs, volunteer

experiences or hobbies and talk about the importance of books and reading in their lives.

Volunteers at each school began organizing the Community Read-Along in September, scheduling readers and often preparing a brief reception at which the volunteers exchanged stories about the books they selected to share with the children.



Elaine Schofield showcases one of the books from her pop-up collection to a fifth-grade class at South Elementary School.



Students at St. Augustine School welcome Katherine Urquhart, director of the Center at Punchard, to the Community Read-Along.

Christen Hazel, associate director for the office of advancement at Pike School in Andover, reads to Kelly Stojanowski's third-grade class at South Elementary School.



NECC president to discuss higher education trends

Northern Essex Community College President Lane Glenn will discuss "Top Ten Trends in Higher Education: How Do We Prepare Students for Careers & Life" in a presentation to Quota International of Andover on Tuesday, Jan. 7, at 7 p.m. at Memorial Hall Library, 2 North Main St., Andover.



Lane Glenn

skills and highlight the different types of colleges from public to private non-profits and for-profits as well as other trends in

Glenn says that by the year 2018, 68 percent of Massachusetts' jobs will require postsecondary education. Today, only 50 percent of the state's 3.5 million working-age adults hold at least a two-year degree.

He will share his ideas on how more local residents can receive a college education. He will discuss ways to control the spiraling cost of college and rising student debt, how higher education can partner with employers to be sure students graduate with marketable

higher education.

This is the third year that Quota of Andover is hosting a free guest speaker open to the public. Quota International of Andover is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing financial support, time and resources to help meet the needs of disadvantaged women and children and to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing in the Merrimack Valley.

For more information on the event, contact Marie Flynn at mhflynn.net@gmail.com.

LOCAL SCHOLARS

George Apostle, son of Marizela Klebe of Andover and John Apostle of North Billerica, achieved honors for the first marking period at Belmont Hill School in Belmont. He is a senior at the school.

Four Andover residents were recognized at Middlesex School in Concord's annual fall academic assembly for having earned honors averages between 85 and 89.9 percent. They are seniors Max Novick, son of David and Susie Novick, and Will Scott, son of Karen Darby Scott and David Kloss; junior Harrison Markell, son of Cliff and Ronna Markell; and sophomore Matt Daly, son of Bob and Nancy Daly.

Several Andover students have been named to the honor roll at Lawrence Academy in Groton for the fall 2013 trimester. Receiving high honors were Laura Adie, senior; Hannah Currie, junior; and Sarah Wright, senior. Receiving honors were Gabriella DiVincenzo, Alex Munick and Madeleine Thero, juniors; Emma Horn, Emily Pisacreta and Benjamin Purtell, sophomores; and Katherine Burns, Jonathan Coombs, Benjamin Munick and Laura Marie Zavri, freshmen.

John Miller, Michael Miller, Mia Edelson and Benzi Edelson were named to the fall honor roll at the Loomis Chaffee School in Windsor, Conn.

Sixth-grader organizes successful food drive



Nicholas Martin, a sixth-grader at Wood Hill Middle School in Andover, has done his part to help those in need this holiday season, organizing a successful food drive at school to benefit Cor Unum Meal Center in Lawrence. A few bags of food dropped off the first day quickly turned into a small mountain of donations in the school lobby, with Wood Hill families and staff proudly donating 500 nonperishable food items to the effort. "I wanted to help make sure everyone had a tasty meal for the holidays," Nicholas said.

Courtesy photo

ST. JOHN'S PREP HONOR ROLL

The following Andover students were named to the honor roll for the first quarter at St. John's Prep in Danvers. Students who qualified for the Headmaster's List earned grades of A- or above in all courses, students who qualified for the Principal's List earned grades of B-plus or above in all courses, and students who qualified for the Honor Roll earned grades of B or above in all courses.

HEADMASTER'S LIST

Seniors: Gregory Kobelski, Cory Lang and Daniel Reilly
Sophomores: Francis Straceski

Freshmen: Kevin Hern, Stephen Kennefick, Ryan Lattanzio, Cole Sawyer and Andrew Selima

PRINCIPAL'S LIST

Sophomores: Matthew Chisasson, Nicholas Graham, Joshua Katz, Joshua Lang, Gavin Liddell and Joseph

Romano Freshmen: Peter Abbe and Joshua Hurst

HONOR ROLL

Seniors: Taylor Brock-Fisher, Rory Burke, Robert Devaney, Conrad Kuin, Sean

Nork, Timothy Tully and Solomon White

Juniors: Andrew Cadigan, Marcus Pelletier and Anastasios Wallingford

Sophomores: William Hartnett, Louis Iglesias,

John Romano and Joseph Straceski

Freshmen: David Boullie, John Fraser, Thomas Garsesche, Ashwin Iyengar, Santiago Jacome, Christopher Kennedy and Robert Lemons

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68.	UC Davis	\$97.0K	94.	Franklin and Marshall	\$93.7K
69.	Hofstra University	\$96.5K	95.	Loyola Marymount	\$93.6K
70.	Middlebury College	\$96.3K	95.	Whitman College	\$93.6K
71.	UC Santa Barbara	\$96.2K	97.	William and Mary	\$93.3K
72.	Middlebury College	\$96.1K	97.	University of Illinois	\$93.3K
73.	Yale University	\$96.0K	99.	Catholic University	\$93.2K
74.	George Washington	\$95.8K	99.	Northwestern	\$93.2K
75.	New York University	\$95.8K	101.	Macalester College	\$93.0K
76.	University of Virginia	\$95.7K	101.	Bradley University	\$93.0K
77.	Wake Forest	\$95.3K	103.	Long Island U.	\$92.9K
77.	UCLA	\$95.3K	104.	University of Chicago	\$92.7K
79.	Johns Hopkins	\$95.2K	105.	Saint Mary's of Calif	\$91.9K
80.	UMass Lowell	\$95.1K	106.	Bentley University	\$91.8K
80.	Boston College	\$95.1K	106.	South Dakota M&T	\$91.8K
82.	Dickinson College	\$94.9K	108.	U. of Texas, Austin	\$91.7K
83.	Davidson College	\$94.7K	109.	La Salle University	\$91.5K
83.	Michigan Tech	\$94.7K	109.	Bates College	\$91.5K
83.	Texas A&M	\$94.7K	109.	Colby College	\$91.5K
83.	Stony Brook	\$94.7K	112.	Gettysburg College	\$91.3K
83.	Virginia Tech	\$94.7K	113.	California Lutheran	\$91.1K
83.	Willamette University	\$94.2K	114.	University of Tulsa	\$91.0K
83.	Pomona College	\$94.0K	114.	Reed College	\$91.0K
83.	Wesleyan University	\$93.9K	116.	Touro College	\$90.9K
90.	Milwaukee Sch. of Eng.	\$93.9K	116.	Drake University	\$90.9K
92.	Fairfield University	\$93.8K	118.	U. of San Francisco	\$90.7K
92.	Iona College	\$93.8K	118.	Boston University	\$90.7K

