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**OUR 126<sup>TH</sup> YEAR**

# Andover Townsman

Issue No. 13

JANUARY 30, 2014

75 CENTS

## 'There he is ... Mr. AHS 2014'



Mr. AHS 2014 Evan Pantely, right, accepts his trophy from the 2013 title holder, senior Joe Benjamin, at Friday's night annual competition at the Collins Center at Andover High School. Story, more photos, page 4.

CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

## Finegold wages bid for state treasurer

Candidates mull options for Senate seat

BY BILL KIRK AND DOUG MOSER  
STAFF WRITERS

State Sen. Barry Finegold is running for state treasurer.

Finegold, 42, of Andover, was expected to make his plans official Wednesday afternoon during a press conference in Hyde Park, emphasizing his middle-class roots and his experience working on fiscal issues as a legislator in the Statehouse.

The long-time Democrat kicked off his campaign by traveling to the Georgetown Housing Complex Community Center, where he and his parents lived before moving to Haverhill while he was still a boy.



State Sen. Barry Finegold

Finegold said he chose his childhood home as a backdrop to emphasize the accomplishments he made with little money, starting as a paperboy — for another paper — and working multiple jobs through college and law school before starting his own firm.

"I scraped every nickle and dime to start my business," Finegold said. "I believe from these qualities will make me a strong advocate for taxpayers."

If elected, Finegold would take over an office charged with managing the state's pension system and that operates the state's lottery system.

His announcement was met with interest from area political leaders weighing a run

See FINEGOLD, Page 3

## Report: Andover High class sizes down

Need for expansion still remains

BY DUSTIN LUCA  
DLUCA@ANDOVERTOWNSMAN.COM

Classroom overcrowding is a story of the past at Andover High School, but officials say investing in an expansion is still a top priority as the rest of the facility remains overtaxed.

Through hiring teachers and adjusting program loads, administrators have chiseled away at the number of classes above the 29-student, do-not-exceed threshold that had been established by the School Committee, according to Assistant Principal

Luz Valverde. In 2010, 34 classes had more than 29 students enrolled.

Today, there's just one class with 30-plus students — and some wish that particular class had even more students.

There are currently 32 students enrolled in band.

"We would like our band to have 100 students, so we're working to increase that class size," de Kelley said.

The average class size at the high school is also on a downturn — reduced from 24.8 students in 2010 to 23.1 today, de

*"The first priority is to get kids to meet their graduation requirements, and then to move the district's, and the school's, strategic plan forward."*

Andover High Principal Chris Lord

Kelley said.

The drop in class sizes was achieved through hiring teachers, a credit to the town's "strong support of the school budget over the years," Principal Chris Lord said.

"The school is turning a corner in supporting kids like it needs to," Lord said.

In addition to adding staff, the school was also "able to increase

course offerings because they reduced the number of directed studies," de Kelley said.

While students benefit by smaller class sizes because they stand to get more individualized attention from teachers as there is less competition for their time, teachers also benefit from fewer students in their classes,

See EXPANSION, Page 3

## FOLLOWING THEIR DREAMS

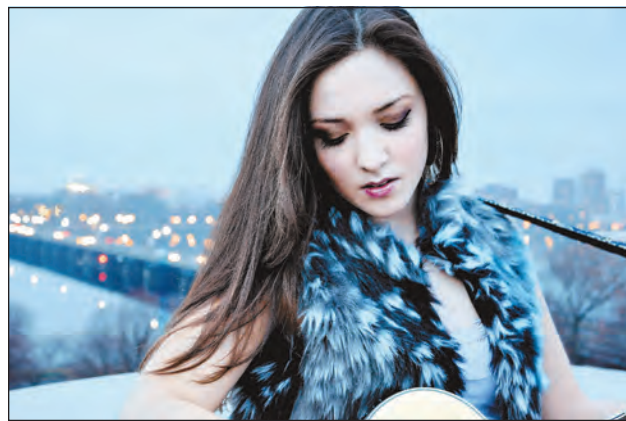
### Hometown 'Idol' hopeful

Local singer takes a chance at stardom

BY JUDY WAKEFIELD  
JWAKEFIELD@ANDOVERTOWNSMAN.COM

It all started in an eighth-grade English class in Andover. Casey McQuillen turned a writing assignment into a chance to pen her first song. Then, she taught herself to play guitar.

Now, the rest of America may be about to hear the



MAGGIE EMERSON/Courtesy photo

Casey McQuillen, pictured in a promotional photo shot in Boston's Back Bay, is hoping to wow the judges this season on "American Idol."

voice of the talented singer-songwriter as she pursues a chance at singing stardom.

The 21-year-old has auditioned for this season's hit reality TV show "American Idol." And while the show won't confirm she'll be featured this season or that she even scored an audition, all signs point to her making an appearance on the program this Thursday night, Jan. 30, when "Idol" broadcasts its Omaha, Neb. auditions.

What's a nice girl from Andover doing trying out in Omaha?

The 2011 Phillips Academy graduate now attending Berklee College of Music in Boston missed the auditions closer to home.

"So I went to Omaha on vacation," she said, adding it was one of her Berklee professors who encouraged

her to make the trip. That's all she can say about the audition and how she did. An inquiry to "American Idol" for more information was not answered.

"There's no guarantee I will definitely be shown, unfortunately," she said. "I would think so based on what I know of who else is being shown. There's definitely a lot of footage of me ... as with most other people."

McQuillen honed her talents growing up in Andover, where she attended Bancroft Elementary School, followed by Doherty Middle School. It was there in John Givens' English class that she discovered her voice after being given a writing assignment.

See IDOL, Page 2

### Skiing Sochi style

Drew headed to biggest competition of her life

BY JUDY WAKEFIELD  
JWAKEFIELD@ANDOVERTOWNSMAN.COM

"Go big or go home" has always been Annalisa Drew's philosophy.

And it's about to become as big as it gets for the local skier next month as she hits the Olympic stage in the half-pipe freeskiiing competition.

The 20-year-old Drew is about to fulfill her lifelong dream when she lands in Sochi, Russia, next week.

The flashy freestyle skier was chosen as a coach's discretionary pick to the women's U.S. Olympic half-pipe team. She will compete in Sochi on Thursday, Feb. 20, in what will be the first time in Olympic history that the half-pipe ski event will be held.

"Yes, I'm on cloud nine ... it's surreal ... it's really happening," Drew said last week from her training

See OLYMPIC, Page 2



Courtesy photo

Andover's Annalisa Drew will travel to Sochi to compete in the half-pipe skiing competition. It's the first time the event is being offered at the Olympics.

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Casey McQuillen performs last March during the annual Andover Youth Services telethon to raise money for the Cormier Family Youth Center. McQuillen participated in AYS programs and trips while growing up here.

FILE PHOTO

## IDOL: Pursuing chance at singing stardom

Continued from Page 1

"My grandfather had just died and I loved him so much. ... I wrote my first song and it was about him and I taught myself to play guitar then ...," she said.

She went on to Phillips, where the student newspaper, The Philipian, reports she performed at coffeehouses and released two albums on iTunes titled "Enough" and "Passenger Seat" before graduating.

Growing up, McQuillen was also active with Andover Youth Services, going on trips sponsored by the group and performing at benefits to raise money for the Cormier Family Youth Center.

AYS Director Bill Fahey will be among those rooting for McQuillen on "Idol."

"She is so talented, a great singer, a great songwriter. She better win," Fahey said. "She gets standing ovations after her performances. Plus, she always has a smile ... just a great kid."

The feeling is clearly mutual as McQuillen said her AYS memories

are fond and very treasured.

"I think AYS is great and I am always happy to sing for them. I went on a lot of AYS trips when I was in middle school and I think they are great role models," she said, adding she recently caught up with members of the group over the holidays at the Christmas tree lot AYS runs every year. "We always get our Christmas tree there."

According to her website, McQuillen was awarded a talent-based scholarship to Berklee and was the only freshman to be a featured vocalist in both the school's annual Singer's Night and Singer's Showcase concerts.

In July 2012, she won the Cape Cod Summer Star Competition hosted by 106 WCOD.

Last year, she released four singles and music videos, and performed as a member of the Boston Common Band.

She describes her songs as catchy, melancholy pieces with "honest lyrics" that tell "stories of young love, heartbreak and

bullying that highlight the joy and pain we all share." Her YouTube channel has amassed more than 1 million views, with 350,000 hits last year alone.

Back home, she definitely has a cheering squad anxious to see where her road takes her.

Parents Flora and Mark McQuillen still live in Andover and she has an older sister, Mary, and younger brother, Pat.

McQuillen is anxious for things to get under way, too, and is hopeful this season's "American Idol" judges — Harry Connick Jr., Keith Urban and Jennifer Lopez — will fall for the singer with the Andover vocal roots.

"I think they are some of the best judges that have been on the show," she said. "They have great chemistry."

For more on Casey McQuillen or to follow her shot at "American Idol," visit her website at [www.CaseyMcQuillen.com](http://www.CaseyMcQuillen.com) or check her out on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/CaseyMcQuillenFanPage](http://www.facebook.com/CaseyMcQuillenFanPage).

Annalisa Drew shows off a move after a jump during the national championships in 2012 at Copper Mountain, Colo. Her hard work has earned her a spot on the U.S. Olympic Half-Pipe Ski Team.

Courtesy photo



## OLYMPIC: Local skier heading to Sochi

Continued from Page 1

camp in Vail, Colo. "I'm just really happy ... and it's the first time for the event and I'll be there ... to make history. I'm psyched."

But Drew was caught off guard by the news when her coach telephoned her screaming, "You are going to the Olympics." She said it took a few minutes for the enormity of her selection to the team to register.

"I thought he was punking me, just teasing me ..., but he wasn't," she said.

Drew said her supportive family and friends back home in Andover have helped to keep her motivated and focused. She especially credited her parents, Bob and Lisa Drew of Warwick Circle, and grandparents for



Courtesy photo

Annalisa Drew of Andover, seen here preparing for a practice run at Mt. Bachelor in Bend, Ore. a few months ago, heads off to Sochi next week. She was chosen to compete at the Olympics as the coach's discretionary pick.

their encouragement.

"I just love them so much," she said before heading out for yet another training run in the snow. "Andover just loves its sports, and I feel so fortunate to get so much support back home over all these years."

Drew, whose family also has a house at Loon Mountain in New Hampshire, fell in love with skiing years ago. She is a graduate of New Hampton School in New Hampshire.

Considered one of the most athletic performers in the sport, Drew "has executed an alley-oop flat spin 540 (degree spin) and is in select company with her 1080s, which are three complete revolutions. At the X Games, she attempted a 1260," according to material being distributed by the team.

