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OUR 126TH YEAR

Andover Townsman

Issue No. 12

JANUARY 23, 2014

75 CENTS

Andover, Beverly/Danvers High girls face off in Ritzer's memory



MARY SCHWALM/Staff photos

Laura Ritzer, third from right, gets a hug from a teammate as the Andover High girls varsity team celebrates its 4-3 win over Beverly/Danvers Monday night in Andover. The game was as much about notching a win as it was honoring Ritzer's sister, Colleen, who was slain last fall, allegedly by one of her students at Danvers High School.

A SINGULAR GOAL

By MATT WILLIAMS
STAFF WRITER

A tragedy that brought together two communities last fall also helped bring out the best in two of the Bay State's best girls hockey teams at Phillips Andover Monday night.

Colleen Ritzer, the beloved Danvers High School teacher from Andover who was murdered in October, was honored in a contest between her hometown Golden Warriors and the Beverly/Danvers High team.

Both teams wore special pink and white jerseys with the name Ritzer printed on the back. The pink theme, in honor of Ritzer's favorite color, carried through to their skate laces, stick tape and hair ribbons, too.

The tribute was especially meaningful for Ritzer's sister, Laura, a senior member of the Golden Warriors varsity See RITZER, Page 2



Andover hockey players Meghan Johnson, left, Laura Ritzer, center, and Mikayla Panneton shake hands with players from the Beverly/Danvers team after their hockey game in Andover Monday night. The teams honored the memory of Ritzer's sister, Colleen, the slain Danvers High School teacher from Andover, by wearing shirts featuring her favorite color of pink and her name.

Laura Ritzer has emerged as a leader for the Golden Warriors girls hockey team: Page 16

Towns at odds over water rates

By BILL KIRK
BKIRK@ANDOVERTOWNSMAN.COM

Andover and North Reading are locked in a fight over water rates and it doesn't appear either side is ready to back down.

In fact, the dispute may be escalating as Andover is now mulling whether to increase the amount of money it charges to North Reading for their ratepayers.

Meanwhile, North Reading is threatening to defect from Andover altogether and hook up to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, which would in turn have a huge financial impact on Andover's water users.

At the heart of the matter is how much Andover is charging North Reading for its water.

Andover sells up to 1.5 million gallons of water daily to North Reading for about \$3 per 100 cubic feet (748 gallons.). North Reading then turns around and sells it to its customers for nearly double that.

"We produce a product at \$3, they sell it for \$5.40," Selectman Dan Kowalski said. "They are making a profit on our water."

During a recent Board of Selectmen meeting, Kowalski and others raised the idea of establishing a municipal water rate, specifically for See DISPUTE, Page 6

YMCA close to final OK

By BILL KIRK
BKIRK@ANDOVERTOWNSMAN.COM

The Merrimack Valley YMCA is close to final approval for its \$21 million expansion of its Andover/North Andover facility.

The nonprofit health club received the go-ahead from the Planning Board last week for its plans to more than double its 165 Haverhill St. facility from about 50,000 square feet to more than 100,000 square feet.

The Conservation Commission was expected to vote on the plan Tuesday night, but

If the Conservation Commission OKs the project, the expansion project is on target for a March 28 ground-breaking.

that meeting was postponed until tonight, Jan. 23, because of this week's snowstorm.

If the Conservation Commission OKs the project, the expansion project is

See YMCA, Page 6

Bancroft settles on fall opening

By DUSTIN LUCA
DLUCA@ANDOVERTOWNSMAN.COM

Bancroft Elementary School students, don't pack up your desks quite yet.

School officials are keeping with their original plan of opening the new, 680-student Bancroft Elementary School in the fall.

While a long shot, a potential move from the old to the new school during April

vacation had been discussed in recent weeks.

But School Building Committee Chairman Tom Deso said on Tuesday that while construction on the new school is moving along smoothly, "we decided in the interest of getting everybody on the same page, we'd stick to the original schedule."

A number of factors played

See BANCROFT, Page 6

Finding her match

Andover mother seeking stem cell transplant for daughter

By BILL BURT
BBURT@ANDOVERTOWNSMAN.COM

Tina Habeeb met one of her neighbors on Saturday morning. But it wasn't on her street while she was out for a walk or at the local convenience store.

It was at Latitude Sports Club in Methuen, where

Habeeb was helping run the "Be The Match" Bone Marrow Registry Drive on behalf of her daughter, Cathy Sheehan of Boxford, who is in need of a stem cell match to help cure her leukemia.

The neighbor was prompted to show up after

See TRANSPLANT, Page 2



Courtesy photo

Tina Habeeb of Andover, left, sits with her daughter, Methuen native Cathy Habeeb Sheehan, last fall. Sheehan has leukemia and is awaiting a potential stem cell match. Her mother is organizing "Be The Match" bone marrow and stem cell drives to help patients like her daughter.

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Please recycle this newspaper



Welcome to the Jungle



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

Jack's Jungle, the self-described most spirited, passionate and electric student cheering section in the state, was out in force last Friday night to watch the Golden Warriors boys basketball team edge out a one-point win over North Andover, 43-42.

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TRANSPLANT: Donor drive set for Feb. 1 in Andover

Continued from Page 1

IF YOU GO

reading a story on the bone marrow registry drive last week in The Townsman's sister paper, The Eagle-Tribune, "She had seen me around," Habeeb said. "And she decided to come here, give a mouth swab and meet me. It was special."

Nine months ago, Habeeb's only daughter, Cathy, a 44-year-old, married mother of three complained of always being tired.

"I told her, 'No kidding! You work five jobs!'" recalled Habeeb, referring to her daughter's job as account manager with Hewlett-Packard as well as her part-time work teaching spin classes for 11 years at Latitude Sports Club in Salisbury.

After returning from a vacation and still struggling with fatigue, Sheehan, who lives in Boxford, went to the doctor on a Friday for blood tests. The doctor immediately ruled out mononucleosis, but told her further testing would occur over the weekend.

On Monday, while at the hairdresser, Sheehan's doctor called her cellphone and told her that she had acute myeloid leukemia and

WHAT: "Be The Match" Bone Marrow Registry Drive, on behalf of Cathy Habeeb Sheehan, daughter of Andover resident Tina Habeeb.

WHEN: Saturday, Feb. 1, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

WHERE: Minuteman Park in the Brickstone Properties, off River Road, Andover

WHY: To give a mouth swab and see if you could be a bone marrow or stem cell match for someone with leukemia. The entire process takes just 15 minutes.