Source: PayScale's 2013-14 College Salary Report

#1 New England public research institution for starting and mid-career salaries

(PayScale)

#10 "Best Value College" in the nation

(Forbes)

#10 public university in the U.S. for return on investment

(Affordable Colleges Online)

Top-tier national university

(U.S. News & World Report)

#2 in the nation for greatest three-year rise in U.S. News & World Report rankings

(The Washington Post)

#80 in the nation for mid-career salaries

(PayScale)

In just a few years, UMass Lowell has opened eight new buildings, joined NCAA Division I and nearly doubled its endowment. Enrollment? UP. Student satisfaction? UP. Test scores? UP. Alumni salaries? UP, UP, UP.

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www.uml.edu/rising

Opinion

‘Christmas Trees’

Poet Robert Frost has a special place in the region's heart.

In his poem “Christmas Trees: A Christmas Circular Letter,” written in 1920, Frost describes an encounter between a country resident and city dweller, and the significance of one man's trees.

We offer Frost's poem to you in place of our usual editorial.

The city had withdrawn into itself
And left at last the country to the country;
When between whirls of snow not come to lie
And whirls of foliage not yet laid, there drove
A stranger to our yard, who looked the city,
Yet did in country fashion in that there
He sat and waited till he drew us out
A-buttoning coats to ask him who he was.
He proved to be the city come again
To look for something it had left behind
And could not do without and keep its Christmas.
He asked if I would sell my Christmas trees;
My woods — the young fir balsams like a place
Where houses all are churches and have spires.
I hadn't thought of them as Christmas Trees.
I doubt if I was tempted for a moment
To sell them off their feet to go in cars
And leave the slope behind the house all bare,
Where the sun shines now no warmer than the moon.

I'd hate to have them know it if I was.
Yet more I'd hate to hold my trees except
As others hold theirs or refuse for them,
Beyond the time of profitable growth,
The trial by market everything must come to.
I dallied so much with the thought of selling.
Then whether from mistaken courtesy
And fear of seeming short of speech, or whether
From hope of hearing good of what was mine, I said,
“There aren't enough to be worth while.”
“I could soon tell how many they would cut,
You let me look them over.”
“You could look.

But don't expect I'm going to let you have them.”
Pasture they spring in, some in clumps too close
That lop each other of boughs, but not a few
Quite solitary and having equal boughs
All round and round. The latter he nodded “Yes” to,
Or paused to say beneath some lovelier one,
With a buyer's moderation, “That would do.”
I thought so too, but wasn't there to say so.
We climbed the pasture on the south, crossed over,
And came down on the north. He said, “A thousand.”

“A thousand Christmas trees! — at what apiece?”
He felt some need of softening that to me:
“A thousand trees would come to thirty dollars.”
Then I was certain I had never meant
To let him have them. Never show surprise!
But thirty dollars seemed so small beside
The extent of pasture I should strip, three cents
(For that was all they figured out apiece),
Three cents so small beside the dollar friends
I should be writing to within the hour
Would pay in cities for good trees like those,
Regular vestry-trees whole Sunday Schools
Could hang enough on to pick off enough.
A thousand Christmas trees I didn't know I had!
Worth three cents more to give away than sell,
As may be shown by a simple calculation.
Too bad I couldn't lay one in a letter.
I can't help wishing I could send you one,
In wishing you herewith a Merry Christmas.

WEB QUESTION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

What do you think was the biggest story in Andover this year?

RITZER MURDER: Community responds to Andover High School graduate and Danvers High School teacher allegedly slain by one of her students.

STEAM STUDIO: School Committee member proposes charter school to serve high school community.

TAX TALK: Tax rates, water rates jump again as massive projects approach on horizon.

WATER WOES: Dirty water hits taps as town battles toxic sludge case in court.

YOUTH CENTER WINS: Town Meeting votes to divide Wood trust; work begins on site.

ZONING IN: Town talks new industrial, elderly, Town Yard, medicinal marijuana zoning districts.

OTHER: Supply your own answer.

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Last week, we asked website visitors, “Where do you stand on proposed medicinal marijuana zoning slated to go before next year's Town Meeting?” With 85 responses, the answers were:

I support medicinal marijuana and don't think the zoning is necessary: 30 votes, 35.29 percent.

I don't support medicinal marijuana whatsoever: 28 votes, 32.94 percent.

I support medicinal marijuana, but zoning is necessary so we control its presence: 27 votes, 31.76 percent.

Be wary of long-term care scare tactics

Editor, Townsman:

Sara and Ralph, a couple in their late 70s, were perusing the newspaper one Sunday when they saw an advertisement about nursing homes and long-term care costs that grabbed their attention. The ad, which was placed by a lawyer, claimed that their home could be sold at auction and that they could be left homeless and penniless if they did not take action.

The ad caused Sara and Ralph to fear losing their home and savings. It used scare tactics and preyed on their emotions and potential vulnerabilities. While it is true that good estate planning techniques can protect assets, including the home, from the cost of long-term care, ads like the one that frightened Sara and Ralph violate the Aspirational Standards of the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys.

MassNAELA is an organization of Massachusetts elder law attorneys working to assist elders, as well as elder law attorneys, as they navigate the maze of long-term care options. We encourage seniors and their family members to be leery of such ads using worst-case scenarios and scare tactics regarding the costs of long-term care.

MassNAELA's Aspirational Standards regarding marketing and advertising urge all elder law attorneys to do the following in advertising and marketing:

- Consider the potential for marketing to educate the public and to promote the profession of elder law;

- Prepare or disseminate only marketing communications that are truthful and do not include statements that are false or misleading in any material respect;

- Take into consideration the intended audience for any marketing communication and, in particular, the potential vulnerability of that audience to undue influence;

- Ensure that no materially false or misleading information is communicated in connection with a seminar, presentation or similar activity; and

- Accurately describe legal concepts, procedures, programs or techniques in all marketing communications.

MassNAELA encourages high standards of technical expertise and ethical awareness among its members and all attorneys who practice elder law in Massachusetts, but we cannot “police” long-term care advertising. The consumer has the power to choose whether to respond to such advertising; we can only inform and educate.

Choices involving long-term care and planning are difficult and there are no “one size fits all” answers. It is important for seniors to consult with a reputable elder law attorney who can provide honest and complete advice on nursing home costs and planning options available in a particular situation. If an ad uses scare tactics that cause

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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.

