



LOCALS SERVE UP NEW GAME IN TOWN: SQUASH
PAGE 9



KOH EARNS NOD AS BOSTON MAYOR'S CHIEF OF STAFF
PAGE 6



STANDING UP TO BULLIES THROUGH SONG
PAGE 5

OUR 126TH YEAR

Andover Townsman

Issue No. 10

JANUARY 9, 2014

75 CENTS

Ritzer family decries state SJC decision

By DUSTIN LUCA
dluca@andovertownsman.com

The fact that a 14-year-old could be paroled if he is found guilty of viciously murdering their daughter and sentenced to life is too much for the family of Colleen Ritzer of Andover to bear. The parents and siblings

of the 24-year-old Danvers High School teacher who was found dead in the woods behind the school in October are decrying the recent state Supreme Judicial Court finding that life sentences without parole for killers under 18 are unconstitutional.

The decision by the state's highest court rendered on Christmas Eve day argues that life sentences for juveniles fail to take into account the potential for young offenders to be rehabilitated. It paves the way for "youthful offenders" sentenced to life

in prison to be given a chance for parole. In a statement released last week, the Ritzer family said it "feels a deep sense of betrayal and anguish" with the decision, saying it "provides more rights to those youths convicted of horrible

and heinous crimes than victims and their families." "While these convicted murderers are now provided a second chance through the possibility of parole, victims slain at the hands of 'youthful offenders,' possibly even our precious daughter, Colleen,

will be victimized again and again," the family said. While 14-year-old Philip Chism, of Danvers, has pleaded not guilty to murdering Colleen Ritzer on Oct. 23, the decision affects sentencing options for him should he be convicted in the case.

See RULING, Page 3

ICY ATTRACTION



RYAN HUTTON/Staff photo

Anna Zytkevich, 5, of Andover and her older brother, Max, 10, test out the new ice rink in The Park at Chestnut and Bartlet streets on Sunday. A hard freeze Christmas week allowed locals to lace up their skates and take to the recently built attraction to start the new year.

Park rink proving popular with families

By BILL KIRK
bkirk@andovertownsman.com

The town's new ice rink in The Park glided successfully into 2014 as skaters took advantage of cold temperatures to enjoy some quality family time last week. "I'm so thrilled," said Mollie Shenker of Candlewood Drive, skating on New Year's Day with her son, Aaron, 5. "You're not allowed to skate on the ponds. I was too anxious to take him there anyway. And this is much easier than building a rink in your backyard." Aaron pushed a couple of attached milk crates around,

sliding along on his skates as his mother encouraged him. "This was a great idea," she said.

The 40-by-60-foot rink — located in a corner of The Park just off Bartlet Street near the Town Offices parking lot — resembles a typical backyard rink. It was built by a group of volunteers, under the guidance of the public works department, using 2-by-8-foot boards and a tarp bought at Home Depot. A hydrant was opened to flood the surface.

The rink faced a rocky start as warm weather made ice-making difficult.

But during Christmas week, the temperature plunged and by New Year's Day, the ice was rock-hard.

Ted Teichert, a former selectman who pushed the rink idea in November, just had knee surgery and hasn't had a chance to skate on it

See RINK, Page 3



Mark Gleichmann and his 5-year-old son, Adam, take a break from skating at the outdoor rink at The Park to pose for a photo on New Year's Day.

BILL KIRK/Staff photo

Lyman to bow out

Selectman won't seek fifth term

By BILL KIRK
bkirk@andovertownsman.com

After a 12-year run on the Board of Selectmen, Mary Lyman announced this week it's time for her to move on.

Lyman, 53, of 50 School St., announced Monday night that she won't be a candidate for re-election in March.

Chris Cronin tapped as new director of Department of Municipal Services. Page 6.



Mary Lyman

She had initially planned to seek another term, but said she had a change of heart over the

See LYMAN, Page 2

Town loses remaining Reichhold property

Site eyed for playing fields sold to LLC

By DUSTIN LUCA
dluca@andovertownsman.com

It could have been called "Ballardvale Springs," Andover's next proverbial field of dreams on a once-contaminated industrial site along the Shawsheen River that is better known by its prior owner, Reichhold, Inc.

But sluggish negotiations fell apart, and despite the town being authorized to spend

See REICHHOLD, Page 2

A gift, with love

Younger sister donates kidney to ailing sibling

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
jwakefield@andovertownsman.com

Two years ago, MacKenzie Dias watched as an older sister, Ashley, who was born with cystic fibrosis, waited on a lung transplant donor list for organs that never came.

Before Ashley Dias could receive a double lung transplant — her second in about 10 years — the 26-year-old graduate of Andover High School died June 14, 2012 at Cleveland Clinic in Ohio with her youngest sister and other family members by her

bedside. So when the oldest of the Dias sisters, Lindsey, who was also born with cystic fibrosis, found herself in the hospital this winter awaiting her second kidney transplant, MacKenzie was determined to see that she received the life-saving surgery.

On Tuesday, MacKenzie Dias donated her kidney to her sister.

Just hours after the surgery, performed at

See DIAS, Page 3

INDEX

- Arts & Entertainment . . . 9
- Business 13
- Classified/Real Estate . . . 15
- Crossword 10
- Editorial 7
- Education 5
- Letters 7
- Obituaries 4
- Police Log 4
- Sports 14
- Townpeople 12



RAAGINI Indian Bistro

SHAWSHEEN PLAZA
209 N. MAIN ST.
ANDOVER, MA 01810
Tel: 978-809-3094
Tel: 978-809-3095
FAX: 978-809-3096
www.RaaginiIndianBistro.com

COUPON
\$5 Off with purchase of \$35 or more
Valid for dine-in or pick-up only. May not be combined with other offers.

COUPON
Buy One Entrée Receive Second One
Does Not Include Buffet
1/2 Off
OFFER TIME IS LIMITED

MERRIMACK REPERTORY THEATRE

Stella and Lou
BY BRUCE GRAHAM

Antoinette Lefebvre and Bill Gendiger in Stella and Lou. Photo by Meghan Woods.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW
NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 22
50 E. MERRIMACK ST., LOWELL MA
mrt.org • 978-654-4678

BROADWAY TIRE
COMPLETE CAR CARE CENTER
(978) 682-0000
456 N. Broadway, Lawrence, MA
1/2 mile from the Methuen Line
www.broadwaytire-auto.com

FAMILY BUSINESS THAT YOU CAN TRUST
6.25% OFF
Tire purchase equivalent to the sales tax

BRIDGESTONE Firestone
GET \$20 INSTANT REBATE
ON PURCHASE OF ANY 4 BRIDGESTONE OR FIRESTONE TIRES
WITH COUPON. EXPIRES JAN. 31.

WE CARRY SNOW TIRES
ALL MAJOR BRANDS
FREE SEASONAL MOUNTING & DISMOUNTING

Obituaries

OBITUARIES

Elinor Furey, 90

July 26, 1923 — December 29, 2013
In Loving Memory

KEENE, NEW HAMPSHIRE, ANDOVER, MASSACHUSETTS — Elinor Gosselin Furey, 90, a resident of Keene, New Hampshire and former resident of Andover, Massachusetts, passed away peacefully at Langdon Place of Keene, on Sunday, December 29, 2013, following a short period of declining health.

She was born July 26, 1923, the daughter of Anthony and Dora (Dubois) Gosselin. She was a 1941 graduate of Lowell High School, Lowell, MA. On August 12, 1950, she married, Raymond F. Furey.

Elinor held several jobs throughout her life, including working for Lowell Electric Light Company during World War II. She was most committed to her work as a homemaker and was a loving mother and grandmother. She most enjoyed spending time with family and friends. In their retirement while living in Florida, she and her husband traveled extensively all over the world. They were among those aboard the Queen Elizabeth II on its maiden voyage. Elinor and her husband were lifelong tennis players and played into their 80's. They were also avid Bridge players.

Elinor was known for her outgoing personality and winsome smile. She included among her friendships people from all over the world. She

was involved in the Andover (Massachusetts) Garden Club and spent years with Welcome Wagon when she and her family lived in Andover, MA. Elinor was often referred to as a "Social Sweetheart." She had a very strong faith and she and her family were active members of the St. Augustine Catholic Church in Andover, MA and Espiritu Santo Catholic Church, in Safety Harbor, Florida. She also served as a volunteer for St. Vincent de Paul while living in Florida.

Elinor is survived by her daughter, Deborah F. Link and her husband, Thomas, of Keene, NH; her son, Richard A. Furey of Plaistow, NH; her daughter-in-law, Lee Furey of Sandwich, MA; four grandchildren, Joshua Furey, Nathan Furey, Molly Link and John Link; her brother, Robert Gosselin and his wife, Louise, of Chelmsford, MA, and many nieces, nephews, and extended family members. She was predeceased by her husband, Raymond, and their son, John P. Furey.

A Memorial Mass will be held in the Spring of 2014 at a date to be determined.

The Foley Funeral Home, 49 Court Street, Keene, NH, is assisting the family with these arrangements. This full obituary is also available at www.foleyfuneralhome.com.

Raymond J. Gaudet, 89

August 23, 1924 — December 29, 2013

ANDOVER — Raymond J. Gaudet, 89, lifelong resident of Andover, passed away peacefully at the Kaplan Family Hospice House in Danvers, on Sunday, December 29, 2013.

Raymond was born in Andover to the late Joseph and Jacqueline (Doucette) Gaudet. He is survived by his son, Thomas, of Andover, his caregiver, with whom he resided, and his son, William, and his partner Rosa Cabrera of Sandown, N.H.; five grandchildren, Andrew Gaudet, James Gaudet, Michael Gaudet, Kayla Gaudet, and Jacqueline Gaudet; and three great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his sisters, Catherine Cardinal of Dover, N.H., and Lucille (Joseph) Abreu of Atkinson, N.H.; and brothers, Amedie Gaudet of Arizona, and Alfred Gaudet (Vera) of Northwood, N.H.; along with several nieces and nephews.

Educated in local schools, Raymond served in the U.S. Navy during WWII as a torpedo man aboard the U.S.S. Banquist. After his honorable discharge in 1948, Raymond obtained his electrician certi-

fication and spent his career at the former Western Electric/Lucent Technologies in North Andover, retiring in 1982 as a part of the management team.

A lifelong, avid golfer, Raymond was a member of the Far Corner Golf Course in Boxford, Mass., where in 1999, he hit a hole in one.

Thomas would like to thank the staff of the memory compass unit at Methuen Village and the Hospice of the North Shore & Greater Boston for the care and comfort they extended to Raymond during the last several weeks of his life. He was truly blessed to have been in their care!

ARRANGEMENTS: A funeral Mass, followed by burial at Sacred Heart cemetery, will take place in the Spring. Arrangements are being conducted by the Burke-Magliozi Funeral Home, 390 N. Main St. Andover, Mass.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Raymond's name to the Alzheimer's Association, Massachusetts Chapter, 311 Arsenal St., Watertown, MA 02472, or Care Dimension's, 75 Sylvan St. Danvers MA 01923.

Two die in early New Year's accident

By DUSTIN LUCA
dluca@andovertownsmam.com

An early New Year's Day crash has claimed the lives of two teenagers, one from Lawrence and the other from Lowell, who were killed after fleeing police in a car at more than 100 mph, authorities said.

The 19-year-olds died after losing control of the vehicle they were in as it crossed from Lawrence into Andover on Route 28. The car was found wrecked in the snow by the Interstate 495 interchange with both occupants ejected.