HOW: Visit www.bethematch.org or contact Leigh Sullivan with the organization at 617-632-5694.

needed to get to the hospital immediately.

Fast-forward nine months. Habeeb read with great interest an inspiring story in The Eagle-Tribune a few weeks ago about a 22-year-old Plaistow, N.H., native who gave up the end of his college track career to go through the painful process of donating 2 quarts of bone marrow to a complete stranger with hopes of curing a rare form of leukemia.

As hoped, amazingly, the stranger has been completely cured.

Currently, there is no match in the national registry for Sheehan.



Tina Habeeb of Andover hugs her grandson, Ethan Sheehan, 7, while talking to Lisa Chesnell, who participated in last Saturday's "Be The Match" Bone Marrow Registry Drive at Latitude Sports Cub in Methuen. More than 100 people turned out to give a mouth swab in hopes of being a match for leukemia patients, including Habeeb's daughter, Methuen native Cathy Habeeb Sheehan, who is battling the disease. Another donor drive is planned for Feb. 1 in Andover.

It's a story Habeeb, prays will be written again some day soon about her daughter, who is undergoing treatment at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, where she is dealing with the daily struggles of having the potentially deadly blood disorder.

Sheehan, who grew up in Methuen, is awaiting a stem cell transplant as opposed to bone marrow. The process of removing stem cells from an individual is much easier than bone marrow, which requires an overnight stay

in the hospital and takes a long recovery for the donor, experts say.

Sheehan's younger brother, Christopher Habeeb, was deemed a match and donated stem cells last summer. The process usually takes about 100 days before being considered a success. At Day 85, it failed, due to the presence of a bad gene (FLT3), which can make the leukemia worse.

Sheehan was back to square one. "It's not like having your appendix out and you deal with the pain or a certain



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

Cathy Habeeb Sheehan's family was on hand to greet donors at the "Be The Match" Bone Marrow Registry Drive. From left, Sheehan's parents, Tina Habeeb of Andover and Bob Habeeb of Salem, N.H.; her husband, Tim Sheehan of Boxford; and their children, Audrey, 13, center; Nicole, 11, and Ethan, 7.

part of your body," Habeeb said last week. "This is your blood, all over your body. Every day is a new day with new challenges. ... (Monday) was a tough day. (Tuesday) was a better day. It's unlike anything I've ever been around."

Currently, there is no match in the national registry for Sheehan.

Which brought Habeeb to Methuen on Saturday. Sheehan's husband, Tim, and three children — Audrey, 13; Nicole, 11; and Ethan, 7 — also were on hand to support the event, which drew more than 100 potential donors to the registry.

The event lasted two hours. Unfortunately, people had to be turned away because of the short window.

"They say 70 is a lot," Habeeb said of typical turnouts. "We were ecstatic about the support. We didn't know many of the people. They heard about Cathy's story and they came. I can't explain how thankful we are."

There will be another drive on Saturday, Feb. 1, in Andover, which will last for four hours.

"We are already preparing for that drive, which will be longer and allow us to take more potential donors," Habeeb said.

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ADVERTISING DEADLINES

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

On the web
COLLEEN RITZER
MEMORIAL GAME SLIDESHOW

RITZER: Outpouring of community support

Continued from Page 1

girls hockey team.

"The outpouring of support from both communities was incredible. This is probably one of the biggest crowds we've played in front of," Andover coach Liz Keady said.

While Andover held off a furious Beverly comeback to hand the Panthers their first loss of the year, 4-3, for players on both teams, the game was as much about fighting

for a win as it was honoring the name on the back of their shirts.

Faculty and students from Danvers High came out to support the cause as well, with donations and raffles going to the Colleen Ritzer Memorial Scholarship Fund.

"The girls really ran with it and it was great for both communities. It goes to show how much Ms. Ritzer meant to them," Beverly/Danvers High coach Brian Seabury said.



MARY SCHWALM/Staff photo

Andover girls varsity hockey players watch from the bench as action unfolds near the boards during their game against Beverly/Danvers Monday night in Andover. Players from both squads honored the memory of Colleen Ritzer, the Danvers High School teacher from Andover found slain last fall. Ritzer's sister, Laura, is a member of the Andover team.

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Snowy day



BOB DENNIS/Courtesy photo

Saturday's snowfall turned The Park at Chestnut and Bartlet streets into a winter wonderland. Andover was grappling with more snow as The Townsman went to press Wednesday morning.

Solarize 101: Get educated about incentive program

By BILL KIRK
bkirk@andovertownsmen.com

Solarize Andover — a new program to encourage installation of solar panels on residential and commercial properties — is looking to spread the word at an informational meeting next week.

On Thursday, Jan. 30 at 7 p.m., members of the Solarize Andover team will be at the Public Safety Center, 32 North Main St., to give a presentation about the state-sponsored program and answer any questions from the audience.

The event, dubbed "Solar 101," is part of the group's outreach effort to spread the word about the program and, hopefully, get more people signed on.

The meeting will feature a presentation by Massachusetts Clean Energy Center

The event, dubbed "Solar 101," is part of the group's outreach effort to spread the word about the program and, hopefully, get more people signed on.

representatives about the Solarize Massachusetts program, which is a joint initiative of MassCEC, the Department of Energy Resources Green Communities Division, local officials and community volunteers. It is designed to increase the adoption of small-scale solar electricity within a community.

On Dec. 2, Mass CEC announced Andover's participation in Round 2 of the

Solarize Mass program. The way the program works is that one company is chosen to be the installer for a community, which reduces the cost of installation by leveraging group purchasing power.

The installer for Solarize Andover will be chosen by next month and enrollment to install solar electric systems will follow from mid-February through June.

Homeowners and businesses will have the option to either purchase a system at a reduced cost or enter into a lease/Power Purchase Arrangement with no money down.

Next week's meeting will be shown live on Comcast Channel 22 for people who can't attend. For more information, visit solarizeandover.com, and/or email comments and suggestions to SolarizeAndover@gmail.com.