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someone to feel anxious, worried, rushed or bullied, as responsible attorneys, we should advise them not to take the bait.

KAROL BISBEE, ESQ.
Law Office Of Karol Bisbee
North Andover/Stoneham
Andover resident

STEAM's specialized education not in best interest

Editor, Townsman:

I would like to add my opinion that a dedicated STEAM school in Andover would not serve the public interest. Specialized training emphasizing technical subjects is something that should occur in subsequent (post-high school) settings or in addition to core subject learning. Ample opportunities for just such education abound.

To segment the current school population by moving some students to a specialized school (draining the need for that particular subject area from the current public schools) will detract from the important, broad purpose of the schools. The choice of educational specialization will be forced at an earlier age, meaning more of the decisions will be made from less “formed” individuals and/or their parents. This is not a recipe for improvement for anyone involved.

Technical subjects only have a context when built on top of broad education. They might be a path to earlier technical qualification, but not to lifelong growth and career advancement. I believe the STEAM concept has good intent, but is naive. It's result will be to limit the kinds of educational opportunities that all students will have the opportunity to be exposed to, by enforcing earlier specialization.

PHIL LAMOREAUX
Maple Avenue

Student Government is the voice at AHS

Editor, Townsman:

This is my personal opinion, and in no way reflects the opinion of others within Student Government.

While reading the Townsman a few weeks ago, I came upon a letter (“Student Government views do not represent AHS,” Dec. 5) essentially discrediting Andover High School's Student Government. As a very involved member of the AHS Student Government, I took offense to this, and I had quite a few qualms with some claims that were made.

The article was wrong to call the group a “voluntary club” similar to most extracurricular activities.

While it is true that anyone may try to join, an application must be filled out and reviewed by the Student Government before someone is admitted. This is a group that any respectable student can join to make their opinion heard, and the sad truth is that students seem to be uninterested in joining. Furthermore, nonmembers are welcome to our meetings, which usually last until 3 p.m. on Thursdays, to let us know what they think so we can consider the students' opinions in our decisions. I absolutely think that the Student Government is the student voice at the high school, and that the real problem is that, as of now, only 17 students have taken it upon themselves to improve the school.

Student Government is responsible for electing three members of our group to the School Council, which meets approximately every other week with an assortment of students, parents and faculty, including Andover High Principal Dr. Christopher Lord.

Regarding the position taken by the Student Government concerning the proposed STEAM Studio charter school, we only made our decision after gathering information. This year, we have had charter school proponent David Birnbach of the School Committee come in and speak to us about the proposed charter school plan, and we have gone over and debated — as a group — the proposal that has been released for the school. One thing you may not know is that Mr. Birnbach came to the high school last year asking for an increase in technology. This has been an issue for years and something needs to be done about it one way or another.

I do concede that there was no effort to inform the public of our discussion on the decision and I apologize. Due to that critique, the Student Government now plans to announce our agendas the mornings of our meetings.

Additionally, after speaking with Ms. Kerry Costello, the advisor for Student Government, I would like to state that the 5-4 decision in favor of the charter school is false. In reality, the vote had five in favor, one opposed and three recused due to a conflict of interest. The three, not four, “abstaining” members had actually recused themselves, which differs from abstention, which is choosing not to vote, while recusing is choosing not to participate in the vote at all. Their decision to recuse was due to the fact that they had already cast their votes with the School Council and decided it was a conflict of interest to participate in the same vote with a different group.

In response to the letter writer's work on a plan to “provide the student body with a voice of their own,” it is best not to re-invent the wheel. An organization tasked with the sole purpose of doing that exact task already exists, and you are attempting to discredit it due to your differing perspective of the issue.

Thank you for your concern, and I hope you can be of assistance to us in the future as we continue to make decisions on behalf of the students of Andover High.

HUGH M. SMITH
Senior
Andover High School

Kudos for those challenging tax increases

Editor, Townsman:

Andover Finance Committee member Gregory Serrao is to be thanked for being the public official who — like the small boy in the Hans Christian Andersen tale “The Emperor's New Clothes” who shows the courage to speak the truth while all the adults around him cower in fear — showed the courage to make very clear, publicly, that the Town of Andover has reached “unsustainable spending levels.”

And Andover resident Mike Roli is to be thanked, as well, for putting in plain English at that same recent meeting how the town's profligate spending habits have caused our property taxes to skyrocket: “It's staggering the amount of tax increases we are getting. People can't afford this.”

Sadly, Town Manager Buzz Stapeczynski, as always, sees property tax increases as an entitlement for the funding of ever-expanding town operating budgets and bottomless pet-project wish lists. He even has the audacity to try to shift the blame for Andover's mammoth property tax increases during his 23-year tenure as town manager on “the value of your house.”

As Stapeczynski well knows, it's the amount of town spending, not property values, that determine property taxes. Property values are merely the mechanism by which the total amount of town spending gets prorated to each of us to pay in the form of our respective property tax bills. If all property values in town dropped by 50 percent (or any other amount, for that matter), our property taxes would not change by one red cent. In fact, we had the worst of both worlds during the recent Great Recession where property values in Andover dropped across the board while, at the very same time, Andover's town budgets kept on marching up to ever greater heights. Son of a gun, our property tax bills went up during each and every year of the recession even while our property values were dropping. So much for this attempt to duck and weave and try to shift the blame for our skyrocketing property tax bills on something other than where it belongs — the town's big spending ways.

Here's hoping that the chairman of our Board of Selectmen, Alex Vispoli, who has announced his plans to run for Barry Finegold's seat in the state Senate on a platform of cutting state taxes, will prove to us that he has what it takes to cut taxes by cutting spending and cutting property taxes right here in Andover first. It would be a breath of fresh air to finally have a chairman of the selectmen who shows the courage of the boy in “The Emperor's New Clothes” and stands up to our town manager and says “no” to any proposed town budget that will increase our already excessive property tax burden even further. Enough is enough.

BOB POKRESS
3 Cherrywood Circle

READER ACCESS

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

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TownsBeat

WALKING THROUGH A WINTER WONDERLAND

Tree Time caps off season

The Andover Historical Society's popular Tree Time exhibit enters its final stretch this weekend before its month-long season comes to a close.

The more than 30 trees inspired by the society's own collection of costumes, accessories, samplers and more from 1790 to 1920

have combined to create an enchanting forest of wonder this year.

From the classic to the whimsical, the trees are decked out with a solid dose of imagination and creativity.

