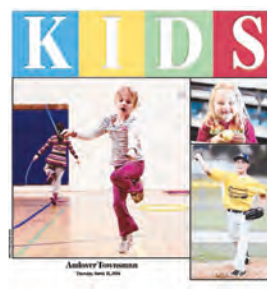




A MEMORABLE SEASON FOR AHS BOYS HOOPS

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MONTESSORI PUTS SCIENCE FAIR TO TEST

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OUR 126<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

# Andover Townsman

Issue No. 19

MARCH 13, 2014

75 CENTS



RYAN HUTTON/Staff photo

Board of Selectmen candidates Jodi Oberto, left, and Mary O'Donoghue participate in a candidates night and limited debate Monday night at Memorial Hall Library. It was hosted by the League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover.

## Former doctor faces child porn sentencing

### Keller apologizes for 'obsession' that he says began as teen

By BILL KIRK  
bkirk@andovertownsman.com

As he awaited his sentencing this week on three child pornography counts, former Phillips Academy physician Richard Keller apologized for an obsession that he says began as a curiosity in his teenage years and continued into adulthood.

Keller, 57, was due to be sentenced Wednesday in federal court to five to six years in prison for one count of possession and two counts of receiving child pornography. He pleaded guilty to the charges last November as part of a plea deal.

According to documents filed in federal court, Keller, who practiced in Massachusetts for 24 years, could have faced 15 to nearly 20 years in jail under federal sentencing guidelines on the one count of possession and two counts of receiving child pornography.

However, both prosecution and defense attorneys involved in the case agreed that Keller should face 63 to 78 months in prison because he was a first-time offender, had the support of his family and former colleagues, has a strong education and work history and has accepted responsibility for his actions, among other factors.

In a letter to Judge F. Dennis Saylor IV, Keller wrote his obsession began as a teenager "only to worsen with the advent of computers and the Internet." He said the obsession didn't define him, and that he has always worked to help people. Even in prison, he said, he has helped inmates seek medical care.

"He is ready to serve his sentence and anxious to engage in all of the appropriate programming and therapy," according to a memorandum filed by his attorneys, Patricia Garin and Max Stern of Stern, Shapiro, Weissberg and Garin of Boston. He has "accepted responsibility for his actions," has agreed to resign his medical license, has no prior criminal record and has strong family and community support, their statement said.

Another memorandum, signed by U.S. Attorney Carmen Ortiz and Assistant U.S. Attorney

See KELLER, Page 5



Richard Keller

## Making their case

### Selectman candidates talk taxes, spending in candidates forum

By BILL KIRK  
bkirk@andovertownsman.com

Sky-high property taxes dominated Monday night's candidates forum at Memorial Hall Library, with the two candidates for an open seat on the Board of Selectmen sparring over how to treat seniors on fixed incomes.

"Property taxes are incredible," said Jodi Oberto, 46, a sales rep with a manufacturing firm. She recounted a conversation she had last weekend with an elderly couple who told her that after living in town for years, they had to sell their home because they couldn't afford the \$20,000 property tax bill. She favored giving seniors

a break so they can stay in town.

"They (senior citizens) don't have children in schools," she said. "They've done their part. They've paid their fair share. Maybe a percentage of what they pay can be reduced. We should do anything we can do to reduce their burden to make their lives easier."

But Mary O'Donoghue, 57, a local Realtor, disagreed.

"I don't like a proposal that singles out a group for a tax break or special attention," she said. "It's not addressing the issue. We need to look at the big picture. We're all in this together. We have to do what's best for everybody."

The two candidates are

See SELECTMEN, Page 2

## O'Donoghue: Blunt talk, tough medicine

By BILL KIRK  
bkirk@andovertownsman.com



Mary O'Donoghue

The town needs to stop hiring people, stop spending money on projects it doesn't need and start maintaining the buildings and facilities it has or face even larger bills in the future. Oh yeah, and cut taxes, too. That, in a nutshell, is what Mary O'Donoghue,

57, of 69 Salem St., a candidate for a seat on the Board of Selectmen, wants voters to know about her as she goes around campaigning ahead of the election.

"The biggest issue is the tax burden," O'Donoghue said in an interview with The Townsman last week. "Overall, the situation is this: Fiscal year 2014 delivered taxpayers a 4.5 percent increase in taxes. The FY 2015 budget, if it goes through, will add an additional 4.7 percent. In one

See O'DONOGHUE, Page 5

## Oberto: A fresh set of eyes

By BILL KIRK  
bkirk@andovertownsman.com

Jodi Oberto thinks Andover is pretty much OK. But that doesn't mean it doesn't have some problems. And she wants to be part of the solution.

"We have a good town," said the 46-year-old manufacturing sales rep during a recent interview at The Townsman. "I'm not running to say 'We need to perk up Andover.' ...

We have good schools."

The married mother of two, school-age children is running for a seat on the Board of Selectmen because she would she said she will bring a "fresh pair of eyes" to problems, like what to do with the Town Yard.

"Do we need to spend \$4 gazillion dollars or can we keep it simple and make it work?" asked the 11 Hartford Circle resident. "Like the saying goes, 'Keep It Simple Stupid.'"

Oberto, who has a 16-year-old at the high school and a 10-year-old at South School, said "our schools are vital.

See OBERTO, Page 2

## Put to the PARCC test

### Schools readying to sample new assessment tool

By DUSTIN LUCA  
dluca@andovertownsman.com

MCAS season is about to begin, but students shouldn't be too quick to sharpen their No. 2 pencils. Some youths in town won't need them.

More than 400 students at six of the town's 10 public schools are slated to play the role of guinea pig in a field test

of a new partially computer-driven assessment program in the coming weeks.

Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers assessment program— better known as PARCC—is being explored by 19 states as a replacement to the traditional MCAS testing method. The new assessment method is facilitated by

academic giant Pearson Education, Inc.

The test will hit specific classrooms in three elementary schools — High Plain, South and West — as well as all three middle schools, with the first classrooms being tested starting the end of this month. It will reach the high school later this year.

Superintendent Marinell

McGrath said letters recently went out to households with students who are slated to take PARCC for a spin this year.

Work has been under way at the various schools to make sure the necessary technology is in place and that teachers know how to run the unfamiliar tests, some of which are taken on computers or laptops as opposed to traditional

sheets of paper, she said.

"It is such a huge undertaking," McGrath said. Assistant Superintendent Nancy Duclos said students can expect "a lot of nuances in the test that go beyond practicality."

"Sitting down at a computer to do an assessment is very different from a paper test," Duclos said. "There's an

opportunity where kids are going to have to be able to read and they have to type. And in the math part, they have to be able to manipulate an online calculator."

In one test, students will watch videos and wear ear buds to hear the audio, Duclos said. After the video ends, the

See PARCC, Page 4

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## Boutique Blowout



PAUL BILODEAU/Staff photo

Shoppers turned out in solid numbers for last weekend's Boutique Blowout Days event, which included a warehouse sale last Friday in Old Town Hall in downtown Andover. The event promoted a new LOCAL 01810 movement aimed at getting the community to support small, independent retailers. See story, photo, Page 15.

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# Housing Authority wins \$137K in grants

## Funds slated for improvements

By BILL KIRK

bkirk@andovertownsman.com

The Andover Housing Authority recently learned it will be receiving nearly \$140,000 in state grants to make improvements to some of its properties.

According to Christine Metzemaekers, executive director of the AHA, the grants will be used for a variety of projects, including energy sustainability projects and health and safety improvements at some of the authority's 282 units of public housing.

The state office of Housing and Community

Development announced on Feb. 24 that it was providing almost \$11 million to housing authorities across the state to "improve, preserve and reoccupy" state-funded housing units.

The capital funding will be used for a number of initiatives, including supporting repairs required to get current vacant units back online, creating more accessible units for persons with disabilities and preserving the current housing stock by making the units more sustainable, according to a press release issued by the state.

"Affordable public housing is in high demand across the state," Undersecretary of Housing and Community Development Aaron Gornstein said. "These additional

dedicated funds will provide local housing authorities with new tools and funding to extend the life of our current housing stock and also more quickly house seniors and families looking for affordable housing."

The various types of funding awarded to 170 housing authorities include:

■ \$3.6 million in sustainability funds to upgrade building components in order to save energy and water. Andover will be getting \$110,000 of that, with \$100,000 going toward siding for Stowe Court and another \$10,000 for boiler repairs at Grand View Terrace.