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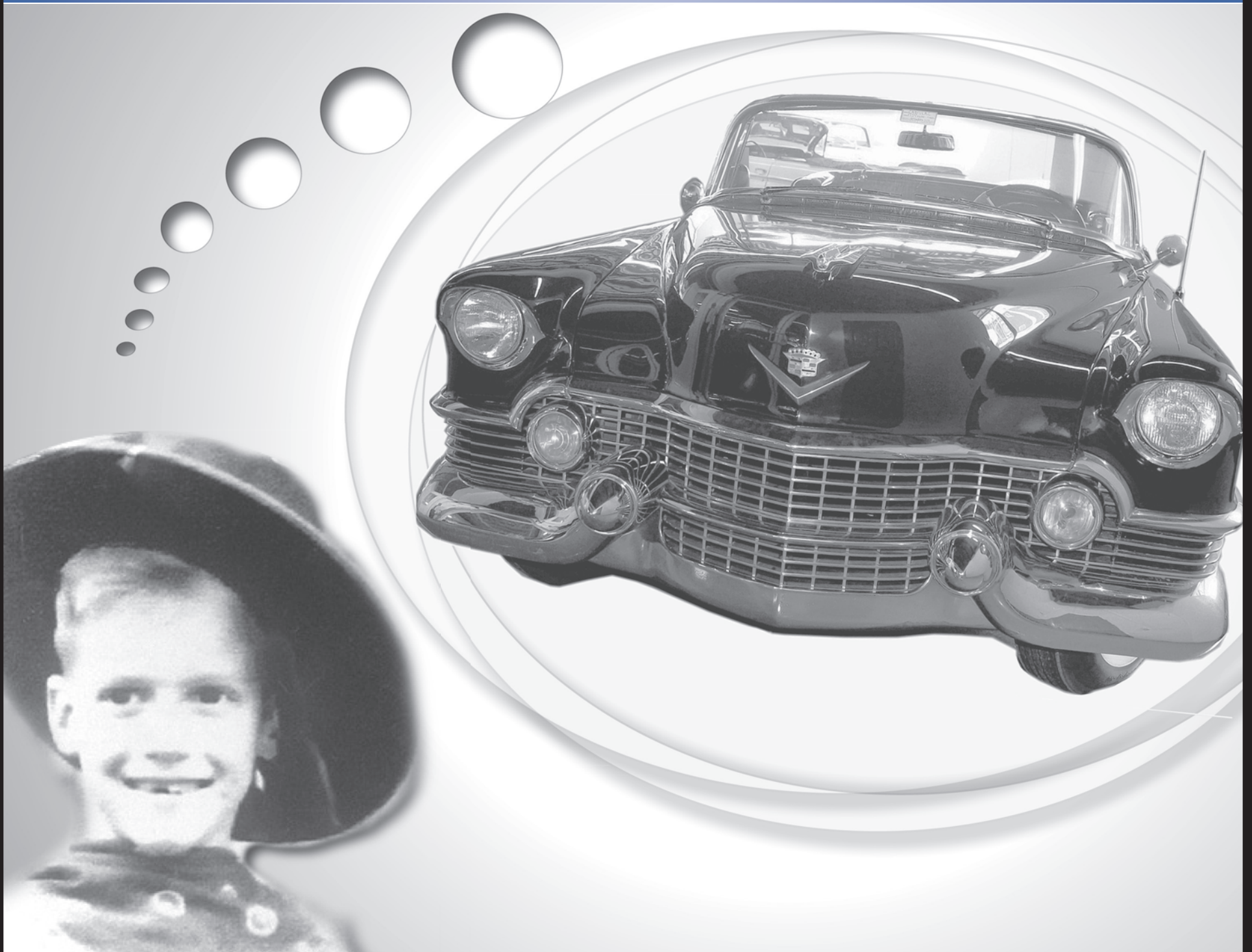
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Healthy Living

Get outdoors and explore

Winter outings trek through Andover

Don't be deterred by the weather. Winter is a great time to get out and explore.

To prove it, several local trails and conservation groups are planning a variety of events to get people moving outdoors.

Here are some of the upcoming activities:

45th annual snowshoe, ski trek

Andover Village Improvement Society hosts its 45th annual snowshoe and cross-country ski trek on Sunday, Jan. 26, at 10 a.m. at Harold Rafton Reservation.

The event goes off with or without snow, and will become a hike if the terrain is bare. It will be canceled in the event of rain. Participants will meet at the property on High Plain Road, off Greenwood Road, and park near the leaf composting area. Registration is not required. Pets should be kept at home.

For more information or to reserve a spot, contact David Dargie at david@dargie.com or 978-996-4475 or the Vale Reservation warden Ken Doran.

Ward Winter Fun Day

The Trustees of Reservations, in partnership with the Andover Trails Committee and Friends of North Andover Trails, is hosting a community favorite — Ward Winter Fun Day — at Charles Ward Reservation in Andover and North Andover on Saturday, Feb. 1, from noon to 3 p.m. Admission is free and the event goes off snow or no snow.

Whether a first-timer to the property or a regular, people of all ages are invited to enjoy a variety of guided hikes through the property as well as refreshments by a roaring fire. And, if Mother Nature provides a winter wonderland, it's the perfect place to try out the cross-country skis, snowshoes or new sleds received at the holidays.

Planned excursions include a guided hike

to Boston Hill at 12:30 p.m. and a guided hike to Judy Trail at 1 p.m. Both hikes will be about 3 miles long and last 1 1/2 hours. In addition, there will be periodic guided, 1-mile hikes around Holt Hill and the bog. They will last about 30 minutes.

Parking is available at the reservation entrance on Prospect Road, east of Route 125, in Andover. Follow signs to the activities.

Ward Reservation is an emerald quilt of fields, forests and uplands, stitched together from more than 40 distinct parcels across Andover and North Andover. Trails link three major hills, Shrub, Boston and Holt, and people looking out from those summits can see how the property melds with the surrounding landscape. The "Solstice Stones" on Holt Hill assist in determining one's sense of place. The property is one of 111 owned, managed and cared for by The Trustees of Reservations, the nation's oldest, statewide land trust.

For more information on Winter Fun Day at Ward Reservation, contact Adam Rollfs at 978-886-5297 or email arollfs@ttor.org. To learn more about The Trustees of Reservations, go to www.thetrustees.org.

Snowshoe and walk at the Ward

Enjoy an afternoon snowshoe/walk in the woods on Sunday, Feb. 2, at 1:30 p.m. at Ward Reservation on Prospect Road. Email Helen Palmer at hpalmer.fournature@verizon.net for more information.