Tree Time remains on display through Sunday, Dec. 29, in the society's Blanchard House at 97 Main St. Hours are noon to 5 p.m. daily. Admission is \$8, \$5 for members, seniors and children; kids under 5 are free. Visit www.andoverhistorical.org for more.

Photos by Mary Schwalm



Butterick sewing patterns provide the motivation for "One Piece at a Time," decorated by Angela McBrien.



Maddy and Kat Wagner used a 1920s applique gown, left, as the jumping-off point for their "A Gatsby Christmas" tree.



Circa 1900 picnic baskets inspired the "Summer Memories at Christmas" tree decorated by Theresa Conlon, Amanda Singer, Marilyn Helmers, Ellen Marcus and Viggie Johnson.



"American Fourth," decorated by members of Andover Fire Rescue Unit 4, is inspired by a circa 1820 Lafayette scarf.



Pam and Doug Mitchell's "A Whale of Christmas" tree was inspired by an 1890 brown bodice with whale bone, on exhibit at right.



A black bird on the "Pink Diva" tree decorated by Rachel and Haley Penner and inspired by an 1870s pink bustle dress.



An 1890 brown bodice with whale bone gave Pam and Doug Mitchell the start for "A Whale of Christmas," which features items from under the sea.



Baby storks top a tree titled "Christmas Delivery." Decorated by the Raphael and Mullen-Connell families, it was inspired by 1790s baby shirts.



A bird on "Winter Ice," decorated by Kenna Thierrien and Elaine Clements.



Darth Vader tops "Sci-Fi Season," Tom Fitzgerald's tree inspired by 1830s schoolgirl art.



A 1920s vintage bridal gown, at left, led to the "Winter White Wedding" tree designed and decorated by the Empty Nesters of Andover.



Marilyn Helmers, left, and Amanda Singer, stand by their "Summer Memories at Christmas" tree, which they decorated with Theresa Conlon, Ellen Marcus and Viggie Johnson. The group built on 1900 picnic baskets at the historical society to develop its final creation.

New Year's Eve Comedy Gala at Wyndham Andover

Two top New England comics are on the bill for the "New Year's Eve Comedy Party" on Tuesday, Dec. 31, at the Wyndham Andover Hotel, 123 Old River Road, Andover. Comedian-pharmacist Artie Januario performs along with New England

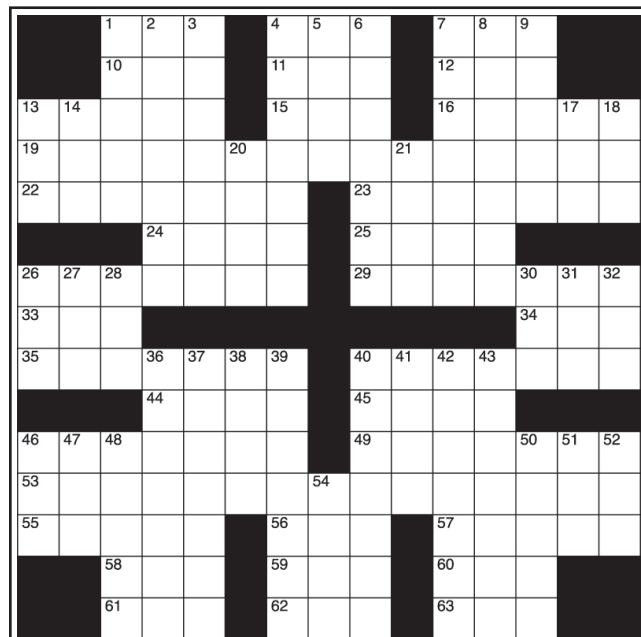
favorite Bob Seibel to ring out 2013. Januario lives a double life as a pharmacist and one of Boston's premier comedians who has taken his act across the country. In 2012, he was selected to perform at Denis Leary's 18th annual Comics Come

Home concert, the longest-running comedy benefit show in the U.S., which has raised more than \$4 million for the Cam Neely Foundation to aid cancer patients and their families during treatment. Seibel is a lifetime class clown from the

working-class city of Lynn. The son of German immigrants, he tried factory work and school teaching before he discovered he could get paid for making people laugh. A quarter-century later, he's still one of the most requested acts in New England,

headlining such top clubs as Nick's Comedy Stop in Boston and Giggles in Saugus. Doors open at 6 p.m. for the event, which includes a buffet dinner at 7, the comedy show at 8, followed by dessert, DJ dancing and a midnight toast.

Tickets are \$75, with a limited number of \$40 tickets available for the show and dancing only. Tickets are available through www.scampscomey.com or by calling 800-838-3006, ext. 1. For overnight rates and reservations, call 978-975-3600.



Solution in Classified Section

CLUES ACROSS

1. Type of health plan
4. Atmospheric haze
7. A period of time
10. Auricle
11. Copycat
12. Manpower
13. Delicate fern genus
15. Diego, Francisco or Anselmo
16. Zanzibar copal
19. Jackie's 2nd husband
22. Calcified tooth tissue
23. Conjoined twins
24. Mythological birds
25. This (Spanish)
26. Lowest hereditary title
29. Pre-transplant plot
33. Fiddler crab genus
34. Professional legal organization

CLUES DOWN

1. Sorli's Tale hero
2. A musical master
3. Speech
4. Swiftest
5. Opaque gem
6. Origins
7. Proceed from a source
8. Rechristened
9. Licorice flavored seed
13. Small amount
14. Mineral aggregate
17. Prefix for wrong
18. Point midway between E and SE
20. A single instance
21. French river
26. Undeveloped blossom
27. One pip domino
28. Fled on foot

35. Most thick
40. Sleeve indicator of mourning
44. Far East housemaid
45. Hmong
46. With three uneven sides
49. Tempts
53. Jewelry finding
55. Showed intense anger
56. Black tropical American cuckoo
57. Sculpture with a head
58. A single entity
59. What part of (abbr.)
60. Before
61. Confined condition (abbr.)
62. Hurrah
63. Transport faster than sound

Hooray for the holidays



PAUL BILODEAU/Staff photo

Ben Cote, 2, had a better idea for the beanbag toss buckets during the Hooray for the Holidays tot time event last Wednesday, Dec. 18, at Old Town Hall in Andover.

Your Dental HEALTH

by Nicholas T. Papapetros, DMD, FAGD

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EVENTS CALENDAR

COMPILED BY
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FILM

SCREENING ROOM, Boomer-Venture Screening Room Film Festival series featuring "Kinky Boots," about a drag queen who comes to the rescue of a son who inherits his father's failing shoe factory, based on a true story, Thursday, Jan. 9, 7 p.m., free; Center at Punchard, 30 Whittier Court, Andover; 978-623-8321, www.andoversenior-center.org.