Metzemaekers said Stowe Court was built in 1985 and hasn't been re-sided since then. She said the new

siding will improve energy efficiency while also making the property more attractive.

"A lot of our property is older," she said. "We get funding sources from wherever we can to make them look nicer."

■ \$4.1 million in health and safety funds have been doled out to reduce site and common area hazards that could pose a danger to residents. Andover got \$27,200 under that program, with the money earmarked for Memorial Circle, to remove old fencing for laundry line enclosures as well as to remove hot-top used in the laundry-hanging areas.

"The jagged fencing will come down and the broken hot top will be removed," she said. In addition, some remaining fencing will be

repaired and trees will be trimmed at properties throughout town. The property was built in 1949.

Contractors will replace the hot top with loam and grass will be planted, she said.

Finally, rear-door thresholds at Memorial Circle will be replaced. Front-door thresholds were replaced last year.

The latest round of funding does not include a \$400,000 project to replace windows in the 96 units at Frye Circle. Built in 1975, the complex had crank-out windows which will be replaced with more reliable and energy-efficient vinyl, double-hung windows. That project is slated to get started in May.

"We expect to see energy

savings but it's also good for tenants — they can open their windows all the way," she said. The old window units had a fixed bay window flanked by two crank-out windows. They will be replaced with three double-hung windows which can all be opened.

Other local communities also got state grants, including North Andover, which got \$20,000 in health and safety funds, and Methuen, which got \$38,700, and Haverhill, which got \$44,630.

In addition, \$721,053 was handed out in Vacant Unit Funds to renovate and reoccupy units needing costly rehabilitation that have been vacant for more than 60 days. Methuen got \$24,875 under that program, while Haverhill got \$4,260.

# Groundbreaking set for YMCA expansion

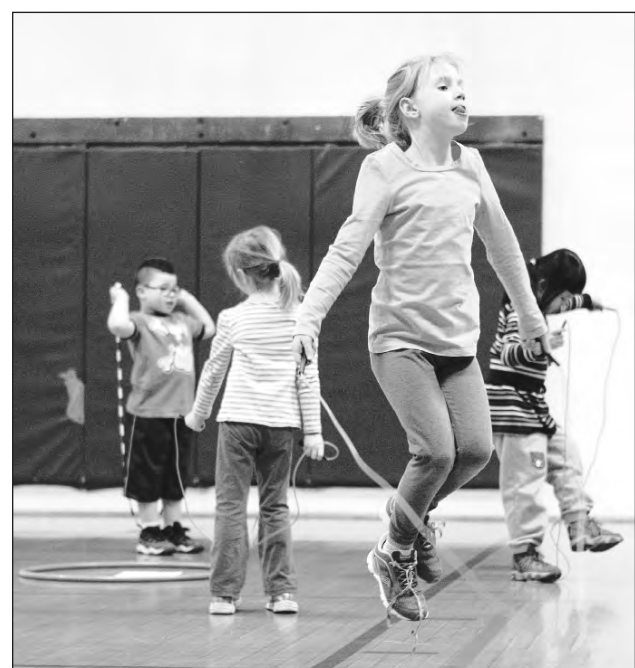
The Merrimack Valley YMCA will host a groundbreaking for its Andover/North Andover Branch expansion project on Friday, March 28, at 9 a.m. at the facility, 165 Haverhill St.

Key YMCA leaders and stakeholders will comment on the significance of the \$21 million expansion project for both the Merrimack Valley YMCA and the surrounding communities it serves.

The approved master plan for the Andover/North Andover expansion calls for double the current space from 50,000 square feet to more than 100,000 square feet. The expansion will create a community space dedicated to active healthy living that matches the current needs and anticipated future needs of the community. The project also calls for the creation of a new access road and additional parking.

The Andover/North Andover YMCA facility has remained relatively unchanged since it was first built in 1973. According to the National YMCA standards, each member requires 50 square feet. With the current membership, the branch is providing significantly less square footage.

The new YMCA is expected to feature a number of enhancements, including a new childcare development center, an expanded aquatics facility, active living center for older adults, expanded wellness center, an active learning center and a rehabilitation center operated by Lawrence General Hospital.



Left photo, Grace Mary Ahern, 7, springs high while jump-roping during last week's Jump Rope Clup get-together at the Andover/North Andover branch of the Merrimack Valley YMCA in Andover. Right photo, Kevin Vanegas gets high fives from his new friends.



MARY SCHWALM/Staff photos

The \$21 million cost of the expansion is being paid for through fundraising efforts and tax-exempt bond financing provided by Enterprise Bank. The nonprofit YMCA will continue its fundraising efforts, which stand at about \$5.7 million. The Y has a goal of \$7 million to complement its \$14 million in financing.

There are currently 8,000 members who attend the Andover/North Andover facility, with more expected as the facility expands.

The project is expected to wrap up in early 2015. Existing programs will remain open during construction, officials have said.



Children limber up by running around the court during a meeting of the Jump Rope Club last week at the Andover/North Andover branch of the Merrimack Valley YMCA in Andover.

## TOWN BRIEFS

### Corned beef and cabbage supper

West Parish Church, 129 Reservation Road, will host its annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Supper on Saturday, March 15, from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

The menu will feature Thwaites New England-style corned beef, drinks and dessert. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. All proceeds go to the scholarship fund of the Lawrence Boys and Girls Club.

### Sen. Finegold office hours

Sen. Barry Finegold, D-Andover, and his staff will hold their monthly

open office hours on Friday, March 21, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Memorial Hall Library, 2 North Main St., Andover.

Constituents are invited to meet with Finegold and his staff in the library's first-floor activities room.

Finegold will also be having

office hours that day at Lawrence Public Library, 51 Lawrence St., from 10 to 11 a.m.

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# Townspeople

## 'Unleashed' fetches a wave of support



### Supporters work to make Andover Dog Park dream a reality for local canines

A big crowd turned out last Saturday night to support Friends of the Andover Dog Park's efforts to give canines in town a place of their own.

The fundraiser — billed as "Unleashed" — featured a busy night of silent and live auctions, raffles, appetizers, drinks, desserts and live entertainment at Andover Country Club.

Proceeds will go toward the completion of an outdoor recreation area near the Bald Hill Conservation property on High Plain Road for dogs, their owners and anyone who enjoys the company of dogs. The friends of the park, a group of private citizens, hopes construction on the public dog park will begin this spring.

For more information on the dog park efforts, visit [www.facebook.com/FriendsofAndoverDogPark](http://www.facebook.com/FriendsofAndoverDogPark) or [www.AndoverDogParkMa.com](http://www.AndoverDogParkMa.com) or email [www.AndoverDogParkMA@yahoo.com](mailto:www.AndoverDogParkMA@yahoo.com).



ALAN KAO/Courtesy photos  
**TOP LEFT:** Sue Biederwolf, a member of the Friends of the Andover Dog Park's "Unleashed" planning committee, answers questions on the silent auction items up for grabs at the fundraiser. **ABOVE:** Committee lead Christine Zdunczyk thanks the crowd for its backing of dog park in town.

## Irish Revue returns for St. Patrick's Day

### Andover's Garvey set to host annual radio show

Andover native Tom Garvey will celebrate St. Patrick's Day in style again on Monday, March 17, with his annual Irish music program on radio station WCCM 1110-AM.

This year marks the 28th anniversary of Garvey's musical Irish Revue, produced by WCCM staff member Bruce Arnold.



File photo

The program starts at noon and will feature four hours of traditional Irish music, songs and remembrances. It will be streaming on [www.1110wccm.com](http://www.1110wccm.com) as well.

There will be a toll-free number to phone in requests. In previous years, calls have come from listeners as far away as Ireland, England and Australia, and there was an interview with one of the marching units celebrating the feast of St. Patrick along Fifth Avenue in New York one year, according to Garvey.

Garvey has been inducted into the Traditional Irish Musicians Association Hall of Fame (Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann). He has also been honored for his efforts promoting Irish traditional music over the years.

**Tom Garvey will be helping WCCM listeners celebrate St. Patrick's Day Monday with his annual Irish music program.**

## Local financial adviser leading retirement forum

Financial adviser John Spoto of Andover, a columnist for The Eagle-Tribune and MVB Magazine, will present "Building Up or Spending Down a Retirement Portfolio: An Interactive Forum" on Wednesday, March 25, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Memorial Hall Library, 2 North Main St.