Moonlight snowshoe and ski

Goldsmith Woodlands Reservation off South Main Street (Route 28) will be the site of a family moonlight snowshoe and cross-country ski trek for all ages and abilities on

See WINTER, Page 13



File photos

Maya Jensen, 8, of Andover joins her brother on a two-person sled as they make a clean run on the sledding hill during the 2011 Winter Fun Day at Ward Reservation in Andover. This year's event is planned for Feb. 1.



Snowshoers enjoy a trek at Goldsmith Woodlands Reservation in 2011. The Andover Village Improvement Society is sponsoring a family moonlight snowshoe and ski for all ages on Feb. 9 at the property on South Main Street.

Sleep: It does a brain good

Art McDermott



Over the years, I am amazed by the number of clients I work with who have trouble sleeping. I have fallen into this category since I was young. Lately, I have tried to be

... Large swings in bedtimes play havoc with metabolism, nutrition and weight management.

consistent with the times I go to bed and wake up in the morning since this has been shown to stabilize sleep patterns. I also make sure I avoid all "screens" as long as possible before bedtime. Studies show that

smartphones, computer screens and TV screens activate the brain instead of calming it down, which is obviously the effect we are seeking when we are trying to fall asleep. I have always been

envious of those who drop into a deep sleep the moment their heads hit the pillow.

Often, sleep problems are self-inflicted as many people fall into the pattern of going to bed at a relatively early

hour during the work week, but change this dramatically on the weekends with late nights and extra hours sleeping in come morning. The problem is, these large swings in bedtimes

play havoc with metabolism, nutrition and weight management.

If you are among those who have trouble sleeping,

See SLEEP, Page 13

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Red Cross issues new pet first aid app

Knowing that pets are an important part of many families, the American Red Cross has launched a Pet First Aid App that puts lifesaving information right in the hands of dog and cat owners so they can provide emergency care until veterinary assistance is available.

The 99-cent Pet First Aid app gives iPhone and Android smartphone users instant access to expert information so they learn how to maintain their pets' health and what to do during emergencies.

"We understand the important emotional role that pets play in the lives of families and this tool helps pet owners learn how to recognize health problems and when to contact the veterinarian," Leighton Jones, chief disaster officer of the American Red Cross of Massachusetts, said last week in a release.

"This new app provides step-by-step instructions, videos and images for more than 25 common first aid and

emergency situations, including how to treat wounds, control bleeding and care for breathing and cardiac emergencies."

Additional topics include burns, car accidents, falls and what to do for cold- and heat-related emergencies.

Other features in the app allow pet owners to:

- **Create a pet profile**, including tag identification number, photos, list of medications and instructions.

- **Access a list of early warning signs** to learn when to call their veterinarian.

- **Use "click-to-call"** to contact their veterinarian.

- **Find emergency pet care facilities** or alternate veterinarians with the "animal hospital locator."

- **Locate pet-friendly hotels.**

- **Test their knowledge** with interactive quizzes and earn badges that they can share on their social networks along with their favorite picture of their pet.

The Massachusetts Society

for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals embraces the strategy to better prepare pet owners.

"I have no doubt that learning more about common emergencies — from exposure to cold, accidental poisoning and broken limbs — will empower pet owners with the information they need to save their pet," Dr. Kiko Bracker of Angell Animal Medical Center, which sees as many as 75 pet emergencies every day in its emergency and critical care center.

History shows that people have not evacuated during disasters because they did not want to leave their pets behind. The Red Cross app contains resources to help owners include pets in their emergency-action plans.

To learn more about the app, go to redcross.org/mobile-apps. Pet owners may also take a Red Cross Pet First Aid course so they can practice the skills and receive feedback. Visit redcross.org/takeaclass for information and to register.



ASSOCIATED PRESS/File Photo

Just one-quarter of U.S. kids ages 12 to 15 are getting an hour or more of moderate to vigorous activity every day, according to a recent survey.

Survey: Only 1 in 4 young teens meet US fitness guides

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Young teens aren't exactly embracing the government's Let's Move mantra, the latest fitness data suggests.

Only 1 in 4 U.S. kids ages 12 to 15 meet the recommendations — an hour or more of moderate to vigorous activity every day.

The results are based on about 800 kids who self-reported their activity levels and had physical exams as part of the 2012 National Youth Fitness Survey.

Government researchers won't call the results disappointing, but lead author Tala Fakhouri of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said, "There's always room for improvement."

The CDC this month released partial results from the fitness survey, which involved kids ages 3 to 15. Other results from the same survey are pending and include fitness data based on more objective measures including treadmill tests.

Fakhouri said the nationally representative results provide useful information

for initiatives that aim to increase kids' fitness, including the Let's Move anti-obesity campaign launched by first lady Michelle Obama in 2010.

Kids in the survey reported on which physical activities they did most frequently outside of school gym class — basketball for boys and running for girls.

While few met guidelines established in 2008 for activity that raises the heart rate and makes you breathe harder, most said they did at least an hour of exercise at that level during the previous week. Overall, about 25 percent said they got an hour of that kind of exercise every day.

Obese kids were less active than normal-weight girls and boys. Overweight girls were slightly less active than normal-weight girls, but levels were similar among overweight and normal-weight boys.

"It's definitely very concerning to see that our kids are engaging in such a limited amount of physical

activity each day when we are still battling an obesity epidemic," said Dr. Stephen Pont, a pediatrician and chairman of the American Academy of Pediatrics' section on obesity.

Data suggest obesity may have decreased slightly among some kids, but the overall rate for children ages 2 to 19 is 17 percent, or about 12.5 million obese kids.

Pont said schools can do more to help by not cutting recess and giving kids more time for physical activity. He said research suggests kids who get physical education at school may do better academically.

Recent national data on kids' fitness levels is limited. A 2009-2010 CDC survey involving kids ages 6 to 11 found about 70 percent met the physical activity guidelines, although levels dropped off among older kids in that age group. The results came from parents, who may be inclined to over-report how active their kids are because of "social desirability," the researchers said.

Winter safety: Dangers of thin ice

State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan is warning winter enthusiasts that the only truly safe ice is at the local skating rink.

Air temperature changes continuously, resulting in thawing and re-freezing, Coan says. In addition, uneven ice thickness, water currents, tree stumps, rocks and groundwater springs can weaken ice, he says.

"There are several variables that affect the strength of ice on bodies of water, so many that no ice can ever be declared completely safe, especially running water in streams, brooks, rivers," he says.

Here are some tips to follow:

- **If you see someone fall through ice**, remember to "Reach, Throw and Go".