Police identified the dead as Cesar X. Rodriguez, 19, of 135 Bowdoin St., Lawrence, and Quadeer A. Dicks, 19, of 25 South Walker St., Lowell.

Massachusetts State

Police were investigating the circumstances surrounding the crash, including who was behind the wheel and where the teens were coming from.

The chase started before 2:45 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 1, when Lawrence police tried to stop a 2007 Acura TSX sedan on Route 28 at Water Street, according to State Police spokesman David Procopio.

The car was registered to an Amesbury woman, and was not reported stolen, Procopio said.

"The vehicle continued southbound on Broadway, at one point shutting its lights off and at speeds that Lawrence estimates were in excess of 100 mph," Procopio said.

After the first cruiser

broke off from the chase, a second Lawrence cruiser saw the car a little more than a mile farther down the road "going by at a high rate of speed" at the South Broadway intersection with Inman Street, Procopio said.

Police continued traveling in the direction of the suspects and found the Acura off the road on the snow-covered grass shoulder at the junction of Route 28 and I-495.

"It looks like the car actually loses control on 28 in Andover, veers off the road, impacts a snow bank, a steel guard rail, and then appears to impact the concrete base of the steel structure" of the 495 overpass, Procopio said.

Both victims taken to Lawrence General Hospital, where Dicks was declared

dead, Procopio said. Rodriguez was flown by medical helicopter to Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, where he died.

No other vehicles are believed to have been involved in the crash, Procopio said.

Lawrence and Andover police were the first to the scene, with Andover fire crews getting dispatched as well. Due to the accident taking place on a state highway, State Police were called. The Essex County District Attorney's office was also helping with the investigation.

"It was early New Year's morning, so we're investigating where they may have been coming from if they were out celebrating the new year," Procopio said.

Driver cited in Route 28 pedestrian crash

By DUSTIN LUCA
dluca@andovertownsmam.com

A 42-year-old Lancaster woman was cited for impeding operation of a motor vehicle after hitting a Lawrence resident crossing North Main Street last Monday, Dec. 30, according to police.

Injured in the single-car accident was Doris Lopez, 61, of Lawrence, according

to Commander Charles Heseltine.

Lopez was crossing North Main Street (Route 28) by Frye Circle at around 6:23 p.m. when she was struck by a vehicle driven by Christina Nickerson of Lancaster, Heseltine said.

Lopez wasn't in a crosswalk when she was hit, but there was one about 30 feet north of where she was,

according to Heseltine.

"It appears the victim ended up on the hood of the car and traveled approximately 20 feet before sliding off onto the pavement," Heseltine said.

The Fire Department transported Lopez to the hospital with what appeared to be head trauma and internal injuries, he said. Information on her condition wasn't

available earlier this week.

Heseltine said the fact it was dark and Lopez wasn't in a crosswalk when crossing the busy road may have contributed to the crash.

He said Nickerson's citation for impeding operation stemmed from her telling police "she had taken her eyes off the road to attend to something on her (vehicle's) console."

Report: Municipal pension, health care and debt service costs see sharp rise

By MICHAEL NORTON
State House News Service

Explosive growth in three big municipal spending areas — pensions, health care and debt service — continues to outpace more modest growth in the revenues collected in the 351 Massachusetts cities and towns, according to a new report that warns unaffordable obligations have forced layoffs and will cut into spending on public safety and education.

In its 43rd annual report on municipal finances, which was released this week, the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation reports that municipal spending on pensions, health care and debt

service grew 23 percent between fiscal 2007 and fiscal 2012, while all other municipal spending rose 10 percent.

Hampered by the slowest growth in property taxes since 1985, total municipal revenues, meanwhile, grew by 3.7 percent to \$23.4 billion in fiscal 2013, an improvement over recent years, but 1 1/2 points shy of the 5.2 percent average annual growth rate between 1982 and 2009, according to the report.

"Spending on employee and retiree benefits will consume an ever larger share of municipal budgets for the foreseeable future as municipalities face nearly \$45 billion in unfunded liabilities,"

MTF President Michael Widmer said in a statement released to the State House News Service. "With modest revenue growth at best, funding for schools, public safety and other services will be sacrificed in order to pay for the unaffordable obligations taken on by cities and towns over the past decades."

Massachusetts voters approved \$11 million in property tax increases through override votes in fiscal 2013, the lowest amount since 2000 and down from a peak of \$49 million in fiscal 2006.

According to the report, between fiscal 2007 and fiscal 2012, total municipal employment fell by 6

percent, or more than 15,500 full-time employees. Over the same period, municipal spending on health care rose by 19 percent, spending on debt service surged 23 percent, and pension contribution spending spiked by 30 percent. Total municipal spending increased by 13 percent over the period.

While local aid cuts and the recession are often blamed for municipal spending cuts and layoffs, the report identifies the growth in spending on pensions, health care and debt service as the "larger and more permanent cause."

According to the MTF, a grant from FirstSouthwest funded the research.

POLICE LOG

COMPILED BY DUSTIN LUCA
The following items were taken from Andover police logs from Monday, Dec. 30 to Sunday, Jan. 5:

ARRESTS

Monday, Dec. 30 — At 7:47 a.m., James Keenan, 46, of 206 Stackpole St., Lowell, was arrested on Main Street and charged with driving a motor vehicle with a revoked registration, operating a motor vehicle with a revoked license, subsequent offense; and driving an uninsured motor vehicle or trailer. He was also arrested on a warrant for three separate charges.

At 8:17 a.m., Vivian Vazquez, 39, of 30 Juniper St., Lawrence, was arrested on River Road and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, attaching the wrong plates to a motor vehicle, driving an unregistered motor vehicle and driving an uninspected motor vehicle, as well as two charges on a single warrant.

At 5:56 p.m., Javier Padilla, 70, of 65 Union St., Lawrence, was arrested on Shattuck Road and charged on a warrant.

Tuesday, Dec. 31 — At 12:26 p.m., Dennis Trodden, 51, of 19 Anthony Road, Peabody, was arrested on River Road and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and on a warrant.

Wednesday, Jan. 1 — At 3:12 a.m., Timothy Hart, 53, of 16 Woodbury St., Salem, N.H., was arrested on Union Street and charged with operating under the influence of liquor and a one-way violation.

Friday, Jan. 3 — At 4:36 p.m., Ryan Mulchahey, 29, of 2 South Ave., Derry, N.H., was arrested on River Road and charged with possession of a class A drug.

THEFTS
Monday, Dec. 30 — At 12:12 p.m., a theft from a motor vehicle was reported on Launching Road.

INCIDENTS

Monday, Dec. 30 — At 12:39 p.m., police were called to the water treatment plant on Lowell Street on a report of an older man who had fallen. Detectives were called because it involved town property.

Wednesday, Jan. 1 — At 10:03 p.m., police were called to Burton Farm Drive to assist the Fire Department in responding to a reported garage fire, which was knocked down at 10:17 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 3 — At 5:45 p.m., police were called to Cheever Circle to assist the Fire Department with a possible dryer fire.

Saturday, Jan. 4 — At 8:57 a.m., vandalism to a mailbox was reported on Haggetts Pond Road.

At 4:57 p.m., police were called to Main Street on a report of a 75-year-old man who slipped on ice and was bleeding from his head. Dispatcher notes report the subject falling at 52 Main St. and walking to 20 Main St., where rescue crews found him. Hours later, at 6:37 a.m. Sunday, police were called to Main Street on a report of "a trail of blood in the snow in front of Royal Jewelers." With the trail leading from 54 Main St. to Old Town Hall, police checked the area for a possible cause, finding "no one in the area and no broken windows."

ACCIDENTS
Monday, Dec. 30 — At 1:36 a.m., an accident was reported on Andover Street. One car was towed from the scene, and damage to a bridge was recorded.

At 6:25 p.m., a three-car crash was reported on North Main Street. This accident, which required one tow, was unrelated to another crash involving a pedestrian on North Main Street moments earlier.

Wednesday, Jan. 1 — At 2:53 a.m., police responded to Salem Street on a report of "a single-car crash, no injuries." An area tow company was called but the operator was "no longer on scene." After police called the operator and told him to return to his vehicle immediately, "two parties arrived back on scene advising they were not the (operator) of the vehicle; it was their younger brother who is back at the house."

At 7:02 a.m., a single-car crash was reported on Lowell Street.

Thursday, Jan. 2 — At 12:19 p.m., a two-car crash was reported on Elm Street. One car was towed.

At 12:37 p.m., an accident was reported on Lowell Street. One car was towed.

At 3:08 p.m., an accident involving a car and MVRTA bus was reported on Central Street. Personal injury was reported as "one person was having neck and back pain."


At 6:17 p.m., an area towing company was called to Gray Road to assist "a plow truck that tipped over."

Friday, Jan. 3 — At 10:02 a.m., an accident involving a car into a pole was reported on Red Spring Road.

Saturday, Jan. 4 — At 7:50 a.m., a one-car crash was reported on Salem Street.

At 6:12 p.m., a two-car crash was reported on Pine Street. Both cars were towed.

Just Search, Select and Save.



Find Low Prices Close To Home

Introducing Find n Save[®], the easiest way to find the best deals on the items you're shopping for. Powered by a nationwide network of regional newspapers, businesses and retail chains, Find n Save[®] lets you search locally and globally for the latest coupons, daily deals, sales and exclusive member-only discounts from top-name stores nationwide, as well as deals right here in town.

Go to
www.andovertownsmam.com

Andover Townsman

findn@save
smart shopping starts here.

ST. JUDE'S NOVENA
May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved, and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day, by the 8th day your prayer will be answered. Publication must be promised. AME

FERRIS TREE SERVICE inc.

ANDOVER, MA

Family Owned and Operated Since 1971
Tree Removal, Pruning and Stump Grinding

Call For A Free Estimate
978-685-8789
www.ferristreeservice.com

Education

Wading through the rain Young girl denounces bullies through song

BY JUDY WAKEFIELD
jwakefield@andovertownsman.com

Zoe Nepomnayshy was just 9 years old when she started getting picked on by her classmates. She said the other girls teased her about her clothes and thought nothing of poking her as they laughed about her sense of fashion.

A shy fourth-grader at the time, Zoe said she remembers all she wanted to do was get away from those mean girls. She cried a lot in those days, feeling worthless and ashamed, while also wondering if her peers were right about her social awkwardness.

Thankfully, she said, her mother, Ame Matusa, and her best friend helped her through those rough times by getting her to talk honestly about how much the bullying hurt.

"I guess they were jealous," Zoe replied when asked why she thought she was picked on. "You never really know ... bullies just say stuff and keep going."

Today, a much happier 12-year-old Zoe is using the experience to inspire others.

The seventh-grade honors student at West Middle School has written a song called "Feel the Rain" about her bullying experience. In it, she talks about how to stand strong in the wake of being bullied or being told that you are something less than you are.

"We did not initially know that she was writing it because it was her way of dealing with (the) bullying," her mother said. "When she finally did show it to us, we thought it was really special."

Zoe started with the lyrics and then put music to the words. After spending some time refining the song, she brought it to her piano teacher, Ed Lee of The Music Studio in Tewksbury, who liked it so much that he took it through the studio process and produced it.

The initial recording was done last December and then it took about 10 months to coordinate the musical and vocal accompaniment and lay all the



RYAN HUTTON/ Staff photo

Singer-songwriter Zoe Nepomnayshy, at the piano in her Andover home, turned her experience with bullies into a song titled "Feel the Rain" in hopes of helping other youths who find themselves being picked on by their peers.