To submit an item, email townsman@andovertownsmen.com.

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, mhfynn.net@gmail.com.

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Andover Townsman

■ **WHAT'S HAPPENING: ANDOVER YOUTH SERVICES**

Here's the latest news submitted by Andover Youth Services:

Andover Youth Services has had an amazing 2013 and would like to thank the community for making that possible. From small gatherings at our headquarters

on Pearson Street to wild adventures out west, the AYS program would not be what it is without the townspeople's passion, dedication and creativity.

After a summer of True Grit, the heart, humility and hard work continued

through the fall and right into "A Lot of Trees" Christmas tree lot. There were many new faces and plenty of familiar ones, too.

A sample of what's coming up in the new year includes:

■ A new session of after-school programs at the AYS

office will begin the week of Jan. 13.

■ Hit the slopes at Wachusett with AYS every Thursday afternoon in January and February. These trips, open to Andover High School students, are the perfect way to get your weekly shred

session in.

■ Registration is open for the 2014 spring lacrosse season. Andover Youth Lacrosse is open to boys and girls in the first through eighth grades. To register, visit www.andoveryouthlacrosse.com.

The AYS staff looks forward to seeing you all in the new year. Check out how to get involved at www.andoveryouthservices.com or call Youth Services at 978-623-8241 or email at ays@andoverma.gov for more information.



File photo

Andover Bookstore has hosted many events over its 50 years at its current home at 89 Main St., including a wedding last year.

A silver milestone for Andover Bookstore

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
jwakefield@andovertownsmen.com

It's a two-part anniversary celebration for Andover Bookstore as the town's only book shop is celebrating 50 years at its North Main Street location and more than 200 years in town.

Owner John Hugo called the bookstore a "pillar of Andover" in a press release and pointed to Phillips Academy as a key part of its success.

Andover Bookstore was the original bookstore for Phillips Academy Andover. Today, the bookstore is the textbook center for Phillips students and houses a complete line of clothing and gifts for the private school. Three times a year, a barrage of students head down Main Street to the bookstore and fill their backpacks with their textbook needs for the trimester.

But Andover Bookstore's clientele is by no means limited to Phillips students. Its customer fan base stretches well beyond the elite prep school.

Local writer Mary McGarry Morris' book release tours may take her to big cities around the country, but she always makes time to host a reading at her hometown bookstore, too.

McGarry Morris, who has won numerous literary awards and whose book, "Songs in Ordinary Times," was an Oprah Book Club selection, said her local bookstore has delighted generations of Andover readers. She is proud that it continues to thrive.

"It's so comfortable, just so comfortable," McGarry Morris said. "To be comfortably surrounded by books and people who enjoy them just means a lot to me ... I enjoy that."

Founded in 1809, Andover Bookstore is the second oldest continuously running bookstore in the country, behind Moravian Book Shop in Bethlehem, Penn.

Originally located on Phillips Academy campus, the bookstore made its first move to Main Street in downtown Andover in

the late 1860s. It found its current home at 89 Main St. in 1963.

Although the store has changed owners and locations throughout the years, it has always maintained its charm and close ties to the community, said Hugo, who also owns bookstores in Marblehead and Newburyport.

Andover Bookstore has a working fireplace and encourages coffee sipping while perusing books in a comfy chair. There is also a children's area, a wall covered with staff recommendations, a unique novelty gift area and second-floor seating, if needed, for author events. The shop hosts local book groups, poetry readings and creative classes throughout the year.

To celebrate its 50th anniversary in its current home, Andover Bookstore is hosting a storewide event and sale starting Sunday through next Tuesday, Dec. 29 through 31. For more information, call 978-475-0143 or visit www.andoverbookstore.com.

■ **TOWN BRIEFS**

AHS winter baseball clinics on tap

Andover High School varsity coach Dan Grams is gearing up for his annual winter baseball clinics. The clinics will be held Sunday mornings from January through mid-March.

Session 1 for ages 6 to 11 will meet from 8 to 10 a.m. Session 2 for ages 11 to 14 will meet from 10 a.m. to noon. The clinic dates are Jan. 5, 12 and 19; Feb. 2, 9 and 23; and March 2. March 9 will be a make-up or bonus session.

The cost is \$160 per session. Instructors will include former professional players along with present and former Andover High players.

For more information, visit www.andoverwarriors.com or contact Grams at dannygrams@gmail.com or 978-475-1822.

Dawg City hosting adoption day Saturday

Dawg City at 38 Pearson St. in Andover is holding an adoption event with Last Hope K9 Rescue on Saturday, Dec. 28, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

About four or five dogs available for adoption will be on hand for viewing and others will be available to browse online at www.lasthopek9.org.

Dawg City owner Jayne Malenfant says she is trying to get the word out about adoption and how many animals are in desperate need of finding homes. She said Last Hope K9 is sometimes the "last hope" for dogs, thousands of which are euthanized each year due to overpopulation.

Pre-approval is recommended. For adoption inquiries, email adoptions@lasthopek9.org.

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Sports

BACK IN THE BLOCKS

Strength training not just for athletes

On Fitness

Art McDermott



While the name may sound like a deadly disease, sarcopenia is actually a condition all of us will deal with eventually.

Sarcopenia is defined as the degenerative loss of muscle mass, quality and strength as a result of aging. It is also a component of the frailty syndrome found in many senior citizens.

The good news is sarcopenia can be slowed by resistance training — lifting weights. Many studies have shown a slowing of the condition even in the elderly.

Why is all of this important to you? First, you need to understand the role muscle mass plays in your metabolism. Muscle mass is a key player when it comes to absorbing and burning sugar for energy and movement. As most of us age, our dietary habits generally do not change much. We fall into the habit of eating pretty much the same foods in the similar amounts for years on end. However, nature plays a mean trick on us over time. Our muscles begin to atrophy after age 25 as a rate of 0.5 to 1 percent per year. We can quickly see what happens if we continue to eat the same way, but have less muscle mass to burn off the sugar.

Voila, instant weight gain without changing anything else in our lives. Not good. This can be extremely frustrating for people who go out of their way to maintain the same activity levels as they get older, only to be rewarded with increased body fat. You must actually do more each year to maintain current body composition. It doesn't seem fair, does it?

Muscle mass as a sugar-burning weapon is not commonly understood. While you may have heard that having more muscle mass boosts your metabolism, many people are not very concerned about adding muscle mass, believing weight lifting is best left to athletes. Not so any more.

A plethora of studies now show the importance of resistance training in battling a host of conditions, including aging itself. Strength training has been shown to actually reverse some of the normal signs of aging, including sarcopenia.