*"It's been tough waiting to hear if she made it, but that's over ... we are so happy for her. The waiting process was incredibly painful. This is awesome. It's totally incredible."*

Annalisa's mother, Lisa Drew, on her daughter being selected for a spot on the U.S. Olympic Half-Pipe Ski Team

"We are very fortunate to be taking such a talented group of athletes to Sochi. Each of them have made clear through their performances during the Grand Prix qualifying series that they have the potential to land on the Olympic podium," Jeremy Forster, director of freeskiing and snowboarding for the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association, said in a release.

Drew will join Maddie Bowman, Angeli VanLaanen and Brita Sigourney on the Olympic roster. She finished eighth at the Dew Tour, fifth at Copper, fifth in Breckenridge, Colo. and took two fourths in Park City, Utah, most recently.

"It's been tough waiting to hear if she made it, but that's over ... we are so happy for her," mother Lisa Drew said. "The waiting process was incredibly painful. This is awesome. It's totally incredible."

While family members have spent the last several days looking for airline ticket deals to Sochi, Drew is all set to head overseas. The Olympians fly to Munich, Germany for processing on Tuesday, Feb. 4, and on to Sochi on Thursday, Feb. 6, she said.

Opening ceremonies in Sochi are set for Friday, Feb. 7.

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# FinCom member eyes selectman's seat

By BILL KIRK  
BKIRK@ANDOVERTOWNSMAN.COM



Mary O'Donoghue

Long-time Finance Committee member Mary O'Donoghue is tossing her hat into the Board of Selectmen's race.

The 57-year-old Realtor becomes the third candidate to take out nomination papers for the seat being vacated by Mary Lyman, who has opted against seeking re-election.

O'Donoghue, of 69 Salem St., took out nomination papers on Monday. She said she has resigned from the Finance Committee to

campaign for the post. "I have the experience and working knowledge of the budget," said O'Donoghue, who has been on the FinCom, as it's known, for about 12 years. "As a selectman, I can hit the ground running."

She added that her 20-plus years as a local Realtor give her a "good knowledge of the town."

O'Donoghue works for

William Raveis Real Estate, formerly Prudential, Doherty & Howe, at 12 Bartlet St.

She and her husband, Geoff, an engineer, moved to the U.S. from Ireland in 1988 and both became American citizens in 1998.

They have two grown children — a daughter who is an engineer with a pharmaceutical company and a son who is a post-doctoral candidate in California.

The key issue in town, she said, is the increasing tax burden.

"The Board of Selectmen, as policy makers, need to weigh in and think about

*"The Board of Selectmen, as policy makers, need to weigh in and think about the taxpayers. We have to do a better job planning and prioritizing our capital projects."*

Mary O'Donoghue, on taking out nomination papers for a seat on the Board of Selectmen

the taxpayers," she said. "We have to do a better job planning and prioritizing our capital projects."

She said she resigned from the Finance Committee after deciding to run for selectman because she didn't want there to be an

appearance of conflict of interest.

"I felt it was the right thing to do," she said.

She added she spoke with a number of people in town about whether to run before pulling nomination papers — which are due back to the

town clerk's office with 50 signatures of registered voters by Feb. 4.

"I have been talking to people," she said. "I have very good support, which I'm grateful for."

While declining to identify specific supporters, she said they included a mixture of board members and people involved in the community in other ways.

In addition to O'Donoghue, Jodi Oberto, 46, of 11 Hartford Circle, and Kevin Cuff, 49, of 265 Beacon St., have also pulled nomination papers for the open selectman's seat.

## EXPANSION: Enrollment today is 1,800 students

Continued from Page 1

de Kelley said.

"I can't speak for the School Committee or Superintendent Marinell McGrath, but I know they recognized the importance of having a balanced caseload for teachers," she said. "You serve students best when you have a balanced load."

While the problems with overcrowding that existed when McGrath took her post in the district in 2010 are no longer as critical, the need for an expansion at the high school still remains, de Kelley said.

The last expansion 20 years ago allowed for a facility that would support about 1,600 students. Enrollment today stands at more than 1,800 students, de Kelley said.

A town-commissioned study is looking at new space alternatives for the high school, among other things.

Lord said there are several areas where overcrowding remains an issue.

Last year, the school added a fourth lunch period and reduced the time between the previous three periods in order to make more room in the cafeteria — one of the areas being targeted for possible expansion.

"The number of kids here, we had to go to four lunches," Lord said. "One of the restrictions to the schedule is having four lunches, with two hours dedicated to lunch."

The library and media center is also in dire need of improvement, another aspect officials are looking at, Lord said.

In the short term, the school is about to launch its annual registration process for classes next year.

Here is a look at class sizes at Andover High School over the last four years:

BY THE NUMBERS	
AVERAGE CLASS SIZE	
2010:	24.8
2011:	24.9
2012:	24.1
2013:	23.1
CLASSES WITH LESS THAN 25 STUDENTS	
2010:	244
2011:	231
2012:	280
2013:	365
CLASSES WITH 25 TO 29 STUDENTS	
2010:	344
2011:	385
2012:	362
2013:	312
CLASSES WITH 30-PLUS STUDENTS	
2010:	34
2011:	1
2012:	0
2013:	1

"The first priority is to get kids to meet their graduation requirements, and then to move the district's, and the school's, strategic plan forward," Lord said.

Meanwhile, McGrath said the balance in high school class sizes now falls in line with student levels across the district.

"We have everything sort of back in balance," she said. "Parents should feel assured that throughout the elementary schools, middle schools and high school, we've gotten there."

"If we can maintain this, that would be good and we can grow those other programs we've been piloting and preparing for launch."

## FINEGOLD: Announces his run for state treasurer

Continued from Page 1

at his state Senate seat.

Republican Alex Vispoli, a member of the Andover Board of Selectmen, announced in December his intention of running for Finegold's seat — even before the senator had made public his plans.

"I want to thank Barry for his years of service to the people of Andover, Dracut, Lawrence and Tewksbury," he said in an emailed statement. "I wish him the best of luck in the Democrat primary."

"His decision to seek higher office gives the people of this district an opportunity for a new direction. I believe now is the time to elect a senator who can use his business experience to demand accountability of our tax dollars and work to put people back to work."

It is the second go-round for Vispoli, who ran for the Senate seat in 2012, but lost in the primary.

Democrat Barbara L'Italien, a former state representative and member of the Andover School Committee, said she expects a lot of interest in the race.

"I'm sure, once Barry

makes it official, you'll see a number of people announce," she said. When asked if she had any interest, she answered, "We'll see what happens."

L'Italien lost a bid in 2012 to regain her state representative's seat from Andover Republican Jim Lyons.

Another Republican who has run for the seat, Paul Adams of Andover, could not be reached for comment.

Adams was a state representative who won the primary against Vispoli, but lost to Finegold in 2012.

Also said to be mulling a run for the seat is Pavel Payano, a School Committee member from Lawrence. He also could not be reached for comment, but told The Eagle-Tribune in late November that he would consider a run for the seat if Finegold ran for treasurer.

Deb Silberstein, an Andover attorney and former School Committee member, ran for state Senate as a Democrat in 2010, but lost in

the primary to Finegold. She also could not be reached.

Vispoli said he's met with as many people as possible in the district and has the blessing of the Andover Republican Town Committee and is working on getting endorsements from other Republican groups in the district.

Vispoli has about \$10,000 in his campaign fund and recognizes the need to start ramping up his fundraising efforts. He loaned the campaign \$19,000 two years ago, which remains as a liability on his campaign finance reports.

"We'll obviously spend time on fundraising to finance this race," he said. "We are in the process of organizing a series of fundraisers, and talking to folks interested in participating in the campaign."

Finegold is running for the seat currently held by Steve Grossman, who is not seeking another term so he can campaign for the Democratic nomination for governor.

Wayland state Rep. Thomas Conroy and Brookline Selectman Deborah Goldberg have already announced their bids for the Democratic nomination for treasurer. Wellesley businessman Mike Heffernan, who worked for Citigroup's Markets and Banking Division before co-founding mobile tech firm Mobiquity, announced Monday he would seek the Republican nomination.

Finegold has said since last St. Patrick's Day he would consider a run for treasurer, and has spent the last year apparently building a network for a statewide run. His campaign account had a balance of \$434,813 at the end of 2013, more than double its balance in June 2013 and far ahead of his competitors, according to state campaign finance records.

The primary is Sept. 14, but Democratic candidates must garner at least 15 percent support from the Democratic delegation at the state party's convention in Worcester in June to appear on that ballot.

Finegold has been a state senator since 2011 and represented Andover as a state representative starting in 1997.

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# Education



Evan Pantely, right, celebrates his crowning moment as Mr. AHS 2014 after being awarded his trophy by the 2013 winner, Joe Benjamin, left, at the Collins Center Friday night.

## TITLE MOMENT Pantely claims 2014 Mr. AHS bragging rights

About 400 people turned out Friday night to watch Evan Pantely begin his reign as the 2014 Mr. AHS. Pantely beat out nine other contestants — all from the junior class — to secure the title and bragging rights for the year ahead. The annual fundraiser netted close to \$3,000 to support junior class activities, including the junior/senior prom. Pantely may have earned the sash, but Tom Dufton was the clear Fan Favorite of the night. Andrew Matteucci was first runner-up and Cullen O'Dwyer was second runner-up. The contest, hosted by the Junior Board, included a talent portion, dream date featuring each contestant's female sponsor and a question-and-answer segment. Talents included a magic show, dancing, stand-up comedy and more. Student Katie Rex, one of the contestant sponsors, also choreographed a group number for the contenders as well. The 2013 Mr. AHS, Joe Benjamin, gave a featured performance before handing over the title to his successor. The other contestants were Connor Dwyer, Dan Harvey, Cam Flowers, Larry Zhu, Alex Bensle and Micheal Weber. The show's student hosts were Vishnu Chava, Farrien Khan and Zach Ciampa. Katherine O'Kelly, who served as stage crew manager and was in charge of all props, led a team of people behind the scenes who, with the support of the tech crew, made sure the show went off without a hitch. Russo's Tux of Andover did its part, donating tuxes to guarantee all of the contestants looked their best for the show finale. Teachers Michelle Chachus and Krista Lambroukos oversee the Junior Board.



Andover High junior Katie Rex reacts to the dance moves of her sponsored contestant, Alex Bensley, during the competition. Rex was also the show's choreographer.



Collins Center Technical Director Scott Worthley and Mr. AHS stage manager and AHS senior Katherine O'Kelly prepare the platform on stage hours before the start of Friday night's competition.



Mr. AHS and his court, from left, first runner-up Andrew Matteucci and his sponsor, Jackie Long; Mr. AHS 2014 Evan Pantely and his sponsor, Grace Perigaut; Carly Drooff, sponsor of Tommy Dufton, Fan Favorite winner; and Hope Flynn, sponsor of second runner-up Cullen O'Dwyer.