Reach from shore with a

branch, pole, ladder or similar object.

Throw a rope to the victim or something to keep them afloat such as a life preserver or boat seat cushion.

Go for help and dial 911. Do not go out onto the ice where you can become a victim yourself.

- **If you fall in**, don't panic. Turn toward the direction you came from. Place your hands and arms onto the ice and place your body against the edge of the ice and kick with your legs to push yourself forward out of the water, onto the ice. If you break through again, keep trying until you are on solid ice.

Remain lying down to keep your weight distributed evenly. If you stand up, you could fall




back in. Roll away from the hole and crawl back toward shore. Get medical help immediately.

- **Protect your pets** by keeping them leashed when near open or frozen water. Coan says this is the time of year where unleashed dogs and would-be rescuers also frequently fall through the ice.

If a pet does fall through the ice, call 911. "Fire departments have the gear and equipment for cold-water rescues," he says.

For more information, the Department of Fire Services has a pamphlet and presentation on ice and cold-water safety. The information is particularly important for children, Coan says. Visit www.mass.gov/dfs and click on Fire Safety Topics for details.

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Education

A new approach High school schedule to be built from scratch

By DUSTIN LUCA
dluca@andovertownsmen.com

It's back to the drawing board for school leaders and volunteers fleshing out a new class schedule format for Andover High School.

After months of work, a group of four teachers, four school district administrators and two parents charged with putting together a new schedule for Andover High School is looking to take a different approach, according to Assistant Superintendent Nancy Duclos.

Their work had been focused on studying what other districts around the state, including Acton, Lexington, Lincoln-Sudbury, Natick and North Andover, have in place for their high schools, Duclos said. But the team didn't find what it was looking for.

"We did visits. We really did our due diligence before we came to the point where, 'You know what? None of these are feeling good. None of these are hitting the mark,'" Duclos said. "We're going to try to design our own."

In the meantime, the school will continue under a four-block, three-by-three teaching schedule — where teachers teach three courses per semester, as established in the current labor contract.

The process for a new schedule moves forward next Friday, Jan. 31, when representatives of all the high school's departments will meet following an early-release day for students to share their schedule needs content-wise with program advisers, Duclos said.

"A math course might need something very different than an English course," she said. "By content area, what is it you would like your schedule to do?"

Then, the high school's Parent Advisory Council will bring parents and students together for a focus group on Monday, Feb. 3, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the high school. Duclos said parents, students and teachers will work in small groups to come up with ideas on what schedule format best fits Andover High.

The hope is to have a recommendation no later than November. Then, the Andover Education Association and School Committee would meet to "impact bargain" the recommended proposal, Duclos said.

A new high school schedule format was the root cause of contract talks between the teachers union and school officials stalling for 1½ years between 2011 and 2012.

Duclos said the collaborative process this time around would help impact bargaining, since teachers will have played as pivotal a role in developing the schedule as administrators.

"We have strong, good people on the committee. There's an overall sense of, 'We will get this done, and we will find the best schedule,'" Duclos said. "We'll present the schedule as a whole, knowing it was collaboratively done. The way in which it gets developed will put things into perspective."

What the new schedule will look like remains to be seen. Duclos said the high

See **SCHEDULE**, Page 15

An extra helping of gratitude



DUSTIN LUCA/Staff photos

Kym Surette, a member of the Andover High School nutrition staff, smiles while speaking to a student at checkout last Friday. Students surprised the cafeteria workers by honoring them for all they do.

AHS students serve up special tribute to lunchroom staff

By DUSTIN LUCA
dluca@andovertownsmen.com

Andover High School students last week came together to honor a group of staffers who don't always get their due — the cafeteria crew.

Through handwritten cards and notes, some students even sought to make amends for their not-so-kind past behavior.

"I'm sorry for heckling you all the time," one student wrote. "It's out of love. Thank you."

"Cafeteria Workers Appreciation Day" — celebrated last Friday, Jan. 17, during all four lunch blocks — was cooked up by 17-year-old seniors Alexa Rockwell and Eliana Kafantis through their journalism course.

As part of a public relations unit, the students were challenged to find a school organization or program "that doesn't get the publicity it deserves" and then promote it to their peers, teacher Scott Aubrey said.

Rockwell said she knew what she wanted to do the instant she got the assignment.

"I decided the cafeteria ladies and men are always so kind, and they don't always get the appreciation they deserve," she said.

In addition to making cards for the staff, students presented the lunchroom workers with paper and foam crowns, each marked with their names,

to wear throughout the day.

Sarah Garcia, a 17-year-old senior, said after depositing her card that the cafeteria employees "always have a positive attitude. They brighten my day."

Fellow senior Peter Reilly, 18, said it was great the student body was honoring the lunchroom staff, who, like other employees at the high school, are "under-appreciated."

"They do a lot more work than we recognize," he said. Aubrey agreed, saying the cafeteria workers "have an incredibly difficult job."

"If you talk to any kid, they'll tell you they are the nicest people in the building," he said.

Midway through the recognition on Friday, as the box holding the notes of thanks was becoming filled up, Rockwell said she was surprised by the response from the student body.

"You can tell (the students) are supportive of them," she said. "They were waiting for someone to step up and appreciate them."

Rockwell said it was the least the students could do for the lunchroom staff who "go out of their way to learn people's names and remember their orders."

Standing at a register, cafeteria worker Chrissy Marchese — an Andover High School graduate herself — said she

See **FOOD SERVICES**, Page 15



Andover High School students Alexa Rockwell, left, and Eliana Kafantis, the lead organizers behind Cafeteria Workers Appreciation Day, help students fill out thank-you notes to the lunchroom staff.



The high school cafeteria workers donned crowns bestowed by the students as they made lunches to order during last Friday's appreciation day.

Mr. AHS ready for the spotlight 10 to compete for 2014 title

Ten high school juniors are ready to take the stage for Friday night's annual Mr. AHS competition at the Collins Center, 80 Shawsheen Road. The night of laughs, performance and surprises is hosted by the junior class' board of directors.

This year's contestants are Connor Dwyer, Dan Harvey, Evan Pantely, Cam Flowers, Larry Zhu, Tom Dufton, Andrew Matteucci, Alex Bensle, Micheal Weber and Cullen O'Dwyer.

Each student will give an introduction, perform a talent and then cross the stage with their dream date, aka female sponsors, as they seek to win over the panel of judges. The contestants will also perform a group number.