'FEEL THE RAIN' ZOE NEPOMNAYSHY

I know a lot about you, and about what you can do
Like trying to always bring me down, right back down to the ground.
You seemed so nice and caring, too, but I should not have trusted you,
Because beneath those heartfelt smiles, lay insecurities that ran for miles.

I thought we'd be the best of friends, sharing laughter 'til the end,
Instead you shared with me your rage, and let your tiger out of its cage.

You laughed at every move I made, you lied and took my friends away,
You ruined lots of days at school, and made me feel like a fool.
(Chorus) Don't tell me I can't feel the rain, don't tell me I can't hear the wind.

Don't tell me I can't see the rooftops, even if you say only you can.
I felt so lost and afraid, knowing I had been betrayed
Not knowing which way to turn, I knew I had a lot to learn.
You made me feel so very small, but that is not true at all
I know that I have got the key, to unlock the power in me.

When people come in my life, and make me feel less than tall, I know what to do ...
I must break the chain of feeling sad and refrain from making others feel small.

various tracks. The song was released on iTunes in October under the young songwriter's stage name, Zoe Bronwyn.

Ame Matusa said local teachers have received copies of the song so they can share it with students.

"There have been too many terrible stories of late about suicides and horrible tragedies associated with bullying," Matusa said. "We are trying to get the word out that bullying should not be tolerated."

Moira O'Brien, Zoe's former principal at Shawsheen Elementary, sent it to all of her staff. Teachers at West Elementary have been playing it for their classes.

Gina Murray of the West Middle School PTO sent it to the principal, vice principal and some of the guidance counselors to play.

West Elementary School Principal Liz Roos said in an email that Zoe's song fits in with the five tenets of the school's Open Circle program.

"That's our social emotional program and the tenets are: making big problems smaller, caring about your classmates, knowing when to ask for help, working well with others and being in control of body and words," Roos wrote. "Students are recognized with Open Circle High Five stickers for demonstrating any of the tenets."

Zoe, who has two younger siblings, said she knows putting her autobiographical story into a song on iTunes could have opened her up to even more bullying. But it hasn't.

"I just thought that maybe I could help someone ... that's why I did this song," said Zoe, who in her free time swims on the Hurricanes team, dances and teaches at Dance Infusion in Andover, takes piano and guitar lessons and plays in the chime choir at church.

She encourages youths who might find themselves the target of bullies to open up about it and not keep it to themselves.

"Bullying is out there and you have to talk about it," she said. "I was lucky to have my mom and my best friend. I talked and cried with them. That's what you have to do ... talk about it. Don't hide."

Sanborn wins education grant from ExxonMobil

Sanborn Elementary School recently received a \$500 grant through the ExxonMobil Educational Alliance Program from VERC Enterprises, a convenience store and Mobil/Gulf gasoline operator with locations throughout Eastern Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Funded by the ExxonMobil Corporation and Global Partners LP, the ExxonMobil Educational Alliance program is designed to provide local retailers an opportunity to invest in the future of their communities through educational grants to neighborhood schools.

Dave Poler, district manager of VERC Enterprises, presented the check to Sanborn school nurse Lisa Slattery on behalf of the VERC West Anderson Mobil, location at 139 River Road.

"We're proud to participate in such a fine program that recognizes and supports the quality of local schools," Leo Vercollone, CEO of VERC Enterprises, said in a release.



Dave Poler, district manager of VERC Enterprises, presents a \$500 check to Lisa Slattery, registered nurse at Sanborn Elementary School. The grant was made possible through the ExxonMobil Educational Alliance Program.

PIKE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

The following students were named to the honor roll for the first term at Pike School in Andover:

- | | |
|--|---|
| HIGH HONORS
Grade 8 | Rachel Tucker, Charles Yang, Estelle Zhu |
| Grade 7 | |
| Amolina Bhat, Zenia Bhatena, Bella Borek, Amanda Brooks, Emma Brown, Cathy Cheng, Jack Curtin, Samantha Davidson, Lauren Fanning, Sabrina Gribbel, Ava Harrington, Ben Heinze, Abigail Johnson, Anna Lang, Tristan Latham, Kaleigh Lyons, Emily Michaels, Mari Nakamura, Meredith Newton, Joshua Quirk, Rolando Rabines, Clay Rabold, Sarika Rao, Lily Rauh, Alice Ren, Nicholas Rice, Nick Tilson, Katie Tsai, Ria Vieira | |
| Grade 6 | Colby Beré, Andrew Brown, Cooper Bulens, Riley Cardono, Rohan Chaturvedi, Noah Colby, Ryan Conway, Cailleigh Cormier, Noelle Dana, Izzy DiAdamo, Christian DiVincenzo, Nell Fitts, Domingo Gonzalez, Oniel Gonzalez, Zoe Hsieh, Lauren Kramer, Kyle Lattanzio, Ian McCabe, Bobby Meedra, Kate Packard, Danielle Page, Isaac Poritzky, Tarun Rastogi, Michael Ren, Dan Teplow, Jessica Wang, Suning Wang, Jake Zanazzi, Maddie Zerbey, Mae Zhao |
| Grade 5 | Max Alibrandi, Jack Anthony, Mia Borek, Clayton Britt, Max Chaban, Aki Charland, Peter Colletta, Nicholas Coutracos, Daniel DeLaus, Jonathan Gonzalez, Barrett Hodgson, Nikhil Khot, Brianna Lawlor, Margaret Lee, Amy Liu, Renae Lorden, Carissa Mastrangelo, Naimah McDon-Rabines, Tyler McGoldrick, Kaitlyn McKinnon, Vinay Metlapalli, Julianne Meyers, Reverie Nedde, Kailey O'Neill, Hannah Onofrio, Zach Papapetros, Kenyon Pelletier, Elena Ranalli, Jordan Richard, Cade Rose, Serena Santiago, Kiefer Washburn, Abby Zerbey |

EDUCATION NOTEBOOK

Guest speaker at LLL Preschool

LLL Preschool at 129 Reservation Road is hosting an open house and guest speaker on Monday, Jan. 13, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The public is invited to visit the school's classrooms, meet the teachers and learn more about the preschool as it begins accepting applications for 2014-15.

Guest speaker Debra Nicholas, an Andover kindergarten teacher, will share her thoughts and experiences on kindergarten readiness and the benefits of a play-based preschool. Children are welcome and encouraged to

attend. For more information, call 978-475-772 or visit www.lla-preschool.com.

Whole Foods holding Kaleidoscope benefit

Whole Foods Market, 40 Railroad St., is donating 5 percent of net sales on Wednesday, Jan. 15, to the Kaleidoscope Scholarship Fund to assist more families with tuition this summer. Representatives from Kaleidoscope will also be at Whole Foods that day to speak with interested families.

Kaleidoscope, which is entering its 34th year, provides

more than 170 courses in science, math, art, drama, music, computers and more to children ages 3 to 13. New courses this summer will include Baking Bonanza, Zentangle Art, Kaleidoscope's Got Talent, Fashion Design Challenge, Drum Beat, Raising Roofs and Wood Works.

The program runs in three, one-week sessions from July 7 to 29. In addition, the KITE program for high-ability students in kindergarten through grade 8 runs from July 28 to Aug. 1. Both programs are held on the campus of Pike School in Andover. For more information, visit www.kaleidoscopekids.com or call

978-475-1422.

Open house at Andover School of Montessori

Andover School of Montessori is holding an open house on Tuesday, Jan. 14, from 9 to 11 a.m. at the school, 400 South Main St. in Andover.

For more information, contact Yvonne Howard at 978-475-2299, ext. 33, or by email at yhoward@andovermontessori.org.

To submit an item for the Education Notebook, email townsman@andovertownsman.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. Honored were 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 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 Zavrl, freshmen.

Learning Express
Your Neighborhood Toy Store

Toys

www.learningexpress.com

236 N. Broadway • Salem, NH 03079
(603) 890-3535
32 Park Street • Andover, MA
(978) 474-0555

Now Accepting Applications for
SUMMER DAY CAMP Ages 4.5 to 14

Jim Loscutt's ~ **CAMP EVERGREEN**

Receive 5% discount - Enroll by Jan. 31st

Our 51st Year Providing a Wonderful
Camping Experience for Boys & Girls
in a Natural Forest Setting.

2 Pools • Softball • Archery
• Boating & More!!
Door to Door Transportation

February & April School Vacation Camp Available

www.campevergreen.com
P: 978 475-2502
166 Jenkins Road, Andover, MA

This camp complies with the regulations of the M.D.P.H. and is licensed by the Andover Board of Health

PREMIER DENTAL CONCEPTS OF ANDOVER

Peter Wojtkun, D.M.D.

Kathy M. Sendek, D.M.D.

Quality, Friendly, Caring
General & Family Cosmetic Dentistry
"Healthy Teeth and Gums for a Lifetime"

Most
Insurances
Accepted

Senior Citizen Discounts
351 North Main Street, Shawsheen Village, Andover
(next to Dunkin' Donuts)

Care
Credit
Financing

978-475-1030 www.myandoverdentist.com

Opinion

SJC parole ruling for juveniles misguided

State Sen. Barry Finegold, D-Andover, is promising to help the family of a murdered teacher, devastated by a recent Supreme Judicial Court ruling that means her accused killer, if convicted, will not spend the rest of his life in prison.

Finegold's task is not an easy one but it is well worth the effort to grant the families of victims relief from this misguided court decision.

The SJC ruled on Christmas Eve that it is unconstitutional for murderers under age 18 to be sentenced to life in prison without parole. The court based its decision on the

The SJC decision is retroactive, meaning there are 63 killers in Massachusetts serving life sentences who now will be eligible for parole. Nine of these committed their crimes in Essex County.

premise that the brains of juveniles are not fully developed, therefore "a judge cannot find with confidence that a particular offender, at that point in time, is irretrievably depraved," the court said.

The decision extends a 2012 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Miller v. Alabama* that struck down mandatory life without parole sentences for juvenile killers. The SJC decision not only bars mandatory sentences, but denies judges the discretion of weighing facts of a specific case and

determining that a youthful murderer merits life in prison without parole.

The U.S. Supreme Court relied on similar arguments about immature brain development in juveniles, but retained to judges the ability to look at each case individually.

The SJC decision is retroactive, meaning there are 63 killers in Massachusetts serving life sentences who now will be eligible for parole. Nine of these committed their crimes in Essex County. Among them is Richard Baldwin, who was 16 in 1992 when he bludgeoned 16-year-old Beth Brodie of Groveland to death with a baseball bat.

The SJC ruling will also impact the case of Philip Chism, the Danvers High student charged with the murder of teacher Colleen Ritzer of Andover. If convicted, Chism's sentence must include the possibility of parole.

In a statement, the Ritzer family said it felt betrayed that the SJC showed more concern for the rights of killers than compassion for their victims.

"This decision should not be applauded, rather overturned as an act of justice and humanity to victims of violent crimes and their families," the family said.

Finegold, whose 2nd Essex and Middlesex District represents Andover, Dracut, Lawrence and Tewksbury, told reporter Dustin Luca the ruling "caught a lot of people off guard. I disagree with the decision and I do believe it should be life without parole for someone who commits a crime like what has happened."

Finegold said the Legislature "may have to look into a constitutional amendment. We need to look into legislation."

That won't be easy. Passing a constitutional amendment in Massachusetts is a complex task requiring the support of a majority in a joint convention of the Legislature in two successive sessions. Then, the proposed amendment is placed on the ballot for the consideration of voters.