Sponsored by the Friends of Memorial Hall Library, Spoto will answer such questions from attendees on whether they are on track for a secure retirement, what amount of money needs to be saved to retire comfortably, how much can be safely withdrawn from their investments during retirement and what changes should be made to their investment plan to reduce the risk of running out of money.

"Planning for retirement is an ongoing process," Spoto said in a release. "None of us

knows what the future holds." Spoto said there are sensible strategies that can help everyone increase their chances of reaching their retirement goals.

"Focus on the factors you can control such as saving more and investing smarter and plan conservatively for things you can't control like investment returns and inflation," he said. "Perhaps most importantly, you need to be flexible, revisit the plan periodically and revise it as circumstances warrant."

Spoto is a certified financial planner and the president and founder of Sentry Financial Planning, a fee-only financial planning firm located in Andover and Danvers. He does not work for any financial institution, sell financial or insurance products of any kind, accept or pay referral fees or work for commissions. Admission to his program at the library is free; however, registration is required. To register, visit [mhl.org/event-calendar](http://mhl.org/event-calendar) or call 978-623-8401, ext. 31.



John Spoto

## Taking the plunge to fight polio

Don Gottfried and Mark Spencer from the Rotary Club of Andover plunged into the Atlantic with 200 other "crazy" Rotarians from District 7930 last month in an icy gesture staged from a Gloucester beach to raise funds to eradicate polio across the globe.

The fourth annual Polar Plunge for Polio eradication received almost \$76,000 in pledges toward the district's annual goal of raising \$100,000 for the cause.

With a 2-1 matching grant by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Rotary International we will be able to inoculate over 350,000 children from the disease with the money raised.

"So your entire system doesn't freeze up, you have to keep thinking of the good cause as you just jump into the water hoping you don't trip," Spencer said in a release.

"What helped me was knowing I was there with at least 200 other really, really, really freezing, fun-loving and dedicated people to a great cause who had no fear" added Gottfried.



Courtesy photo

**Rotary Club of Andover members Mark Spencer, left, and Don Gottfried joined 200 other Rotarians from the district in a plunge into the Atlantic last month to raise money for polio eradication efforts.**

The Rotary Club of Andover is a civic group and international community of men and women who meet Fridays at 7:30 a.m. at the Lanam Merrimack Valley and at Club, 260 North Main St. For the same time have a lot of more on the club, visit [www.rotaryandover.org](http://www.rotaryandover.org). Contributions to support the End Polio Cause can continue to be made on the club's website as well.

## AHS student honored for military academy appointment

Andover High's Eamon Callahan was recently honored for his selection as a nominee for appointment to the U.S. Air Force Academy.

He is one of 19 young men and women from the Third Congressional District who have been nominated by U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas for appointment to one of the U.S. Service Academies, including the U.S. Military, Naval and Merchant Marine in addition to Air Force Academy.

Each student was nominated following an evaluation of their academic records, extracurricular activities and in-person interviews with Tsongas' independent Academies Nomination Committee. Prospective students must meet strict academic qualifications for selection.

Once the congresswoman's nominations are forwarded to the service academies, each student's eligibility is evaluated based on their academic and extracurricular record, leadership skills, physical stamina and other requirements. Appointments for entrance are offered by the academies as the students



Courtesy photo

**Eamon Callahan, center, a student at Andover High School, has been nominated by U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas, second from left, for appointment to the U.S. Air Force Academy. He was honored at a reception recently at Lowell City Hall that was attended by family members as well as Lowell Mayor Rodney Elliot, left.**

are evaluated. Last year, six of those students nominated by Tsongas received appointments to one of the U.S. military service academies.

"These nominees stood out because of their exemplary academic records, as well as their outstanding achievements in athletics and extracurricular activities," Tsongas

said in a release. "They have each exhibited a strong desire to serve their communities and their country, which make them excellent representatives of the Third District and its proud military tradition."

Tsongas held a reception for the nominees and their families earlier this month at Lowell City Hall.

### ■ WHAT'S HAPPENING: CENTER AT PUNCHARD

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

**Healthy Eating Habits: Supermarket Persuasion:** Friday, March 7, 9:30 a.m. Behind-the-scenes video tour of the supermarket reveals how marketers shape shopping behavior. Breakfast provided; free.

**Bridge for Advanced Beginners:** Mondays, March 10 to May 12, 10 a.m. to noon. Life master Terry Kay Bargar instructs those who play bridge or are currently taking lessons and are ready to learn some conventions. Slam bidding, stayman, Jacoby transfers and more as well as a basic bidding review will be covered; \$149.

**The Caste Systems of India:** Tuesdays, March 11 and 18, 10:30 a.m. Author and journalist Madras Sreenivas explores the ancient socio-religious practice; \$6.

**Meet the Author: Bill Dalton:** Wednesday, March 12, 2 p.m. Former town moderator, selectman and longtime Andover Townsman columnist Bill Dalton discusses his recent book "Legendary Locals of Andover;" free.

**Tai Chi: Moving for Better Balance:** Tuesdays at 1:15 p.m. and Thursdays at 2:15 p.m., March 11 to May 15. Instructor Meg Holmes helps participants improve balance and reduce the risk of falls; \$70 for twice-weekly classes.

**Tai Chi: Intermediate:** Thursdays at 1:10 p.m., March 13 to May 15, \$35.

**Pharmacy 101:** Friday, March 14, 9:30 a.m. Geriatric pharmacy

consultant Carrie Burke provides information about the complicated realm of prescription and nonprescription medications; free.

**St. Patrick's Day Lunch and Party:** Monday, March 17, 9:30 a.m. Traditional corned beef and cabbage lunch, noon, \$4. Party featuring Ramblin' Richard singing songs of Ireland as he accompanies himself on stringed instruments, including the banjo, guitar and baritone ukulele, 1:30 p.m.; \$5.

**High Tea and History - Shawsheen School:** Wednesday, March 19, 2 p.m. Former school Superintendent Ken Seifert highlights the construction, uses, renovations and history of the school; free.

**Open Art Drop-In Studio:** Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9 to 11:30 a.m. An open, drop-in group for artists with no instructor. Bring your own materials; free.

**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; part of regular coffee and conversation, weekdays, 9 a.m. to noon.

**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.andoverseniorencenter.org](http://www.andoverseniorencenter.org). For more information, call 978-623-8321.

## Education

# The results are in



Students line up for hand-made sandwiches at the cafeteria at Andover High School during a lunch period in mid-January in which they honored the cafeteria workers.

FILE PHOTO

## No surprise: Students prefer pizza over vegetables

By DUSTIN LUCA  
dluca@andovertownsmen.com

Rest assured, kids — pizza and chicken are staying on the lunch menu. But it's the other stuff you don't like — green beans, perhaps? — that will be seeing some tweaking.

The Andover School District's Nutrition Department recently completed a survey of students' favorite — and not-so-favorite — lunch options, and the results weren't all that surprising.

"Pizza was one of their top choices," Nutrition Director Gail Koutroubas said. "Chicken was obviously another top choice — in any form."

Koutroubas said the popularity of chicken can be credited with the fact that the

schools do not serve highly processed options of the white meat.

"We don't serve chicken nuggets at all," she said. "We bread our own chicken and cook it on-site."

The survey, which garnered around 300 responses from Andover households with school children, did, however, point to several areas where improvements could be made, Koutroubas said.

The largest among them — vegetables.

"We're always having a hard time with the beans, trying to get them to eat the beans," she said. "Some of the roasted vegetables we've had a little bit of push-back on."

But, much to the disdain of students, vegetables are still a required part of school lunch

under federal standards, Koutroubas said. She said the nutrition staff will now look at ways to improve how vegetables are roasted and served in hopes of making them more palatable to the students.

"We'll try to tweak a couple of the recipes," she said. "We need to make sure they're exposed to those fruits and vegetables. It can't all be pizza and chicken."

Part of the changes could involve reducing the size of portions and joining unpopular foods with other options. For example, the half-cup of peas — another unfavorable menu item — could become a quarter-cup paired with an added quarter-cup of sweet potato.

While the DNA of lunch may well be changing in the

months ahead, how the offerings line up on a calendar is being fine-tuned as well, according to Koutroubas.

"It's a six-week cycle menu," she said. "We'll weed out some of the items that haven't been successful and try to integrate some new items. What we're looking forward to next year is having a fall cycle menu, then a winter cycle menu, then a spring cycle menu."

School breakfasts are also getting a closer look. Another survey about to be conducted will solicit feedback on the breakfast menu offerings as well as the program in general, while also spreading awareness for it.