The show's student hosts are Vishnu Chava, Farrien Khan and Zach Ciampa. Katie Rex serves as both choreographer and sponsor of the program.

Hundreds attended last year's competition, and Michelle Chachus and Krista Lambroukos, who oversee the junior board of directors, are hoping for an even stronger turnout this year.

The fun goes from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 24. Tickets are \$7 for students in advance or \$10 at the door. Proceeds support the Andover High junior class.



BROOKE KABRIEL/Courtesy photos

Mr. AHS contestants rehearse with their sponsor dates last week. The annual competition to benefit the Andover High School junior class is Friday.



The annual Mr. AHS competition is one of the most popular events of the year at Andover High School. The show features a group number with all the contestants and their sponsors/dates.

Robotics Club looks to grow its winning ranks

The Andover Robotics Club is looking for a few good members.

Two weeks after hosting a competition at Andover High School, the club is poised to compete in the First Tech Challenge on Saturday, Jan. 18, in Arlington for a chance to advance to the state competition.

But the club is seeking to boost its rolls. Current members said in a release that the club has successfully competed in and hosted several competitions since it was founded about four years ago. But membership has been thinning recently and funding has also become depleted.

Its prospects for winning competitions will only increase as membership grows, they said,

"The number of active members in our club is very important as we rely on a consistent large number of attendees to stay on schedule and be ready for competitions," Noah Appleby, the club's secretary, said in the release.

The Andover Robotics Club has two teams:

Awesome Sauce and Pixelated Tesseract. The teams participate in two competitions.

First Tech Challenge was founded by Dean Kamen for high-schoolers as a way to make robotics a sport like soccer or football and encourage more people to enter the growing robotics field. Botball features teams comprised of students in both high and middle school who build small, autonomous robots to perform tasks. The competitions are open for free to the public.

The club meets three days a week after school to work on building, programming, documenting and testing. Every participant has a job to do, but they have plenty of fun, too, the members said. New members are encouraged to join; the process involves simply filling out a form.

For more information on the Andover club, visit Andoverrobotics.com. Details on the robotics competitions are available at usfirst.org, massftc.org and botball.org



Notthin' But Treble explored the women's suffrage movement in its show choir piece, which took third place in the competition.

COURTESY PHOTO

Off to a strong start

AHS show choirs, vocalists rack up medals in 1st contest

The Andover High School Show Choirs kicked off their 2014 competitive season last Saturday, Jan. 18, at the Mill City Show Choir Fest at Lowell High School. The competition featured 11 choirs from Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Andover High's mixed group, From Start to Finish, brought home the silver medal — and third overall in the competition, with the all-female choir Nothin' but Treble ending the day with a bronze.

In addition, From Start to Finish's Amy Welch walked away with the Best Female Soloist prize and Jada Pasho of Nothin' But Treble won honors for Best Stage Presence.

While behind-the-scenes crews rarely get noticed in show choir competitions, the Andover High School tech crew led by Katherine O'Kelly, Matthew Boulanger, Casy Serbagi and Nicholas Jones received a special judges' award for the sets and lighting they contributed to From Start to Finish's performance.

From Start to Finish transformed the classic tale of "Romeo and Juliet" into a more contemporary, futuristic setting for its "Creatures of the Night" performance. Over the course of 10 songs, the choir showcased the feelings of two star-crossed



SUSAN WELCH/Courtesy photo

From Start to Finish captured third overall in last Saturday's season-opening Mill City Show Choir Fest at Lowell High School.

lovers as they journey through hope, tragedy, despair and love. The performance earned From Start to Finish third overall in the competition, behind grand champion Daniel Hand High School in Connecticut and Oliver Ames High School in Easton.

Nothin' But Treble, meanwhile, journeyed back in time to take a closer look at the struggles females endured to gain the right to vote in its "The Right to be a Woman" piece. The performance also looked forward to the modern women and how women's suffrage was simply a common right of citizenship.

Mark Mercer designed and directed the pieces for both choirs, with choreography by Darwin

Hernandez and Beth Kennedy and arrangement by Joshua Green. Carter Lesky was the student leader of the pit band.

The choirs will travel next to Shepherd Hill Regional High School in Dudley to compete at the Central Massachusetts Festival on Saturday, Feb. 1.

Anyone interested in seeing the young vocalists closer to home will get their chance in March. Andover High School is hosting the first New England Show Choir Showdown on March 22 at the Collins Center. Seventeen show choirs from across New England and Canada will be featured at the daylong event. Tickets are available at <http://ahsmusic.ticketleap.com/nescs/>.

FOOD SERVICES: Employees honored

Continued from Page 14

felt her job was rewarding already because the workers are providing critical fuel to students through the meals they serve.

How did she feel about being the center of attention? "It's positive energy going in both ways," Marchese said.

Gail Koutroubas, the director of food services throughout the Andover school district, said the honor "is well deserved. The staff works hard."

"It means a lot to them. It means they're considered a part of the school culture," Koutroubas said.

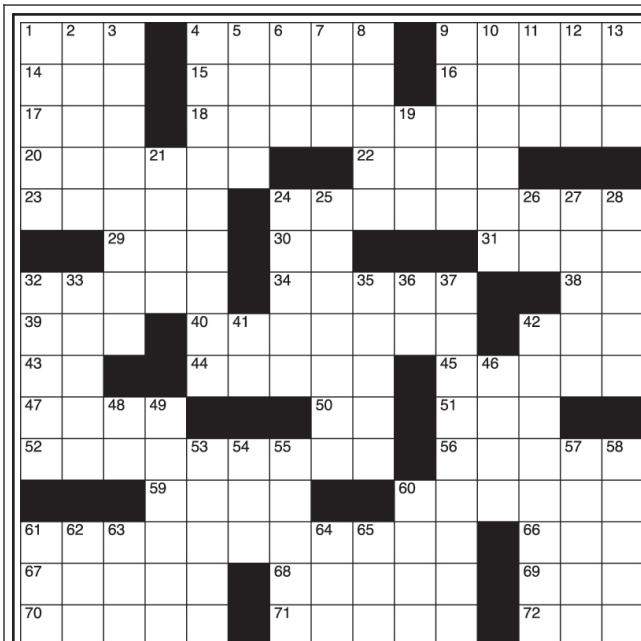
Koutroubas said recognizing individual students and

remembering what they like to order on a daily basis is par for the course for her employees, because "customer service is No. 1 for us."

But she said it was nice

of the students to show the cafeteria staff that "they do make a difference."