The SJC decision is as misguided as the law the U.S. Supreme Court corrected in its 2012 ruling. The high court determined that, in the case of juveniles convicted of murder, a judge must be able to weigh the facts of a case in establishing a sentence. The SJC prohibits judges from weighing the facts of individual cases. Just as mandatory life without parole sentences are an inappropriate one-size-fits-all remedy, so, too, is the SJC's blanket prohibition of any life without parole sentences.

The Legislature should act to remedy the injustice the court has imposed on the families of the victims of juvenile killers.

WEB QUESTION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

The state Supreme Judicial Court has ruled juvenile offenders serving life prison sentences should be offered parole. Do you agree with its decision?

YES: Life sentences don't consider a defendant's likelihood of being rehabilitated by serving in prison.

NO: Juveniles are charged as adults because of the nature of the crime, and future rehabilitation is considered by prosecutors.

I don't know, or I have no opinion.

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

While wrapping up 2013, we asked readers, "What do you think was the biggest story in Andover this year? With 154 responses, the answers were:

RITZER MURDER: Community responds to Andover High School graduate and Danvers High School teacher allegedly slain by one of her students — 99 votes, 64.29 percent.

TAX TALK: Tax rates, water rates jump again as massive projects approach on horizon — 23 votes, 14.94 percent.

STEAM STUDIO: School Committee member proposes charter school to serve high school community — 16 votes, 10.39 percent.

YOUTH CENTER WINS: Town Meeting votes to divide Wood Trust; work begins on site — 10 votes, 6.49 percent.

WATER WOES: Dirty water hits taps as town battles toxic sludge case in court — 4 votes, 2.6 percent.

ZONING IN: Town talks new zoning districts for industry, elderly housing, Town Yard, medicinal marijuana — 2 votes, 1 percent.

IT'S ALL DOWNHILL FROM HERE



RYAN HUTTON/Staff photo

Carter Chaney, 5, gets some sledding action in on the hill at Andover High School on Sunday before Monday's heavy rain, followed by this week's deep freeze.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor's Note: These two letters were sent to the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education as part of the public comment for the proposed STEAM Studio charter high school in Andover and were requested to be printed in *The Townsman*.

Andover charter school decision should be delayed

Editor, Townsman:

This letter concerns the STEAM Studio charter school now being proposed for the Town of Andover. I recommend that the approval or disapproval of this application by DESE be delayed for a full cycle based on the rationale I outline below.

I am a longtime resident of Andover, had three children utilize the public schools in town and am a strong supporter of the school system itself, its rigorous academic programs and its undisputed long-term success. I am also the chairman of Andover's Economic Development Council whose mission is to make Andover the best place to work and live in America (this, of course, includes the schools). I am a public school product myself, have a Bachelor of Science in math and hold two master's degrees. My wife, who also holds a master's degree, was a longtime school teacher in Lexington. So we are not innocent bystanders in this important discussion.

I am a strong supporter of the charter school concept itself, and have been pleased to see the charter school successes in Boston, other communities in Massachusetts as well as in deserving (primarily) urban areas throughout America.

I empathize with the proponents of the proposed STEAM Studio charter school in Andover as we all wish to better prepare the next generation of participants in our economic society. We are all familiar with the "gap" that currently exists here in Massachusetts between applicants and job openings — which is particularly acute in the technology sector. Clearly we, as citizens and key arbiters of precious resources, must address this issue urgently.

However, in my judgment, the Andover citizenry has not yet had enough time to thoroughly evaluate this important choice now before us. There are three reasons why I believe this application should be delayed for a cycle to allow adequate examination:

1. Is there a gap between what the Andover Public Schools now provide (in the STEAM arena) and what a dedicated charter school might do? Yes, there is. But a careful analysis of efforts now under way and planned in the Andover schools can address that gap quite substantially.

Unlike some of the other less well-funded school districts in the commonwealth, Andover is very progressive and carefully blends the desire for well-rounded

preparation with the more pronounced needs in the STEAM sector. Finally, the location of a vocational high school in town plus immediate access to other private schools locally affords our populace some excellent choices. Thus, the need appears to be not as great here, relatively speaking, as it might be in more deserving parts of the state.

2. Should the proposed charter school come into being in Andover, the budget impact for both the public schools as well as the general town operations would be severe as the charter school funding is now constituted. This is due primarily to the methodology behind the Chapter 70 aid supplemented by the Chapter 46 reimbursements. Time is necessary to understand the full impact of these financial changes and plan for a potential transition.

3. Andover is one of the last remaining Town Meeting communities where, essentially, all of the key decisions in the operation of the town (and the school district) are determined by the majority of the townspeople. That is the culture of the town. Due to the timing of the proposed STEAM Studio application, there has not yet been enough time to fully examine and evaluate

the proposal by the vast majority of Andover citizens. It might well be that sufficient support resides in town to launch this new charter school, but our "socialization" of this issue has not yet been given time to work.

I understand fully that there is no "town vote" or other "official blessing" of the charter school operation; however, extra time would certainly allow more taxpayers in Andover to understand the proposal and its financial impacts and allow other voices to be heard. I believe that DESE would benefit from additional input from Andover given that this is such an unusual location for a charter school proposal.

My understanding is that DESE will give final consideration to the STEAM Studio application at its annual deliberation in February.

Given that the need in Andover — while important — is not critical, that the extensive budget impact of this proposal is considerable and not well-enough understood and that the general population of the town has not yet had an opportunity to fully assess the proposal, the delay of a year in evaluating the proposal should be considered.

TIMOTHY L. VAILL
 9 Bancroft Road

STEAM Studio charter plan would weaken Andover schools

Editor, Townsman:

This letter comes from an Andover High School teacher of 15 years experience and her father who has 10 years of service on the Andover School Committee and 10 additional years of service on the Andover Finance Committee. Both of us have an interest in and passion for public education.

We are adamantly opposed to Mr. Birnbach's proposed STEAM Studio charter school for several reasons. The establishment of a "STEAM" Academy implies that only those subjects are worthy of support and thus marginalizes all students whose interests lie outside of those disciplines. In reading Mr. Birnbach's proposal, it is obvious that art has been included in only the most minimal way and the "Art" that the proposed school includes focuses solely on computer-assisted design. Thus, this school would not truly encompass all the

facets of a STEAM school.

Should the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education approve such a school, it will set an unhealthy precedent. If the interests of a small group of students deserve this kind of attention, what about the interests of other students? Should the community also provide a Fine Arts Academy, a Communications Academy, an International Affairs and Foreign Language Academy, a Health Services Academy and schools for other equally worthwhile interests? A point of fact, it is the purpose of a comprehensive high school to serve this range of needs, which Andover High School already does exceedingly well.

In the majority of charter school cases, the DESE reassigns state money because those schools are located in districts that rely overwhelmingly on state funding for support. This is not the case in Andover.

Less than 10 percent of Andover's public school budget comes from state funding. Therefore, the proposed STEAM Academy would allow DESE to reassign local funding without the approval of local voters. That is a fundamental contradiction of the proud history of public education in the commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Along those same lines, as residents of this community for more than 30 years, we are appalled that an elected official would use his position on the School Committee to propose a project that would not only weaken Andover Public Schools, but would also enhance his own personal position. We vehemently urge you to deny Mr. Birnbach's request for approval of the inappropriately named Andover STEAM Academy.

MARY ROBB
 116 Lowell St.
 DONALD ROBB
 36 York St.

READER ACCESS

EDITORIAL SERVICES

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

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

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

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

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

■ **Sports Writer Dave Willis** at 978-946-2473; dwillis@andovertownsmen.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

■ **To subscribe to the newspaper or to report delivery problems:** Call the Circulation Department direct at 800-836-7800 during business hours: Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday, Sunday and most holidays, 6:30 a.m. to noon.

ADVERTISING

■ **Account Executive Paula Fontaine** at 978-475-7000 or pfontaine@andovertownsmen.com

■ **Advertising fax:** 978-475-5731

■ **To place a classified advertisement:** Call the Classified Department at 978-946-2300.

Andover Townsman

Established 1887

Regional Publisher
 Karen Andreas

Editor
 Sonya Vartabedian

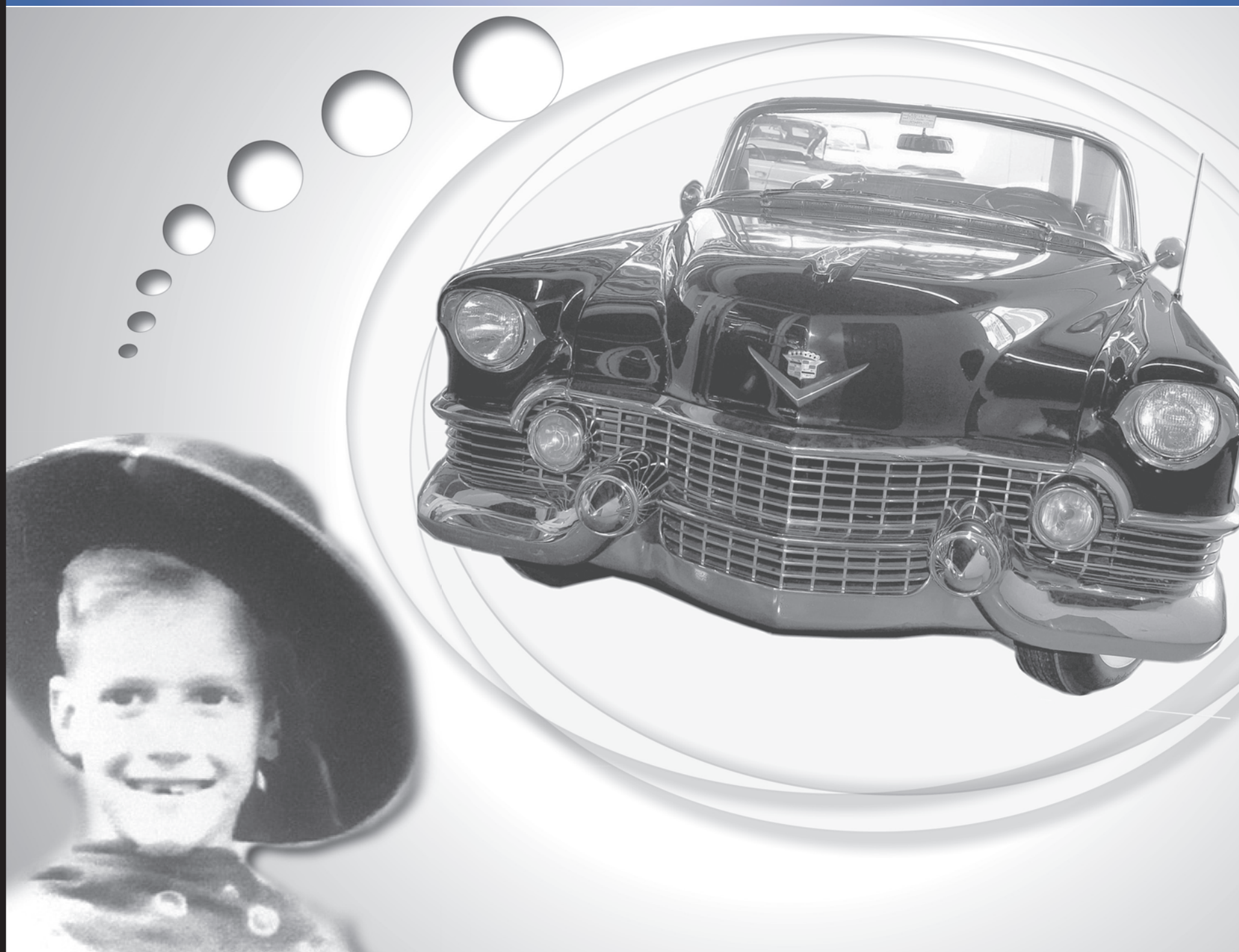
Published Thursdays by
 North of Boston Media Group
 33 Chestnut St., Andover, MA 01810
 978-475-7000 •

News fax: 978-470-2819
 E-mail svartabedian@andovertownsmen.com
 www.andovertownsmen.com



Sale Ends
1/31/14

Bill DeLuca's
Woodworth Chevrolet · Cadillac



QUESTION: Remember when you were little and you always wanted a Cadillac?