Senior Joe Benjamin sings and dances on stage as he enjoys his final moments as Mr. AHS 2013 at the Collins Center Friday night while this year's contestants await the judges' decision.

## Science team advances to national bowl in DC

BY DUSTIN LUCA  
DLUCA  
@ANDOVERTOWNSMAN.COM

A team of local science-minded students will head to Washington, D.C., this spring for the National Science Bowl after taking top honors in a regional competition last weekend.

The Greater Boston Science and Math team based out of Andover took first in the regional bowl held at Nashua Community College in Nashua, N.H. on Saturday, Jan. 25.

The win sends them on an all-expenses-paid trip to the nationals in April, according to Dirk Fillpot, spokesman for the Department of Education.

The team consists of Andover youths Abhijeet Sambangi, the team captain from Doherty Middle School; and Pike School

students eighth-grader Michael Ren and seventh-grader Alice Ren. Rounding out the team are Snigdha Allaparti, an eighth-grader at Worcester Academy in Westborough, and Justin Chang, a seventh-grader at Masconomet Middle and High School in Boxford.

The team, which came together because they were all friends, competed against 13 teams from Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont to move on to the top tier of the competition, according to Sambangi's father, Ravi.

"They're working very hard," Ravi Sambangi said. "On average, they're studying around 10 to 14 hours on the weekend."

The Greater Boston Science and Math team will now compete against nine other regional

winners from New York to Hawaii at the nationals, slated for April 24 to 28, with a chance to win \$1,000 for their schools' science departments.

The National Science Bowl brings together thousands of middle and high school students from across the country to compete in a fast-paced, question-and-answer format where they solve technical problems and answer questions on a range of science disciplines including biology, chemistry, Earth and space science, physics and math, according to a press release.

"The National Science Bowl challenges students to excel and heightens their interest in fields vital to America's continued scientific advancement," U.S. Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz said in a release.

## Recycled roundup



Andover High School marine science teacher Mollie Shenker watches over a collection of recycled televisions, computers, lab equipment and other pieces of technology donated by high school students and parents as part of the Environmental Club's recent week-long recycling drive. Donations from the drive topped 12,207 pounds and included 59 tube TVs and 33 CRT computer monitors, which were collected for a fee. The items went to Allied Computer Brokers, an Amesbury-based company, with proceeds supporting the club's sustainability efforts.

**Thank You!!**

"Mr. Sid" - Eric Sideri

Working at the Andover Barber Shop for the past 7 years gave me the opportunity to meet some of the very nicest people, and their bright kids! Unfortunately, my job there ended before I had the chance to thank those who gave me the privilege of cutting their hair.

So, I'm using this forum to give a belated "Thank You" to that notable group, and to let those who might be interested know that I'll now be working at Frank's Barber Shop in North Andover on Wednesdays (only) from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm.

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**Your Dental HEALTH**

by Nicholas T. Papapetros, DMD, FAGD

**ORAL HEALTH LINKED WITH HPV INFECTION**

Recent research suggests that people with human papilloma virus (HPV) infections have a three-fold greater risk of developing esophageal cancer. More recently, researchers also found that people with poor oral health had a 56% increase in the risk of HPV infection of the mouth and throat. Therefore, while esophageal cancer is also linked to risk factors such as smoking, excessive drinking, poor diet, and chronic acid reflux, oral health is another modifiable risk factor. With this in mind, smokers may want to cut out smoking, cut back on drinking, and seek medical help for dealing with chronic acid reflux as well as step up their efforts to improve their oral health in order to cut their oral/

esophageal cancer risk. People with poor oral health are possibly more likely to have an oral HPV infection. Is it time for a professional dental checkup? Want DENTISTRY BY DESIGN to want you to receive the highest quality of complete, affordable dental care. Because looking good and feeling good are important to us all, it is wise to maintain a healthy and attractive smile throughout life. We are located at 19 Barnard St., where our aim is to provide individual attention and care to every patient so that we can learn about their special needs. Call 978.475.5333 to schedule an appointment.

P.S. HPV can be prevented in both men and women through the HPV vaccine.

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# Ritzer family backs juvenile parole bill

By DUSTIN LUCA  
dluca@andovertownsman.com

The family of slain Danvers High teacher Colleen Ritzer of Andover has thrown its support behind proposed legislation announced last week that could impact the now 15-year-old charged with her murder.

State Sens. Barry Finegold and Bruce Tarr filed legislation last week that could have ramifications on the trial and sentencing of the Ritzer's alleged killer.

The legislation aims to keep juveniles convicted of first-degree murder in jail for 35 years before they become eligible for parole.

The bill comes in response to recent rulings by the U.S. Supreme Court and the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court that found sentencing juveniles to life without parole is unconstitutional.

"The Supreme Court said that it is cruel and unusual

punishment that a juvenile would have to spend their life behind bars without parole," Finegold said last week. "But it is also cruel and unusual punishment that after only 15 years and every five years thereafter, a victim's family would have to relive such a horrible tragedy."

The Ritzer family did not attend a press conference held on the bill last week, but issued a written statement saying they are "thankful for this effort to right a great injustice for victims and their families."

Ritzer, a lifelong Andover resident, was found murdered outside Danvers High on Oct. 23. One of her students, Philip Chism, has been charged with her death.

Finegold met with the Ritzer family at their request on Monday, Jan. 6, to discuss possible action in response to the state Supreme Judicial Court decision late last year.

Finegold and Senate Minority Leader Tarr, R-Gloucester, have joined with a coalition of legislators in filing legislation requiring juveniles convicted of first-degree murder to serve at least 35 years before becoming eligible for parole.

The statement from the Ritzer family reads:

"Lost in the decision of the Supreme Judicial Court is justice for the victims and those that mourn such devastating losses. The Court's decision extends greater rights to those youths convicted of horrible crimes than victims and their families.

"Allowing an individual convicted of such a heinous crime a parole hearing after serving only 15 years of a life sentence is unconscionable. As we have shared before, there will never be 'parole' for our family's life sentence without Colleen. "We are thankful for this

effort to right a great injustice for victims and their families. While it is our belief that judges should be provided the discretion to sentence juvenile offenders convicted of first-degree murder to life without parole, this effort, if successful, is a significant improvement over the Court's unfortunate decision.

"It is our hope that Sen. Finegold's proposal will pass the Legislature and be signed into law so that those convicted of first-degree murder serve longer sentences before they are eligible for parole and therefore prevented from harming others."

While the family has refrained from speaking publicly on Ritzer's murder, last week's statement marks the second time they have addressed the state Supreme Judicial Court decision since it was made in December.

## POLICE LOG

COMPILED BY DUSTIN LUCA

Street reported a "theft of two wallets and a video game" believed to have taken place at some point that morning.

### INCIDENTS

**Monday, Jan. 20** — At 8:25 p.m., police responded to Ridge Street after a resident called 911 to report "somebody was knocking on her door." An officer at the scene reported back, saying everything was "all set; it was a neighbor."

**Thursday, Jan. 23** — At 7:36 p.m., police were called to Elm Street after a resident called about her neighbor, whom she said "enters her apartment and throws things around."

**Saturday, Jan. 25** — At 11:33 p.m., a Bulfinch Drive resident called 911 after "she found a crutch out in the snow and she moved it to the side of the door of her building, and now she has noticed that it has been thrown back out into the snow." The caller was "concerned that somebody may need it." An officer responding to the call "found the crutch and has placed (it) up to the building."

### ACCIDENTS

**Tuesday, Jan. 21** — At 2:15 p.m., a two-vehicle crash with injuries was reported on Central Street. Both cars were towed.

**Wednesday, Jan. 22** — At 9:24 a.m., a two-car crash was reported on Dascomb Road. Injury was reported and one vehicle was towed from the scene.

**Thursday, Jan. 23** — At 9:24 a.m., a two-car crash, with two tows and injury, was reported on North Street.

**Friday, Jan. 24** — At 2:54 p.m., a two-car crash — one of the vehicles being a school van out of Lawrence — was reported on Beacon Street. The other vehicle involved in the crash was towed from the scene.

### ARRESTS

**Wednesday, Jan. 22** — Starting at 3:18 p.m., police made three arrests on Lowell Street. Arrested were: Larissa Lyman, 29, of 30 Lowell St., Wilmington, charged with possession of a class A drug; Ann Gerry, 25, of 36 Evergreen St., Stoneham, charged with possession of class A and B drugs; and Daniel McCarthy, 24, of 8 Brand Ave, Wilmington, charged with giving a false name during booking and possession of class A and B drugs.

**Sunday, Jan. 26** — At 2:26 a.m., Eric Rist, 20, of 46 Kenneth Road, Scituate, was arrested on Foxhill Road and charged with assault and battery, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and disorderly conduct. This arrest was conducted by Merrimack College police and processed by Andover police as a courtesy booking.

At 2:19 p.m., police made three arrests after a person at Andover High School on Shawsheen Road saw three people on the roof and called police. Arrested were: Ryan Kittredge, 26, of 61 Lane Road, Derry, N.H.; Alexander Cole, 24, of 43 River St., Andover; and Justin Melanson, 25, of 407 McDaniel Shore Drive, Barrington, N.H. All three men were charged with trespassing after accessing the roof via a ladder to see if they could find conditions suitable for snowboarding, according to Commander Charles Heseltine.

### THEFTS

**Thursday, Jan. 23** — At 12:46 p.m., a theft was reported on Nutmeg Lane.

**Saturday, Jan. 25** — At 6:16 p.m., a caller from Lowell

# ConCom set to approve YMCA expansion

By BILL KIRK  
bkirk@andovertownsman.com

The Conservation Commission closed its public hearing on the Merrimack Valley YMCA's local expansion project last week and will likely take a final vote on the \$21 million project at its next meeting in February.

The YMCA has proposed doubling its 165 Haverhill St. facility from 50,000 square feet to more than 100,000 square feet. The project also calls for the creation of a new access road and additional parking.

Conservation Commission agent Bob Douglas said the panel had asked for more information about drainage to "make sure the project meets water quality standards."

The proposed expansion creates a lot of impervious surfaces so that runoff from the site could potentially get into the Shawsheen River, officials have said. New projects are not allowed to generate more runoff than what is currently occurring, so the YMCA devised filtration chambers and holding ponds that will allow the water to

more naturally filter into the ground rather than cause flash-flooding, according to its plans.

Douglas said one resident from the neighborhood who attended the Jan. 23 hearing was concerned about a culvert downstream from the YMCA property that floods into the Shawsheen River. Douglas explained that the YMCA is responsible for only potential flooding within the footprint of its own property. "They can only handle what's on-site," he said.

