



HONORING COLLEEN RITZER

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SPRING HOME & GARDEN SECTION

INSIDE



AWISUZ PROVES A FORCE AT BAT

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OUR 126<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

# Andover Townsman

Issue No. 25

APRIL 24, 2014

75 CENTS

## The Andover Reel



ABOVE: Fifth-graders from High Plain Elementary School capped off an arts program on the Civil War last week with an old-fashioned barn dance. Here, students demonstrate a dance during a school-wide assembly. AT RIGHT: Wood Hill Middle School students, under the direction of the fiddlers-callers from Two Fiddles of New Hampshire, provided the music. Story, more photos, Page 6.

RYAN HUTTON/ Staff photos



## School cuts target teacher aides

### Proposed budget remedy brings staff to tears

By BILL KIRK  
bkirk@andovertownsman.com

Zoe Porter choked back tears as she addressed town officials last week, saying that plans to cut her and nearly 50 other instructional assistants from the school budget would also affect the autistic child she works with every day.

"It took months, but the student I work closest with finally learned my name (and) it was the proudest I have ever felt," she said. "He now greets me with, 'Hi Miss P' and actually seems excited to see me. That is how long it takes for them to form relationships."

Porter said that if she loses her job, as proposed, and is no longer at Wood Hill Middle School come next year, that student will have to learn to form a new relationship with a new instructional assistant, which could actually be a setback for the boy and many others like him.

"It would be just one more thing that would hold them back from all of the potential we know they have," she said.

Earlier this year, the School Department was ordered by Town Manager Reginald "Buzz" Stapczynski and the Board of Selectmen to cut its budget request by about \$1.2 million. Last Wednesday night, Superintendent Marinel McGrath and the committee unveiled how they planned on making those cuts, and it wasn't pretty.

Of the \$1.2 million in reductions, \$900,000 would

See AIDES, Page 2

## West Andover break-ins prompt police powwow

By BILL KIRK  
bkirk@andovertownsman.com

About 300 residents of West Andover filled the auditorium of the Wood Hill Middle and High Plain Elementary schools last week, seeking answers to a smattering of house break-ins plaguing

their neighborhoods. Sgt. Mark Higginbottom answered dozens of questions after giving a brief presentation of the problem along with some suggestions on how to thwart would-be burglars.

"We're never going to stop it," Higginbottom told

the crowd, which gave him, detective Kevin Auferio and police Chief Patrick Keefe a round of applause at the end of the meeting. "But together, we might be able to slow it down."

The forum was organized by a grassroots group of West Andover residents who

were concerned that since the beginning of the year, there have been four house breaks in their part of town, along with the occasional car break-in.

More worrisome was that there were three house breaks reported in less than a two-week period, starting

on Monday, March 24, when someone broke into a house on Bailey Road between 12:30 and 2 p.m. and stole electronics and jewelry.

The following week, on April 9, someone broke into a house on Grey Birch Road by smashing a pane of glass on a door to the garage.

Stereo equipment, a couple of laptops and a home amplifier were reported stolen, according to police. That break occurred at 5:45 p.m. when a 14-year-old girl was in the house. Higginbottom said the girl was in the

See BREAK-INS, Page 5

## Banner debacle continues

By BILL KIRK  
bkirk@andovertownsman.com

Not again. A banner strung over Main Street advertising next month's Town Meeting became dislodged from its anchors and flailed in the high winds sometime overnight last Thursday, shattering the windshield of a parked car below, according to police.

It is the second time a banner hung near Elm Square has given way. The first

banner gave out, too, putting a hole in a nearby shop window last year.

"It's a sad day that we in Andover couldn't figure out how to put a banner up," said Mark Spencer, the former photography shop owner who has pushed for the hanging of a banner over Main Street for much of his adult life.

Town Manager Reginald "Buzz" Stapczynski said the sign was removed after the anchors on one side of it

See BANNER, Page 2

## First pitch years in the making Deyermont Park dedication to open Little League season

By JUDY WAKEFIELD  
jwakefield@andovertownsman.com

With Andover Little League opening day coinciding with April school vacation week this year, league officials were facing the prospect of less-than-packed playing fields for the first games of the season.

So they decided to get creative. They've taken the

beloved sandlot approach to baseball for opening day 2014, set for this Saturday, April 26.

If you show up, you're on the roster. The brand new Deyermont Park fields on Blanchard Street await.

"With so many kids away on vacation with their families and so many absent players, we thought this would be a good way to

handle it," Andover Little League President Scott Nichols said.

Three players from each of the league's 74 teams were asked to play in the inaugural games on the new ballfields. They will be joined by any other players eager and ready.

"It's like sandlot baseball. You just have to show up to play," Nichols said.

The sandlot games will follow the park's public dedication ceremony at 2 p.m. in memory of Warren "Buster" Deyermont. The Andover resident, who was very active in youth sports, died while serving in Vietnam on July 14, 1969.

His death — a month shy of his 21st birthday

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## Getting acquainted



AMY SWEENEY/Staff photo

Leila Aruri and Police Chief Patrick Keefe learn a little bit about each other at Memorial Hall Library during the introductions for last week's Youth in Town Government Day. Thirteen students from Andover High School shadowed local officials as part of the third annual day sponsored by the Andover/North Andover League of Women Voters. Story, more photos, Page 16.

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## BANNER: Sign sustains wind damage again

Continued from Page 1

failed. "The strong winds created a sail effect on the banner," he said. He referred all calls to Ed Ataide of the Plant and Facilities Department, who could not be reached.

According to the police log for April 16, a "town election sign fell and shattered a motor vehicle window." The report came in at 6:35 a.m.

It is just the latest in a long line of setbacks for banner supporters.

In September, a banner advertising Andover Day also failed, sending a metal clip flying through the air and smashing into the second-floor window of Cristina's Bridal at 1 Main St.

After that, banners were banned until the town could undertake a study to determine the best way to hang them to prevent them from failing and damaging property or, more importantly, injuring pedestrians below.

Over the winter, Spencer worked with town officials to come up with a better way to hang the banners. But, apparently, that method could not stand up to the high winds that blew through town last

week, which were similar to the gusts that damaged the banner in September.

Spencer, a former member of the Andover Business Community Association, worked for nearly a decade to get the OK to hang banners over Main Street.

Similar banners are hung in countless cities and towns all over the world.

But he ran into fierce opposition from various town officials who put up roadblock after roadblock in an attempt to stop the banners from ever hanging in Andover.

Eventually, however, he prevailed when Town Meeting last year approved an elaborate banner bylaw that included the size and manner of any banner that could be hung over Main Street, or anywhere else in town for that matter.

The owner of property on either side of Main Street then agreed to allow his buildings to be used to anchor each end of the banner, which led to the town's first such outdoor advertising to be displayed last fall.

It is unclear what the next step is for a downtown banner.

Spencer refused further comment.

## School, town officials spar over budget

By BILL KIRK  
bkirk@andovertownsmann.com

The School Committee agreed to shave \$1.2 million off its budget request last week, but not before a lively argument broke out among town and school officials over who was responsible for it.

The budget trimming, coming mostly at the expense of about 50 instructional assistants, was made at the behest of the town manager, who sought to remove \$800,000 from the School Committee's \$72.1 million budget request, and the selectmen, who sought a \$400,000 reduction.

"This year has been highly atypical," School Committee Chairwoman Annie Gilbert. "The fact that the selectmen voted to reduce our budget allocation by \$400,000 was a surprise. Usually, we have discussions about it. This year, there were no

discussions with the School Committee."

Newly elected School Committee member Joel Blumstein took an even harsher tone, calling the system "flawed."

"I'm very surprised by the process, from beginning to end, that's led us to where we are," he said. "The town manager and School Committee develop separate budgets on separate tracks and decisions are made without collaboration or consultation or understanding the impacts."

Selectmen and Finance Committee members, however, shot back that the School Committee is at least partly responsible for the problem.

"The actual school budget is almost \$2 million more than last year," recently elected Selectman Mary O'Donoghue said. "How can

you talk about cuts?"

Blumstein responded: "You took a vote without knowing the impact of the cut."

Finance Committee Chairman Jon Stumpf and other committee members said that the School Committee didn't even provide its final budget figures until late in the process, making it difficult to know what was being presented.

"It's important to have information," he said. "Without information, it's tough. Transparency has been a challenge. Without transparency you can't have a dialogue."

Finance Committee member Joanne Marden agreed.

"We didn't have a school budget until two days before our budget meeting on the School Department," she said. "We all have to take responsibility for looking at what comes out when it

comes out."

Several School Committee members lamented the fact that the town manager held a meeting to discuss local aid and free cash without inviting everyone.

Gilbert noted, "In the past, the School Committee has been included in those discussions. I guess that's no longer the case."