"We advertise it, but I don't know the parents know about it," Koutroubas said.

## Survey aims to get pulse on SPED program

### Parent advisory council wants feedback on district's services

By DUSTIN LUCA  
dluca@andovertownsmen.com

The school district's Special Education Parent Advisory Council is looking for feedback on all aspects of special education throughout Andover.

The council is slated to launch an online survey on Tuesday, March 18, to collect information and observations on the quality of special education in town, according to Jeanne Teichert, chairwoman of a survey subcommittee made up of SEPAC members.

"Part of the function of SEPAC is to advise the School Committee on the needs of the district relating to special education," Teichert said. "I read that and thought, 'How do you do that?' You need to find out from parents what the needs are, which can be very difficult."

The survey is expected to be circulated online. Answers will be anonymous, and all parents, both those with and without special-education students in their families, will be invited to respond.

"It's going to be set up so that there's some general questions for any parent to give feedback on the school system in general," Teichert said. "It will skip to different questions so you can answer for parents with children with disabilities ... or maybe parents who may not be in special education yet, but believe (their child) has a disability. Maybe they haven't been diagnosed yet."

In addition to collecting data, the survey is also aimed at highlighting the existence of SEPAC to parents with children who might require unique services.

"We find a lot of parents don't really know what SEPAC is, and when they hear it, they lump it together with the PTOs," she said.

Teichert said from talking to other parents, she has found that many "don't necessarily feel confident that they do have a voice to be able to make changes in the schools."

"I'm hoping this will perhaps change that perception, that there is a way," she added.

SEPAC hopes to conduct the survey annually, adjusting it as the group learns more through the feedback it receives, she said.

The survey subcommittee was slated to meet Tuesday as The Townsman was going to press to firm up the details on the questionnaire and how it will be distributed as well as to finalize the questions.

The survey will be available via SEPAC's website, [www.andoversepac.org](http://www.andoversepac.org). The group also hopes links to the survey will be distributed through the town's ListServ system and the school district's official website.

## On the menu: FOODPLAY fun

### Interactive performance to serve up nutrition, exercise

While playing with food is typically discouraged, it will be par for the course tonight at West Elementary School.

The school district's Nutrition and Health Education departments have teamed up to bring "FOODPLAY" to West El's auditorium Thursday, March 13, as part of a night focused on nutrition, health and exercise.

The event starts at 5:45 p.m., with the "FOODPLAY" performance slated for 6.

The award-winning presentation, billed as a "fun-filled theater show" with everything from music, magic, juggling and more, relies largely on food as the featured performer, Gail Koutroubas, director of school nutrition, said.

The interactive show, which runs about 45 minutes, will also highlight "the importance of physical activity" in addition to nutrition, she said.

"It gets the audience involved," she said.

After the performance, a number of physical activities and food-testing stations will be set up in the school's cafeteria for children to get a taste — literally — of nutrition and exercise, Koutroubas said.

At the most basic level, attendees will "talk about sugars, talk about salt, talk about the different colors of fruits and vegetables they should be consuming," she said.

There will also be a variety of raffles for prizes that include movie tickets, restaurant vouchers and gift cards, shirts, books and more.

Admission to the event is free, with the Nutrition and Health Education departments splitting the \$1,400 price tag to bring FoodPlay Productions to Andover, Koutroubas said. For more on "FOODPLAY" and what to expect, visit [www.foodplay.com](http://www.foodplay.com).

— Dustin Luca, staff writer



Courtesy photo

The cast of South Cooperative Theater, which has been rehearsing a few times a week since December, is ready to stage its musical production of "My Son Pinocchio Jr." this weekend at West Middle School.

## South Co-op Theater bringing 'Pinocchio Jr.' to life

After weeks of rehearsals, South Cooperative Theater opens the curtain this weekend on its spring musical, "My Son Pinocchio Jr."

The family-friendly musical, which will be performed at West Middle School, is a magical mix of heartwarming fairy tale and action-packed adventure that's appropriate for all audiences, its producers say.

In this classic tale of an aging toy maker and his awkward, wooden puppet, audiences will follow Pinocchio's journey to a real, live boy and be charmed by Gepetto's transformation from a real, live father. Along the way, the Blue Fairy, Stromboli and a lively cast of characters join in as Gepetto journeys beyond the Toy Shop to discover what makes the "perfect child."

Leading the cast of third-, fourth- and fifth-graders are Beth Kennedy as artistic director, Crystal O'Keefe as choreographer, Charles Gracy and Amanda Spinale as drama directors and Amanda Potts as music director.

Performances are Friday and Saturday, March 14 and 15, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, March 16, at 1 p.m. at West Middle, 70 Shawsheen Road.

Tickets are \$10 and are on sale at Learning Express on Park Street in downtown Andover as well as at the door. For more information, call 978-623-8830, ext. 1260.

## A classic day for local show choirs

Andover High School's two show choirs both earned first runner-up honors at the New England Show Choir Classic in Somerset on March 1. Nothin' But Treble won a silver medal and second place in the Unisex division and the mixed group From Start to Finish earned the school's first gold and came in second to Shepherd Hills Regional High School in Dudley.

The judges awarded the Outstanding Instrumentalist Soloist trophy to Alex Mazzares for his guitar performance and Amy Welch was named Best Female Soloist for her second time in three competitions.

Voltage — Andover's first middle school show choir — competed well in the Middle School Division, earning a silver medal.

From Start to Finish will next perform for a hometown crowd when it hosts the New England Show Choir Showdown on Saturday, March 22, at the Collins Center for the Performing Arts at Andover High School on Shawsheen Road. Nineteen show choirs will perform at the day-long event. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$8 for seniors and children. For more, visit [www.ahsmusic.ticketleap.com](http://www.ahsmusic.ticketleap.com) or call 978-623-8616.



SUSAN WELCH/Courtesy photo

Senior Amy Welch and junior guitarist Alex Mazzares display their individual awards from the New England Show Choir Classic earlier this month.

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# Exploring a 'world of opportunity'



MARY SCHWALM/Staff photos

TOP LEFT: First-grader Aaron Huang of Andover shows how static can separate salt and pepper for his science project at Andover School of Montessori last week. BOTTOM LEFT: Third-grader Camden Green, of Lawrence, demonstrates his whispering experiment with teacher Patricia Slater. RIGHT: Tanay Kommareddi, left, and Kyle Garcia-Rogers talk about aerodynamics as part of their science fair project. For more photos from the fair, visit [www.andovertownsm.com](http://www.andovertownsm.com).

## Andover Montessori tests first school-wide Science Fair

Andover School of Montessori gave its lower-elementary students an experiment last year — allowing them their first chance to participate in an informal science fair.

It was a huge success, according to Head of School

Joanna DeStefanis, leading Andover Montessori to host its inaugural school-wide Science Fair last week.

The event was optional for lower-elementary students and mandatory for upper-elementary and middle-school students. The school's

seventh- and eighth-graders also have the opportunity to participate in the state-wide science and engineering fair this spring.

An ardent supporter of science fairs, DeStefanis applauded the expanded opportunities for her

students as she welcomed parents and the community to last week's fair.

"Although not considered part of a Montessori curriculum per se, this type of work meshes beautifully with our pedagogy," she wrote in a letter to Montessori families. "Students are

able to conduct independent or group research and gain experience applying the scientific method through a project-based model."

DeStefanis said the odds are that many of the school's students will go on to careers in the fields of science and engineering. The

skills they glean from their science fair projects will prove useful in their chosen professions, she said.

"A student's proficiency in being able to organize, analyze and synthesize a large volume of information is invaluable," she wrote. "Through experimentation, students learn to become comfortable making mistakes and understand that they are a natural part of the scientific process. When students explore the sciences through an area that interests them, a world of opportunity opens for them."

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### EDUCATION BRIEF

#### Mass School of Law hosting open house

Massachusetts School of Law, 500 Federal St., Andover, will hold an open house on Wednesday, March 19, at 7 p.m. Prospective students will have a chance to talk with professors and students to learn about the school and its offerings.

Registration is not required to attend. Refreshments will be served. Visit [www.mslaw.edu](http://www.mslaw.edu) or call 978-681-0800 for more information.

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Letters to the editor

**O'Donoghue model of fiscal responsibility**

**Editor, Townsman:**  
On Tuesday, March 25, it will be a great pleasure to vote for my friend, Mary O'Donoghue, for selectman for the town of Andover.

I believe that the main issue facing our town today is tax relief for our overburdened payers, particularly our senior citizens who are especially hard pressed.