On Tuesday, Feb. 4, the commission will vote

whether to approve the project. Douglas said he thought approval was likely.

"Our independent reviewer (CEI Engineering) OK'd their plans," he said. "There has been a lot of time put into this. We had feedback from the Department of Environmental Protection's wetlands division. There have been a lot of eyeballs on this."

Approval from the commission would be the final step needed for the project to advance. On Jan. 14, the Planning Board OK'd the plans. A ground-breaking is slated for March 28.

# Town Democrats to caucus Feb. 10

Andover's registered Democrats will be holding their annual caucus to elect delegates to the 2014 Massachusetts Democratic Convention on Monday, Feb. 10, at 6 p.m. at Memorial Hall Library, 2 North Main St.

Andover will elect 17 delegates and three alternates, divided equally between men and women, to attend the state Democratic convention on Friday and Saturday, June 13 and 14, at the DCU Center in Worcester. At that time, Democrats from across the state will gather to endorse statewide candidates.

The local caucus is open to all registered Democrats in town. All ballots will be written and secret. Those not elected as a delegate or alternate who meet the qualifications may apply to be add-on delegates in the following categories: youth, minority and disabled.

Discrimination on the basis of race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, disability, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation or economic status in the conduct of the caucus is strictly prohibited. Challenges to the delegate selection process can be filed with the

Massachusetts Democratic Party, 77 Summer St., 10th floor, Boston 02110 no later than 10 days after the caucus.

The Andover Democratic Town Committee is also preparing to elect a new leader. Chairwoman Patricia Commane has announced she is stepping down after five years at the helm of the group.

Andover Street resident Kate Machet will be nominated at the next meeting to replace Commane. Machet is a former Obama Fellow and has been involved in helping to elect Democrats at all

levels of government.

Commane will serve through the caucus. For more information, call her at 978-474-6047.



Please recycle this newspaper.

## TOWN BRIEFS

### Ice Cream for Breakfast benefit in honor of Ritzer

Cherry Farm Creamery in Danvers will honor the Colleen Ritzer Memorial Scholarship Fund during its National Ice Cream for Breakfast Day event on Saturday, Feb. 1, from 8 a.m. to noon.

Half of all proceeds from sales will be donated to support the scholarship fund in memory of the slain Danvers High School teacher from Andover.

The memorial scholarship seeks to honor Ritzer and her passion for teaching. Funds will be awarded to students who are pursuing a degree in education so they can continue Ritzer's legacy of making a difference in a student's life.

Cherry Farm Creamery, 210 Conant St., Danvers, is opening early for the occasion and serving a special "breakfast" menu that will include Waffle Sundaes, Maple Donut & Pop-Tart sundaes, Coffee & Donuts ice cream (coffee ice cream with chocolate glazed donuts mixed in), and Maple Bacon ice cream (maple flavored ice cream with bits of bacon mixed in), as well as warm maple syrup and blueberry toppings.

The regular menu will also be available; "breakfast" menu items will be available while supplies last. For more details, visit Cherry Farm's Facebook page at ([www.facebook.com/cherryfarmcreamery](http://www.facebook.com/cherryfarmcreamery)) or call 978-774-0519.

### Dog license renewals due back Feb. 28

Local residents have until Feb. 28 to turn in their dog license renewals or they will face an additional \$5 surcharge. Dog license renewal notices were sent to dog owners on Dec. 9.

Fees and renewal requirements have changed. The fee for spayed or neutered dogs is now \$13 with proof from a veterinarian. Intact dogs are \$14. All dogs must have proof of a current rabies vaccination.

Dog owners may renew their dog's registration in the town clerk's office from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Renewals are also accepted through the mail by sending a check payable to the Town of Andover along with the required documentation to the clerk's office at 36 Bartlett St., Andover, MA., 01810.

### Gan Israel Winter Adventures on tap

Gan Israel Winter Adventures, the largest and fastest growing network of Jewish camps in the world, is coming next month to Chabad of Merrimack Valley at 10 Marwood Drive in Andover.

The comprehensive winter vacation program — which is slated for Feb. 17 through 21 — is designed to strengthen the body and soul. Campers enjoy a wide range of wholesome, rich activities and field trips in a warm and spirited atmosphere that encourages friendship and a meaningful educational experience.

For more information on the program, contact Mushka Borenstein at 978-682-1876 or email [jewishnorthandover@gmail.com](mailto:jewishnorthandover@gmail.com). For registration details, visit [www.ganisraelmv.com](http://www.ganisraelmv.com).




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# Kindergarten registration set to open next week

The Andover Public School District's annual kindergarten registration week will be held Feb. 3 through 7 at all of the town's elementary schools.

Children who will be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2014 are eligible for enrollment.

Shawsheen School, a choice school, will offer one more year of kindergarten classes before it is scheduled to cease its kindergarten through grade two programs in two years.

Any students attending the school next year will be redistricted to neighborhood schools for the 2015-16

school year, in accordance with the School Committee's redistricting plan.

Kindergarten applications will be accepted at all school offices next Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., with extended hours on Wednesday, Feb. 5, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Half-day kindergarten is available to all residents of Andover for free. Parents looking to enroll their children in full-day kindergarten must pay a \$4,650 fee.

Full-day applications, with a \$500 deposit, are due by March 14.

The registration deadline for half-day kindergarten is

May 30.

Kindergarten students who are registered by April 11 will be screened Tuesday and Wednesday, April 15 and 16.

Orientation events will be held June 6 at 1 p.m. at all schools.

For more information and registration forms, visit the Andover Public Schools website at [www.aps1.net](http://www.aps1.net). Parents who can't download the registration packet can arrange to have one sent out by contacting the assistant superintendent's office at 978-623-8506 and leaving their name and mailing address.

# To Wingate, with love

## Shawsheen students craft handmade valentines

Shawsheen Elementary School got into the Valentine's Day spirit a little early last week with the creation of heart-shaped messages for some local nursing home residents.

Students in kindergarten through second grade made and decorated red and pink valentines as part of an all-school program.

Some of the children invited their grandparents in to lend a hand with their paper-heart cards, too.



Hunter Nash, 6, greets his noni (grandmother), Linda Donovan, as grandparents joined students to make valentines at Shawsheen Elementary School last Friday.




Riley Solt, 8, decorates his Valentine's Day card with a personal message to its recipient at Wingate Nursing Home.

PAUL BILODEAU/Staff photos

# WINTER SEASON OPENING RECEPTION

Friday, January 31, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.



James Abbott McNeill Whistler, *Nocturne: Blue and Gold - Old Battersea Bridge*, c. 1872-75, oil on canvas, Tate; Presented by The Art Fund 1905

Take in our new shows while enjoying music, a glass of wine, and a bite to eat. The reception celebrates the opening of three spectacular shows: *An American in London: Whistler and the Thames*, *Industrial Strength: Selections from the Collection*, and *Eye on the Collection: Artful Poses*. Free and open to the public.

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# Summer Opportunities, Gap Year fairs at Phillips

Middle and high school students can get a jump on their summer plans by attending Phillips Academy's 24th annual Summer Opportunities Fair or Gap Year Fair this weekend. Both fairs are free and open to the public.

The Gap Year Fair will be held on Saturday, Feb. 1, from 3 to 5 p.m. in Kemper Auditorium, located in Elson Art Center on Chapel Avenue. It is sponsored by USA Gap Year Programs, which holds 30 such fairs across the country each year. High school graduates use a gap year to pursue other experiences before going off to college. According to Phillips, the popularity of gap years is growing at an exponential rate in the U.S. and the demand for informational events like fairs has increased dramatically.

nearly 40 gap year organizations that focus on education, service and personal growth will attend the fair. Featured speaker Jane Sarouhan, a counselor at the Center for Interim Programs in Northampton, will discuss the gap year experience as well as the application process and the logistics of deferring college for a year.

Each year, approximately 15 to 20 Phillips Academy graduates take advantage of a gap-year experience and then attend their deferred college choices.

Additional information, including student testimonials and blogs, can be found at [www.andover.edu/Academics/CollegeCounseling/GapYear](http://www.andover.edu/Academics/CollegeCounseling/GapYear).

The Summer Opportunities Fair will be held on Sunday, Feb. 2, from noon to 3 p.m. in the Smith Center,

located off Route 28 near Salem Street. The event is sponsored by the Phillips Academy Summer Opportunities Office and the Parents of Students of Phillips Academy.

This fair gives middle and high school students and their families the chance to meet with representatives from more than 100 local, national and international summer programs covering a wide range of interests, including academics, language study, community service, camps, sports, arts, research, internships, outdoor adventure and international travel.

For more information on the Summer Opportunities Fair, visit [www.andover.edu/summerops/fair](http://www.andover.edu/summerops/fair).

Information on both fairs is also available by calling 978-749-4480.

### EDUCATION NOTEBOOK

#### Vacation weeks at Camp Evergreen

Camp Evergreen on Jenkins Road is holding registration for its February and April school vacation programs.

While best known for its summer camp programs that started 50 years ago, Evergreen's school vacation week programs feature a variety of seasonal activities, according to Jim Loscutto, camp owner. Activities include sledding on the camp's private hill, ice skating and ice fishing in February and trout fishing in April. There are also indoor programs, including crafts,

musical performances and a game room with board games and traditional pinball machines.

"We have a great indoor space with an indoor stage, so we do theater programs," Loscutto said. "We put together a band — we're not good, but we're loud."

For more information on the programs and to register, visit [www.CampEvergreen.com](http://www.CampEvergreen.com).

accepting applications from area high school seniors for one of five \$2,500 scholarship grants.

Candidates must be students of Italian heritage who are seeking to pursue their education at a four-year college or university and who have demonstrated strong achievement in academic studies and extracurricular activities.

The application deadline is March 15. Visit [www.unicomerrimackvalley.org](http://www.unicomerrimackvalley.org) for an application and more information.

#### UNICO accepting scholarship applications

UNICO Merrimack Valley, the local chapter of the largest Italian-American service organization in the U.S., is

To submit an item for the *Education Notebook*, email [townsmen@andovertownsmen.com](mailto:townsmen@andovertownsmen.com).

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# Opinion

## Finegold's bid opens campaign doors

Sen. Barry Finegold this week is making official what has been expected for months.

The Andover Democrat has been laying the groundwork for his decision to seek higher office in the role of state treasurer for close to a year.

He's been working behind-the-scenes to build his campaign account, which has doubled in the last six months to more than \$430,000, and has been increasing his visibility statewide in recent weeks with some higher-profile political activity.