The School Committee in early March proposed a budget of \$72.1 million, an increase of about 4 percent over last year's budget. Town Manager Reginald "Buzz" Stapczynski recommended a budget of \$71.3 million — a reduction of about \$881,000.

Selectmen then sought to trim an additional \$400,000 from the school budget request, bringing the total request to \$70.9 million — which is still a \$2 million increase over the current year's spending plan.

## Superintendent McGrath slams lag in technology

By BILL KIRK  
bkirk@andovertownsmann.com

School Superintendent Marinel McGrath told members of the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee last week that she and representatives of the town and school finance teams spent 100 hours going through carbon-copy expense vouchers to see who had been hired in the School Department over the last year or so.

She undertook the task as she looked for savings in her \$70 million budget as part of a \$1.2 million cost-cutting plan forced on her by the town manager and selectmen.

The process was fruitful, as she and other finance

officials found nearly six positions that were either "unapproved, reinstated or double entries," saving \$141,903.

But it was a task, she said, she hopes to never repeat again.

"If the town is not ready next year with (Munis), I am purchasing my own software," she said. "I am never letting this happen again."

Munis is a software system purchased by the town several years ago for a couple million dollars that was supposed to make it easier for managers to track the hiring, firing and benefits of town and school employees.

The only problem is that it was never adopted by the School Department, making

the task of tracking employees a laborious and tedious one.

McGrath said principals are required to submit forms, with four carbon copies, any time they want to hire an instructional assistant to help out on the playground or work with a special education student.

As school and finance officials went through all the forms, she said, they found five or six positions that had not been correctly requested or approved by the proper people, while others were "double-counted" or had been reinstated.

The revelation that McGrath, the highest-paid employee in the city, had to go through carbon paper to review employee requests

from principals was met with a gasp by many who attended a budget meeting last week.

"Shame on us to purchase technology and not deploy it," said Tom Deso, a resident who has been actively involved in school issues for years. "We have the CEO of the biggest department in town spending 100 hours going through a process that's a total waste of time. Shame on us for that."

Town Manager Reginald "Buzz" Stapczynski said there is money in the proposed budget for the coming fiscal year that would make it easier to track new hires, but said it needs the "cooperation of the school administration" to implement.

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## AIDES: Cut calls for layoffs of instructional assistants

Continued from Page 1

come by laying off approximately 42 instructional assistants — employees who work at every school doing nearly every task asked of them, McGrath said.

"I don't know if everyone appreciates the role they play," McGrath said. "It's a significant reduction."

McGrath said IAs, as they are called, help out on the playground monitoring students during recess; they bolster the work of students struggling with math, science, English and just about any other subject; they help kids read, they work one-on-one with autistic students, they watch over the cafeteria during lunch, and

they support students who have Individualized Education Programs, or IEPs.

"We can't predict the impact of these cuts, but they could lead to an increase in special education referrals, an increase in counseling referrals, less supervision on playgrounds and in the cafeteria, and it could negate the high marks we get from the state for the support we offer to students on IEPs," she said.

"They are a tremendous asset to students and teachers on a daily basis."

The number of IAs has skyrocketed over the years, and now sits at about 240. With this proposed cut, there would be approximately 200 left. The reason the numbers are approximate, McGrath explained, is that some are part-time while others are full-time.

According to School Committee Chairwoman Annie Gilbert, the remaining

full- and part-time IAs will be redistributed throughout the system to fulfill mandated needs, such as one-on-one coverage of autistic students.

The cut will result in a "reorganization, building by building," Gilbert said.

McGrath stressed that students who need one-on-one assistance will continue to be served, but other, less important functions may not be fulfilled as a result of the layoffs.

The 25-year-old Porter, a resident of Andover, stood shoulder-to-shoulder with two other instructional assistants at the April 16 meeting, pleading with town officials to consider the consequences of the cuts.

"We ask you tonight not to think of us as you make these difficult decisions, but instead to think of the children," she said, as her colleague, Brenna McGoff, 22, of Hudson, N.H., wiped tears away. "They are the ones whose daily lives will be affected. The three of us will move on. We will find other jobs. But our students will be left behind."

Selectman Brian Major,

who has a son with special needs, seemed uncomfortable with the proposal.

"I see firsthand the importance of the IAs," he said. "This is a tough reduction. I'm not sure what the answer is. ... We should have additional discussion on the head count cuts."

In addition to \$900,000 in layoffs to instructional assistants, McGrath proposed another six cuts in the personnel budget through, what she called "unapproved, reinstated and double entries" for a savings of nearly \$142,000. (See related story, Page 2.)

She also proposed nearly \$100,000 in cuts for people taking leaves of absences and retirements. She cut another \$40,000 from special education summer school salaries and found nearly \$20,000 in savings from making salary track changes.

She also reported about \$150,000 in expense reductions from such items as copy center supplies, laptop leases, legal expenses and other savings.

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# ANIMAL ATTRACTIONS

## Mass. School of Law touts creatures' rights

By SARA BROWN  
Staff Writer

When people entered the main entrance of the Massachusetts School of Law last weekend, they were greeted by a donkey. Inside the school, dogs roamed freely as kids ran around with different animals painted on their faces.

It was all part of last Saturday's eighth annual Animal Rights Day at the Andover-based law school.

Legal experts in the field of animal rights led discussions on issues related to animal cruelty, estate planning and more. The day featured presentations on training dogs, helping feral cats, adopting older dogs and animal law issues as well as the annual presentation of Humane-itarian Awards to individuals who made significant contributions to animal rights in the past year.

The Essex County Sheriff's Department K9 unit showed the crowd how police dogs can stop suspects from fleeing and bat expert Nate Fuller led a presentation.

Danielle Wordell, humane education coordinator for the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals at Nevins Farm in Methuen, presented a seminar on cruelty-free consumerism. Wordell teaches children about the importance of using animal cruelty-free products.

"We are big on teaching. We focus on kids so they can learn from the get-go," she said.

She said people need to be more aware of whether the make-up or shampoo they use has been tested on animals.

"Philosophically, we are against animal testing," she said. "We always tell people to look for products with the sticker that says they didn't test it on animals before they buy it."

She said animal cruelty-free products are becoming more popular and can be found at major department stores.

The MSPCA is also against the use of fur and leather, she said.

"Even if you don't care about animals, you should just use synthetic fur. It's hundreds of dollars less than the real thing," she said.

Attendees could also buy a birdhouse from Holly Lindgren, a painting from artist Karla Cook or learn about several different organizations that help animals. There was plenty for the children to enjoy, too, including face painting, pony rides, Easter egg hunts and a visit with some of the K9 team's police dogs.

Kate Robertson brought her two sons to enjoy the day's festivities. She said she does her best to teach her sons to be animal lovers.

"We have pets at home. I want them to care about animals," she said. "I think it's important to teach kids that it is important to not only respect people, but animals as well."



TIM JEAN/Staff photos

The Cleary brothers, from left, Logan, 7; Finn, 4; and Billy, 10, take a closer look at Mabel, a standard donkey from New England Equine Rescue - North, at Saturday's eighth annual Animal Rights Day at Massachusetts School of Law in Andover.



A large crowd gathers to watch Sgt. Scott Sousa of the Essex County Sheriff's Department K-9 Division show what happens when a suspect tries to flee as Chico stops his escape. Chico's partner, Sgt. Gary Mastrangelo, not pictured, released the dog during the demonstration as part of the eighth annual Animal Rights Day program this past Saturday at Massachusetts School of Law in Andover.

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# Local/Obituaries

## Marathon Moment



Courtesy photo

Andover's Bill Pennington, 59, and his daughter, Melissa Pennington, 22, share a moment after finishing the Boston Marathon on Monday. It was Bill's final marathon, while it was the first for his daughter, a student at Roger Williams University in Rhode Island.

## Father, daughter inspire each other to finish line

It was one of the great local stories heading into the 2014 Boston Marathon: Bill Pennington of Andover and his daughter, Melissa. Bill, a noted local runner and race director for a few decades, was running his last marathon, while his daughter was running her first. And the fact that they

were going to share the day was meaningful for both. Well, they pulled it off, though it wasn't easy. They walked over the finish line Monday in six hours and 29 seconds, both a tad weary, but thrilled they accomplished the fete together. — Bill Burt, sports editor

### ■ POLICE LOG

#### ARRESTS

**Tuesday, April 15**  
John F. Kelly, 55, of 16 Massachusetts Ave., Apt. 1, Wilmington, was arrested at 342 North Main St. at 3:23 p.m. and charged with operating an uninspected car without a license. The vehicle was towed by Elm Street Auto.