With overall life expectancies increasing with passing generations, it becomes more important than ever to fight the battle against sarcopenia now so as to retain muscle mass as long as possible. Failure to do so can result in frailty syndrome, increased likelihood of falls and a subsequent loss of independence. Many experts on aging have pinpointed falls resulting in bone breaks as the start of a downward cycle leading to death.

You can fight your own battle against sarcopenia today by getting to the gym and hitting the weights. Long-term health is not just about cardio any more. See you at the gym.

■ ■ ■

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@andovertownsm.com.



File photo

Courtney Comeau, here flying over a hurdle, is looking to regain her championship speed as she returns to track after missing last spring with a back injury.

Track star Comeau hurdling again after season-ending injury

By DAVID WILLIS
dwillis@andovertownsm.com

Courtney Comeau was on top of the local track world as the spring was set to kick off a year ago.

The then-junior at Andover High was coming off an outstanding winter that saw her take second at Division 1 states in the hurdles. She was looking to better the stellar outdoor season from her sophomore year and she was deep into the college recruiting process.

Then everything came crashing down. "We were running a practice meet at the start of the spring season," she remembered. "And I just lost it. I felt this horrible pain in my back."

Comeau had suffered two slipped disks in her back, and just like that possibly the state's premier hurdler was done for the season before it began.

But after 10 months of intense rehab, Comeau has returned to the track, and is looking to regain her All-Scholastic form before heading off to run at UMass Amherst.

"She is so thrilled to be back," said her father, longtime Andover High track coach Peter Comeau. "After the injury and going through all of this, I think she appreciates track more now than ever. She has trained so hard and you can see how much this means to her."

"I have set some big goals for me. I want to break our school record and hopefully win MVCs again and a state title. I want to have a fun year and make it count."

Courtney Comeau

Back issues were nothing new for Comeau, going all the way back to her youth as a gymnast.

"In the eighth grade, I slipped my L-5 (lumbar vertebrae) in gymnastics," Courtney remembered. "I had to wear a back brace for a few months, and ever since I tried to stay away from arching my back. But in cheerleading with all the flips, then trying the high jump in track, I started to arch my back more."

That back trouble did not stop her from emerging as a top competitor in track.

After a promising freshman season, Comeau broke out as a sophomore.

In the winter of that year, she won the MVC title in the 55-meter hurdles (8.83), and followed that up in the spring by winning the MVC crown in the 100 hurdles (15.72). She went on to take the Andover Boosters gold medal and taking eighth at the Eastern Mass. Division 1 meet and earn area All-Star honors.

After spending the fall of her junior year as a varsity cheerleader, she continued to excel in the

winter of 2012-13, going undefeated in the dual meet season, then taking second at Division 1 states in a career-best 8.68, and scored 2,329 points at State Pentathlon.

But excitement turned to frustration when the spring arrived, and her injury struck at the team's practice meet.

"I was so scared," said Comeau. "I was afraid to tell my dad, but eventually I was in so much pain a teammate talked me into telling him. We went to the hospital and they told me I had two slipped disks in my back."

But initially, Comeau didn't want to believe that her spring season was really a total loss.

"The doctors told me my season was over, but I couldn't accept it," she said. "I cried in the doctor's office, I cried during the drive home and I cried the whole night. I was just thinking, 'I can't miss my junior year. That is when you really prove yourself and colleges take notice.'"

"So I tried to practice and I tried to run. But it wasn't working and the doctors told me I really shouldn't be running, so I realized

I didn't want to put my back at risk for my senior year so I had to rest it."

With Andover hosting many of the biggest meets of the year — including MVCs, states and the annual Andover Boosters — Comeau found herself with a front-row seat watching others compete.

"I loved cheering my girls on," she said. "But it was awful watching everyone run, something I love, and me not being able to participate. It hurt."

"For the meets at Andover, I was handing out the awards, so I had to hand over plaques and medals that I had won the year before that I felt like I could have won again. They won them, but it was hard being injured and knowing I couldn't fight for those awards."

Father Peter could see what the absence did to his daughter.

"It was very hard on her," he said. "She wanted to be able to defend her titles, run for a state title and help her team out. It being my daughter, I was hoping she could come back. But she needed to rest and get ready."

By the start of the summer, Courtney began to rehab seriously and even began to run.

"Around All-States, I could start running a little," she said. "But after a few weeks, I got frustrated and I started to push myself

See COMEAU, Page 15

Pisacreta on fire in Christmas Tourney warm-up

BOYS BASKETBALL

John Pisacreta scored 18 points and freshman E.J. Perry IV knocked down three 3-pointers on his way to a game-high 19 points to lead Andover to a 71-58 victory over Dracut last Thursday, Dec. 19. Connor Merinder chipped in with eight points for the winners in their Christmas Tourney warm-up.

BOYS TRACK

Eberth, Naveed double winners

Oliver Eberth won the 50-yard dash (5.9), Hamza Naveed took the 300 (34.5) and they teamed with Dylan Epstein and Sebastian Silveira to take the 4x400 relay and lead Andover to a 51 2/3-34 1/3 win over Chelmsford last Thursday. Andrew Matteucci added victories in the 50 hurdles and high jump and Max Galat won the mile for the Golden Warriors.

BOYS SWIMMING

Shi leads the way
 Eric Shi won the 200 IM (2:05.50) and 500 freestyle (5:01.97) and swam on the

winning 200 medley relay and 400 freestyle relay to help Andover best B.C. High 96-85 last Thursday. Aaron Wu chipped in with victories in the 200 freestyle, 100 freestyle and 400 freestyle relay and Max Blanch won the 100 butterfly for the winners.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Witten red hot again
 Jessica Witten continued her torrid pace, knocking down a career-high seven 3-pointers to give Andover an 85-55 win over Dracut on Thursday. Colleen Caveney added her second straight big game with 19 points while Rebecca Alois had 11 points and Alyssa Casey added eight for the winners

Colleen Caveney scored a game-high 20 points and Rachel Cormier added 13 points as Andover jumped out to a 20-0 lead and rolled to a 76-50 victory over Methuen last Wednesday, Dec. 18. Alyssa Casey, a 5-foot-10 freshman, added 16 points and senior Rebecca Alois chipped in with nine points for the winners.



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

John Pisacreta, here in summer league action, was red hot for Andover High in a win over Dracut last week.

GIRLS GYMNASTICS

Livingston all-around winner

Jessie Livingston won the vault (9.25), beam (9.3) and floor exercise (9.15) for

vault and beam and took the all-around with a 35.5 as Andover beat Lowell 137.6-116.85 last Wednesday. Courtney Carver added victories in the vault (9.25), beam (9.3) and floor exercise (9.15) for

the Warriors.