Earlier this month, the Senate passed an election reforms bill that he helped to craft as co-chairman of the Election Laws Committee. Finegold, who has been working for years to see progress on the bill that allows for early voting and online and election-day registration, said the initiative had bipartisan support, which could only help him in the treasurer's race.

Last week, he took the spotlight when he and Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr, R-Gloucester, joined with a coalition of legislators to champion a change in the parole opportunities for juveniles sentenced to life in first-degree murder cases. The action grew in part out of his commitment to seek justice for the family of Andover's Colleen Ritzer, the Danvers High School teacher slain last year, allegedly by a then-14-year-old student.

Finegold's hopes at advancing his political career are only natural. He spent 14 years representing Andover in the state House of Representatives before winning the Senate seat for the Second Essex and Middlesex District, which includes Andover, Tewksbury, Dracut and part of Lawrence, in 2011.

His bid for the treasurer's post being vacated by now-Democratic gubernatorial candidate Steve Grossman will not be without a challenge. Fellow Democrats Deb Goldberg, a 2006 candidate for lieutenant governor, and state Rep. Tom Conroy have already expressed their intentions to pursue their party's nomination. And businessman Mike Heffernan announced this week on the Republican side.

Finegold's decision, meanwhile, creates an interesting opportunity for his Senate seat.

Since at least 1999, an Andover resident has represented the district. Former Sen. Susan Tucker of Andover held the seat for 10-plus years before calling it quits and Finegold was elected.

Andover Board of Selectmen Chairman Alex Vispoli hopes to continue that streak. In December, he announced he would wage his second bid for the seat — even before Finegold was prepared to come public with his plans.

Vispoli came up short in his bid for the seat two years ago, losing to Republican challenger Paul Adams, also of Andover, who ultimately lost out to Finegold in the finals. But Vispoli is seizing the opening for "a new direction" created by Finegold's departure. He said in a statement, "I believe now is the time to elect a senator who can use his business experience to demand accountability of our tax dollars and work to put people back to work."

Other names are being tossed around. School Committee member and former state Rep. Barbara L'Italien even hinted to Townsman reporter Bill Kirk at possibly given the seat some consideration.

While things play out on the state level, there's also some action on the local political front. Long-time Finance Committee member Mary O'Donoghue's decision to pull nomination papers for the Board of Selectmen this week creates the potential for a three-way race for the one open seat in the March town election. Incumbent Mary Lyman is opting against seeking re-election.

Jodi Oberto, who as an Independent candidate waged an unsuccessful bid for the Second Essex and Middlesex District Senate seat in 2010, and Kevin Cuff, who was unsuccessful in his bid as an Independent candidate for state Rep. Jim Lyons' 17th District state representative seat in 2012, have also pulled nomination papers for selectman.

It's too premature to predict the outcome of any of these races. But it does set the stage for an interesting few months on the campaign front in Andover, the district and across the state.

## WEB QUESTION

With state Sen. Barry Finegold running for state treasurer and his Senate seat opening up, how important is it for the next senator to be from Andover?

**IMPORTANT:** An Andover resident would know Andover issues best and be the most skilled at lobbying for us.

**NOT IMPORTANT:** A senator from another town in the district, such as Tewksbury or Lawrence, will still represent Andover well.

**INDIFFERENT:** I don't get involved in state-level politics, so where a senator is from has no bearing on me.

## LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Last week, we asked our web readers for their take on the winter season so far, particularly as heavy snowfall and frigid temperatures hit the area. Multiple answers could be selected. With 75 total responses registered, the answers were:

**This is New England.** If you can't handle the cold, you should move — 32 votes, 42.67 percent.

**I can't wait 'til spring** — 21 votes, 28 percent.

**I love snowball fights,** sledding, cross-country skiing and pond skating. Keep it coming! — 10 votes, 13.33 percent.

**The snow is pretty** — seven votes, 9.33 percent.

**It has been far too cold.** This is Massachusetts for crying out loud, not North Dakota — five votes, 6.67 percent.

**It has been a huge inconvenience** because snow days make it difficult to secure child care — no votes.

**I don't know what you're talking about.** It's gorgeous down here in (location of winter home)! — no votes.

## Andover's town seal tells many stories



### Andover Stories

Tom Adams

### Andover Historical Society

It is an image we have seen a thousand times. It appears on official documents and on town buildings. It is worn by first responders and displayed on town vehicles. The image is our town seal commemorating the founding of Andover with the purchase of land from Cutshumache, the sagamore of Massachusetts Indians, for six English pounds and a coat.

The origin of today's town seal came from a local jeweler, John E. Whiting. He created a cloisonné pin memorializing the town's 250th anniversary. The distinctive pin pictures a Native American in full headdress, standing arm outstretched, holding a coat and gazing out over a river and down on the town below.

It incorporated our then-circular town seal, the date of incorporation and a flowing ribbon hailing Andover's 250th anniversary.

The design and his pin caught the town's fancy — so much so that it became the official logo of the celebration. An artist created a large canvas banner depicting the seal. Restored by the Andover Historical Society for Andover's 350th anniversary, it now hangs at Town Hall outside the town manager's office.

In the afterglow of Andover's 250th anniversary celebrations, the town began renovating Town Hall. Local architect, artist and Andover native Perley Gilbert was hired to oversee the project. The results of his work can still be seen today — the dramatic spiraling staircase leading to the second-floor ballroom and the town seal on the front foyer tile floor.

Determined to get it right, Gilbert and our town fathers hired local artist and photographer Leonard Sherman to give the seal a more polished look. They brought in mosaic artist Elias Galassi



COURTESY IMAGE

Andover's most familiar town seal.



COURTESY IMAGE

This seal was created for the 250th anniversary of the town.



COURTESY IMAGE

The 350th anniversary seal is displayed in the selectmen's meeting room in the Town Offices.

to help create the ceramic pieces for Gilbert's design and Sherman's adaptation. Set in the Main Street

entryway, it remains today a stunning version of Whiting's original creation. The Town Hall project

behind them, the work accomplished by Gilbert, Sherman and Galassi in the ensuing years continues to leave a lasting mark on today's Andover and far beyond.

Gilbert designed the West Parish vestry and Junior High Memorial Auditorium. Hired by William Wood, he designed Orlando Cottage, now the Lanam Club, for Wood's son, William Wood Jr.

Sherman later worked as paymaster at Wood's company, American Woolen, and was active in town theater productions.

Galassi did important work on prominent public and private buildings, including the statehouses in Massachusetts, Maine and New Hampshire and several city halls.

Since the creation of our town seal in the early 1900s, and the efforts that preceded those, the design has been interpreted by many. It has been studied and discussed among local historians and drawn by town school children. Its evolution reflects the subtle changes the seal has undergone over time.

The changes have not come without some much-discussed controversy. The headdress worn by Cutshumache appears to be a war bonnet of a Plains Indian rather than one worn by tribes here in Massachusetts. The headdress on the seal designed by Andover High School student Kristoffel Meulan for the town's 350th celebration is said to be more accurate.

A year ago, the seal found a new medium — and a new audience to embrace. The Andover Veteran Services Department created a challenge coin honoring those veterans from town who have helped veteran-related causes here at home.

Challenge coins carry a meaningful tradition among many veterans. Struck on one side of the Andover coin is the town seal; the other side reads, poignantly, "Andover Veteran — Proudly Served." It is a fitting tribute indeed to those who served our town and nation.

So as you walk down Main Street or around Town Hall and see our town seal, pause for a moment to take it all in. It tells a great and enduring story.

## ALL THOSE YEARS AGO

COMPILED BY  
SUSAN MCKELLIGET

### 100 Years Ago Jan. 30, 1914

Andover's death list for 1913 reached an unusually high mark, there being a total of 129, including 61 females and 68 males. Estimating the population of the town at 8,000, this would give the large rate of 16.8 for every thousand.

George Chandler has recovered from the effects of an accident, which he sustained last week when, in the midst of the snowstorm, his sleigh tipped over.

Bailey School, which had been closed owing to the prevalence of scarlet fever, reopened on Monday.

### 75 Years Ago Jan. 26, 1939

The Board of Public Works, it is understood, is planning to ask Town Meeting to allow it to sell the team of horses bought a few years ago, the

sale to be made in the interests of efficiency. It is felt that the present team and dump wagon are much more expensive than the trucks would be.

Verrette's Restaurant opened in the Musgrove Building this morning. Ernest Verrette is proprietor, while his two brothers, James and Edward, will be the chefs. Sally Webster, Catherine Darby and Ernestine Verrette will be waitresses, the first having been with the Gloria Lunch for 10 years.

### 50 Years Ago Jan. 30, 1964

At the beginning of 1964, the town has 12,165 telephones in use in the community — a ration far higher than the national average. (Andover population 17,134)

Roger W. Collins, 50 Maple Ave., a state parole agent for the Division of Youth Service, has announced that he is a candidate for the Board of Selectmen for the current one-year term.

Land takings between Lowell Street and Haggetts Pond to help protect the

watershed and provide access from the street to the pond have been voted by the selectmen.

### 25 Years Ago Feb. 2, 1989

Close to 100 firefighters from Andover and surrounding communities battled a fire that destroyed an historic barn on Argilla Road Saturday night. A tractor and other items stored in the 75-year-old structure were also lost as firefighters battled not only the barn itself, but hosed down nearby properties threatened by sparks.

The recent asphalt restriping and return of parking meters at Old Andover Village parking lot caused a little overtime at a Board of Selectmen's work session Monday night. Selectman Gail Ralston said the work defied Andover voters, who turned down a \$150,000 parking package at last year's Town Meeting that included parking meters for the downtown shopping district.