Mary has served with distinction for 12 years on the Andover Finance Committee and has been a model of fiscal responsibility and spending restraint.

She has the experience and knowledge to provide the leadership needed to craft a town budget that serves the genuine needs of the town, while keeping spending within sustainable levels. She has the ability, rare in politics, for saying "no."

I urge my fellow Andover voters to join with me in supporting her candidacy.

**JOHN F. MOFFITT**  
68 Beacon St

**O'Donoghue's financial knowledge an asset**

**Editor, Townsman:**  
Having observed how seriously Mary O'Donoghue has taken her Finance Committee responsibilities over the years, I am pleased that she is running for a seat on the Board of Selectmen. Mary's knowledge of the intricacies of the town's budget process, including the pension and other post-employment benefits (OPEB) issues, will enable her to point out the financial consequences of policy decisions being considered by the board.

When considering an issue, Mary does not just look at the numbers; she also considers the benefit to the community. While her tendency is to be fiscally conservative, she has supported items ranging from the fireworks to the Reichhold open space land acquisition because of their contribution to the character of the community.

By running for public office, Mary O'Donoghue is

offering to devote hundreds of hours annually working for us as our new selectman. Let's take her up on this offer by voting for her on March 25.

**PEGGY KRUSE**  
145 Argilla Road

**A clear and sensible voice in O'Donoghue**

**Editor, Townsman:**  
Once again, Andover is fortunate in having a quality candidate seeking office.

Selectman candidate Mary O'Donoghue is highly qualified in many respects. As a Finance Committee member over the past several years, she had gained a close knowledge of the operations of town government, and has developed a keen knack for asking pertinent questions of town officials. She will come to the Board of Selectmen well prepared to take up her duties.

In addition, she is a hard worker, putting in hours of work each year

in preparation for budget discussions and town meetings. When she speaks, it is from a vantage point of knowledge, because she has made it her business to become informed on the issues.

This year in particular, her viewpoint is especially needed on the Board of Selectmen, since she has spoken out on many occasions about perhaps the most important issue facing the town today — the rapidly rising property tax rate faced by Andover homeowners.

Only a clear and sensible voice on the board will help us to bring under control our spending, which has reached alarming rates. Mary O'Donoghue is that kind of voice, and I urge voters to support her in the town elections on March 25.

Only by going to the polls (and to Town Meeting) can we have an influence on the issues of concern to our town.

**DON ROBB**  
36 York St.

**O'Donoghue independent, fact-driven choice**

**Editor, Townsman:**  
We are writing today to express our enthusiastic support for Mary O'Donoghue in her campaign for a seat on the Andover Board of Selectmen. We have known Mary for several years, having watched her work on the Finance Committee, most recently as vice-chairwoman.

Mary is dedicated to the tasks she undertakes. It has been obvious to us that Mary is prepared, independent and fact-driven. She has taken unpopular public positions in the past, and, even under extreme political pressure on some occasions, has taken the independent, reasoned view that came as a result of her understanding of the issue.

On a personal note, I can attest, as a member of the Baneroff School Building Committee, that Mary was the only board liaison who attended virtually all of our early meetings when the SBC

was making critical project decisions. The role of the liaison for each board is to stay up-to-date on the activities of the group for which they are liaison. Mary was able to keep the Finance Committee aware of decisions by the SBC as they were being made. The board on which she now seeks to serve, unfortunately, had no such resource.

Some have asked why Mary is seeking this office now. The Finance Committee is an advisory board to the town, while the Board of Selectmen is a policy-making board. Mary believes that she is qualified at this point to assist in making policy, and to attempt, in her singular way, to take a more direct role in guiding the town on a better, more financially sustainable path to the future.

I hope you will join us in supporting Mary O'Donoghue for Selectmen. Please vote on March 25 at the high school.

**JO-ANN AND TOM DESO**  
81 High St.

ALL THOSE YEARS AGO

Compiled by  
Susan McKelliget

**100 Years Ago**  
March 13, 1914

Until comparatively recently, Myerscough & Buchan, owners of the new garage on Main Street, have confined their efforts wholly to repairs and accessories connected with the automobile business. But this year they have taken the agency for the Studebaker, Stutz and Abbott-Detroit cars and will maintain a service station where owners of these vehicles may be sure of expert advice and instruction at all times, besides any courtesies and favors, which they are always anxious to extend their patrons.

Herbert Holt of Whittier Street, who was hit in the eye with a snowball a few days ago, is a little better. It was a pretty serious accident, the pupil of his eye being paralyzed.

**75 Years Ago**  
March 9, 1939

Selectman Roy E. Hardy, who made no campaign, was returned to office by a margin of about 500. On the school board, Arthur R. Lewis led the field with a splendid vote. With Mrs. Julie S. Musk second. For Board of Public Works, Mr. Hall, as expected, led, while J. Harry Playdon was re-elected with a vote that left no doubts as to his strength.

A newcomer to business in Andover, but by no means in experience in his work, is Alvin J. Zink, of Chester Street, Ballardvale. Radio claimed his interest at the age of 12, and since that time he has operated his own radio station, W1D1D.

**50 Years Ago**  
March 12, 1964

The Rev. Hartland H. Gifford, pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, has announced that a purchase agreement has been signed to

buy land for a future church site. This land comprises 3.5 acres on the east side of South Main Street on the south corner of Wildwood Road.

All boys wishing to play Little League baseball this year must register during scheduled workouts at the Phillips Academy Cage. League President Frederick N. Nowell Jr. reminds parents that the league is for boys ages 9 to 12 as of July 31.

**25 Years Ago**  
March 16, 1989

A local developer next month will ask the Zoning Board of Appeals to allow an indoor shooting range in the downtown commercial district. Ben Osgood's plan to convert the defunct Andover Lanes bowling alley building into a shooting range was rejected Feb. 14 by Building Inspector Sam DeSalvo, who ruled the proposal didn't comply with town zoning laws.

**Andover Chroniclers spotlighting author-actress**

Author-actress Sally Matson of Andover talks to the Andover Chroniclers about her solo shows in this month's installment of "There's Something About Andover."

One of the characters Matson impersonates is Margaret Bourque-White, the courageous photographer who she says was ahead of her times.

The second half of the program features a segment on the Peace Corps as well as a piece spotlighting what's happening at the screening room in the Center at Punchard that cinema lovers will enjoy.

"There's Something About Andover" is produced by Andover Chroniclers, an all-volunteer group of seniors from the Center

at Punchard. The local-access show airs at 9 a.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday and 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday on Comcast Channel 8 and Verizon Channel 47. The shows can also be viewed via the senior center website.

Andover Chroniclers welcomes new members; prior experience is not necessary. Anyone who might be interested in any aspect of video production from planning to taping can email seniorcenter@andoverma.gov with the subject line Skip Wilkins.

To learn more about the group and watch previous shows, visit [www.andoverseniorcenter.org/programs-activities/groups/andover-chroniclers](http://www.andoverseniorcenter.org/programs-activities/groups/andover-chroniclers).



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**\$500** CUSTOMER CASH

**\$23,743** OPEN HOUSE EVENT PRICE<sup>1</sup>



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**\$31,670** MSRP

**\$30,588** OPEN HOUSE PRICE

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# Sports

## MEMORABLE TO THE END

### Andover boys deliver thrilling tournament memories

BY DAVID WILLIS  
dwillis@andovertownsmen.com

The ending may not have been picture-perfect. The season may have finished on Saturday two rounds short and roughly 43 miles northeast on Interstate 495 of a dream closure at the DCU Center in Worcester, the home of the state title games.

But the final few moments at the Tsongas Center in Lowell on Saturday can't change what was a thrilling run for the Andover High boys basketball team, its best finish in more than a decade.

It was a season of thrilling highs and dramatic finishes, including three wild state tournament contests that raised the blood pressure of all in attendance and left everyone in awe.

The Golden Warriors delivered their best tournament run since the 1999-2000 season, including three post-season wins by a COMBINED eight points; a hard-fought victory last month on Central Catholic's home court and a Christmas Tournament title.

#### Championship Christmas

Throughout the Merrimack Valley, very little is more highly anticipated on the sports calendar than the Commonwealth Motors Christmas Classic.

And in the first season of the tournament's new name and new home — Merrimack College in North Andover — it was the Golden Warriors who took home the title, their first since the 2010-11 season and second in 18 seasons.