#### INCIDENTS

**Monday, April 14**  
A snapping turtle was moved out of the middle of Oriole Drive around 1:45 p.m.  
A tree fell onto Jenkins Road at 3:39 p.m. and was removed by town workers.  
**Tuesday, April 15**  
A young male, about 15, was reported walking into the back of West Elementary School on Beacon Street carrying a bow and arrow at around 5 p.m. Police were told there was an archery class in progress.  
A turtle was crossing Abbott Bridge Road at about 6:30 p.m.  
**Wednesday, April 16**  
A 911 caller from Farrwood Drive complained to police that a TV fell off the wall and struck him at about 2 a.m. He said he was not hurt, but needed help getting the TV back up on the wall. He was assisted in getting the TV back in place.  
A 72-year-old woman was treated by emergency medical technicians and taken to the hospital after falling and hitting her head on Main Street around 2:52 p.m.  
**Thursday, April 17**  
A caller advised police that there was a suspicious truck parked in her neighbor's driveway on Joseph Street around 1:03 p.m. Police investigated and found it was a company chemically treating the lawn. A hose was attached to the truck.  
**Friday, April 18**  
Animal control helped a raccoon out of a Dumpster on Andover Street at 9:45 a.m.

A caller reported that he was locked inside a construction trailer on Lowell Junction Road at 3:54 p.m. Police let the man out.  
**Saturday, April 19**  
A woman called police around 11:36 p.m. to report an "injured bunny" on the road near the intersection of Dascomb Road and Interstate 93. The officer responding reported in the police log that "the bunny was expired."  
**Sunday, April 20**  
A red motor vehicle was suspiciously circling the Endicott Road neighborhood, a resident reported at 5:52 a.m. Police checked the area, but found nothing.  
A Lovejoy Road resident called to report a suspicious motor vehicle parked outside her house at 1:33 p.m. Police checked and determined it was a private investigator.

**ACCIDENTS**  
**Monday, April 14**  
A rollover was reported on Hearthstone Place around noon. One person was taken to Lawrence General Hospital for treatment.  
**Tuesday, April 15**  
The MBTA gates across River Road were stuck in the down position at around 4:17 p.m., leading to "major traffic issues," according to the police log.  
**Sunday, April 20**  
A woman reported a hit-and-run involving her car, which was parked in Elm Square about 7:30 p.m. She said another vehicle hit her car, damaging it, and then left the scene without providing any information.

**THEFTS**  
**Wednesday, April 16**  
A man was seen running from a building on Essex Street around 8:27 a.m. A caller reported he may have stolen an iPad. He was last seen running toward Richard's, police reported.

### ■ OBITUARIES

## Mrs. Nancy (Sweet) Keffe, 84 Years

May 25, 1929 — April 18, 2014

ANDOVER — Mrs. Nancy (Sweet) Keffe, a 54-year resident of Andover, and beloved wife of the late George R. Keffe, died at the Academy Manor Nursing Center in Andover, on Friday morning, April 18, 2014, with her family by her side. She was 84 years old.

Born in North Chelmsford, Mass., on May 25, 1929, she was the beloved daughter of the late Nathaniel and Anna Mildred (Ward) Sweet. Mrs. Keffe was a graduate of Chelmsford High and Lowell State Teachers College. She worked as a teacher in the Andover School System for many years. In her spare time, Mrs. Keffe enjoyed playing golf, especially at Far Corners in Boxford, reading and being active outdoors. Above all, she loved spending time with her family and friends.

She will be sorely missed by her loving children, Thomas J. Keffe and his wife, Kathy A. Keffe of Pelham, N.H., and Ellen K. Regan and her husband, Jeffrey Regan of Methuen; her siblings, Mark Sweet of South Windsor, Conn., and Patricia Sweet of North Chelmsford; and grandchildren, Michael and Sean Regan, and Nicholas and Emily Keffe; and many nieces and nephews. She was also the sister of the late Robert Sweet, Janet Connors and Louise Sweet.

The family would like to



express their sincere gratitude to the staff at Academy Manor for the wonderful care and compassion they gave to Nancy.

**ARRANGEMENTS:** Her funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Joseph Church, 20 Highvale Lane, Andover, on Wednesday, April 23, at 12:30 p.m. Relatives and friends were welcomed. Calling hours were held in the Burke-Magliozi Funeral Home, 390 North Main Street, Andover, on Tuesday, April 22, from 4 to 8 p.m. Interment in St. Augustine Cemetery in Andover. Donations in Nancy's memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 480 Pleasant Street, Watertown, MA 02472.

For additional information, please visit [www.burkemagliozi.com](http://www.burkemagliozi.com).

## Mr. Ellsworth G. Spencer, 93

April 6, 1921 — April 15, 2014

ANDOVER — Ellsworth G. Spencer, 93, passed away peacefully with his family at his side on Tuesday, April 15, 2014. A longtime resident of Andover, MA, Ellsworth was born in Skowhegan, ME, to Archie and Aurelia Spencer and raised in Anson, ME. He was the devoted husband of the late Elizabeth (Zuber) Spencer. Loving father of Bruce Spencer and her wife, Cathy, of Dover, NH, William Spencer and his wife, Donna, of Billerica, MA, Jean (Spencer) Prior and her husband, Walter, of Lawrence, MA, Karen (Spencer) Whitcomb of North Andover, MA, and Douglas Spencer and his wife, Susan, of Merrimack, NH. Beloved grandfather of Todd Spencer and his wife, Amy, of Portsmouth, NH, Amy Spencer Delemus of Dover, NH, Lauren (Spencer) Corbett and her husband, Patrick, of Billerica, MA, Evan Spencer and his wife, Courtney, of Billerica, MA, Jeffrey Prior of Boston, MA, Steven Prior of New York City, and Rachel Spencer and Emily Spencer of Merrimack, NH. Proud great-grandfather of Stella and Jack Spencer and Reid and Will Corbett. He is also survived by his shining light and loving companion, Lillian Gunning of North Reading, MA. World War II Navy veteran and retired employee of New England Milk Producers Association and Shawsheen Chemical Company.



**ARRANGEMENTS:** A funeral service was held on Friday, April 18, 2014, at New England Bible Church, 60 Chandler Road, Andover, MA, at 10 a.m. Relatives and friends were kindly invited to attend. Visiting hours were held on Thursday, April 17, 2014, from 4 to 7:30 p.m. in the Burke-Magliozi Funeral Home, 390 North Main St., Andover. Interment at Spring Grove Cemetery, Andover.

In lieu of flowers and in honor of their kind support of the family, memorial donations may be made to the Merrimack Valley Hospice House, 360 North Ave., Haverhill, MA 01830, [www.homehealthfoundation.org/mvhh](http://www.homehealthfoundation.org/mvhh) or the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, 101A First Ave., Suite 6, Waltham, MA 02451-1115.

## Lillian Zachrisson Pease

BRUNSWICK, ME — Lillian Zachrisson Pease, 84, died peacefully on April 12, 2014, in Brunswick, Maine. Lillian was born in Boston, Massachusetts, on March 7, 1930, daughter of Carroll and Lillian Zachrisson. She graduated from Boston Girls' Latin School in 1947 and from Wellesley College, Phi Beta Kappa, in 1951. Beginning post-graduate work at Union Theological Seminary that fall and doing field work at the East Harlem Protestant Parish, she met Frederic A. Pease, Jr., whom she married on June 20, 1953.

They moved to New Hampshire when Fred was called to minister to congregational churches in Jaffrey Center and New Ipswich. In 1958, they settled in Andover, Massachusetts, where Lillian was actively involved with raising their four children, and with the League of Women Voters and other community organizations, while Fred was employed as a chaplain at Phillips Academy. They enjoyed many summers on Swans Island, Maine with their children, and the next generations continue to do so.

Lillian earned a master's degree from Simmons College School of Social Work and became director of Fidelity House, Lawrence, Massachusetts, from 1973 until she retired to Dresden, Maine in 1990.

Lillian was a fabulous cook, an avid gardener, a formidable Scrabble player, and an enthusiastic singer and choir member. As long as her health allowed, she remained an active member of the First Congregational Church of Wiscasset, Maine, and the Maine Women's Lobby in Augusta. Lillian is survived by her husband, Fred; son, Ted Pease and his wife, Brenda Cooper, of Trinidad, Calif.; son, David Pease and his wife, Julie, of Brunswick, Maine; daughter, Ruth Pease and her husband, Greg Blanchette, of Dresden, Maine; daughter, Rebecca Pease of Bowdoinham, Maine; and grandchildren, Kate, Abby, Graham, Evan, Kyle, Alison and Claire.

A memorial service and celebration of her life will be held at the First Congregational Church of Wiscasset, Maine, at 2 p.m. on Monday, May 5, 2014. Contributions in Lillian's memory may be made to The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, P.O. Box 350, Wiscasset, ME 04578 or to the Maine Women's Lobby, 124 Sewall St., Augusta, ME 04330-6822.

Women's Lobby in Augusta. Lillian is survived by her husband, Fred; son, Ted Pease and his wife, Brenda Cooper, of Trinidad, Calif.; son, David Pease and his wife, Julie, of Brunswick, Maine; daughter, Ruth Pease and her husband, Greg Blanchette, of Dresden, Maine; daughter, Rebecca Pease of Bowdoinham, Maine; and grandchildren, Kate, Abby, Graham, Evan, Kyle, Alison and Claire.