GIRLS HOCKEY

Alois nets four

Veronica Alois potted four goals and Caroline Hughes and Haley Driscoll each scored two goals to lead Andover to an 8-1 drubbing of Boston Latin last Wednesday. Jess Leone assisted on three goals while Briana Deloury, Emma Plourde and Laura Ritzer each had two helpers in the victory.

GIRLS TRACK

Sprints pace Warriors

Hannah Ameer took the 50-yard dash in 6.2 and Hannah Chapman won the 50 hurdles in 7.6 to lead Andover to a 51-35 victory over Chelmsford. Cate Donovan (1,000), Catherine Haut (300), Leila Aruri (mile) and Wyllie Boughton (high jump) added victories for the Warriors.

WRESTLING

Dykstra lone victor

Andover's Nate Dykstra needed just 1:11 to earn a pin at 106 pounds, but the Golden Warriors fell to Central Catholic 68-6 last Wednesday.

First-year, backup goalie on Div. III title soccer team



Olivia Biles of Andover, far right, celebrates with the William Smith College women's soccer team during its NCAA Division III national championship game.

First-year goalie Olivia Biles of Andover helped the William Smith College soccer team win the NCAA Division III Women's Soccer National Championship with a 2-0 victory over Trinity (Texas) University on Dec. 7 in San Antonio, Texas. Biles played in two games



Olivia Biles

this year Smith finished the year for the New York college, backing up senior Chelsea Dunay. William Smith finished the year with a 23-1-0 overall record, rounding out its season with a 23-match win streak and 16 straight shutouts. The national championship victory comes 25 years after Heron soccer's only other national championship.

Courtesy photo

Solid showings for Quill gymnasts

Shayla Quill of Andover, who competes with A2 Gym and Cheer in Pelham, N.H., finished strong at the New Hampshire Judges Cup meet earlier this month in Brentwood, N.H.

She placed second on the bars (9.35), four on beam (9.3) and fifth All-Around with a 36.175 score. In addition, her A2 Girls gymnastics Levels 3 team took the second-place team award.

Shayla was also second All-Around with a 36.275 score at the Phantom Kick-Off Meet in November in Hampstead, N.H., where she finished sixth on vault (9.225), second on bars (9.5), fourth on beam (8.5) and fourth on floor (9.05). Meanwhile, Maddison Quill



Courtesy photo

Shayla Quill of Andover, top row left, finished fifth All-Around at the New Hampshire Judges Cup gymnastics meet earlier this month in Brentwood, N.H.

competed in the Future Stars Meet in Massachusetts with the A2 Gymnasts Level Xcel Platinum team. She placed fourth on bars (8.9) and sixth All-Around with a 25.6 score.

COMEAU

Continued from Page 14

through the pain, Me and (fellow injured star) Catherine Haut would even go to the track on Sundays and I would run hurdles and she would do jumps. Finally, late in the summer, I started to feel good. There is some pain, but as an athlete you have to battle through it."

Comeau continued to rehab in the fall, electing to forgo cheerleading due to the stress

on her back.

It was during fall when she received her thrilling news — that she had earned a scholarship to run at Division 1 UMass Amherst.

"It had always been my dream to run at UMass," she said. "My cousin Pat Farnham runs there and I had always thought it would be great. I started talking to coach (David) Jackson during my sophomore year and we stayed in touch. I filled out the information in the fall, did an unofficial visit,

and committed there. It is an honor to be running at UMass, and a big relief."

But before she heads to college, the now healthy Comeau — who was planning to return to competition over the weekend — hopes to leave a major legacy in her final year at Andover High.

"I have set some big goals for me," she said. "I want to break our school record and hopefully win MVCs again and a state title. I want to have a fun year and make it count."

SPORTS BRIEF

Seven-week umpire training starts Jan. 9

The Merrimack Valley Umpires Association will hold a seven-week training series for men, women and teenagers over age 16 on Thursdays at 6 p.m. beginning Jan. 9 at St. Michael's School, 80 Maple Ave., North Andover.

The Massachusetts Baseball Umpires Association umpire's exam will be administered at the end of the class. Candidates who pass will go on to attend clinics on mechanics and positioning.

The program costs \$150. To register, contact Rande Chabot, 603-437-8847 or Randechabot@

myfairpoint.net. For more information on the org.



Courtesy photo

Three Andover residents took to the field with the Massachusetts Premier Soccer U14 Knights recently to participate in the Super Y League North American Championship played at the IMG Academy in Bradenton, Fla. The event is sanctioned as a National Olympic Development Program of the United States Soccer Federation for identifying players for U.S. National Teams. Representing Andover on the team were, from left, Will Raphael, Liam Murphy and Matt Scasia.

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Systems Specialist - PeopleSoft sought by OSRAM Sylvania in Danvers, MA to provide technical support of the PeopleSoft North American Payroll and Pension modules.

ATTENTION!
Beware of anyone replying to your ad offering to send you a check for shipping and you sending them back the difference.

FURNITURE
BEDROOM SET black king size dresser, mirror, 5 drawer chest & night stand bought at Jordan's \$1100. Queen size bedroom set caramel color chest of drawers, 2 night stands \$800.

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ATTENTION CAREGIVERS!
If you are a PCA, CNA, Nurse or offer personal care services please go to the business and service directory and check out the category for Adult Care. Yours services are needed!

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

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Lots of sun; cold	Not as cold	Partly sunny	Mostly sunny	Partly sunny	Partly sunny; colder	Bitterly cold
High: 22° Low: 17°	High: 38° Low: 24°	High: 33° Low: 21°	High: 34° Low: 27°	High: 41° Low: 20°	High: 24° Low: 8°	High: 17° Low: 10°

A new pediatric specialty center has landed in Lawrence.

TogetherForHealthyKids.com

Lawrence General Hospital + Floating Hospital for Children at Tufts Medical Center

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

The following real estate transfers were recorded recently in Andover:

- **200 Brookside Drive, Unit H:** Bharathi and Venkata R. Chappala to Lingting Ye and Yan Sun, \$240,000
- **46 Chestnut St.:** William A. and Pauline E. McCarthy to 46 Chestnut Street RT and Christopher B. Cronin, \$225,000
- **40 Colonial Drive, Unit 8:** Michael E. and Theresa E. Furlong to Joseph S. Mallowney and Ashley

- Lund, \$155,000
- **146 Dascomb Road:** Brockway Smith Co to JMDH Real Estate of Andover, \$10,500,000
- **53 Martingale Lane, Unit 53:** Allen R. and Virginia E. Barber to 53 Martingale RT and Allen E. Post, \$675,000
- **14 William St.:** James F. and Annette G. Lotterer to Douglas W. and Gabrielle M. Queenin, \$732,000
- **35 Woburn St.:** Richard G. Keeler to Stephen K. and Ellen B. Zrike, \$612,000

TOWN BRIEFS

Fee change for dog licenses

Residents have until Feb. 28 to turn in their dog license renewals or they will face an additional \$5 surcharge. Town Clerk Larry Murphy recently issued a bulletin that dog license renewal notices were sent to dog owners on Dec. 9. But fees and renewal requirements have changed.