But unlike the title three seasons ago, which Andover clinched with a win over North Andover, the Golden Warriors had the opportunity this time to lock down the title against Central.

In a preview of their tournament victories, the Warriors held tough to earn a 72-68 thriller, with John Pisacreta and Ben Brown hitting 7 of 8 free throws to secure the win.

The dynamic David Giribaldi led the way with 27 points while Brown had 12.

The win snapped an eight-game losing streak to Central dating back to the 2010 season, including four losses to the Raiders in 2012-13.

#### Garden Party

While Andover may have fallen short of the Division 1 state semifinals at the TD Garden, the Warriors did

earn a win on the Boston Celtics' home court.

On Jan. 25, Andover took on Brookline in a regular season contest held at the Garden, and behind a stellar performance by Connor Merinder, the Warriors walked away with a 57-48 victory.

Merinder finished with 10 points and 10 rebounds, Giribaldi scored 26 points and E.J. Perry IV added 12 points for the winners, who had the chance to celebrate on the same floor where the Celtics won the 2008 NBA title.

That game also clinched Andover's 25th straight trip to the state tournament in Dave Fazio's 25 seasons as head coach.

#### House of Horrors no more

How long had it been since the Andover boys defeated Central Catholic at the Raiders' home gym in Lawrence? The Golden Warriors' last victory at Central occurred before the Andover Townsman began keeping complete records.

That wait, however, came to an exciting end on Feb. 19 as Andover High walked into Central's Memorial Gym and beat the Raiders 76-65. And it wasn't easy.

The Golden Warriors held a 22-point lead going into the fourth quarter, before their archrivals heated up and cut the advantage to just four points with 0:52 left.

But Perry IV hit two free throws, took a charge that erased a basket then added two more from the line, and Pisacreta, Brown and Merinder each added foul shots to lock up the win.

"This just had to happen," said Pisacreta, who scored 17 points — one short of Giribaldi's game high — after that victory. "It is the greatest feeling ever."

Along with the Christmas Tourney victory, it made for two wins against Central for the season. Heading into the year, Andover had lost 21 of its previous 22 match-ups with the Raiders dating back to Jan. 6, 2006.

#### Survive and thrive

It wasn't pretty. In fact, it was downright ugly at times. Andover had to fight with every ounce of its strength in the first round of the



RYAN HUTTON/Staff photos

Andover's David Giribaldi attempts to dribble past Central Catholic star Tyler Nelson during a hard-fought Division 1 North Final on Saturday. For more photos, see [www.andovertownsmen.com](http://www.andovertownsmen.com).



Andover's Jeffrey Dreyfus plays defense during the Division 1 North Final on Saturday. The Golden Warriors fell to the Raiders, with a trip to the state semifinals on the line.

Division 1 tournament, as upset-minded Billerica, led in the final minute of the game.

But Giribaldi took the game into his own hands, driving to the basket and sinking a lay-up to give the Warriors the lead with just 27 seconds left on the clock. A defensive stand later and Andover had locked down a 54-52 victory.

That would just be the start of a "Cardiac Kid" run for the Warriors.

#### Block party

Not content with one dramatic finish, the Warriors added another three days later.

This time, it was a Lynn English player that took the ball to the basket in the

closing seconds attempting a winning shot. But in this contest, Merinder was there to block the shot and send the game into overtime.

Giribaldi and Perry — who hit six 3-pointers on his own in the game — took over with overtime hoops to give the Warriors an 86-81 win and a trip to the North semifinals.

#### Breaking through

Andover boys hoops had not been to the Division 1 North title game since the 1999-2000 season, and only three times since the 1972 season (also in 1981 and 1972).

But the Warriors earned that long-awaited trip last Tuesday by defeating Everett, once again in a 49-48

thriller and once again with a late defensive stand to clinch the win.

Merinder was again the anchor of the stop, and scored a team-high 16 points in the win.

#### Nearly perfect

A win over Central Catholic in the North title game would have made the run just about perfect. But while the Warriors could not grab the win, they still gave the Raiders everything they could handle, leading early in the fourth. Had it not been for a near-spotless shooting performance by Raiders star Tyler Nelson, the game could have gone very differently.

#### Shooting stars

It was, of course, a tremendous individual season for fearless scorer Giribaldi. The 5-foot-9 junior guard averaged 20.0 points per game, scoring 25 or more points seven times and 30-plus in back-to-back contests. But he wasn't the only star.

Unflappable freshman Perry averaged 12.3 points a game, including a whopping 28 in the tourney win over Lynn English. And there was Merinder who averaged more than 10 points and 10 rebounds a game.

But it was the unity of the team — and its fearless attitude — that made for a special season.

## One-point squeaker secures trip to Div. 1 North finals

BY DAVID WILLIS  
dwillis@andovertownsmen.com

The road to the Division 1 North finals passed through Woburn for a nail-biter against Everett early last week.

With the clock ticking down to its final seconds, Andover's Connor Merinder had no time consider the moment.

With the game on the line, he had to act.

"You can't think," said the center. "You just have to rely on your instincts. You have to be aggressive. Once I got the ball, I was never going to let it go for anything."

With 13 seconds left in the game and Andover leading by one point, Everett's Timmance McKinney drove to the basket. But Merinder was there to pressure him into a triple-double. He was close to a triple-double. He played an amazing game."

Tied 12-12 after a quarter, Andover began to grab momentum with an 11-1 run to take a 27-20 lead into halftime. The surge continued to start the third,

as E.J. Perry IV, Merinder and John Pisacreta all knocked down shots to make the advantage 33-20 midway through the third.

But back came Everett. Trailing 41-32 after three quarters, the Crimson Tide's aggressive defense began to force Andover into mistakes that led to points the other way.

With a little more than two minutes left in the game, the Tide had cut the Warrior advantage to 44-42.

That was when Perry returned to the court after a brief stint on the bench and delivered a crucial 3-pointer from the elbow. "I knew I had to redeem myself," the freshman said.

But Everett responded with a pair of buckets. Merinder answered with a lay-up to put Andover ahead 49-46, then the Crimson Tide broke free for another hoop to bring them within one point of the Warriors.

After a missed free throw, Everett rebounded the ball with 13 seconds left and attacked, but Merinder was there to force the miss and grab the final rebound to secure the win.

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## Warriors fall just short in North Final

BY HECTOR LONGO  
Staff Writer

Andover High had all but snuffed out any offensive spark Central Catholic had left on this region's grandest stage. The Golden Warriors, a higher seed but an underdog in this one, were on the verge of history, leading 43-38 into the fourth quarter last Saturday night at Tsongas Arena in Lowell.

But Central senior Tyler Nelson had his own kind of history in mind, nailing four fourth-quarter three-pointers — all from well beyond the arc — to lift the Raiders to a 59-53 victory and their second straight Division 1 North championship.

Central went on to overpower Catholic Memorial 79-66 on Monday night, and before Central got to the TD Garden in Boston, the Raiders had to fight off Andover. The lead bounced back and forth all game until the Raiders edged ahead for good with 4:24 left.

Andover, which will enter the 2014-15 season as the clear-cut favorite in the North with the return of three all-leaguers, battled to the end.

Conference co-MVP David Giribaldi, seeing waves of Raider defenders, soared skyward and swished a baseline

jumper, then made 2 of 3 free throws when he was flattened on a three-point try.

And when freshman E.J. Perry IV buried a trey inside the final minute to slice it to 54-53, the Warrior fans heeded coach David Fazio's pleas to erupt.

"You have to give so much credit to Andover, I mean they are great kids and they play so hard," Raider coach Rick Nault said. "They play the game the right way. And when you look at things, we went 2-2 (against the Warriors) this year. We just happened to get this one, which is the big one."

Giribaldi led Andover with 19 points and Perry IV had 11.

#### Central Catholic 59, Andover 53

**Division 1 North Final**  
Andover (53): Ryan O'Connell 3 1-3 7, Ben Brown 2 0-0 6, John Pisacreta 2 0-0 4, David Giribaldi 5 5-7 19, E.J. Perry 4 1-2 11, Connor Merinder 3 0-0 6, Totals 19 7-12 53  
Central Catholic (59): Aaron Hall 6 1-2 13, Nick Cambio 5 3-3 13, A.J. Pettway 0 9-10 9, Pat Sullivan 1 0-1 2, Tyler Nelson 7 0-0 20, Alex Santos 1 0-0 2, Totals 20 13-16 59  
3-pointers: A — Brown 2, Perry IV 2, Giribaldi 4; CC — Nelson 6  
Central Catholic (21-5): 12 17 9 21 — 59  
Andover (19-5): 11 12 20 10 — 53

► **Local Sports Roundup**

# A solid third for AHS boys gymnastics

**Boys gymnastics**

Andover High School's boys gymnastics team just missed a repeat state championship this season — one year after the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association nearly pulled the plug

on the program statewide. The Golden Warriors placed third in the states, held over February school vacation, losing out to Attleboro High (175.5 points) and Newton North High School (175.45). Andover, one of

seven high schools in the state to boast a boys gymnastics varsity program, finished with a score of 175.25 points. The best event for Andover was the vault, with the team taking first, according to coach Steve Sirois. "The boys did great. I'm just really proud of this team," Sirois said.