## 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.

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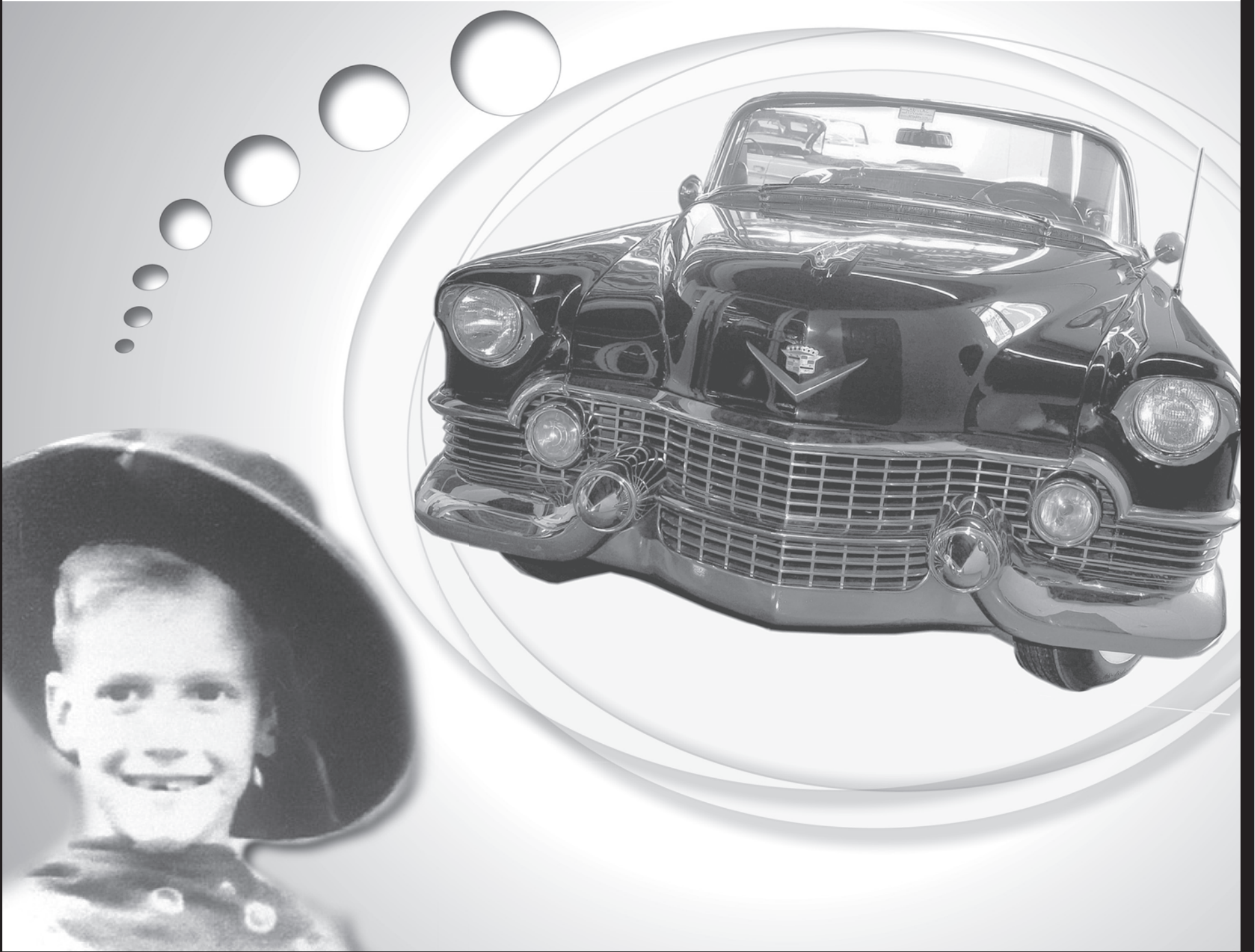
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# TownsBeat

## SUNDAY TRACTION



MARY SCHWALM/Staff photos

Hikers traverse a bridge constructed by an Eagle Scout at Harold R. Rafton Reservation in Andover on Sunday during AVIS' 45th annual outing on the property.



David Dargie, of Andover, right, leads a group, including Mark Kaluzny, also of Andover, during Sunday's hike within the 226-acre Harold R. Rafton Reservation.



Bob Rauseo, of Tewksbury, uses his walking poles to negotiate a trail while enjoying the wintry scene at Harold R. Rafton Reservation.

### Hikers take wintry tour of Harold Rafton Reservation

Fifteen intrepid hikers braved the frigid cold and blowing winds this past Sunday to participate in the 45th annual Rafton Reservation Trek sponsored by AVIS (Andover Village Improvement Society).

The outing was organized and led by David Dargie, who was assisted by Vale Reservation warden Ken Doran.

In the past, the event has included cross-country skiing or snowshoeing, but this year, hiking was the chosen method to view the 226 acres of forest preserved in memory of former AVIS leader Harold Rafton.

Participants headed out into the property from High Plain Road, off Greenwood Road, and were rewarded with picturesque wintry scenes all along the way.

## Through Whistler's eyes and beyond

By KELLY BURCH  
Staff Writer

The Addison Gallery of American Art is offering a glimpse of Whistler's London to headline its series of winter exhibitions opening this weekend on the campus of Phillips Academy.

"An American in London: Whistler and the Thames" features works by James Abbott McNeill Whistler, who was born in Lowell in 1824, but worked in London after settling there in 1859.

The international show opens Friday night with a reception, and will run through April 13.

"Although Whistler has been the subject of many exhibitions, 'An American in London' provides the first focused examination of this important period in his career," Susan Faxon, interim director of the Addison, said.

"We are delighted that the Addison's 'Brown and Silver: Old Battersea Bridge,' which was one of the first paintings Whistler completed after moving to London, will be shown in the context of his other extraordinary work exploring life along the Thames in the Victorian era."

"Brown and Silver: Old Battersea Bridge" was one of the original 50 paintings purchased before Addison Gallery even opened its doors in 1931.

Faxon said the idea for the Whistler exhibit came about eight years ago from the museum's desire to showcase that work.

During his time in London, Whistler focused on portraying the city and the river Thames in new ways. He was particularly interested in the bridges that spanned the Thames, the



COURTESY IMAGE

This 1862 oil on canvas by Whistler, entitled "The Last of Old Westminster," is loaned from the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and will be on display at the Addison Gallery as part of the "An American in London: Whistler and the Thames" exhibit.

industrial neighborhoods along its banks and the workers that called those areas home.

"In the exhibit, Whistler really documents all the passages of that river as it goes through London," Faxon said.

Addison reached out to Whistler experts and museums around the world in order to bring "An American in London" to life.

The exhibit features more than 70 paintings, prints and drawings by Whistler, including works on loan from the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York; The National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.; the Art Institute of Chicago; Musée d'Orsay in Paris and the British Museum

in London. Historic photographs of London will also be on display to give context to the artist's works.

The exhibit, curated by Margaret MacDonald, professor emerita of art history, and Dr. Patricia de Montfort, both from the University of Glasgow, is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue. It will travel to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., after being shown at Addison.

Faxon said from an art-history perspective, Whistler's importance cannot be overlooked.

"He brought together a whole series of movements that were happening and formed them into one really magnificent body of work," she said.

In addition to "An American in London," two other exhibits will be opening Friday night at Addison Gallery.

In an homage to Whistler, "Industrial Strengths: Selections from the Collection" gathers works from the gallery's permanent collection by artists who also found inspiration in the industrial landscape. This exhibit, which will also run through April 13, features a range of media and time periods.

It explores all aspects of the industrial scene, including laborers, factories, transportation and infrastructure, with behind-the-scenes photographs of Boston's Big Dig construction among the subjects chronicled. Featured artists



COURTESY IMAGE

"Kibitzers," by Jacob Lawrence, an egg tempera on masonite, 1948, is featured in "Eye on the Collection: Artful Poses."

include Edward Hopper, Walker Evans, Margaret Bourke-White, O. Winston Link, Peter Vanderwarker and Siah Armajani.

"We thought that it would be interesting to choose works from our own collection from artists who portray industrial locations, in much the same way that Whistler portrayed the docks and warehouses on the Thames," Faxon said.

Rounding out the winter shows is "Eye on the Collection: Artful Poses." Running through March 30, the exhibit explores the way that portraits capture both the presence of an individual and reveal the social and artistic contexts that the work was created in. Pieces range from 18th-century paintings to modern photographs, all of which use the portrait for artistic and social purposes.

"'Artful Poses' is a reflection of the way in which Whistler puts people into context," Faxon said. "They are pieces that

show people engaged in an environment."

Faxon said while "An American in London" will be of particular interest to people who are familiar with that city, she believes the winter exhibits as a whole are accessible to everyone — whether they are art enthusiasts, or just enjoy looking at beautiful things.

"Almost anyone will find these paintings fascinating," she said.

#### IF YOU GO

- **What:** Opening reception for winter exhibitions
- **Where:** Addison Gallery of American Art, 180 Main St., Andover, on the Phillips Academy campus
- **When:** Friday, Jan. 31, 6:30 to 8 p.m.
- **How:** Free admission to all gallery exhibitions and events. Various exhibits on display through March 30 and April 13. Call 978-749-4015 or visit [www.addisongallery.org](http://www.addisongallery.org).

## Exploring passions with The Andovers



The winter edition of The Andovers magazine arrives on newsstands and in mailboxes this week with an engaging mix of stories on people and initiatives making their mark on the local community.

This edition's theme is all about pursuing one's passion, as The Andovers explores people making a difference in and around their hometown.

Highlights include:

**Reaching For Her Star:** Actress Briga Heelan of Andover is chasing her

dream from the "Ground Floor."

**Chip Off The Block:** Armed with a chisel and an idea, the possibilities are endless for North Andover ice sculptor Don Chappelle.

**Shaping Futures:** After building his own successful career, Andover billionaire Gururaj "Desh" Deshpande and his wife, Jaishree, are helping others pursue their professional dreams.

**At One With Nature:** Wildlife photographer Mark Brown has crisscrossed

the country with a focus on capturing life in the great outdoors.

**Finding Their Voice:** A local choir is striking a supportive note for youths with disabilities.

**Ray Of Fortune:** Andover catcher Ryan Hanigan inks \$11 million deal behind Tampa Bay's home plate.

**Guilt-Free Comfort:** The tasty flavors of winter, made easy with dishes that are nutritious and lean.

Readers will find all of this and more in this issue of The Andovers. Pick it up

starting Friday on newsstands at these locations:

- Andover Spa, 9 Elm St., Andover
- Andover Townsman Office, 33 Chestnut St., Andover
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- Whole Foods, 40 Railroad St. Andover

Have an idea for an upcoming edition? Contact editor Sonya Vartabedian at 978-691-8733 or [svartabedian@theandoversmagazine.com](mailto:svartabedian@theandoversmagazine.com).



# Silent no more Noted organist to accompany 'The General'

By JUDY WAKEFIELD  
jwakefield@andovertownsmen.com

Silent, but has music. Huh, you say? The unique art form mixes the showing of a silent film with an accompanying organ performance. And it's happening this Saturday night, Feb. 1, at Christ Church in Andover.

The classic Buster Keaton silent film, "The General," will be shown while noted silent film organist-accompanist Peter Krasinski plays on the church's new C.B. Fisk organ.

Barbara Bruns, Christ Church's organist and music director, said the organist-accompanist for silent films provided background, mostly improvised, sometimes with known tunes, to enhance the action and the mood of the actors on the screen.

"It is a rare and subtle art; it requires close knowledge of the film, the music of the period, command of the organ and of musical expression in a wide variety of nuance," Bruns said. "Especially, it requires the imagination and musical sensitivity to bring the audience into closer communication with the expression seen on the actors' faces and in their actions."

Released in 1926, "The General" is recognized as one of the great silent films. The sound track would come a few years later.