The fee for spayed or neutered dogs is now \$13 with proof from a veterinarian. Intact dogs are \$14. All dogs must have proof of a current rabies vaccination. Dog owners may renew their dog's registration in the town clerk's office from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Renewals are also accepted through the mail by sending a check payable to the Town of Andover along with the required

documentation to the clerk's office at 36 Bartlet St., Andover 01810. For more information, call the clerk's office at 978-623-8255 or email townclerk@andoverma.gov.



Wishing everyone a healthy and prosperous New Year!

 Tom Carroll 978-502-8347	 Rick Coco 978-482-3905	 Bill Comeau 978-476-6521	 Sharon Coskren 978-835-7804	 Deb Douglass 978-569-6028	 Nancy Dowling 978-314-4003	 Marilyn Ellis 978-618-8277	 Cheryl Foster 617-335-4369	 Nick Geranios 978-852-3903	 Randy Hart 508-662-0022
 Heather Holman 978-500-0626	 Catherine Hubbard 978-500-3276	 Lisa Johnson 978-457-3406	 Pam Lebowitz 978-502-8288	 Olga Lee 617-320-3521	 Karen Lu 978-490-7870	 David Marson 978-749-9409	 Terry McQuade 978-771-0972	 Sandra Monroe 978-257-0799	 Jackie Morgan 978-490-4394
 Manju Nathan 978-809-4474	 Joann Nikolopoulos 978-423-4730	 Anthony Salerno 978-828-7642	 Chris Sciacca 978-314-6934	 Neal Shapleigh 978-973-7585	 Krystal Solimine 978-265-7242	 Sheila Stone 978-807-2299	 Barb Sullivan 978-337-0990	 Cheryl Tibaudo 978-985-8580	 Paulette Zuena 978-697-1097



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www.andoverhomesales.com



<p>Andover Office 44 Park Street 978-475-2100 RE/MAX PARTNERS North Andover Office 426 Andover Street 978-686-5300 www.AndoverHomeSales.com</p>	
<p>ANDOVER</p> <p>\$699,900</p>	<p>Beautiful 9 room, 4 bed, 2.5 bath, Colonial at the head of the cul-de-sac. Spacious foyer, hardwood floors throughout, a 21" kitchen remodeled to perfection. Granite center island w/seating for four, paperstone counters around w/maple recess panel cabinets w/bead full extension and soft close. Kitchen connects to Great Room boasting vaulted ceilings and an attractive pellet stove. Formal dining room & living room w/bay windows. Heated sunroom w/vaulted ceiling and skylights is inviting space to enjoy the private backyard. Sidewalks to Wood Hill Elementary & High Plain Middle school which is just a little more than a block away.</p> <p>HEATHER HOLMAN Direct: 978-500-0626 Heather@HeatherHolman.com</p>
<p>NORTH ANDOVER</p> <p>\$859,000</p>	<p>Unique custom Ranch in a private setting of manicured grounds. Picture windowed living room showcases meticulous landscaping. Over \$200,000 has been spent in upgrades alone! One must see this home to fully appreciate what it offers.</p> <p>DAVID MARSON Direct: 978-749-9409 dmarson@remax.net</p>
<p>ANDOVER</p> <p>\$815,000</p>	<p>Beautifully maintained 10 room center entrance Colonial situated on a professionally landscaped lot. Floor plan includes 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, formal living room & dining room, family room with gas fireplace, eat-in kitchen, bonus room with built in desk and book shelves and sun room that overlooks private wooded yard. Hardwood floors throughout the main level, central air, central vac, sprinkler system, 2 interior staircases and 2 decks. Basement with 8ft ceilings ideal for finishing and walk-up attic. Located in desirable West Andover neighborhood with easy highway access make this property a must see!</p> <p>KRYSTAL SOLIMINE Direct: 978-265-7242 krystalsolimine@verizon.net</p>
<p>OUTSTANDING AGENTS • OUTSTANDING RESULTS</p>	

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<p>ANDOVER SALE PENDING</p> <p>Attractive Colonial on quiet cul-de-sac in High Plain/Wood Hill School District! This home features a newer eat in kitchen with dining area, granite counter tops and upscale appliances plus slider access to rear deck, sun filled living room with hardwood floors and fireplace plus a family room with slider access to rear deck. Upstairs you'll find four spacious bedrooms with ample closet space and 2 full baths. The lower level is recently finished into a playroom or additional family room and includes 2 separate office spaces and laundry area. Superb lot with an oversized deck, storage shed and privacy completes this well landscaped home.</p> <p>\$499,900 Call Tom Carroll 978-482-3999</p>	<p>ANDOVER NEW PRICE</p> <p>Turnkey Colonial in South School District! This updated home features an open concept main floor with a sun filled, eat in kitchen that boasts granite countertops and island plus Stainless Steel appliances, wood flooring and access to a rear deck that overlooks a private yard. Upstairs you'll find four bedrooms with ample closet space and a full tiled bath. Additional updates include Pella windows, utilities and fenced yard with stone patio and lots of room for family fun. 4 car off street parking, easy access to highways, downtown and commuter rail makes this a smart purchase!</p> <p>\$399,900 Call Tom Carroll 978-482-3999</p>	<p>ANDOVER SALE PENDING</p> <p>Fabulous Antique Farmhouse in the desirable Phillips Academy neighborhood! This generous size home boasts a gourmet kitchen with granite counter tops, a galley pantry with second dishwasher and Wine Chiller, all Stainless Steel appliances plus an oversize breakfast bar. Adjacent to the kitchen is the sun filled family room with wood stove and French Door leading to the breezeway that connects to the garage. The formal dining room and formal living room both feature a fireplace plus private office is just off the living room. Upstairs you'll find 4 bedrooms including a master suite with walk-in closet and gorgeous bath with whirlpool tub and oversize shower. Wonderful home Antique home in desirable South School District</p> <p>\$699,900 Call Tom Carroll 978-482-3999</p>
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View homes & Open House schedules on www.Andover-TopBroker.com

A Happy and Joyous New Year from My Family to Yours!

Mary O'Donoghue,
 REALTOR®
 Cell: 978-337-8159

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