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## Hunters call for end to Sunday ban

BY CHRISTIAN M. WADE  
CNHI Statehouse Reporter

Mike Prendergast likes spending time outdoors, hiking through the wilderness, sleeping under the stars, and taking aim with his compound bow on white-tailed deer and wild turkey from his perch in a tree.

Working more than 50 hours a week as a welder doesn't leave much time for hunting. Making it harder, a centuries-old Massachusetts law bans him from hunting on Sundays, usually his only day off work.

"You can go fishing, shopping and buy alcohol on Sundays, but you can't hunt," Prendergast, a 35-year-old hunter in the area, said. "Frankly, it doesn't make any sense to me."

Lawmakers are considering a repeal of the Sunday ban, the product of a Puritan-era blue law, and sportsmen are hopeful that it will finally succeed. Campaigns to repeal the ban have been persistent but short lived in Massachusetts. A bill filed by Rep. William

Strauss, a South Shore Democrat, would allow bow-and-arrow hunting seven days a week during the state's bow hunting season, which runs from Oct. 20 to Nov. 29. Another bill, filed by Rep. Byron Rushing, a Boston Democrat, would allow rifle or shotgun hunting on Sundays. That legislation also includes provisions to protect pigeons and increases the penalties for "sexual abuse of animals."

A third, filed by Rep. Anne Gobi, a Democrat from central Massachusetts, would allow bow-and-arrow hunting on Sundays and state holidays. Opponents of loosening the restrictions argue that hunting is allowed every other day, and hikers and bird watchers should be granted at least one day to enjoy the woods without worrying about getting shot or stumbling across a group of armed men dressing a deer carcass.

Christian M. Wade covers the Massachusetts Statehouse for CNHI newspapers. He can be reached at [cwade@cnhi.com](mailto:cwade@cnhi.com).

## Drug take-back Saturday

The Police Department, in conjunction with the Drug Enforcement Administration and TRIAD, is holding a medication disposal day on Saturday at various locations around town so local families can get rid of prescription medications safely and conveniently.

The main event runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at West Elementary School, 58 Beacon St.

"Residents are encouraged to gather expired, unused and unneeded medication and drop them off," police said in a statement. "The medication disposal is completely anonymous and free of charge for residential users."

In addition, police will be

picking medications up at the following sites around town for residents who cannot get to West Elementary:

- Community room of Frye Circle, 10:30 a.m.
- Community room of Stowe Court, 11 a.m.
- Andover Commons, 11:30 a.m.
- Atria Marland Place, main lobby, noon

Drug take-back days are aimed at getting prescription drugs out of households where they could be misused and end up causing addiction problems among family members.

Anyone with questions can contact officer Robin Cataldo at the Andover Police Department at 978-475-0411, ext. 1004.

## Marina Kachulis, 89

AMHERST, MA — Marina Kachulis - beloved wife, mother, and grandmother, passed away Monday, April 7, at her home in Amherst, Mass. Born in New York City and orphaned at six with her two younger siblings at the height of The Depression, she was raised by various relatives until the age of 17, when she brought the family together and helped her father raise the two younger children. After graduating as the Valedictorian from Girls High School in Brooklyn, she went to work to help support the family. Marina married the love of her life, Bill Kachulis, in 1949. They recently celebrated their 65th anniversary. She is survived by her husband, Bill; sons, Jimmy and Nick; and grandchildren, Chris, Demetri, Maria Terese and Anye; and daughters-in-law, Anne Moriarty and Martha Zorn.

Calling hours were at the Pease and Gay Funeral Home in Northampton. Funeral services for Marina took place



Saturday, April 12 with a Liturgy of Christian Burial at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, in Holyoke, Mass. Burial was in Spring Grove Cemetery, Florence. In memory of Marina, please send a donation in Marina's name to Notre Dame Cristo Rey High School, Attn: Sr. Mary Murphy - President, 303 Haverhill St., Lawrence, MA 01841.

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# DEYERMOND: New park will be dedicated Saturday during opening day

Continued from Page 1

— came just days before he was scheduled to complete his tour of duty and return home. He became Andover's last military casualty, according to Mike Burke, director of Andover Veterans' Services.

Town officials and veterans groups will join with Andover Little League players, families and officials as well as others from the community to salute Deyermond's memory during the dedication. Members of the Deyermond family will also be on hand for the ceremony.

Then, ballplayers will take their places to officially christen the new park's three baseball fields.

Talk of new fields started years ago as Town Meeting in 2007 approved the \$2.8 million purchase of 13 acres on Blanchard Street to house

### OPENING DAY HONORS

The new Deyermond Park on Blanchard Street will be dedicated at 2 p.m. on Saturday in memory of Warren C. "Buster" Deyermond of Andover, who was killed while serving in Vietnam in July 1969.

Andover Little League President Scott Nichols will welcome guests. Local author and Andover Townsman columnist Bill Dalton will be the guest speaker. Michael Burke, director of Andover Veterans' Services, will lead the unveiling of a new monument in Deyermond's honor.

The ceremony will include an honor detail and other observances. The Patriotic Holiday Committee will also participate. The public is invited.

To reach the new Deyermond Park, travel west on Route 133 (Lowell Street), then turn left onto Bellevue Road (just past Raytheon entrance). Turn left onto Osgood Street, then stay straight onto Blanchard Street until the park.

three Little League regulation baseball diamonds and a large soccer field. An additional lot was purchased in 2011.

The price tag for the project was placed at \$835,000, which includes a 2009 Town Meeting appropriation of \$425,000 for field design and development supplemented by \$350,000 from Little League and \$60,000 from the Andover Soccer Association. The construction was overseen by Huntress Associates

of Andover.

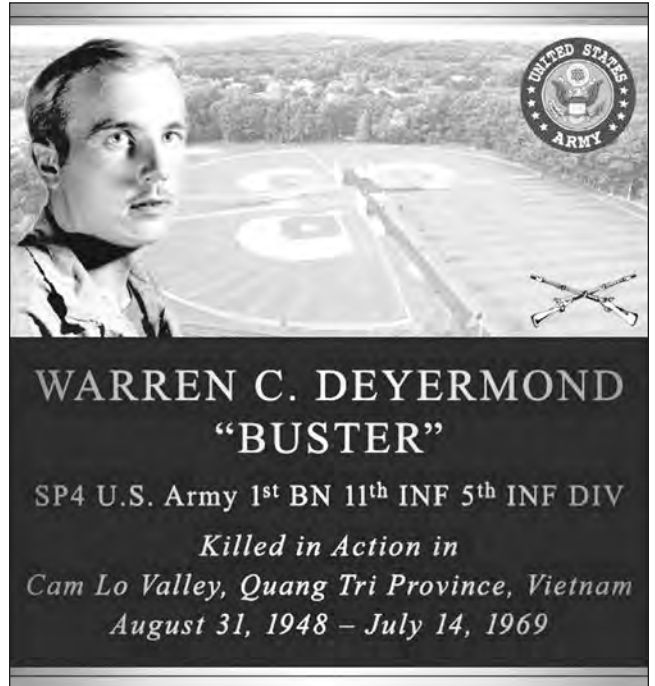
Andover Little League is now raising money to pay for a lighting system to support night games, Nichols said. The league has revamped its fundraising efforts, calling it "Raise the Lights," in hopes of securing the \$450,000 needed for the project.

The lights are part of the \$650,000 Phase II of the initiative, which will also include scoreboards, a concession stand, dugouts, batting cages, equipment shed,

grandstand seating and other items.

Before the dedication and first pitch is thrown out, Andover Little Leaguers will take part in their annual opening day ceremony and parade as well as Pitch, Hit and Run Contest.

The parade starts at 10 a.m. from the Doherty Middle School parking lot on Bartlet Street and marches into the town center. Then it's back to the Doherty fields for the contest.



Courtesy photo  
This plaque honoring Warren C. "Buster" Deyermond will be unveiled on the monument at the new park on Blanchard Street, which will be dedicated on Saturday during opening day ceremonies for Andover Little League.

# BREAK-INS: Police advise residents to exercise caution in wake of thefts

Continued from Page 1

shower during the break-in and didn't realize the house had been robbed until after she got out.

Higginbottom said the Grey Birch Road break-in rattled people because there was someone home, but he told the anxious residents last week that in most cases, the burglars would rather not encounter anyone.

"That one was concerning to us," he said. "We don't usually see them that late." He added that it is likely that whoever broke into that house "didn't know someone was home."

A third break-in occurred on Haggetts Pond Road on Monday, April 14, when someone pried open a rear door, entered the house and stole jewelry at around 10:25 a.m. In that case, a neighbor saw two men park in the driveway and walk around to the backyard.