"It's very important that they are noticed," Koutroubas said.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Chronicles (abbr.)
4. Wallops
9. He supported the world
14. Own (Scottish)
15. Ungentle
16. Sinews
17. Computer processing
18. A Monkey's song
20. Narrate or tell
22. Lampreys
23. Dialogue for the audience
24. Many signatored requests
29. Cost, insurance and freight
30. Not under
31. Exchange
32. S. Am. river - Rio de la ___
34. Isaac's mother (Bib.)
38. Sodium
39. Possesses
40. Falls

CLUES DOWN

1. Protocist genus
2. Hell
3. Copies
4. 1932 & 1980 Olympic mtn.
5. Part of harness
6. Macaws
7. Mutual savings bank
8. Flat or fitted bedding
9. Canted
10. Dissertation
11. Bulgarian monetary unit
12. Wonderment
13. Used to be United ___
19. Hawaiian garland
21. Nearly horizontal mine shaft
24. Search party group
25. One who makes it into law
26. Exclamation of pain
27. Grannys
28. Out of it (slang)
32. Loudness units
33. Soup serving dipper

Solution in Classified Section

42. Animal pouch
43. Overdose
44. Samoyeds
45. Genus bellis
47. Mediation council
50. Beachware manufacturer
51. Not on
52. Inactive
56. 1963 Nobel chemist
59. Bambi
60. More ethereal
61. Adornments
66. No (Scottish)
67. 805 km Venezuelan river
68. Occasion
69. Time at 0 meridian (abbr.)
70. Nathan and George Ellery
71. S.I.T.C. character Jones
72. South southeast

35. Rough, grating
36. A public promotion
37. Pleasure seekers
41. Article
42. Winnows
46. From a distance
48. Rural delivery
49. Previously
53. Nostrils
54. Icahn's airline
55. Poker stakes
57. Game sides
58. Sharp, glacial ridge
60. Tennis' Kournikova
61. Spoken telegraphic dash
62. Anti pollution agency
63. ___ de sac: one end access
64. Marsh elder genus
65. Original part maker (abbr.)

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Sports

► Local roundup

Boys, girls relays qualify for nationals

BOYS TRACK

The team of **Sebastian Silveria**, **Justin Mantara**, **Andrew Matteucci** and **Sean Caveney** won the shuttle hurdles in 32.05 at the East Coast Invitational in Providence, R.I. last Saturday. The time qualified them for nationals.

Kevin Chen won the 55-meter dash in 6.7 and **Andrew Matteucci** took the 55 hurdles in 7.8, but Andover fell to North Andover 46-40 last Wednesday. **Sebastian Silveira** won the 600, **Hamza Naveed** took the 300 and they both ran on the winning 4x400 relay.

GIRLS TRACK

The foursome of **Hannah Chapman**, **Lizzie Kobelski**, **Courtney Comeau** and **Jill Gamanche** ran a 35.19 to take first in the shuttle hurdles at the East Coast Invitational in Providence, R.I. on Saturday. The time qualified them for Nationals.

Lizzie Kobelski won the 55-meter hurdles in 9.1 and **Hannah Ameen** made it a sprint sweep by taking the 55 dash in 7.5, but Andover lost to North Andover 48-38 last Wednesday. **Leila Aruri** won the mile and **Michelle Gencorelli** took the 300 for the Warriors.

GIRLS SKIING

Ganley leads the way

Andover scored a pair of top-10 finishes, with **Julia Ganley** in third in 21.52 and **Meghan Farrell** in ninth in 22.84 as the Golden Warriors topped Masconomet 75-60 last Wednesday, Jan. 15. **Jackie Drew** (12th), **Julia Pakey** (13th) and **Olivia Lawlor** (15th) added key finishes for the Golden Warriors.

Julia Ganley placed second overall in 22.94 and **Sylvia Leung** was eighth in 24.21 to lead Andover to a 125-10 victory over Haverhill last Monday. Also for the Golden Warriors, **Olivia Lawlor** was 11th and **Jackie Drew** was 15th.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Caveney red hot

Colleen Caveney hit a trio of 3-pointers on her way to 20 points and Andover edged rival North Andover 47-46 on Friday. **Jess Witten** had eight points, **Rachel Cormier** added seven points and **Rebecca Alois** had six points

See **ROUNDUP**, Page 17



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

Andover's **David Giribaldi**, left, fights his way to the hoop against North Andover's **Robbie Couyoumjian** as the Warriors defeated North Andover 43-42 last Friday night. **Giribaldi** contributed 11 points to the win.



MARY SCHWALM/Staff photos

Laura Ritzer, right, greets Beverly/Danvers player **Nicole Kamens**, left, at the captains meeting before the start of Monday night's game in Andover. Ritzer has emerged as a leader for the Golden Warriors varsity girls hockey team and is one of its tri-captains.

ULTIMATE LEADER

Ritzer skates naturally into tri-captain's role for girls varsity hockey

BY DAVID WILLIS
dwillis@andovertownsmen.com

It was the moment she had waited four years to achieve, but had dreamed of for even longer.

It was the moment she had worked toward since she was a freshman, overcoming disappointments that would have caused countless other athletes to simply give up.

When the puck found **Laura Ritzer's** stick, she knew exactly what to do.

"It was off a rebound and the puck came right to my stick," Ritzer remembered. "I had an open net and I put it into the net. It was amazing."

After being sent to the JV team each of the past two seasons, Ritzer not only made the varsity team this season as a senior, she was named a captain and, last Wednesday, scored her first career varsity goal in a win over archrival Central Catholic.

But long before that goal, Ritzer established herself as one of the leaders of the red-hot Andover girls hockey team, which entered the week 7-2-1.

"Laura is a natural leader and the girls really look up to her," Golden Warriors coach **Liz Keady** said. "She is hard-working, consistent and does whatever she needs to do to succeed. She stuck with it when things weren't going her way. She is also the greatest teammate anyone could ask for."

After catching the hockey



Andover's **Laura Ritzer** is introduced in the starting line-up before the opening face-off in Monday night's game against Beverly/Danvers in Andover. The teams played in memory of Ritzer's sister, Andover resident and Danvers High School teacher **Colleen Ritzer**, who was killed last fall.

bug as a child, Ritzer began playing in the youth ranks. As a freshman at Andover High, she tried out for and made the Golden Warriors varsity hockey team.