COURTESY PHOTO  
**Andover High School senior defenseman Jack Wilkie was elected to the MVC All-Star team last month as the highest-scoring defenseman in the league.**

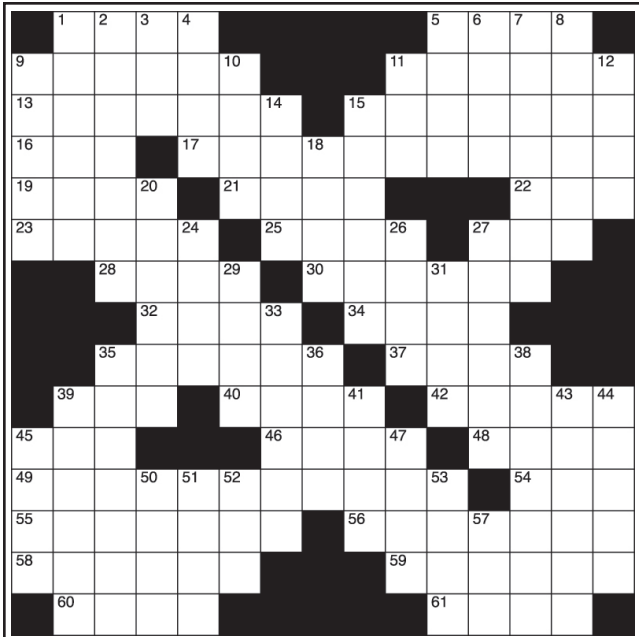
**Boys hockey**

It may have been a tough season for Andover High hockey, which did not make any playoffs. But senior defenseman Jack Wilkie is ending his high school career with lots of accolades.

Wilkie, who has been on the varsity hockey team for four years, was named to the MVC All-Star team last month in addition to being the highest-scoring defenseman in the league. The distinction was published in ESPN Boston. He also received the All-Tournament award at the Winter Classic Showcase in December. Wilkie, who has served as

players and the team, also every semester at Andover junior year. High. He received the Excellence in Physics award his

— *Judy Wakefield, staff writer*



*Solution in Classified Section*

**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Former ruler of Iran
- 5. Tax or levy
- 9. St. Vitus dance
- 11. A bog
- 13. Mushroom rib structure
- 15. One-sided
- 16. Before
- 17. Extemporaneously
- 19. About aviation
- 21. Macaws
- 22. Refuge room
- 23. Court case
- 25. Conical kiln
- 27. Media mogul Turner
- 28. Cancer sign
- 30. Fit into
- 32. Somali supermodel

- 34. Expires
- 35. Trapped
- 37. Stabilizes
- 39. Plea urgently
- 40. Leg joint
- 42. Nothing (Latin)
- 45. Bleat
- 46. Poi plant
- 48. Loudness unit
- 49. Deep blue color
- 54. Fiddler crab
- 55. About retina
- 56. Nail protein
- 58. Replace ammo
- 59. Most sensible
- 60. Brooklyn team
- 61. Father

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Someone who takes part
- 2. Relating to Homer
- 3. They \_\_\_
- 4. Helicopter
- 5. Coagulated milk
- 6. This (Spanish)
- 7. Moved on a log track
- 8. Closed hermetically
- 9. Nautical rope fastener
- 10. \_\_\_ Romeo, car
- 11. All peoples of the Earth
- 12. "Three Weeks" author Elinor
- 14. Hairstyle
- 15. Moved along
- 18. UCB Business School
- 20. Paddling
- 24. Tibetan Buddhist monk
- 26. E. Timor cloth

- 27. Latin for witness
- 29. Dog sound
- 31. 13-19
- 33. Involving the mind
- 35. Washington city
- 36. Beloved
- 38. One who yells
- 39. Whalebone
- 41. The Phantom of the Opera
- 43. Cut
- 44. Bent away from vertical
- 45. He killed A. Hamilton
- 47. Digits
- 50. Public violence
- 51. Freshwater duck genus
- 52. Angry
- 53. Amounts of time
- 57. Cuckoo

3/13/14

# Girls Softball 8U division moving to spring

Andover Girls Softball's 8 and under division is undergoing a transformation. The former Primary League division that has played its games in the summer will now take the field in the spring, with action beginning next month.

League leaders say their goal to split the 8U division into teams of 5- and 6-year-olds and teams of 7- and 8-year-olds so that all girls will play with and

against others closest to their age and ability level.

This will be a developmental league focusing on teaching hitting, fielding and throwing as well as learning the strategy of softball. While it will be a coach pitch league, the girls will begin to focus on the fundamentals of pitching and have the opportunity to attend weekly "pitching and pizza" clinics. Each team will play one game a week

on Sunday afternoons and also have one practice a week. The weekly practices will be in the form of a clinic led by Ann Gubellini of the Show Softball Academy.

Weather permitting, practice will begin in mid-April.

To register or for more information, visit [www.andovergirlssoftball.org](http://www.andovergirlssoftball.org) or email [agslregistrar@gmail.com](mailto:agslregistrar@gmail.com).

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The Townsman wants to spotlight the triumphs, and tragedies, of Andover's local sports teams and athletes.

We're asking coaches, players, parents and fans to send us photos as well as highlights from all the week's sporting games and events. Items can range from a shout-out for a top player or team, a spectacular play or sports milestone or even some candid shots from a game or practice.

We also want to hear ideas for stories on athletes or a big game that The Townsman should feature in its pages.

Send your photos, highlights and story ideas to [townsman@andovertownsmen.com](mailto:townsman@andovertownsmen.com) or call 978-475-7000, ext. 8733. We look forward to hearing from you.

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**Smart Start Tutoring** is currently scheduling SAT prep

courses for both individual and group instruction.

**Smart Start Tutoring** is located at 21 Central St., Andover, a convenient downtown location within walking distance of most schools. Their hours of operation are Monday through Friday 2:00 pm to 8:00 p.m. Contact **Smart Start Tutoring** by telephone at 978-470-4920, e-mail at [smartstarttutoring@hotmail.com](mailto:smartstarttutoring@hotmail.com) or on the web at [www.smart-start-tutoring.com](http://www.smart-start-tutoring.com).

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# Business

## LOCAL 01810 movement forms to promote downtown

Lisa Nardone of Chic Consignment in Andover proudly wears her 01810 T-shirt during the Boutique Blowout sale last Friday at Old Town Hall in downtown Andover.



PAUL BILODEAU/  
Staff photo

The shop local movement has a new zip code — 01810.

The independent merchants of downtown Andover have banded together to collaborate in promoting and boosting the vibrancy of the retail district.

They have formed LOCAL 01810 to build awareness of the importance of supporting an active downtown and its role in creating a thriving community.

The renewed emphasis comes on the heels of what the local merchants say has been an especially harsh winter that has made for a lackluster shopping season.

But the shop owners took a major step toward changing that this past weekend with the return of their annual Downtown Andover Boutique Blowout Days.

Last Friday, Old Town Hall on Main Street was transformed into an indoor bazaar for a special warehouse sale. Close to 20 local boutiques loaded up racks for the day-long sale that attracted a steady stream of customers.

The shopping event continued all day Saturday inside the various shops only.

The Board of Selectmen

waived parking fees in the downtown lots both Friday and Saturday to support the event, Leigh Heffron, owner of Izzy's Emporium on Barnard Street, said.

In a show of unity, Heffron said store owners donned fluorescent yellow shirts that brought attention to the LOCAL 01810 movement.

"It is crucial to support small businesses not only here in New England, but across the U.S.," she said in a release. "Vibrant communities will continue to thrive when businesses and townspeople come together for

the greater good."

Heffron said the Boutique Blowout Days event was the first of what she anticipated would be continued collaborations involving the local merchants and the town.