ANSWER: Now you can lease a Cadillac ATS!

**THE ALL NEW 2014
CADILLAC ATS 2.0L TURBO**



Lease For Only

\$299 PER MO.

299 x 36 mo. lease, \$3,599 cash or trade down payment, 1st payment and bank fee due at signing. Title, tax, and registration additional.

339 No. Main St. (Rte. 28), Andover, MA • 978.475.6200 • Exit 41 Off Route 495
woodworthmotors.com • Mon.-Thurs. 9-8 • Fri. 9-6 • Sat. 9-5 • Sun. 12-4

TownsBeat

Building kings on and off court

Andover group helps establish local SquashBusters Program

By BILL BURT
bburt@andovertownsman.com

Lawrence has basketball, baseball, soccer and football programs in place to hopefully give boys and girls something to do, teach a little teamwork and possibly inspire them to take that passion to other areas of their lives.

Well, thanks to some prodding from a few Andover residents, there's a new youth sport in town, one that might surprise most, if not all, of its residents: Squash.

That's right, squash, the sport of kings, or at the very least the sport of elite prep schools and colleges in the country.

The same sport Forbes Magazine tabbed as "the healthiest sport" to play a decade ago.

In fact, the "Ivy League" sport is not only here, but after a \$250,000 fundraiser a few weeks ago in North Andover for the SquashBusters Program, it appears to be setting roots for a long time coming.

SquashBusters was founded in 1996 as the first after-school program of its kind in the U.S. — combining squash, academics and community service. The organization's aim was to serve students from Boston and Cambridge public schools through the "most crucial years" of their development, with the goals of building strong personal character, pushing students to matriculate to and graduate from college and improving the overall physical and emotional health of youths.

SquashBusters is under the growing umbrella of the National Urban Squash and Education Association, with similar programs in Harlem, Newark, Bronx, Philadelphia, New Haven, Baltimore, Cleveland, Detroit, Minneapolis, Denver and in a handful of California cities.

Three summers ago, Phillips Andover squash coach Tom Hodgson was visiting SquashBusters founder Greg Zaff at their alma mater, Williams College in Williamstown, and they began talking about the program.

"We were talking about the need for additional afternoon programming for kids in Lawrence," Hodgson said. "We talked about the opportunity to put our students (from Andover) and the area squash community in contact with our neighbors in Lawrence. It was exciting."

Hodgson passed the word along to two of his squash pals from Andover, Ross Elkin and Ed Krapels.

A dream soon became a reality.

"I was aware of SquashBusters in Boston," Elkin said. "Then a core group of us — including Tom, Ed, Bruce Landay, Henry White, Doug Burbank and I — began investigating what would be required to start a program."

"It turns out that, coincidentally, SquashBusters Boston was thinking about expanding to a second location, and Lawrence was one of the places they had thought about. We realized quickly that there was no need for us to try to reinvent the wheel, and when SquashBusters said that they would commit to starting a program in Lawrence, we agreed to put our support behind that effort."

That support wasn't just dollars, but time. SquashBusters' mission statement is this: To challenge and nurture urban youth — as students, athletes and citizens — so that they recognize and fulfill their fullest potential in life.

"When we started to introduce squash in Lawrence it was the fall of 2012 and we went into the Wetherbee and Arlington



Ross Elkin, left, and Tom Hodgson pose with some of the students from the Lawrence SquashBusters Program. The initiative aims to use squash to challenge and nurture urban youths so that they recognize and achieve their fullest potential in life.



Ross Elkin, back row second from left, and Tom Hodgson, back row second from right, with members of the Lawrence SquashBusters Program. Elkin and Hodgson helped raise \$250,000 for the initiative. They are accompanied by program director Dora Lubin, back far right, and academic coordinator Audrey Guerrero, back far left.



Locals Ross Elkin tries to block out Tom Hodgson on the squash courts of Brooks School in North Andover. The pair are working to introduce squash to Lawrence students through an initiative they have helped to bring to the area.

(middle) schools," SquashBusters Lawrence director Dora Lubin said. "We brought a bunch of racquets and the kids would hit the balls around in the gym. It was a little chaotic."

"And then when we had sign-ups for this fall, I had visions that we were going to get only 10 kids. But 150 boys and girls signed up. We eventually took 24 kids from each school. It has surpassed all of our expectations."

The key element in all of this, though, was getting the area's two top prep schools, Phillips Andover and Brooks School, to sign on.

Both did. Emphatically. "We are so lucky to have such great schools with top-notch facilities," Elkin said. "It couldn't be any better. Andover and Brooks have been incredible partners."

Boys and girls in the SquashBusters Program get 60 to 90 minutes of academic help and then 60 to 90 minutes of squash instruction three days a week from September to June. The Arlington Middle School students are scheduled to attend Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday while the Wetherbee School students go Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.

The 48 participating children are picked

TOURNAMENT RAISES \$250K

The recent "MashUp" squash competition at Brooks School in North Andover helped net \$250,000 for the SquashBusters Lawrence Program.

The competition consisted of four teams, each comprised of a world-class player, five amateurs, a student from Brooks School or Phillips Academy and a SquashBusters student.

Each of the amateur players raised money to participate. The teams battled in a round-robin format with the two top finishers playing in the finals for all the marbles. Andover's Ross Elkin, Ed Krapels and Tom Hodgson were among the competitors.

Originally, the hope was to raise \$100,000. But with a special matching grant of \$75,000, the event raised more than double the expectations. All of the proceeds will directly benefit SquashBusters Lawrence and its 48 students.

For more information about SquashBusters, visit www.squashbusters.org.

up at their schools between 2:20 p.m. and 2:45 p.m. and they are back in Lawrence by

about 6:30 p.m. The Saturday schedule is simply two hours of squash, with the two schools coming together to play.

In other words, this is the real deal. "I had run into a number of SquashBusters kids at youth tournaments that my son, Seve (a Brooks School student), had played," Elkin said. "I was always impressed by the way they conducted themselves. To be blunt, it's not the easiest thing for a bunch of kids from inner-city Boston to move comfortably in the Wellesley/Weston-Mercedes/BMW-private school world of squash, and yet the SquashBusters' kids did just that."

"I love the intensive, long-term approach that the program takes. They ask the students to make a seven-year commitment and to work for everything they get — in the classroom, on the court and in the community. That's extraordinary."

The Lawrence kids have reaped many benefits in about 16 months, including traveling to tournaments at some elite colleges in New England while rubbing elbows and competing against their peers.

"I've been to Harvard, Yale and Williams

See **SQUASH**, Page 11

Smiling through life

Former local writer shares everyday nuances in book

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
jwakefield@andovertownsman.com

The book starts with an introduction starring a doughnut — a glazed jelly cruller that not only oozes with calories (260), but also oozes with a comedic approach to life in short essay style that will keep readers amused to the end.

Titled "Calling New Delhi for Free" (\$9 paperback), it's the handiwork of former Andover Townsman reporter and longtime writer Susan Kramer O'Neill.

O'Neill used to live in Andover with her family — husband Paul and two kids — but now calls Brooklyn, N.Y. home.

"I used to work as a reporter (at the Townsman) back when dinosaurs walked the Earth (1985 or '86 or so, during the Bob Finneran era) and was



Former Andover resident Susan Kramer O'Neill has published a collection of her humorous short essays in "Calling New Delhi for Free."

recently started to see the Little League team from 25 years ago staring at me from my computer on the Townsman website," O'Neill said in an email. "So, I quickly

sent links to my husband and my son, who coached and played for a non-competing team in that era."

This is O'Neill's second book and it reminds her very much of her long-ago weekly newspaper gig in Andover. She wrote a weekly humor column for the paper "back in the day."

"Don't know that anybody would remember me from that time, but I guess I can say the job gave me my start down the essay trail," she said.

She continues her trademark style in "Calling New Delhi," offering humorous takes on family, social media, tech support, travel, war and one presidential inauguration. But today's technology craze is what clearly gets this author's goat.

O'Neill said many of her columns are musings on how technology messes

with the minds of mere humans. The book title reflects her frustrations.

"It's kind of a symptom of the age and a symbol of the tech craziness," she said. "So many times, we idiots start on the path to tend to some faulty product we've bought somewhere by making a simple phone call — only to find ourselves talking to New Delhi," O'Neill said.

She shared her New Delhi experience: "I was having trouble linking the book with the Kindle edition with my author page, so I engaged the 'chat' feature — you know, where you type your message and somebody comes online to type back and try to solve the issue at hand and I noticed the individual on the other end of Amazon support had kind of an odd name. So, when we'd supposedly solved our issue, I asked



Susan Kramer O'Neill, formerly of Andover, in New York's Times Square. The author highlights the funny side of life's everyday nuances in her writing.

Courtesy photos

where she was typing from. She said, of course, New Delhi," O'Neill recalled.

O'Neill is also a registered nurse who volunteered with the Peace Corps and was an Army nurse in Vietnam. She wrote "Don't Mean Nothing" (Ballantine 2001, UMass Press 2004, Serving House Books 2010), a collection of short stories based loosely on her experiences in the

war. "I gathered a batch of my blog entries and a few outright essays and decided to publish them as a book with Peace Corps Writers, which is the site where I throw up an essay now and then under the title 'Off the Matrix,'" she said.

In addition, for the past

See **O'NEILL**, Page 11

Townspeople

Finding wonder, happiness within a joyful group of children

Elizabeth Bernardin

Editor's Note: Andover High School sophomore Elizabeth Bernardin has been volunteering at the Professional Center for Child Development in Andover for more than a year. The sister of a younger brother who is on the autism spectrum and who attended the center, she says she has found the opportunity eye-opening and gratifying on a variety of levels. She shares her experience in this piece.



Elizabeth Bernardin with her brother, William, who prompted her to start volunteering at the Professional Center for Child Development in Andover. Courtesy photo

The summer before high school, I began searching for an organization I could contribute to. I wanted to apply myself outside of school in a setting where I could help and hopefully make an impact. I went to a few different groups before I decided on the Professional Center for Child Development in Andover. The biggest factor in this decision was the fact that my younger brother, William, had attended there. I knew he had benefited, so I wanted to give back to the people who had helped him.

William is on the autism spectrum. I've seen how hard he works every day to accomplish the things that come naturally to the rest of us. Whether it was basic things such as making eye contact when being spoken to or eating with a spoon, or more advanced skills such as communicating and interacting with others, William has always had to work extremely hard. It's been a trying, exciting and rewarding journey as an older sister.

Being someone who lives in a home where autism is such a prominent topic, I felt I could bring some valuable knowledge to the job. And, honestly, it did help a lot, because there were times when a child would do something that strongly resembled William's behavior. There were many things, however, that I wasn't prepared for, because each child is

unique. I wasn't prepared for how gratifying this experience would be or for the contagious happiness of the children.

You forget what it's like to be a child with the ability to find joy in everyday things — whether it's blowing bubbles or drawing with chalk. Having the privilege of interacting with these children instilled in me a newfound sense of wonder and happiness. It made me see the world a little differently and take time to appreciate what I have. Some of the children I worked with faced greater challenges than William, but they were bright and energetic and put their all in everything they did. I knew I had found the right place to volunteer.