The neighbor was able to get a license plate, which she gave to police, who are following up on leads although

no arrests have been made. The only description of a possible suspect is a white male driving a small, green vehicle.

Higginbottom assured residents that in most cases, the would-be burglars would rather enter a home unnoticed, grab whatever is handy and valuable and then leave. He said the items are then usually sold at area pawn shops, with the money used to buy drugs.

So far, however, none of the items stolen in the three most recent incidents, or a fourth one earlier in the year also on the west side of town, have been recovered.

Higginbottom tried to stress to the crowd that the town is not facing a crisis. "We've had six house breaks in town since Jan. 1," he said. "Four on the west side of town. In 2013, there were 45 house breaks in a year."

Five years ago, during the economic downturn in 2008, there were four or five house breaks a week, police said. "Are we having an

epidemic?" he said. "No."

But, he added, "if you are a victim, it is a panic" situation.

One couple who attended the meeting said their Bailey Road house was broken into.

"Our son found it," said the husband, who didn't want his name used. "He came home and saw that the house had been broken into. He didn't go in."

Instead, he called his parents who called the police.

"They stole electronics and jewelry," he said.

His wife added that her family has lived in the home since the 1970s and never had an incident like that. She said the police were very responsive.

"They came right over," she said. "They sent three patrol cars. Their response was terrific."

Others in the audience wanted to know what they should tell their children.

"I spoke with my son and we talked about if he was alone and has his cellphone, can he text 911," one man said, "so the intruder doesn't know he's there."

Higginbottom cautioned parents not to frighten their children.

He said the best way for them to notify police is by using a landline to call 911, which goes directly to the Andover police station and gives police an address.

Dialing 911 on a cellphone goes to the Framingham State Police headquarters, but is then forwarded immediately to Andover. He said the department did not have the capability to accept emergency text messages from residents.

Another resident wanted to know about response times.

Keefe said that there are so many officers now patrolling west Andover that response times are within two minutes in 95 percent of the cases. But in rare instances, response can take up to four to six minutes if a call is made in the middle of a shift change and all the officers are at the central station downtown.

However, he said, "if the word 'child' is mentioned, you'll get the whole shift there" right away.

Keefe, Higginbottom and Aufiero suggested people call anytime of day or night if they see or hear anything suspicious. One thing people might see are suspicious drug transactions. Higginbottom said that many times drug buyers will meet dealers in culs-de-sac for quick sales that last only a few minutes.

"If you see that, give us a call," he said. Others wanted to know about security systems and dogs and whether they would thwart a would-be burglar.

"They are a deterrent," Higginbottom said. "Do people still kick in the door and leave? Yes. Sometimes they'll grab something and leave."

By the time police arrive, they are gone. In other cases, a dog or an alarm sounding will serve as a deterrent and prompt the perpetrators to depart.

For children who may be home alone, he said, a good thing to do when the doorbell rings or someone knocks at the door is to go to a window, preferably on the second floor, with a phone in

hand, and look outside. If the person sees that someone is home, and that they are on the phone, most of the time they will just leave.

"Why break into that home when I can go down the street and break into another home where nobody's home?" he said, conveying the possible thinking of a potential burglar.

Higginbottom said he was surprised by the turnout for last week's meeting, and in fact had made only 50 copies of a handout offering tips for residents to make their homes safer.

"We weren't expecting this many people," he said after the meeting.

He credited organizers for putting details about the meeting out through Facebook and email.

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# Education

## School dance — Civil War style

### Arts program ends in rousing period fashion

A Civil War arts program came to a spirited end last week at High Plain Elementary School with an old-fashioned barn dance.

Fifth-graders grabbed their partners and spun around the gym demonstrating a variety of barn dances from the era to culminate the Civil War arts dance residency at the school.

The Wood Hill Middle School orchestra supplied some of the music, fiddling with artists-in-residence Dudley and Jacqueline Laufman. The pair of fiddling callers hails from Two Fiddles in New Hampshire.

Handmade period quilts crafted by the students were also on display.

The program was funded by grants from the Andover Coalition for Education and Massachusetts Cultural Council.

■ For more photos and video, visit [www.andovertownsm.com](http://www.andovertownsm.com)



Fifth-graders from High Plain Elementary School perform Civil War-era barn dances during a school-wide assembly last week to culminate an arts program focused on the historical period.

RYAN HUTTON/Staff photos



High Plain fifth-graders tapped their parents and teachers as their dance partners for some Civil War-era dancing at last week's school assembly.



Fifth-graders practiced a circle-type dance learned during their study of the arts from the Civil War era.

### ON CAMPUS

Four students were named to the fall 2013 dean's list at the University of Vermont: **Annette Fey**, an animal sciences major in the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences; **Abigail Granoff**, a middle level education major in the College of Education & Social Services; **Zachary Silberman**, a biological science major in the College of Arts & Sciences; and **Abigail Taylor**, a mechanical engineering major in the College of Engineering & Mathematical Sciences.

**Gregory J. Joyce**, **Lauren Buhner** and **Jessica DeVito** were named to the dean's list for the first semester of the 2013-2014 academic year at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester. Joyce, a senior, and Buhner, a freshman, are both majoring in economics, and DeVito is a senior majoring in French.

**Lindsey Carleton** was named to the fall 2013 dean's list at the University of New England in Maine. A 2010 graduate of Presentation of Mary Academy in Methuen, she is majoring in psychology.

**Julia Savely** was named to the fall 2013 president's list at Elon University in North Carolina.

Three students were named to the fall 2013 dean's list at Wake Forest University in North Carolina: **Seth Bilazarian**, **Glen Martin** and **Peter Shaheen**.

The following local students received honors for the fall 2013 semester at Clemson University in South Carolina: President's list, **Paige Biedewolf**, undeclared; and **Alessandro McLaughlin**, production studies in performing arts; and dean's list: **Kayla Saras**, pre-business.

**Monica Guenard** was named to the dean's list for the fall 2013 semester at Lasell College in Boston. A freshman, she is majoring in fashion design and production.

**Jason A. Swadel** was named to the dean's list for the fall 2013 semester at Saint Michael's College in Vermont. Swadel, a graduate of North Andover High School, is a sophomore majoring in history.

**Sarah Gustus** was named to the dean's list for her first semester at Springfield College. The freshman is pursuing a double major of athletic training and physical therapy.

The following local students were named to the dean's list at the University of Delaware for the fall 2013 semester: **Alexandra Alois**, **Ariana Bishop**, **Nathan Bryant**, **Rebecca Jacobs**, **Rebecca Noymer** and **Rachel Stern**.

### UMASS LOWELL FALL 2013 DEAN'S LIST

The following Andover students were named to the dean's list at UMass Lowell for the fall 2013 semester:

**Business Administration:** Joseph Baglio, Alana Cuneo, Trent Hill, Salmaan Kapadia, Timothy Lyman, Michael Lyons, Clara Hay Wah Mo, Theodore Pantely, Oliver Scarborough, Anna Silva

**English:** Jane Carlton, Frederick Duquet, Evan McCarthy, Christopher McMullen

**Liberal Arts:** Shayna Baglio, Brenton Hyde, Jonathan Shapiro

**Nursing:** Sheryl Garcia,

Caitlin Kane, Kirstin Nusky

**Psychology:** Danielle Meyers, Matthew Norris, Corinne Welsh, Devon White

**Paralegal Studies:** Joshua Dallal

**Criminal Justice:** Adam Devine

**Biology:** Sarah Dhimitri

**Community Health:** Mary Toomey

**Electrical Engineering:** Zachary Pantely

**Civil Engineering:** Eric Hinds

**History:** Bernard Trubowitz

**Political Science:** Andrew Ladd

**Music Business:** Neil Murphy

### UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE FALL 2013 DEAN'S LIST

The following Andover students were named to the dean's list at the University of New Hampshire for the fall 2013 semester:

**Highest Honors**

Tracey Alexander and Jessica Salley

**High Honors**

Adam Carrington, Rebecca

Daniels, Michael Horsman, Emma Kantola, Victoria Kulungian, Teresa Loos, Lisa Salley, Anna Scapicchio and Benjamin Stacy

**Honors**

Amanda Crowley and Marielle Gallant

### MERRIMACK COLLEGE DEAN'S LIST

The following local students were named to the fall 2013 dean's list at Merrimack College in North Andover:

Jessica Braer, Laura Cahill, Joshua Canner, Patrick Dinan, Javaria Hasseeb, James Hoar, David Johnian, Priscilla Khaknejad, Joseph

Lamagna, Breanna Lucci, Molly Lynch, Michaela McIver, Shakee Mes-sina, Michelle Nor-ton, Kathleen Renzi, Joel

Rozen, Katherine Tay-rick Dinan, George Thorlin II, Benjamin Van Doren, Daniel Yaghmoorian and Andrew Zucco