Krasinski's take on the movie's sound track promises to be memorable and enjoyable.



Organist Peter Krasinski will accompany a screening of the Buster Keaton silent film "The General" Saturday night at Christ Church in Andover.

"When I accompany a film, I first visually memorize it and later consider what musical ideas would work best with the central line, the characters, the action, the locations and the many other details of the film," Krasinski said in a statement. "By the time of the performance, the music is all about flow and completely improvised ... the music is organically created as the story unfolds."

Well-known nationally and in the Boston area, Krasinski has undergraduate and graduate degrees from Boston University. In 2002, he won

first prize in improvisation in the American Guild Organists National Competition and was the featured artist at its 2004 convention in Los Angeles.

He has appeared in concerts around the world, including at Minato Mirai Hall in Yokohama, Japan; Saint Joseph's Oratory in Montreal, Canada; and Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, France. He has also performed at Methuen Memorial Music Hall in Methuen.

The presentation is part of the ongoing Music at Christ Church Andover series and is

open to the public.

### IF YOU GO

■ **What:** Screening of the Buster Keaton silent film "The General" with musical accompaniment by organist Peter Krasinski

■ **When:** Saturday, Feb. 1, 7 p.m.; doors open at 6:30 p.m.

■ **Where:** Christ Church, 33 Central St., Andover

■ **How:** Admission \$15 adults, \$10 seniors/students, \$35 families. For more information, call the church at 978-475-0529.

### WHAT'S HAPPENING: CENTER AT PUNCHARD

The Center at Punchard (The Center), 30 Whittier Court, Andover, has several activities on tap next month. Here are some of the highlights:

**Bright Ideas Round Table:** Tuesday, Feb. 4, 11:45 a.m. Share experiences about discovering senior deals from local shops offering discounts to public transportation to banking, while brown bagging it. Free, reservations requested.

**The History and Tradition of Gelato:** Thursday, Feb. 6, 2 p.m. Jim Demoteses, owner of Pazzo Gelato Cafe in North Andover, highlights the origins of gelato, the Italian version of ice cream with only half the fat. Samples will be available. Free, reservations requested.

**Personal Fitness:** Thursday, Feb. 6, 7 p.m. Personal trainer Denise Boucher will show how to develop a customized workout; small group class or individual trainings may form, pending interest. Free with advanced registration.

**Healthy Eating Tidbits — Nutrition and Heart Disease:** Friday, Feb. 7, 9:30 a.m. Learn the factors affecting cardiovascular disease, including the association between nutrition, common forms of heart disease and high blood pressure; healthy breakfast included.

**Chinese New Year Celebration:** Friday, Feb. 7, noon. Chinese luncheon followed by a performance at 1 p.m., \$8.

**Women's Outdoor Adventures:** Monday, Feb. 10, 9:30 a.m. Hike or snowshoe through Harold Parker State Forest.

**Peace Corps Morocco:** Tuesday, Feb. 11, 12:15 p.m. Peace Corps volunteers Mary and Gerry Murphy will discuss the challenges of living and working in Morocco, a "moderate" Islamic state; \$4, includes soup and dessert.

**Facebook:** Thursday, Jan. 30, 6:30 p.m. Learn basic functions such as how to create a Facebook account, add friends, communicate privately and share photos, videos and more. Questions call and answers follow lecture,

\$3. **Continental Breakfast:** Friday, Jan. 31, 9 a.m. Complimentary continental breakfast; learn what's happening at the center.

**Reboot Yourself - Get Organized:** Mondays, Feb. 3 and 10, 2 to 3 p.m. Professional organizer Susan Walko focuses on Tackling the Paper: Sort & Take Action on Feb. 3 and Strategies for Real Success in Organizing: How to Keep it Going on Feb. 10; \$12.

**Bender Barre:** Thursdays, through Feb. 13, 6 to 7 p.m. Susan Tribble combines Pilates, yoga and ballet to strengthen, sculpt and tone with extended stretching and relaxation exercises. No previous experience required; bring yoga mat.

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

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

**Current Events Discussion:** Thursdays, 9 a.m. to noon. Special current events discussion focusing on the events of the day, at The Townhouse, Main Street.

**Free movies:** Mondays at 1 p.m. and Thursdays at 7 p.m. Call or check newsletter online for listing.

All events are open to the community. However, space is limited and registration is required. The Center at Punchard is open daily from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For a complete listing of classes and programs, check the center's newsletter or visit [www.andoverseniorcenter.org](http://www.andoverseniorcenter.org). For more information, call 978-623-8321.

# 'Plant geek' digging into dirt with Andover Garden Club

The Andover Garden Club will hold its annual Membership Meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 4, at 10 a.m. at South Church, 41 Central St., Andover.

Guest speaker Andi Ross of It's Nature's Way based on Plum Island will explore "The Real Dirt About Dirt." Club members say true gardeners know it's all about the soil and Ross' presentation will simplify soil science for both beginners and experienced garden toilers. Attendees will learn how easy it is to restore soil

to its optimum health and productivity by exploiting the virtues of compost, compost tea, lasagna composting and vermiculture.

A creative landscape designer, private garden coach, educator and horticulturist as well as a botanical artist and painter, Ross is dedicated to taking a sustainable approach to every facet of gardening — from managing the environmental impact on everything from healthy soil preparation to proper plant selection, as

well as sensitivity to local environmental issues.

She has earned certificates and degrees from a number of garden- and design-related institutions, including the Northeast Organic Farming Association and the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, and has attended the Landscape Institute.

Founded in 1927, the nonprofit Andover Garden Club encourages the study and practice of horticulture, landscape design and floral

design; aids in the beautification of the town, and helps protect and conserve natural resources.

The meeting is open free to club members; a \$10 donation, which includes refreshments, is requested of guests. For information about joining the Andover Garden Club, contact membership chairwoman Linda Carpenter at 978-475-7430 or [lcarpenter1@comcast.net](mailto:lcarpenter1@comcast.net) or Ronnie Haarmann at 978-475-4414 or [rhaarmann@comcast.net](mailto:rhaarmann@comcast.net).



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**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Take by theft
7. Cash machine
10. Removed from attendance
12. Old World buffalo
13. Spread by dividing
14. Herd of unshorn sheep
15. Main arterial vessel
16. Carbamide
17. In the style of
18. Leafstalk angle
19. Physiques
21. Command right
22. Gratuitous
27. Printed display
28. Dexter inspector

*Solution in Classified Section*

33. "Hammer Time's" initials
34. Making one ashamed
36. Hill (Celtic)
37. Expletive
38. Surface
39. Atomic weight
40. Swiss river
41. Publicists
44. Hollow cylinders
45. Most hirsute
48. Wading bird
49. Not in residence
50. According to
51. Property injury

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Russian Emperor (var. sp.)
2. Take hold of
3. South American Indian
4. Commune in northern France
5. "Run to Him" singer Bobby
6. Doctor of Education
7. Celestial intermediary
8. Roman garment
9. More (Spanish)
10. Ear shell
11. Diversify
12. A lofty nest
14. Dinner jackets
17. \_\_\_ Dhabi, U.A.E. capital
18. Small terrestrial lizard
20. Unhappy
23. Takes off
24. Mollusk shell lining

25. Socialist Debs' initials
26. Arrived extinct
29. Atomic #37
30. 17th Greek letter
31. Blue eyed cat
32. Alliance between nations
35. Headquarters
36. Container weight adjustments
38. Chadic language Bura-\_\_\_
40. Tributary of the Seine
41. Length x width
42. A small dent
43. Distribute
44. A gratuity
45. Possessed
46. Overgarment
47. A doctrine

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# Townspeople



About 45 competitors and 100 spectators participated in last Friday's second annual Troop Challenge at Yang's Fitness and Wellness Center.

Courtesy photos

## Up to the challenge

The Back Pack Treadmill Climb had competitors wearing 45-pound backpacks as they walked on treadmills at a 10 incline for five minutes. The competitors who went the farthest distance were declared the winners.



### Fitness enthusiasts sweat it out for wounded veterans

About 45 competitors put their mettle to the test last Friday for the second annual Town-wide Troop Challenge sponsored by Yang's Fitness & Wellness Center in Dundee Park.

The event raised about \$1,600 for the Homes for Our Troops initiative. This year's proceeds will support the construction of a new home for injured veteran Army Sgt. Matt Dewitt of Concord, N.H. Close to 100 people turned out to watch the various timed military strength and

fitness events.

Yang's Shaolin/Kung Fu Team won the team competition, with Yang's Fitness Instructor Team finishing second and Lawtown Mudders coming in third.

The male and female winners in the individual categories were:

**Jump Rope (two minutes):** Jamey Lachiana, 373; Susan Lucy, 303

**Push-ups (two minutes):** Chris Fazio, 113; Danielle Benson, 110

**Abdominal In & Outs (two**

**minutes):** Chuck Hanes, 158; Danielle Benson, 170

**Backpack Treadmill Climb (45-pound pack, five minutes, treadmill incline 10:** Alex Gamble, .55 mile; Ana Avellan, .50 mile

**Pull-ups/Dead Hang (two minutes):** Wilson Man, 29 pull-ups; Paula Perry, 1.48 dead hang

**Wall Sit (last person sitting):** Marko Duffy, Denise Dionne

The annual Run For The Troops 5K in Andover, also to benefit Homes for Our Troops, is set for Sunday, April 6. For more information or to register, visit [www.runforthetroops5k.com](http://www.runforthetroops5k.com). For more on Homes for Our Troops, visit [www.HomesForOurTroops.com](http://www.HomesForOurTroops.com).

## Welcome home, uncle



Courtesy photos

Sgt. Richard Hiort is flanked by his niece and nephew, Skylar and Kyle Garcia, as they pose for a photo with South Elementary School students last week. The students sang patriotic songs as they welcomed Hiort to their school.

### Niece, nephew enjoy surprise visitor from Germany

Sgt. Richard Hiort, who is stationed at Stanghahlem Air Force Base in Germany, surprised his niece and nephew with an emotional reunion at South Elementary School last week.

Third-grader Skylar Garcia and first-grader Kyle Garcia were overjoyed to see their uncle walk into their school unannounced on Wednesday, Jan. 22.

The two children joined with their fellow students to welcome Hiort with cheers, a patriotic song and lots of questions. Principal Dr. Colleen McBride presented him with a South Elementary T-shirt.

Hiort's sister and mother live in Andover. The family delayed their Christmas celebration until Hiort could be home for leave.

About 25 family members and friends gathered at the Hiorts' Andover home over the weekend to enjoy a belated holiday get-together.



Sgt. Richard Hiort shows off his new South Elementary School T-shirt after surprising his niece and nephew, Skylar and Kyle Garcia, with an unexpected visit to their school.