My first event at the PCCD was the Trot for Special Tots. Since then, I've also been able to volunteer at holiday parties as well as in a summer classroom. Volunteering was initially

a little nerve-racking, but the strong sense of community within the PCCD walls helped me acclimate. I had the opportunity to not only work with amazing children, but also with a dedicated staff who made my experience so worthwhile. They showed me what I needed to do in order to be successful and opened my eyes to all the good the PCCD does for so many families.

I feel honored to have the privilege of volunteering at the Professional Center for Child Development. Being able to work with the children and interact with them on a personal level is an unbelievably rewarding experience. I am grateful to Ellen Waddill and everyone else at PCCD for this amazing volunteer opportunity, and I look forward to continuing my work with the fantastic staff and children at PCCD.

Elizabeth Bernardin is a sophomore at Andover High School.

For the dogs: March benefit to raise funds for off-leash park

Mark your calendars now: A fundraiser has been planned for March 8 to raise money for the Andover Dog Park.

As last reported in the Townsman, supporters of the dog park need to raise about \$50,000, which will be handed over to the town to hire a contractor to build the park.

The town has donated about a half-acre of land near Bald Hill Conservation Trails as space for the dog park. Volunteers have cleared it, but now dog park supporters need someone to prepare the site, build a fence and parking lot, and put up whatever other amenities are called for in the final design.

The fundraiser will be held at Andover Country Club from 7 to 10:30 p.m. and will include a silent auction, appetizers and drinks, and entertainment. Tickets are \$50 and are available at River Road Veterinary Hospital, Groom Town Boutique & Spa, Blue Dog Academy, Learning Express and Cakes by Design.

According to the group's website, the Andover Dog Park will be an area of 0.6 acres for dogs to run and play off leash. The aim is to preserve the natural features and rolling terrain of the land. A couple trees, including a large white oak tree in the center, will be kept to

provide shade. According to the group's website, the Andover Dog Park will be an area of 0.6 acres for dogs to run and play off leash. The aim is to preserve the natural features and rolling terrain of the land. A couple trees, including a large white oak tree in the center, will be kept to

provide shade. The area will be completely fenced in and will include a double gate at the entrance to ensure safety. Organizers say they want to provide a safe, fun area for dogs to play and owners to mingle. The project was started several years ago and now a new group of private citizens has come together and is working with town officials to see the project to completion. The estimated budget of \$55,000 for the park will be privately funded through a variety of fundraising efforts.

For more information or to make an online donation, visit andoverdogparkma.com.

DPW a helpful Facebook friend in new year's storm

The snowstorm that kicked off the new year illustrated the power of social networking for the town's Department of Public Works and the benefit of the social media website in spreading news to the community.

The snowfall caused delays in trash and recycling pickup throughout town, leading several residents to call the public works department for information and updates on the situation, staff said.

However, the information was also accessible in an easier, more efficient way, the department reports.

Intern Sarah LaMacchia said that the DPW Facebook page was updated multiple times throughout the storm with new trash and recycling pickup information. She said the Facebook page is a quick and easy way

to stay educated on some of the latest news in town. In addition to waste collection information, the page also features updates on road construction work, power disruptions and water main breaks.

In today's age of technology, the ubiquity of social networks allows for greater ease and convenience when sharing information, LaMacchia said. Integrating Facebook into communication between the town and its residents will allow for important updates to be shared more efficiently, she said.

The DPW will continue to use Facebook to help the town share information instantaneously with its residents, she said. Visit the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/AndoverDPW.

Troop Challenge benefit gearing up



The winners of last year's Troop Challenge at Yang's Fitness & Wellness Center. This year's event to benefit Home for Our Troops and raise awareness for this spring's Run for Our Troops 5K in Andover is set for Jan. 24. Courtesy photos

Competitors and charitable cheerleaders are being sought for the second annual Yang's Townwide Troop Challenge to benefit Homes for Our Troops on Friday, Jan. 24, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Yang's Fitness & Wellness Center, 5 Dundee Park, Andover.

Organizers say the event combines good, healthy competition for a great cause, raising money and awareness for April's Run for the Troops 5K in Andover, which

benefits the Homes for Our Troops initiative.

The area's toughest contenders are invited to compete in timed military fitness events, including push-ups, pull-ups, jump rope, wall sits, abdominal crunches and treadmill climb.

More than 100 contenders and spectators attended last year's event, which raised more than \$2,400 for the cause.

This year, participants may compete individually or



Last year's Troop Challenge included a treadmill climb done at a 10-degree incline with competitors wearing 45-pound backpacks. Andover High School lacrosse coach Wayne Puglisi, top left of photo, coaches Paula Perry of Andover, a personal trainer and group fitness instructor at Yang's, in the challenge as her daughter, Sydney, looks on.

as part of a team. Prizes will be awarded to the top female and male in each individual event and to the top three teams.

Proceeds from this year's event will help to build a home for injured veteran Army Sgt. Matt Dewitt of Concord, N.H.

Registration for competitors are now being accepted. Those who sign up by Friday, Jan. 17, will receive a free, commemorative T-shirt. Tickets for

spectators, which are \$25, are also available.

To sign up or for more information, visit www.YangsFitnessCenter.com or contact Diana Kiesel at YangsAndover@aol.com or 978-475-2020.

For more information about the Run For the Troops 5K, which is set for Sunday, April 6, visit www.runforthetroops5k.com. For more on Homes for Our Troops, visit www.HomesForOurTroops.com.

A visit to the fire station



Cub Scout Pack 76 from South School recently paid a visit to the Andover Fire Station. Attending the outing were, front row from left, first-graders Drew LaChapelle, Charlie Howard, Kevin Hogan, Luke Organisciak, Drew Pulsifer, Danny Kirby, Owen Andrade, William Rice, Ty Cox and Henry Kane, and, back row from left, den leader Dave Howard dressed as a firefighter with Andover firefighters Garrett Ferris and Michael Oteri. Courtesy photo

SEND US YOUR TOWNSPETS

The Townsman is seeking nominations for TownsPets of the Week. The honor is open to all types of pets. We want to spotlight Andover's top dogs and cats — not to mention fish, birds, hamsters, chickens and maybe even some snakes and turtles, too — as a regular feature in The Townsman. To nominate your favorite pet, submit a photo, with or without his or her owners, along with a brief description of the animal and its special qualities, to townsman@andovertownsmen.com.

ALL THOSE YEARS AGO

COMPILED BY
SUSAN MCKELIGET

100 Years Ago Jan. 16, 1914

The local fire alarm whistle, which has been located above the Tye Rubber Company since its installation several years ago, was removed from that building and relocated on the main factory of the company. The Board of Engineers announced, in connection with the fire alarm system, that in the future, the testing blows will be given at 7:45 in the evening instead of noon, as has been the custom.

The Andover Equal Suffrage League held its second regular meeting at Mrs. James C. Sawyer's on Wednesday, Jan. 14, at 3:30 o'clock. After a short business meeting, the following talks were given: "A Brief Survey of Women's Legal and Social

Rights under the Roman Law, Canon Law and English Law;" second, "The Political Status of Woman in the United States Today."

75 Years Ago Jan. 12, 1939

The six-room house on Shawsheen Heights built by Frank Cairns has been sold to Raymond S. Walker, who has already moved in and intends to make it his permanent home. The sale was made through the W. Shirley Barnard real estate and insurance agency.

Trudi Schoop, blonde Swiss dancer, will be here on Tuesday evening to present her international troupe in a program at the George Washington Auditorium. Miss Schoop is happy to be back in America on her fourth consecutive tour. She likes American audiences. "They respond more quickly" she said through

an interpreter. "I suppose it's their constant contact with movies."

50 Years Ago Jan. 16, 1964

Confirmation that the old barn on Maple Avenue actually was an original town fire station was received this week from a man who should know. John A. Flint — now a resident of Raleigh, N.C. — has every reason to be sure of his facts. He hitched a ride on the moving barn when the builders were taking it to Maple Avenue from its Main Street location. Mr. Flint says the station was on the east side of Main Street near the corner of Chestnut.

Fire — which for a time threatened the entire building at 8 Essex St. — caused several patrons of the Forum V coffee shop to leave hurriedly last Saturday night. The flames, however, were confined to the electrical shop in

the rear of the building and did not cause much damage to the coffee house, a fish store and a laundromat.

25 Years Ago Jan. 19, 1989

The ballot as of Wednesday showed incumbents Gerald Silverman and Charles Wesson being challenged by George Danneman and Jack Dziadul for selectmen, moderator James D. Doherty being challenged by John Doyle, Andres Salazar and Christopher Outwin seeking the two School Committee openings and incumbent Eileen Connelly the only candidate for a five-year term on the Andover Housing Authority.

Bancroft Elementary School will honor Andover teacher Mrs. Jane Collins, who is retiring after 29 years of service to the school on Wednesday, Jan. 25.

Going dark on incandescents

BY DOUG IRELAND
Staff Writer

They're gradually disappearing from store shelves — those 40- and 60-watt incandescent lightbulbs once ubiquitous in every home in town.

They're going the way of the 100- and 75-watt incandescents, which have already been outlawed within the last two years.

As of Jan. 1, federal law has banned the manufacturing and importation of the 40- and 60-watt incandescents.

The incandescent bulbs still can be sold at U.S. stores until inventories are exhausted.

The goal of the Energy Independence and Security Act, adopted in 2007, is to switch to more energy-efficient lighting, including use of compact fluorescent lamps, or CFLs. They are 75 percent more efficient and last at least 10 times longer, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Incandescent bulbs cost a lot less than CFL bulbs, but generally don't last as long.

Managers at several area stores said last week they



PAUL BILODEAU/Staff photos

Gary Keleshian of Optech, an Andover company that specializes in lightbulbs, holds an old-style incandescent bulb that can no longer be manufactured in the United States nor imported as of the new year. Some shoppers are stocking up.

had yet to see a run on the 40- and 60-watt incandescent bulbs, but won't be surprised if customers start hoarding them. They speculated that most shoppers had not yet heard about the ban.

Just before 100-watt bulbs were banned in 2012, store managers said they started to sell a lot of them. The same thing happened shortly before 75-watt bulbs began to disappear last year.

Managers responded by

placing extra orders to meet customer demand.

"I always stock up," Gary Keleshian, owner of Optech in Andover, said.

Keleshian said he recently saw a surge in 100-watt bulb sales and is waiting to see if the other types will start flying off the shelves.

"I had a run a few months ago," he said. "I sold off a lot of inventory."

Robert Ducharme, manager at Bridge Street True Value

Hardware across the border in Pelham, N.H., said many customers requested the 75-watt bulbs, but he wasn't sure if the 60- and 40-watt bulbs would be scooped up as quickly.

"I don't foresee a big rush," he said.

But some customers do complain about the cost of the CFL bulbs, he said. An eight-pack of 60-watt incandescent bulbs costs \$2.99, compared to 99 cents for a single CFL bulb.

"That's the biggest gripe," Ducharme said.

CFLs also don't cast as much light for at least several minutes after being turned on — one reason why some customers balk at buying them, store managers said. And there is some concern over the safety of the CFLs because they contain mercury, which can be a health hazard.

But several area residents said they prefer CFLs because they are more energy efficient and are expected to last up to seven years.

"It makes sense to me," said one man who was shopping at an area Home Depot. "It's more long term and sustainable."