Participating stores included Beauty Solutions, CoCo Collection, Chic Consignment, Dove Tail, dresscode, Greater Boston Running Company, Izzy's, Lyn Evans Potpourri Designs, Madox Jewelry, Metamorphosis, Nest, Quiet Pleasures, Rapids, Royal Jewelers, Soiree, Sense of Wonder, SoleAmour and Wardrobe.

## Raytheon Andover wins \$655M Patriot missile contract

Raytheon has received a \$655 million contract to build two launching pads for Patriot missiles in Kuwait.

The so-called Patriot "fire units" include everything needed to launch and guide the defensive missile, which targets incoming threats such as airplanes and other missiles.

"It's a collection of all the main components, including the launcher, radar and all the ground equipment," Roopa Bhide, a spokeswoman for the company, said. The missiles themselves are sold separately.

According to the Department of Defense, the units will be built in Andover as well as in Chatsworth, Calif., and Greece.

The contract was awarded by the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, Redstone Arsenal, Ala., as a foreign military sale agreement. It includes new Patriot fire units with increased computing power and radar processing efficiency, improved man-machine interface and other improvements.

"This is brand new," Bhide said. "This isn't upgraded. It's a new, fully digitized system with all the latest technology."

According to Ralph Acaba, vice president of Integrated Air and Missile Defense for Raytheon, said "We continue to see an increased interest in and demand for the advanced Patriot as the system is called to duty in hot

spots around the world.

"Kuwait is part of Patriot's current family of 12 nations that have already selected Patriot as the cornerstone of their air and missile defense strategy," he said. "Their decision to further strengthen their defenses with technologically advanced new production fire units reaffirms our strong partnership and their trust in Patriot to protect Kuwait's people and critical infrastructure."

Work under the contract will be performed at Raytheon's Integrated Air Defense Center in Andover, supported by a global team of Patriot system suppliers.

— Bill Kirk, staff writer

### BUSINESS BRIEFCASE

#### Sawka tapped as new Fuld & Co. president

Ken Sawka of Andover has been appointed the new president of Cambridge-based Fuld & Company, succeeding founder Leonard Fuld who has become chief executive officer.

Fuld said Sawka's previous experience with Deloitte Consulting, the Futures Group and Outward Insights has provided him with "management know-how, the ability to execute market initiatives and a strategic vision for the firm's future."

"Ken brings with him a rich consulting background with over two decades of experience in helping companies illuminate their market opportunities and overcome strategic challenges," Fuld said in a release.

Sawka received his Bachelor of Science in political science, and a Master of Arts in international affairs, with distinction, from American University in Washington D.C.

Fuld & Company is a strategic intelligence and advisory firm that has been providing clients worldwide with answers to a broad array of strategic and market questions for 35 years. It also has offices in London, Manila and Singapore.

#### Keller Williams Realty adds to team

Jennifer Hamilton of Methuen has joined the Keller Williams Realty Andover team of residential Realtors at its office at 138 River Road.

With nearly 30 years of experience in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, Hamilton specializes in the Merrimack Valley and southern New Hampshire markets, including the Seacoast region. She was most recently with RE/MAX Prestige in Methuen and has been honored with numerous industry awards.

When not at work, Hamilton serves as president of the Parent Teacher Organization at Saint Monica School in Methuen, and is part of the Central Catholic High School Parents Guild.

"Jennifer's commitment to the buyers and sellers she serves is evident in her positive reputation in the region," Mary Ann Arini, team leader of Keller Williams Realty Andover, said.

#### Career Networking Group meeting

The Career Networking Group will meet on Thursday, March 20, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Memorial Hall Library, 2 North Main St. Certified career coach Arleen Bradley will present "What the Interviewer is Really Looking for When Asking Questions."

The free group welcomes individuals seeking to expand their network of business contacts, share ideas and learn about effective job search strategies. It is sponsored by

the Friends of Memorial Hall Library. Call 978-623-8401, ext. 31 or 32, or visit mhl.org for more information.

#### Hill wins Five Star Wealth Manager Award

Andover financial adviser Ronald R. Hill of Baystate Financial has been named a recipient of Boston's 2014 Five Star Wealth Manager Award for the fourth straight year.

The award is presented to fewer than 3 percent of the advisers in the Boston area. The selection process is based on a survey administered to more than 3,000 registered financial services professionals and local financial services companies.

Hill, who has been a financial services leader for 30 years, has had a Baystate Financial office at 10 Essex St. in Andover since 1986. He has lived in town with his wife, Janis, and their two children since 1981.



Ken Sawaka



Ronald R. Hill

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The Farmer's Almanac predicted a "colder than normal winter", and that's **exactly** what we got. They predict April to be "much warmer than normal."† So **FREE WINDOWS** are possible!



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†DETAILS OF OFFER - Offer expires 3/16/14. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Buy one window or patio door, get one window or patio door 40% off and 12 months no payments, no interest when you purchase four or more windows or patio doors between 2/21/14 & 3/16/14 with approved credit. Second window is of equal or lesser value. APR of 16.79% as of 1/1/14, subject to change. Repayment terms from 0 to 12 months. Interest accrues from date of purchase but is waived if paid in full within 12 months. Available only at participating locations. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. ©2014 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2014 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved. \*2014 Farmer's Almanac. †To participate: Book an appointment with a Renewal by Andersen Corporation sales representative between 2/21/14 and 3/2/14 ("Appointment Period") and make a qualifying purchase (of 4 or more windows & patio doors) by 3/16/14. If the temperature reaches 75°F or higher on 4/1/14 in your area, your qualifying windows/doors are free. Promotion is being offered in Boston, MA, Minneapolis, MN and Saint Paul, MN. All Andersen employees and customers of independent retailers, and any member of an employee's household or residence are not eligible to participate in the Promotion. Must be at least 18 at time of entry and legal residents of MA or MN, and who satisfy all other eligibility requirements contained herein or applicable by law. The Promotion is void where prohibited or restricted by law. For official rules and for details on how to participate, go to [www.renewalbyandersen.com/April/](http://www.renewalbyandersen.com/April/) Boston SPONSOR: Renewal by Andersen Corporation, 9900 Jamaica Avenue South, Cottage Grove, MN 55016.









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

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Snow, 1-3"; colder	Not as cold	Chance of a shower	Breezy with some sun	Sunny and colder	Not as cold	Periods of rain
<b>High: 24°</b> <b>Low: 7°</b>	<b>High: 35°</b> <b>Low: 27°</b>	<b>High: 49°</b> <b>Low: 33°</b>	<b>High: 42°</b> <b>Low: 16°</b>	<b>High: 29°</b> <b>Low: 15°</b>	<b>High: 37°</b> <b>Low: 34°</b>	<b>High: 51°</b> <b>Low: 34°</b>

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## Andover maintains AAA rating

Standard & Poor, the municipal credit rating agency, recently confirmed the town's AAA bond rating. In assigning the town's long-term debt the highest rating, the agency cited Andover's "very strong economy, very strong management, strong budgetary flexibility, very strong liquidity and very strong debt and contingent liabilities profile as positive credit factor," according to a press release from Town Treasurer David Reilly. Last month, the town received competitive bids from bond underwriters for an almost \$27.8 million, 20-year bond issue, he said. FTN Financial Capital Markets was the winning bidder on the bonds, with an average interest rate of 2.89 percent. The town received 10 bids on the bonds. Bond proceeds will be used to finance various municipal projects and needs. The bids for the bonds were accepted at the offices of the town's financial advisor, First Southwest Company on Canal Street in Boston.

### REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

The following real estate transfers were recorded recently in town:

- **4 Pinecone Lane:** US Bank National Association Trust to Jarred W. Hansford and Caryn L. Baker, \$452,000
- **344 River Road:** Yuan Wang and Liyang Wu to Patch Development LLC, \$305,000
- **39 Washington Ave.:** Stephen P. Longo and Linda J. Zimmerman to Linda J. Zimmerman, \$70,000

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Catherine@hubbardhomes.biz

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This lovely bungalow style home offers an updated c-tile granite kitchen with a breakfast nook & pantry closet, living room & 1st bedroom boast the original soft pine wood floors. The master suite has his & hers closets and a full bath. Other amenities include: 2 additional good size bedrooms, a finished lower level for entertainment with pellet stove and a walk out to level back yard, a brick walk-way, plenty of storage, a 2 car garage under, plus easy access to Rte. 495.

**JACQUELINE MORGAN**  
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jmorgan228@verizon.net

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