### ST. JOHN'S PREP HONOR ROLL

Several local students earned academic honors for the second quarter at St. John's Preparatory School in Danvers. They are:

**Headmaster's List**  
**Freshmen:** Stephen Kennefick, Cole Sawyer, Andrew Selima

**Sophomores:** Joshua Lang, Gavin Liddell, Francis Straceski

**Principal's List**

**Freshmen:** John Fraser, Kevin Hern, Joshua Hurst, Santiago Jacome

**Junior:** Mateo Jacome

**Seniors:** Sean Nork, Timothy Tully

**Honor Roll**

**Freshmen:** Peter Abbe, Samuel Conte, Ashwin Iyengar, Christopher Kennedy, Ryan Lattanzio

**Sophomores:** Matthew Chiasson, Peter Dankert, William Hartnett, Joshua Katz, Dillon Preston, Joseph Romano

**Juniors:** Andrew Cadigan, Jay Healey, Marcus Pelletier, Anastasio Wallingford

**Seniors:** Taylor Brock-Fisher, Rory Burke, Gregory Kobelski, Conrad Kuin, Cory Lang, Daniel Reilly, Solomon White

## Trophy moment



Courtesy photos

The students and staff of the Developmental Day School at The Professional Center for Child Development in Andover donned their favorite Red Sox jerseys and created a banner to celebrate last week's visit from the 2013 World Series Trophy.

### Child development center scores visit from Red Sox hardware

Students at The Professional Center for Child Development on Osgood Street in Andover were treated to a special guest last week — a visit from the Boston Red Sox's 2013 World Series trophy on its tour through the region.

The Developmental Day School class created a banner that read "Day School ROX Cause They Love The SOX" and the students and staff sorted Red Sox shirts for the occasion.

The preschool students, meanwhile, had a little question-and-answer session with the Boston Red Sox representative leading the tour of the trophy. The curious youngsters wanted to learn everything they could about the coveted award. One of the things they discovered is the trophy weighs 35 pounds, is 24 inches tall and is made of sterling silver.

The Professional Center for Child Development provides therapeutic and educational services for children of all abilities and their families. Through its programming, the center, which has sites in both Andover and Lawrence, strives to eliminate barriers to growth and development for children with disabilities and families coping with health issues and challenges. It also offers a preschool program.



Nate Feld of Andover, a preschool student at The Professional Center for Child Development, poses with the World Series Trophy at the school last week.

# Local

## 'Lone Survivor' screening to honor Phillips alumnus

### Parents of U.S. Navy SEAL killed in action, retired SEALs to attend

Phillips Academy in Andover will honor the memory of alumnus Lt. Commander Erik Kristensen, who was killed in the line of duty in 2005, on Friday, April 25, with a series of events that will include a special screening of the Academy Award-nominated film, "Lone Survivor."

A 1991 graduate of Phillips, Kristensen was serving as a U.S. Navy SEAL when his helicopter was shot down on June 28, 2005, during an ill-fated rescue mission in a mountainous region of the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

Kristensen and his team were attempting to rescue four fellow SEALs trapped in an intense firefight with the Taliban during Operation Redwing.

Three of the four SEALs involved in Operation Redwing were killed that day, as were all personnel aboard Kristensen's helicopter, marking the single largest loss of life in American Navy SEAL history.

The lone survivor of Operation Redwing, Marcus Luttrell, is the author of the book "Lone Survivor," upon which the film is based.

The screening of "Lone Survivor" is the culminating event in a special evening to honor Kristensen and his colleagues.

The evening will begin with a moment of silence ceremony at 5 p.m. at Memorial Place, located next to Phillips' Memorial Bell Tower on Salem Street. A special dinner open to members of the Phillips Academy community will follow at 5:30.

The film screening is set for 6:30 p.m. in Cochran Chapel, 2 Chapel Ave.

Among those planning to participate in the evening are Kristensen's parents, Rear Admiral and Mrs. Edward Kristensen, U.S. Navy (retired); and retired



Courtesy photo

Phillips Academy alumnus Lt. Commander Erik Kristensen's ill-fated rescue mission at the Afghanistan-Pakistan border in 2005 was chronicled in the film, "Lone Survivor," which will be screened on the campus of the Andover private school tomorrow night.

U.S. Navy SEALs Rear Admiral Thomas L. Brown, Robert Mitchell, Ryan Rico and Marcus Rivchin.

The public is invited to attend both the moment of silence and

the film screening. Though both events are free, reservations are requested for planning purposes by emailing Mary Corcoran at mcorcoran@andover.edu.

## Leaf collection, compost site sure signs of spring's arrival

Need an extra incentive to do some yard work? Consider this: For the next five weeks, all the leaves you haul to the curb will be taken away for free.

The town's twice-annual curbside leaf pickup service is now under way.

Through the week of Memorial Day, leaves will be collected at the curb on property owners' regular trash day. Leaves must be placed in open trash barrels or brown paper leaf compost bags weighing 50 pounds or less. They will be collected by a truck separate from the regular household trash truck.

Branches with no foliage bundled together with rope or tape are allowed in the weekly trash pickup, subject to size limitations; no more than three or four bundles or more than 50 branches in total are allowed.

A fall curbside leaf collection extends five weeks before through one week after Thanksgiving, with no collection the week of the holiday.

Meanwhile, the locks on the Bald Hill Compost Site on High Plain Road have come off for another season. The site opened to residents earlier this month and will remain available through November. Annual stickers are \$25.

The site contains rich compost, dubbed by some users as "black gold," for use on lawns and gardens. Up to two barrels can be taken per day. Officials say many lawn and garden shops charge \$35 for comparable compost.

Residents can also drop off their leaves and grass clippings at the site, either dumping them in barrels or disposing of them in paper compost bags available at hardware stores. Yard waste may be deposited at Bald Hill any time during the summer and fall through the end of November. Friendly volunteers monitor the site to guarantee no illegal or commercial dumping occurs.

The site is open 22 hours a week. The operating hours have recently changed; they are Wednesdays and Fridays from noon to 3 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Stickers are available in the Plant & Facilities office at the Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St. Residents must show proof of vehicle registration to obtain a sticker. Stickers may not be transferred and only vehicles registered to Andover residents and that are less than 10,000 pounds of gross vehicle weight are eligible to use the site. For more information, call 978-623-8280.

### TOWN BRIEFS

#### Tackling unwanted invaders with AVIS

The Andover Village Improvement Society, or AVIS, is seeking volunteers to help clear invasive species from Sunset Rock Reservation at the end of Hammond Way, off Porter Road, on Saturday, April 26, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Bittersweet, honeysuckle and multiflora rose have supplanted native species there. Group members say active land management is required to cut and clear the invasives in order to reestablish native vegetation and improve the natural vitality of the preserve. Volunteers will be instructed on invasive species recognition and the

methods used to remove them. For more information, contact project leader Jerry Witt and Dave Doub at 978-828-3498.

#### 'Touring for Trash' time in West Andover

The families of West Parish Church will be "Touring for Trash" throughout West Andover on Sunday, April 27, and are inviting neighbors of the church to join them.

The annual cleanup is always timed to coincide with Earth Day and is designed to be an intergenerational event.

Anyone interested in pitching in should meet the team leaders at the gates of West Parish Garden Cemetery on Reservation

Road at 10:20 a.m. Families with young children will be directed to designated non-traffic areas for trash pick-up. Team leaders will provide trash bags and will have signs indicating routes that are appropriate for adults only.

All children must be accompanied and supervised by a parent. Participants are encouraged to wear green and bring gloves, if available.

Neighbors who pitch in for the trash pick-up are invited to join church members for lunch after the cleanup in Fellowship Hall at the church.

This event honors the goals of Earth Day and celebrates an intentional goal at West Parish Church of acting responsibly as stewards in caring for the Earth that all enjoy.

#### Annual fishing derby casting off Saturday

The Andover Sportsmen's Club is holding its annual Fishing Derby on Saturday, April 26, from 6 a.m. to noon at Sudden Pond in Harold Parker State Forest.

The event is free and open to youths up to age 15. There will be trophies, bait, food and much more at the event, which goes off rain or shine.

Registration starts at 6 a.m. For more information, call Bob Dalton at 978-886-5347 or email mddrmd@hotmail.com.

To submit an item for the Town Briefs, email townsmen@andovertownsmen.com.

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We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Andover, Danvers and surrounding communities for your continued and unwavering support of our family.

These past six months have been increasingly difficult, yet through your love and support, you have helped us through this time of great sorrow and pain. Thank you for your many messages, acts of kindness and generous support of Colleen's scholarship fund.

Tom, Peggie, Dan & Laura Ritzer



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# Brush fires hamper train service, endanger homes

By BILL KIRK

bkirk@andovertownsmen.com

Firefighters had a marathon of their own on Patriots Day, as burning embers flying out of a train car led to a series of fires along the railroad tracks while dry conditions and possibly kids playing in the woods led to a brush fire near homes on Regency Ridge.