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

The following real estate transfers were recorded recently in town:

■ **32 Corbett St.:** Armand K. and E.G. Bartlett to Heidi Ramich, \$387,900

■ **77 Lowell Junction Road:** Reichhold Inc. to Believe Andover LLC, \$1,800,000

■ **85-87 Porter Road:** Porter Road NT and John C. Pustell

to Frank E. Zavrl, \$325,000

■ **36 Smithshire Estate:** Caroline C. Mulligan to Halie Corning, \$740,000

■ **22 Topping Road:** Janet Coombs to Ivan Elias, \$290,000

■ **100 Washington Park Drive, Unit 1:** Roy D. Umanzio to Mark Derbyshire, \$107,500

BUILDING PERMITS

The following building permits were recently issued by the town, according to the Andover Building Department. The list includes permit recipients and addresses, job descriptions and value of planned improvements:

■ **3 Torr St.:** Jeffco Inc., single family, foundation, \$255,000

■ **103 Gould Road:** Stephen F. and Susan L. Gramolini, single family, open deck, \$12,240

■ **9 Newport Circle:** Patch Development LLC, single family, structure permit, \$345,000

■ **2 Stonehedge Road:** Trustees of Phillips Academy, commercial, kitchen renovation, \$14,588

■ **87 Tewksbury St.:** Mark D. and Cynthia A. McLaughlan, single family, vinyl siding and windows, \$23,889

■ **100 Murray Way:** Merrimack Valley Augustinian College, commercial, foundation only, modular building, health center (temporary), \$205,500

■ **8 Robinswood Way:** Paul J. and Barbara A. Heller, single family, strip and reroof, \$8,250

■ **11 Haskell Road:** Benita and Yuval Zabar, single family, deck extension, \$3,700

■ **62 North St.:** 62 North Street LLC, single family, raze house and garage, \$15,000

■ **6 Newport Circle:** Patch Development LLC, single family, construction, \$346,000

■ **10 Wolcott Ave.:** Effie P. and Stephen A. Brickman, single family, remodel kitchen and bathroom, \$39,667

■ **4 Cullen Circle:** Four Cullen Circle/Daniel and Sue Farrell Trust, single family, renovate bathroom, \$17,107

■ **36 Greenwood Road:** Zonghetti Family Trust/Maureen E. Zonghetti, single family, two-story addition, \$143,000

■ **350 Lowell St.:** Raytheon

Co., commercial industrial/residential, restroom renovations, \$323,048

■ **4 Acorn Drive:** Luke Damian, single family, kitchen remodel, \$32,000

■ **19 McKenney Circle:** Conrad L. and Sharon Provencher, single family, replace vinyl siding, 23 replacement windows, slider, front door, \$40,200

■ **7 Marilyn Road:** Matthew J. and Heather J. Flynn, single family, replace kitchen cabinets, tile dining room and kitchen floors, \$10,545

■ **138 Rattlesnake Hill Road:** Yuan Yong Zhang and Lynelle Yvette Lin, single family, rooftop solar array, \$46,900

■ **3 Algonquin Ave.:** John D. IV and Wendy E. Nevin, single family, bathroom remodel, \$11,183

■ **1 Dean Circle:** Gail D. Der Ananian, single family, kitchen and living room renovation, \$34,870

■ **36 Boston Road:** Wayne S. Frerichs, single family, replacement window, kitchen cabinets, floor tile, \$14,500

■ **49 Highland Road:** Trustees of Phillips Academy, commercial, bathroom renovation, \$13,835

■ **44 Juliette St.:** Raymond and Thomas Gaudet, single family, kitchen and bathroom remodel, \$20,000

■ **174 High Plain Road:** James M. and Maura A. O'Brien, single family, roof, install window, bathroom renovation, \$15,447

■ **2 Rolling Ridge Road:** Kings Oak Properties LLC, single family, addition and alterations, remove porch, \$90,000

■ **321 Lowell St.:** 323 Lowell Street Realty LLC, commercial, foundation only, 30,000-square-foot building, unavailable

BUSINESS BRIEFCASE

Sandbox helping 17 early-stage ventures

Merrimack Valley Sandbox is helping 17 early-stage entrepreneurs accelerate their business and nonprofit organizations as part of its 2014 Winter Accelerator.

Participants' ventures include a specialty cake store, a website that helps create local jobs and a nonprofit group providing basic necessities to homeless students. Among them are Aeroship.it founded by Michael Luby. The business creates aerial drones to deliver supplies to disaster-hit areas. By the end of the program, Luby expects his business will have built a prototype and developed key relationships with humanitarian organizations that

will use its delivery service.

During the 12-week Accelerator Program, which continues through February, participants will have the opportunity to compete for \$30,000 in cash prizes; network with the Sandbox community of more than 100 investors, industry experts and entrepreneurs; learn from experts in various business fields, and access 24/7 shared workspace.

This is Sandbox's third Accelerator Program. Ninety percent of the 29 early-stage businesses and nonprofits that participated in the first two rounds are still actively pursuing their ventures.

Founded in 2010, the nonprofit Merrimack Valley Sandbox aims to boost the economic and social

well-being of greater Lowell and Lawrence by advancing entrepreneurship and innovation. It is supported by a pilot grant from the Deshpande Foundation started by Gururaj "Desh" and Jaishree Deshpande of Andover. For more information, visit www.MVSandbox.org or www.Deshpande-Foundation.org.

Enterprise Bank hires senior VP of investment advisers

Rosalin Acosta recently joined Enterprise Bank family as senior vice president of Enterprise Investment Advisers. She has more than 27 years of banking experience and previously held progressively responsible positions in

wealth management, government banking, cash management and commercial lending throughout Greater Boston.

Her experience includes leading a multi-billion-dollar division of 70 professionals, including advisers, relationship managers and trust officers. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Wesleyan University.

Enterprise Investment Advisers team oversees more than \$700 million in investment assets. Enterprise Bank has 22 full-service branch offices in Massachusetts, including one in Andover.

■ ■ ■

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



HANK AARON IS FROM HERE. SO IS AMERICA'S ORIGINAL MARDI GRAS. Mobile, Alabama has been hosting successful meetings for more than 300 years. We invite you and your group to experience this exciting port city for yourself. Stay in the heart of the excitement at Renaissance Riverview Plaza. From family reunions to association meetings to corporate conventions, Renaissance Riverview offers 373 affordable guest rooms, great meeting space and four diamond service. See magnificent views of Mobile Bay or downtown's historic architecture from your room. Sample the freshest seafood or great steaks and walk to Mobile's arts and entertainment districts.

COME EXPERIENCE OUR HOSPITALITY, HISTORY AND HERITAGE. Meet me in Mobile. Let our meeting experts assist in planning your next gathering. To learn more visit www.renaissanceriverview.com or call 251.415.3715. www.rtrjresorts.com.



Sports

Andover's O'Brien hired as Houston Texans head coach

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
Associated Press

Andover's Bill O'Brien has gone from perhaps the toughest coaching job in college football to a coveted gig with one of the NFL's most respected teams.

Less than two years after replacing Joe Paterno as coach at Penn State, the 44-year-old O'Brien has returned to the NFL as head coach of the Houston Texans, officially hired last week. He was an offensive assistant under Bill Belichick with the New England Patriots from 2007-12, but the Penn State job

was his first as a head coach.

Now he gets the Texans, who spiraled to an NFL-worst 2-14 record last season.

"He showed that he has the ability to step into difficult situations and turn them around," Houston owner Bob McNair said. "He did that at Penn State under very difficult circumstances and did an outstanding job there. We expect to see good things happen immediately."

O'Brien was 15-9 at Penn State, hit hard by NCAA sanctions levied for the Jerry Sandusky sex abuse scandal that cost the late Paterno his job.

He takes over for Gary

Kubiak, who was fired with three games left in the Texans' dismal season. Despite Houston's collapse, many believe it is a plum position because the Texans have many talented pieces in place and could make a quick turnaround. Houston won consecutive AFC South titles before this year's disaster.

O'Brien said he spoke to many people he trusted throughout the NFL before deciding to go to work in Houston.

"These people were unanimous in one thought, and that is that the Houston Texans are a top-flight organization that

does things the right way," he said. "It's rare enough to be a head coach at the highest level of football. What makes this opportunity special and put it over the top for myself and my family was to work for an owner like Bob McNair."

After his first season at Penn State, O'Brien interviewed with the Jacksonville Jaguars and Cleveland Browns, among others, only to stay in state college. This time, the lure of the NFL was too strong to resist.

"I love the players at Penn State and I respect their

See O'BRIEN, Page 15



Associated Press
Bill O'Brien of Andover has left Penn State to take over as head coach of the Houston Texans. It is his first head coaching job in the NFL.

GYMNASTICS

Back with no fear

After nearly career-ending injury, Livingston stars for Andover

By DAVID WILLIS
dwillis@andovertownsm.com

Doctors have informed Jessie Livingston that when she eventually finishes competing in gymnastics, the back pain that has plagued her for the past four years will likely fade away.

But anyone who believes the Andover High senior is going to walk away before the job is done doesn't know Jessie Livingston.

"Doctors hope the pain will go away with time," she said. "But I love gymnastics and I love competing for Andover. I love my teammates and coming through for them. I will have time after high school. Right now, I want to have a senior year to remember."

It was more than three years ago that a fractured back nearly ended Livingston's gymnastics career before she ever had the chance to compete for the Golden Warriors.

But the 5-foot Livingston not only overcame the odds to return to her sport, she has once again emerged as one of the top gymnasts in Massachusetts and the top all-around competitor for Andover High, which is 2-0 heading into the week.

"She is someone that strives for perfection in everything that she does," coach Tracy Vadala said. "She came back from an injury that ends most careers, and has been my top girl in the all-around since her sophomore year. She does things most gymnasts can't do."

It wasn't long ago, however, that Livingston didn't believe she would ever compete in gymnastics again.

A competitive gymnast since childhood, Livingston's world was thrown into disarray in September 2010 when the then-Andover High freshman was working out with her club team.

"I was doing a move on the bars when I hyper-extended my back," she remembered. "But I thought I could just work through it so I kept practicing for the next couple of days, which probably made it worse."

But as the pain grew worse, reality set in that she needed to see a doctor.

"At first, they couldn't find anything on the X-ray," she said. "So I had an MRI and bone scan and CAT scans."

"They found a hairline fracture in one

See LIVINGSTON, Page 15



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

Jessie Livingston performs her floor exercise routine. After a fractured back nearly ended her career as a freshman, Livingston has starred for the Golden Warriors for the last three seasons.

Girls hockey tops state's top-ranked team in upset

GIRLS HOCKEY

With the score tied in the third period, sophomore superstar **Veronica Alois** on Monday scored the unassisted goal that gave Andover a 2-1 shocking upset over Arlington Catholic, the No. 1-ranked team in the state by the ESPNBoston.com statewide poll.

The victory moved Andover from No. 11 to No. 5 in the Eastern Mass. standings.

The Golden Warriors grabbed the lead in the first period on a goal by **Brianna Deloury**, with assists going to **Mikayla Panetton** and **Jillian Hughes**. AC then tied the score in the second, setting up Alois' heroics in the third.

Meghan Johnson continued to be a rock in net, making 22 saves against a squad that had outscored opponents 13-3 through its first three games.

Veronica Alois scored again, but Andover lost to Acton-Boxboro 2-1 last Saturday. **Brenna Keefe** assisted on the goal and **Megan Johnson** made 25 saves for the Warriors.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Giribaldi clutch in comeback win

David Giribaldi sunk the go-ahead free throws with 42 seconds left, then added another free throw plus a steal and lay-up to clinch a 56-52 win over Lawrence High on Sunday in the Golden Warriors' first contest after winning the Christmas Tourney title.