## Local cancer patient hits slopes for fundraiser

Andover's Jack Whelan, a 66-year-old patient at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, will be the featured speaker at Saturday's CSC Jimmy Fund Snow Challenge at Nashoba Valley Ski Area in Westford.

He will be sharing his story with event guests and volunteers at the après-ski party following the day of racing on the slopes.

Whelan was diagnosed with Waldenström macroglobulinemia, a rare and incurable blood cancer, in 2007 at the age of 58.

A research analyst specializing in information technologies, medical experts say Whelan was able to restore his health through participation in clinical trials. His experience paved the way for his current work in patient



Jack Whelan

advocacy and public speaking. Whelan is a co-chairman of Dana-Farber's Patient Adult

Patient and Family Advisory Council.

The 19th annual Snow Challenge fundraiser for Dana-Farber and The Jimmy Fund is open to skiers and snowboarders of all abilities. It is sponsored by CSC, a global leader of next-generation information technology services and solutions. Proceeds support adult and pediatric cancer care and research at Dana-Farber.

The entry fee is \$240 for a four-person race team and \$70 for individual racers.

All team racers receive a lift ticket for the day and a barbecue lunch. Teams are also encouraged to do additional fundraising — for every \$150 raised above the registration fee, one second is deducted from the final race time, so everyone has a chance to win.

After hitting the slopes, all participants will gather in the Nashoba Valley Ski Area lounge for a live auction, awards ceremony and the après-ski party.

Registration begins at the mountain at 9 a.m., though advance sign-up is encouraged. Lunch will be served starting at 11:30 a.m. and racing begins at noon. For more information, visit [www.jimmyfund.org/snow](http://www.jimmyfund.org/snow).

To register, contact Lisa Rogier at 781-290-1758 or [lrogier@csc.com](mailto:lrogier@csc.com).

### WHAT'S HAPPENING: MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY

#### Take Your Child to Library Day

Memorial Hall Library is calling on parents to celebrate Take Your Child to the Library Day on Saturday, Feb. 1.

Visitors to the library at 2 North Main St. will enjoy a day of fun-filled activities, including a scavenger hunt, drop-in crafts, Family Book Bingo, Wiggle Words and a special visit from Miss Frizzle of "Magic School Bus" fame.

All programs are sponsored by the Friends of Memorial Hall Library. Visit [www.mhl.org/kids/](http://www.mhl.org/kids/) for the complete schedule and registration information.

#### Fish On! Andover set to cast off 15th year of programs

The Friends of Memorial Hall Library kicks off the 15th annual installment of its popular fishing series Fish On!

Andover 2014 next month.

The free series that began in 1999 has become a perennial favorite of fishing enthusiasts from all over New England.

This year's lineup, put together by Capt. Skip Montello, features fishing videos, door prizes and speakers. The schedule for the series, which meets Tuesday nights at 7, is:

**Feb. 4:** Ice Fishing: Basics & Extreme Techniques with Dana Durkee

**Feb. 11:** Merrimack River Carp and Shad with Roger Aziz Jr.

**Feb. 18:** Stripers! 24/7! with Ron Powers

**Feb. 25:** Surfland Chronicles with Martha Moulton Dudley

#### More upcoming activities:

**Creative Café:** Monday, Feb. 3, 7 p.m. Fun, monthly craft night open to adults who knit, crochet, scrapbook and

create other portable crafts.

**Acoustic Guitarist:** Sunday, Feb. 9, 2:30 p.m. Ken Bonfield, acoustic finger-style guitar player and composer, performs his "living room" solo concert, drawing from more than 20 years of instrumental guitar compositions. He will perform on his custom-built instruments.

**MHL's Monday Movie:** Monday, Feb. 24, 7 p.m. Free monthly movie night in the Activity Room; visit [mhl.org/mondaymovies](http://mhl.org/mondaymovies) for this month's selection.

**Shen Yun 2014:** Thursday, Feb. 27, 7 p.m. Local resident and businessman Michael Feltz will share the beauty of Shen Yun, a program of Chinese culture enjoyed by millions of people around the world; all ages welcome.

All events are sponsored by the Friends of Memorial Hall Library. For more information or a complete schedule of activities, visit [www.mhl.org](http://www.mhl.org) or call 978-623-8401, ext. 31 or 32.

# Business

## Orange Leaf serving up an expansion



Dave Pierre, owner of four Orange Leaf franchises, is in the midst of a major renovation and expansion of his original Park Street location in downtown Andover. He is hoping to unveil the new space during a grand re-opening on Feb. 14.

DUSTIN LUCA/Staff photo

### Revamped shop to open Feb. 14

By DUSTIN LUCA

DLUCA@ANDOVERTOWNSMAN.COM

For the ice cream and frozen yogurt business, winter is often a time of survival, with some business struggling to keep their doors open during the long, cold months.

But one local shop has actually closed its doors to double in size.

Orange Leaf on Park Street is expanding next door into the former longtime home of Grecoe Jewelers. It is the yogurt shop's first major expansion since it opened in 2011.

"This is our first store and we felt it needed new life put into it," franchise owner Dave Pierre said. "Having opened three more since, and helping over 26 franchises in the district, we learned a lot. ... We needed to step up our game because competition is intense in this

industry."

Work had been occurring in the adjoining storefront for some time following the departure of Grecoe Jewelers, which moved to its new home at 168 North Main St. in August, after 80 years downtown, including 43 years on Park Street.

Last week, the frozen yogurt shop shut down entirely to marry the two spaces, Pierre said.

He said the project involves more than merely taking down a wall.

When the shop reopens, there will be more seating and amenities, including a fireplace and iPad station for customers to use, creating "a Starbucks feel, where people can hang out," he said.

The expansion will also allow for an additional toppings lane to improve the flow of the space as well as an area for private parties.

"You won't be able to recognize the store other than the same colors. Everything is different," Pierre said of the transformation.

Citing company policy, Pierre declined to offer the cost of the expansion, except to say "it has cost me the same it would cost to open a new store. I'm going to tear it down, and I'm going to rebuild it."

He also said he does not expect to add staff in the larger space, saying customer demand, not size, determines his workforce.

Pierre is hoping to make the grand reveal on Valentine's Day Feb. 14, which is also the last day of school before February vacation begins.

"It's a very aggressive goal, but we're going to be working nights and days, and around the clock," he said. "We believe we're going to be able to pull it off."

### BUSINESS BRIEFCASE

#### Wright-Pierce gets industry kudos

Wright-Pierce, an engineering firm with an office in Andover, was recently selected as a Circle of Excellence 2013 Platinum Award Winner by PSMJ Resources, Inc., the management consulting firm for the architecture/engineering/construction industries.



Courtesy photo

For the second consecutive year, Wright-Pierce was recognized as the "best of the best," receiving the Platinum Award at the annual Summit Conference held in Las Vegas in December. Wright-Pierce was one of only six firms in North America to receive this award. The engineering firm specializes in water, wastewater, stormwater and infrastructure services for public and private clients throughout the Northeast.

**William Brown, president and CEO of Wright-Pierce, right, receives the Platinum Award from PSMJ Resources Principal David Burstein.**

#### Keller Williams welcomes Realtors

Steven and Joseph Fisichelli of "The Fisichelli Team" at RE/MAX Prestige in Methuen have joined forces with Keller Williams Andover.

For nearly 30 years, the Fisichelli brothers have served homebuyers and sellers in the Merrimack Valley and southern New Hampshire. The Fisichellis owned and operated RE/MAX Preferred in Andover and Methuen from 1985 to 2009.

"We are thrilled that The Fisichelli Team is now part of Keller Williams," said Mary Ann Arini, team leader, Keller Williams Realty Andover. "Their immense knowledge of the Merrimack Valley and southern New Hampshire markets, along with their close ties to the local community, will prove to be great assets to their Keller Williams clients and fellow agents."



Steve Fisichelli

Joseph Fisichelli

To submit an item for the Business Briefcase, email [townsman@andovertownsman.com](mailto:townsman@andovertownsman.com).

#### REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

The following real estate transfers were recorded recently in town:

■ 4 Hemlock Road:	Indrani Neogi, \$617,000
■ 144 Andover St.:	Timothy R. and Stephanie Kenney and Maria C. Andrews, \$356,400
■ 20 Smithshire Estate:	Scott A. Corning to Lisa D. and Daniel A. Kinley, \$590,000
■ 4 Hemlock Road:	Mary C. Callaghan Trust and Heather A. Callaghan to Can and Selen Aktar, \$549,600



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Lighting Retrofit Services Inc., a 20+ year old lighting design and installation company, is again looking to add to our team of Licensed Electricians. We are located in Wilmington, MA and service Commercial and Industrial sites all throughout New England. Qualified Applicants should have a valid Journeyman Electrician License in the state of Massachusetts, should have reliable transportation, and should have a team player mentality. Ideal candidates should also have their OSHA 10 Certification. Candidate will be responsible for the installation of lamps, ballasts, and other lighting components in various types of fixtures for a varied customer base. Individuals who excel at the position will be strongly considered for a promotion to Foreman. If interested, please email your resume to [toohoe@lightingretro.com](mailto:toohoe@lightingretro.com) and we'll be in touch.

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INTERIOR PINE DOORS, 4" TUB ENCLOSURE Interior 6-panel pine doors.; Unpainted 6"8"H. (4)-30", (1)-34", \$50ea. (2)-30" 15-lite French Doors \$75ea. Custom 4ft glass bi-pass tub enclosure door, \$150. 978-546-6493

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**GARAGE SALE**

DOVER, NH, Antique Flea Market, Dover Elks Hall, 282 Durham Rd. (Rt. 108, Exit 7, off Rt. 16, 1.5 miles south on the left), Wednesday 2/5 8-9 am. Early Buying Fee \$5; 9 am 1 pm. Free Admission. Catered. For info., 603-770-1994 \$1.00 off with this ad. (Next market Mar. 5th)

**HOUSEHOLD GOODS**

**AMAZING!** New Full or Queen Mattress Set European Pillowtop. In plastic. Cost \$1099 Sell \$249. Can deliver. 603-305-9763

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<b>High: 28°</b> <b>Low: 19°</b>	<b>High: 37°</b> <b>Low: 19°</b>	<b>High: 34°</b> <b>Low: 26°</b>	<b>High: 37°</b> <b>Low: 17°</b>	<b>High: 29°</b> <b>Low: 19°</b>	<b>High: 32°</b> <b>Low: 21°</b>	<b>High: 26°</b> <b>Low: 14°</b>

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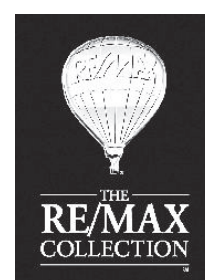


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