At around noon on Monday, five brush fires flared up along the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority tracks near Lowell Junction Road. The fires were caused by old railroad ties that caught fire after being thrown into a "hopper car."

According to fire Chief Mike Mansfield, the railroad ties had been cut by contractors working on a track-widening project. The pieces were thrown into an open railroad car to be hauled away, but then somehow caught fire. As the train was trundling down the tracks, embers flew out of the train car and landed in the tinder-dry woods, igniting a series of fires.

The train headed south and when it was a few hundred yards past the Gillette plant at 30 Burt Road, the engineer saw the smoke and flames coming from the car right behind the engine. "He stopped the train,"



Andover firefighters Eric Teichert, left, and Dave Eulie spray water on hot spots behind 20 Regency Ridge. The town battled several brush fires Monday afternoon, including one near the train tracks that delayed MBTA commuter rail service.



Old railroad ties hauled by this rail car are believed to have started the five brush fires along the tracks in Andover on Monday.

Deputy Chief James Dolan said. He put the engine in reverse and backed the train off the main line and into a spur. By that time, the deputy chief said, five brush fires had started along the tracks. He estimated the fires extended over about three-quarters of a mile.

The fires caused numerous delays in train service Monday afternoon, from 20 to 70 minutes long, according to Scott Farmelant, spokesman for the Massachusetts

Bay Commuter Railroad Co., which runs the trains for the MBTA. At least eight trains, inbound and outbound, were affected, he said.

While Andover firefighters were battling the flames along the commuter line, another brush fire broke out on Regency Ridge. That blaze was unrelated to the fires along the tracks, according to Dolan.

There were no injuries and no significant property damage, Dolan said. The cause of

the fire in the hopper car is not known, the chief said.

One of the fires burned a large area behind a Market Basket warehouse, but firefighters stopped it before it could do any damage, he said.

Firefighters had to dig holes under the tracks so they could bring the hoses to the fires, Dolan said. In one spot, they had to lay 1,400 feet of hose.

While getting at the fires was a challenge, a nearby

pond actually helped the firefighters. Using a flow pump, they drafted water from the pond to pour on the fires.

By 6 p.m., the fires were out. Engines 1 and 2 and a forestry truck from the Andover Fire Department knocked the fires down with assistance from Wilmington and North Reading firefighters. The Lawrence and North Reading fire departments covered the stations while the local crews attacked the fires.

"We had to call two alarms," Mansfield said. In addition to a full shift, an additional 19 off-duty firefighters were called in to fight the fires.

Mansfield said the Regency

Ridge fire was mostly out, but there were some smoldering hot spots that remained Tuesday morning.

He said it's not known what started the Regency Ridge fire, but that it's likely kids, who are on vacation from school this week, were behind it. He said the extremely dry conditions made matters worse.

The Regency Ridge fire was worrisome because it was burning up a hill toward some of the houses, he said. That fire was out by midday Tuesday.

"We were extremely concerned about that," he said.

— Staff writer Paul Tennant contributed to this report.

## TOWN BRIEFS

### Friends Meeting talking citizen activism

The Lawrence-Andover Friends Meeting is hosting a community talk on citizen activism for social justice and sustainability on Saturday, April 26, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Memorial Hall Library, 2 North Main St., Andover.

Steve Chase, a longtime Quaker activist and local community organizer for the global Transition Town Movement, will lead the talk.

Chase is educational director of the environmental studies master's program in advocacy for social justice and sustainability at Antioch University New England in Keene, N.H., and author of "Letters to a Fellow Seeker: A Short Introduction to the

Quaker Way."

The program will be held in the library's second floor meeting room. For more, call 978-319-9517 or visit the Lawrence-Andover Friends (Quakers) Facebook page.

### Optimism reigns for Andover Chroniclers

Diane MacDougall, clinical director of Counseling for Change Associates, talks to the Andover Chroniclers about the role of optimism as a powerful and beneficial approach to life changes in this month's installment of "There's Something About Andover."

For the second half of the program, Marry and Gerald Murphy continue their conversation with Nan James on their experience in Morocco as Peace Corps

volunteers.

"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 on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday at 9 a.m., Friday at 6:30 p.m., and Wednesday and Saturday at 7 p.m. 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). Viewers with comments on content they would like to see should call the group at The Center at Punchard 978-623-8321.

### Diamond jubilee for Foster's Pond Corp.

The Foster's Pond Corporation will commemorate its diamond jubilee with a presentation titled "Rescuing the Pond: Marsh Madness or Mission Possible?" on Tuesday, April 29, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Memorial Hall Library, 2 North Main St.

Aquatic biologist Marc Bellaud, who has monitored the

health of Foster's Pond since 2004, will be the featured speaker. Bellaud is president of Aquatic Control Technology and has assisted the Foster's Pond group in combating invasive weeds and toxic algae for several years.

Founded in 1939 at the urging of Francis Foster, one of Andrew Foster's heirs, the corporation is dedicated to protecting the 120-acre pond, maintaining its 150-year-old dam and promoting public access.

Next week's commemoration will focus on what needs to be done today to preserve the pond for future generations. Admission is free and the public is invited. For more, visit [www.fosterspond.com](http://www.fosterspond.com).

### Sen. Finegold office hours on Friday

Sen. Barry Finegold, D-Andover, and his staff will hold their monthly open office hours on Friday, April 25, 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.; Parker Memorial Library in Dracut, 28 Arlington St., from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.; and Tewksbury Public Library, 300 Chandler St., from 3 to 4 p.m.

## REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

The following real estate transfers were recorded recently in town:

■ **260 Andover St.:** Gwendoline A. and Judith Verplanck to Jeanmarie Feeney, \$360,000

■ **16 County Road:** George C. Stroud to South Andover Dev. LLC, \$250,000

■ **73-75 Main St.:** Evros RT and Paul Dedoglou to Premier Commercial Prop., \$831,000

■ **2 Montego Circle:** Joseph S. and Margaret M. Dangelo to Lindsay Shevelov and Scott Irving, \$729,900

■ **237 North Main St., Unit 3:** 237 North Main St. Unit 3 RT and Karen Balchunas to Juliann A. Cobino, \$150,000

■ **70 Washington Park Drive, Unit 12:** Ling Liu to Lichun Yang and Jianhua Huang, \$125,000

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Photo at AVIS Deer Jump Reservation.  
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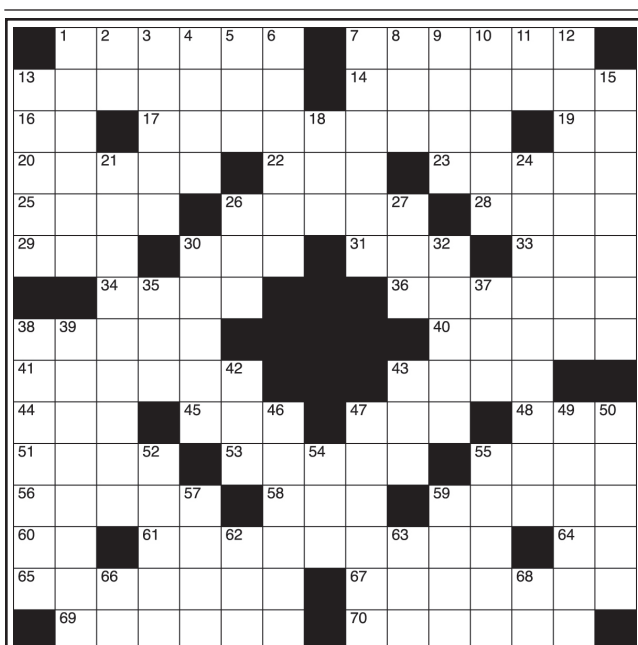
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 <b>Linda Foye</b> Bronze	 <b>Navid Nickpour</b> Bronze	 <b>June Sparks</b> Bronze	 <b>Tom McCarron</b> Bronze
 <b>Madelyn Mitton</b> Bronze	 <b>Joan Pelletier</b> Bronze	 <b>Merit Tukiainen</b> Bronze	 <b>EJ Perdigo</b> Bronze

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**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Alter
- 7. Defects
- 13. Language of Andorra
- 14. One who scrapes
- 16. Not off
- 17. People indigenous to Europe
- 19. Of I
- 20. Hmongs
- 22. Brew
- 23. Sandwich shops
- 25. Shade trees
- 26. Scope or extent
- 28. Self-immolation by fire
- 29. U of Al. fraternity 3-9-1856
- 30. Automatic data processing
- 31. Veterans battleground
- 33. "\_\_\_ Squad"
- 34. Frog genus
- 36. Pillage
- 38. Elsewhere defense