"That's not Giri being a leader, it's Giri being a winner," Warriors coach **David Fazio** said. "The kid's just a winner, and we haven't had one like him in a long, long time."

With Giribaldi struggling until the final moments, freshman **E.J. Perry IV** led Andover with 15 points while **Jonathan Rodriguez** added 13 points and **Connor Merinder** had eight points.

GIRLS TRACK

Kobelski stars

Lizzie Kobelski took second overall in the 55-meter hurdles in 9.35 to highlight Andover at the Freshman-Sophomore large school meet on Saturday.

Wyllie Boughton added a second overall in the high jump (5-0), **Casey McCarroll** was right behind in third in the event (5-0), **Miranda Lawrence** was fifth in the long jump (15-1.25) and the team of **Lawrence, Boughton, Mackenzie Kennedy** and **Delianna Marmolejos**

See ROUNDUP, Page 15

Local rower signs with Division 1 college

Less than 15 months after being introduced to the sport of rowing, Andover High School senior **Diana Glinos** signed her letter of intent to row at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Glinos, formerly a competitive swimmer, did not begin rowing until the fall of her junior year.

"I had grown tired of swimming, so my dad, who rowed in college, suggested I give crew a shot," Glinos said in a press release. "The first time I rowed was on my 16th birthday and I loved it, so I signed up for the intro program at Essex Rowing."

Glinos immediately took to the sport, competing as part of the Essex women's novice 8-plus crew and the undefeated novice 4-plus crew last spring. In the summer, she moved to smaller sculling boats as part of Essex Rowing's High-Performance Team, finishing the year rowing in both the top open-double and the quad.

"Diana is a talented multi-sport athlete who has shown great promise in her fairly short



JOSEPH PROVENZANO, REPECHAGE PHOTOGRAPHY/Courtesy photo

Andover High senior **Diana Glinos**, right, seen with freshman **Molly Eberth** competing in the women's junior double at the 2013 Head of the Merrimack Regatta, has signed to row at the University of Wisconsin-Madison on an athletic scholarship.

rowing career. We can't wait to help her find her potential on the water," Wisconsin-Madison's head coach **Bebe Bryans** said in a statement.

Glinos will row on an athletic scholarship for the Badgers. Her multi-sport background includes competitive swimming

for eight years, six of those with a club team before swimming for Andover High. While competing for AHS, she qualified for states two years in a row. She also competed on Andover High's varsity track team, qualifying for states in the discus event.

"I feel like I've been able to

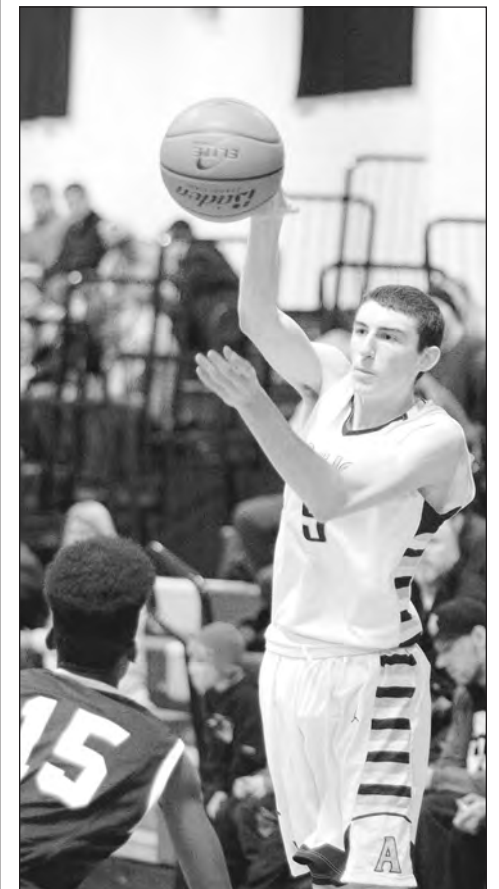
apply my competitive experience with other sports to rowing," Glinos said. "Swimming and throwing made me athletic and strong, and rowing gave me a sport to really be passionate about."

Essex Rowing's senior coach **Travis Gardner** expressed pride for Glinos' success.

"She is a tough athlete with dogged determination and a mature approach to training," Gardner said. "I'm sure she will be an immediate asset to the University of Wisconsin-Madison team."

Essex Rowing is a private, non-profit organization that is focused on advancing the sport of rowing. Founded in 2006, it trains youths and adults from throughout the region at its Methuen facility along a nearly 8-mile stretch of the Merrimack River, between the Lawrence and Lowell dams.

Since its inception, the club has introduced more than 900 athletes to the sport of rowing and currently maintains a roster of 100-plus middle school, high school and adult athletes.



RYAN HUTTON/Staff photo

Andover's **John Pisacreta** tries to pass over the head of Lawrence's **Dantae Neal** (15) during the Warriors 56-52 win Sunday night.

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

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Not as cold	Mostly cloudy	Rain and ice	Clouds and sun	Partly sunny	Partly sunny	Showers around
High: 29° Low: 16°	High: 36° Low: 27°	High: 45° Low: 35°	High: 46° Low: 33°	High: 46° Low: 27°	High: 37° Low: 26°	High: 40° Low: 24°

A new pediatric specialty center has landed in Lawrence.



TogetherForHealthyKids.com



RE/MAX
PARTNERS

TOM CARROLL GETS RESULTS!
978-502-8347



<p>NO. ANDOVER</p> <p>NEW</p> <p>\$139,900</p>	<p>ANDOVER</p> <p>\$399,900</p>	<p>DERRY, NH</p> <p>\$369,900</p>	<p>ANDOVER</p> <p>PENDING</p> <p>\$539,900</p>	<p>ANDOVER</p> <p>PENDING</p> <p>\$499,900</p>	<p>ANDOVER</p> <p>PENDING</p> <p>\$699,900</p>
<p>NO. ANDOVER</p> <p>PENDING</p> <p>\$599,900</p>	<p>NO. ANDOVER</p> <p>PENDING</p> <p>\$375,000</p>	<p>ANDOVER</p> <p>SOLD</p> <p>\$640,000</p>	<p>ANDOVER</p> <p>SOLD</p> <p>\$435,000</p>	<p>ANDOVER</p> <p>SOLD</p> <p>\$499,900</p>	<p>ANDOVER</p> <p>SOLD</p> <p>\$472,500</p>
<p>ANDOVER</p> <p>SOLD</p> <p>\$585,000</p>	<p>ANDOVER</p> <p>SOLD</p> <p>\$400,000</p>	<p>NO. ANDOVER</p> <p>SOLD</p> <p>\$400,000</p>	<p>NO. ANDOVER</p> <p>SOLD</p> <p>\$570,000</p>	<p>ANDOVER</p> <p>SOLD</p> <p>\$899,900</p>	<p>ANDOVER</p> <p>SOLD</p> <p>\$250,000</p>

View homes on www.Andover-TopBroker.com • Call Tom Carroll at RE/MAX Partners 978-502-8347

Healthy Living

Winter 2014

Coming In

The Andover Townsman
Thursday, January 23rd
Advertising Deadline:
Wednesday, Jan. 15th



Call your advertising consultant to reserve your space today!

NORTH of BOSTON MEDIA GROUP	The Eagle-Tribune 978-946-2000	The Salem News 978-922-1234	Gloucester Daily Times 978-283-7000	The Daily News of Newburyport 978-462-6666
	Andover Townsman 978-946-2000	Carriage Towne News 603-642-4499	Derry News & NH Let's Go 603-437-7000	Haverhill Gazette 978-946-2000

Close to Downtown Andover!



6 room Townhouse with first floor master & 2 car attached garage. Other units available. Move in this Summer!



Call or Text Mary:
978-337-8159

WILLIAM RAVEIS
REAL ESTATE • MORTGAGE • INSURANCE
The Largest Family-Owned Real Estate Company in the Northeast
An Award-Winning Team

modonoghue@andoverliving.com

Andover Office 44 Park Street 978-475-2100

RE/MAX PARTNERS

North Andover Office 426 Andover Street 978-686-5300

www.AndoverHomeSales.com

<p>ANDOVER</p> <p>\$624,900</p>	<p>NEW YEAR, NEW HOUSE, NEW FEATURES! This spacious Hip Roof Colonial in pristine, move-in condition. Is set on 1.27 acres & set center on the cul-de-sac in an established Wood Hill neighborhood, this well designed home is functional & flexible with approx. 3500 Sq. Ft. of finished living space and 3 floors. The airy, eat-in kitchen w/granite counters & new appliances easily seats 10+ and has convenient laundry area, formal living & dining rooms, family room w/wood burning fireplace & a sun room leading to rear deck complete the 1st floor. The en-suite master w/walk-in closet, 3 additional bedrooms & tiled family bath complete the 2nd.</p>	<p>Nick Geranios Direct: 978-852-3903 www.callnick.com</p>
<p>ANDOVER</p> <p>\$524,900</p>	<p>Children can walk to the High Plain/Wood Hill Schools. Garrison Colonial is nicely set back on a fully developed acre lot. HW flooring graces the living room, dining room, office & all 4 bedrooms. Family room has brick wall fireplace & a Fr. door to nice covered patio. Walk-in pantry at the rear entrance has a double coat closet & offers nice storage space as well for groceries & sports equipment. Front to back master sports 2 walk-in closets, French patio door to an L-shaped, 3 season porch & a 3/4 bath ensuite. Other 3 bedrooms are nicely sized. Office could be 5th bedroom.</p>	<p>Rick Coco Direct: 978-482-3905 rcoco@remax.net</p>
<p>ANDOVER RENTALS</p> <p>Starting @ \$950.00</p>	<p>1 & 2 bedroom rentals in residential neighborhood centrally located to shopping, train and highways. Some units have hardwood floors. 1st, 2nd and 3rd floor units available. Rent includes heat and hot water. Off street parking. Secure building. Laundry on site. Storage area.</p>	<p>Sheila Stone Direct: 978-807-2299 Sheila.at.remax@gmail.com</p>

OUTSTANDING AGENTS • OUTSTANDING RESULTS

To Advertise Here
Please Call
978-946-2000

SEPTIC SERVICE
Bateson Enterprises, Inc.
ANDOVER, MA
Family Owned and Operated Since 1950

SEPTIC CERTIFICATIONS - MASS. TITLE V
PUMPING • REPAIRS • INSTALLATIONS
SERVING: ANDOVER • NORTH ANDOVER • METHUEN
24 HOUR ANSWERING SERVICE
(978) 475-4786

Painting Improvements
Wm. LAWRIE
Interior & Exterior
PAINTING
WALLPAPERING
Call: 978-475-0924

ANDOVER CHIMNEYS
NEW ROOFS • ALL TYPES OF MASONRY
Brick, Block, Stone, Cement - Repair Specialist
CHIMNEY . . .
Cleaning • Repairing • Rebuilding • Silencing • Pointing
Cap Installation / Est. 1971
FREE ESTIMATES - FIND US IN THE YELLOW PAGES
978-683-5139 ANYTIME

BERBER CARPETING
(in stock)
Reg. \$3.00 sf on SALE \$2.22 sf
installed w/pad
(Min. apply)
(ask Salesperson for details)

ARROW FLOOR CARPET ONE
Shawsheen Plaza • Andover
Family Business for Over 49 Years
978-247-6060
(See our Lawrence location for Outlet Specials)

To Advertise Here
Please Call
978-946-2000