"It was exciting," she said, "I didn't play very much, but it was a really good team and I learned a lot from the older kids. It was fun."

Following that season, however, Ritzer's hockey career would hit a disappointing snag.

As a sophomore, she was sent down to the junior varsity hockey squad. A season later, she once again tried out for the varsity team, only to

again end up back on the JV team.

"It was really frustrating," she said. "I thought about quitting a little bit. But after I got over the disappointment, I saw that it was a way to get better."

Instead of giving up on the sport and walking away, Ritzer dedicated herself to sticking with hockey and working toward her goal of once again earning her spot on the varsity team.

"I knew that hockey was a sport that I loved and wanted to play," she said. "I knew I had another chance to make the team. Being on the JV

team was still playing hockey, and I wanted to play. Coach (Ed) Oteri is a great coach and the girls were great. It was still fun and I worked hard."

That dedication and passion made quite an impression on **Keady**, who was hired before last season as the head coach of the Golden Warriors.

"The JV team is very small and is actually funded by the youth program," **Keady** said. "But she stuck with it and worked so hard to get better. She was also an excellent

See **LEADER**, Page 17

It's a jungle out there

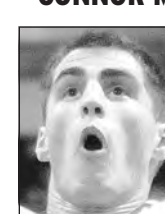
Jack's Jungle, the electric cheering section behind the Andover High School boys basketball team, provided the support the squad needed to beat North Andover by one point last Friday night. **Jack's Jungle's** inhabitants say anyone is welcome to join them as long as they bleed blue and gold.

CARL RUSSO/Staff photo



ANDOVER HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

CONNOR MERINDER



Connor Merinder

Junior Basketball
The 6-foot-5 junior center made his presence felt in two big wins last week, including

KAITLYN McDONALD



Kaitlyn McDonald

Freshman Gymnastics
The freshman sensation has proven herself to be one of Andover's star gymnasts. Com-

peting in three events as a freshman, she has the potential to be a competitor in the All-Around. **Kaitlyn** had another nice week, finishing third on the beam and second on the floor exercises. Her top scores so far this year are 9.0 on the beam and 9.2 on the floor. Coach **Tracy Vadala's** comments: "Connor is the heart and soul of our defensive identity. We couldn't win without him."

peting in three events as a freshman, she has the potential to be a competitor in the All-Around. **Kaitlyn** had another nice week, finishing third on the beam and second on the floor exercises. Her top scores so far this year are 9.0 on the beam and 9.2 on the floor. Coach **Tracy Vadala's** comments: "Kaitlyn is not only a fierce competitor, but she is a wonderful teammate and student athlete."

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JOB WANTED

Ads In This Classification Are WORK WANTED NOT HELP WANTED

MEDICAL

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

MEDICAL

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CERTIFIED REGISTERED LAB TECHNICIAN
 Full Time or Part Time.
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 ETPC Job #730
 100 Turnpike Street,
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 Please send resume to:
 ETPC Job #731,
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 North Andover, MA 01845-5096

IMMEDIATE OPENING!

IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A POSITION AS A CARE GIVER PLEASE CHECK OUT THE **ADULT CARE** SECTION IN THE BUSINESS AND SERVICE DIRECTORY. PEOPLE LOOKING FOR **PCAS, HEALTH AIDES, CNAS** HAVE ADS RUNNING AND COULD USE YOUR HELP

LNA
 Day & evening shifts available. Experience with the senior population required. No phone calls please.
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Windham Terrace Assisted Living
 3 Church Road, Windham, NH

PrimeCare Medical
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 to work Full Time and Part Time on the 3rd shift in the medical department at Rockingham County Prison.
Contact HR at
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 or fax resumes to 717-651-1865.
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<p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">NEW</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">2014 KIA SEDONA LX</p> <p>7 Passengers</p> <p>STARTING AT \$22,454 5 to choose from.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Stk# MG2878 MSRP: \$26,779</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">0% APR Financing Available</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">NEW</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">2013 KIA RIO LX</p> <p>Automatic</p> <p>OK BUY IT FOR \$14,964</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Stk# DM2964 MSRP: \$16,615</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">0% APR Financing Available</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">NEW</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">2014 KIA SOUL</p> <p>Bluetooth Technology</p> <p>STARTING AT \$13,999</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Stk# JN2942</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">0% APR Financing Available</p>

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THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
	COLD		COLD			
Mostly cloudy	Mostly sunny; frigid	Snow shower	A little snow	Partly sunny; cold	Mostly cloudy	Cold with snow
High: 18° Low: -3°	High: 15° Low: 8°	High: 38° Low: 10°	High: 20° Low: 6°	High: 21° Low: 12°	High: 26° Low: 13°	High: 25° Low: 7°

A new pediatric specialty center has landed in Lawrence.

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

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

The following real estate transfers were recorded recently in town:

- **10 Blackhorse Lane:** Jeffco Inc. to David and Heather Feld, \$985,000
- **20 Muirfield Circle:** CA INT and Yvon Cormier to Ralph H. and Kathy A. Faulk, \$1,269,000
- **51 Snowberry Road:** Linda M. Gibbs to Eric and Sharon Langan, \$885,000

Report: Housing boom needed to fuel state's economy

By MICHAEL NORTON
STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Massachusetts must significantly boost its housing supply to attract the younger workers needed to increase its labor force and help drive economic growth in the next decades, according to a new report.

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council report found the Metro Boston area will need 435,000 new housing units by 2040 to attract younger workers while also accommodating the state's growing senior population.

The report suggests the new units would mostly be situated in multi-family settings and in urban areas.

Under a slow-growth scenario, the region's population would grow 6.6 percent over three decades, with its 65 and older population increasing 82 percent and its working-age population essentially unchanged. Without an influx of younger workers, jobs in the region could grow by less than 1 percent from 2010 to 2040, the report said.

The report's "stronger region" growth scenario envisions a population increase of 12.6 percent, with the population between 25 and 64 years old increasing 7 percent and adding 175,000 new workers to the labor force.

The report says 435,000 new housing units would be needed from 2010 to 2040 under the "stronger region" scenario and 305,000 under the slow-growth, "status quo" scenario, which would still represent a 17 percent increase. The demand exists for new housing, including apartments and condominiums, even though a "senior sell-off" may provide most of the single-family homes needed by younger families.

"Which scenario is more likely to occur depends on decisions yet to be made," the report said. "Individual households will make their own choices about where to live, but they will do so in a context influenced by public sector actions and investments."

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