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Folder paper
- 2. Mormon state
- 3. Folded, filled tortillas
- 4. Expression of sorrow
- 5. Follows sigma
- 6. Settle in tents
- 7. Milk paint
- 8. A batter's run
- 9. Little Vienna on the Mures
- 10. Stems
- 11. Country singer Lang
- 12. Half tone interval
- 13. Arrives
- 15. Occupies
- 18. Vestment
- 21. Relating to US artifacts
- 24. One who covers with laminate
- 26. Dental organization
- 27. Pitch
- 30. Like a feeble old woman
- 32. Murdered in his bathtub
- 35. \_\_\_ Dhabi, Arabian capital

*Solution in Classified Section*

- 40. Graphic symbols
- 41. An opaque spot on the cornea
- 43. Capital of Yemen
- 44. Doctors' group
- 45. Electronic countermeasures
- 47. Make lace
- 48. Chit
- 51. Singer Home
- 53. Silent agreement
- 55. Short-billed rail
- 56. Drinking container
- 58. Matchstick game
- 59. Indian dresses
- 60. Trumpeter Hirt
- 61. The View's first segment
- 64. Atomic #34
- 65. Plural of 41 across
- 67. Roof supports
- 69. Tears apart
- 70. Goat-like deities

**Compiled by Susan McKelliget**

**100 Years Ago April 24, 1914**

Shall women vote in Massachusetts? One of the eight reasons cited in the Townsman under the "no" position was, "Because the great advancement of women in this last century — moral, intellectual, economic — has been made without the vote, and her greatest development in the future will be along lines apart from political interests represented by the ballot." One of the eight reasons under the "yes" position was, "Because woman suffrage is no longer a mere theory. Women already have full suffrage in nine states, including the territory of

Alaska, and results show that they exercise the right in the main wisely and to the benefit of the community."

**75 Years Ago April 20, 1939**

Several local citizens, including members of the police force, the "Dawn Patrol" and various "feather merchants" of the town, were placed on the carpet at Memorial Auditorium last Friday night with the Men's Club, dressed in minstrel show garb, shuffling all over the stage. Even the Townsman was the recipient of a few calumnious remarks, but we all have to have our dog days.

Even when the weather is not so fair, it's worth the extra steps to Bob's Bakery on Main Street, near the corner of Punchard Avenue. You'll

especially like the applesauce cupcakes or the lemon drops that melt in your mouth.

**50 Years Ago April 23, 1964**

One of the rarest opportunities in a lifetime happened to 11-year-old Bobby Elder on Tuesday afternoon. He watched a meteorite land in his backyard on Lovejoy Road — and salvaged its remains. The tennis ball-sized object approached from the northwest, glowing from the heat of its entry into the atmosphere. Bobby pried it loose from the indentation it made in the ground and dropped it into water, where it fizzled until it finally cooled off.

According to an artist sketch, Doherty Insurance Co. and Realty Agency will build and occupy a new office building on the

company-owned lot in front of the telephone company building on Elm Street next to Free Church. The structure should be ready for occupancy by fall.

**25 Years Ago April 27, 1989**

The Planning Board will vote May 9 on a proposed 73-lot subdivision in the Ballardvale section of town. The preliminary plans submitted by Wyncrest Development Corporation were scrutinized carefully by abutters, who filled the Town Hall meeting room Tuesday night.

Hoping to land permission to build a heliport for shuttling company executives between West Andover and New York City, a local business will ask the Zoning Board of Appeals for a special permit on May 4.

**Top chefs**



COURTESY PHOTO

**Michael Ciuffetti, right, executive chef at Atria Marland Place senior living community in Andover, and his team member, Jesse Aguiar, participated in the annual Boston Classic culinary competition recently hosted by the Epicurean Club of Boston at Boston University. They were among 11 chefs competing for medals in several culinary categories. Aguiar and Ciuffetti both received bronze medals for their entrees. Founded in 1894, the Epicurean Club of Boston is the oldest organization of professional chefs in the country.**

**WHAT'S HAPPENING: CENTER AT PUNCHARD**

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

**North and South: Why the Civil War Happened:** Thursdays, through May 1, 2 to 3:30 p.m. Don Robb highlights the split between North and South, linking national events with incidents in Andover.

**Hands-on Paperwork Organizing:** Monday, April 28, 2 to 3 p.m. Professional organizer Susan Waiko leads a new monthly class on paper-organizing skills and how to keep up. Bring a pile of papers that need attention; \$6.

**Basic Digital Photography:** Mondays, April 28 and May 5, 1:30 to 3 p.m. Professional photographer Jack Holmes discusses exposure, composition and loading images for viewing, printing and editing. Participants should bring their charged cameras and the manuals. Class size limited; \$8.

**Tech Talk – iPad 101:** Tuesday, April 29, 1:30 p.m. Get going with your iPad and learn how to set up the camera, play games and other tools. Bring charged iPad; enrollment limited to eight; \$3.

**Hill-Stead Mansion & Garden Tour:** Thursday, May 1, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tour 19 period rooms filled with art and antiques exhibited in Farmington, Conn. Lunch at Rein's Deli follows the garden tour; \$59, includes guided tour, morning snack and lunch.

**Healthy Eating – Nutrition and Osteoporosis:** Friday, May 2, 9:30 a.m. Osteoporosis is a debilitating disease. Understanding the risks, prevention and treatment can help individuals continue to live independently in their golden years. A healthy breakfast will be provided.

**Celebrate Spring:** Friday, May 2 at 1:30 p.m. Celebrate the season by making and enjoying your own ice cream sundae with friends; free, reservation required.

**Let's Talk Antiques:** Thursday, May 8, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Ron Wackowski, licensed auctioneer and certified appraiser, will offer his assessment, including history and value, of attendees' antiques. The fundraiser for the Andover Senior Community Friends is open to the first 40 registrants, who will be allowed one small antique each. Fee: \$15 for antique appraisal, \$5 to observe only.

**Men's Breakfast – The Dungere Army in World War II:** Friday, May 9, 8:30 a.m. World War II veteran Jake Collins will thrill with stories from his tour in the South Pacific and the 27 months he spent on a 212-foot gasoline tanker defending airstrips throughout the Pacific, followed by a one-hour movie detailing Collins' experiences; \$4.

All events are open to the community. However, space is limited and registration is required. Visit [www.andoverseniorcenter.org](http://www.andoverseniorcenter.org) or call 978-623-8321 for more information.



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# Opinion

## Reclaiming the marathon from terror's grip

Monday's running of the Boston Marathon was a celebration of the American spirit, a statement of defiance directed at those who wish us ill. The marathon has always been connected with Patriots Day, the holiday that marks the Battle of Lexington and Concord and the birth of our nation. Rarely has the connection been so strongly felt as this year.

Runners, organizers and spectators alike were determined to reclaim the race from the specter of terrorism that marred last year's marathon. The goal was achieved in spectacular fashion.

Perhaps no contrast could be greater than that between this year's men's race winner, the triumphantly American Meb Keflezighi, and the wretched Tsarnaev brothers, accused of planting the bombs that killed three and injured 260 last year. Both the Keflezighi and Tsarnaev families came to the United States from war-torn nations, the former from Eritrea, the latter from Chechnya. The Keflezighi family moved to San Diego when Meb was 12. He went on to a career as a track star at UCLA and won a silver medal at the 2004 Olympics. After the Tsarnaevs moved to Cambridge, brothers Tamerlan and Dzhokhar embraced radical Muslim politics and nurtured a seething hatred of the country that welcomed them.

Keflezighi was injured and unable to race in last year's Boston Marathon. He was a spectator on the sidelines when the Tsarnaevs' bombs exploded. As he recalled for the press after the race, thoughts of the victims and the determination to be "Boston Strong" kept him going as he tired. Written on his racer's bib were the names of the four victims of last year's terror: Martin Richard, Lingzi Lu, Krystle Campbell and Sean Collier, the MIT police officer killed by the Tsarnaevs three days later.

Keflezighi indeed proved to be "Boston Strong." He became the first American to win the race since 1983 and at 38 is the oldest men's winner since 1931.

There were other inspiring stories from the race.

Marblehead's Shalane Flanagan led the women's field for much of the race before falling back in the Newton hills. She finished seventh as Kenya's Rita Jeptoo claimed the women's title.

The elite runners are only part of the story. The ordinary runners totaled more than 35,000, the second-largest field in Boston Marathon history. Among them were many who had been unable to complete last year's race as the bombs turned the finish line ahead of them into chaos.

Jeff Glasbrenner told the Associated Press he returned to Boston for some "unfinished business." Glasbrenner had been forced to stop at mile 25.9 last year following the bombing.

"I felt like those two bad guys stopped a lot of people from going after their dreams. I needed to come back," said Glasbrenner, 41, who runs with a prosthetic right leg after losing part of his leg in a childhood farming accident.

Also crossing the finish line were some of those injured in last year's attack.

Lee Ann Yanni, whose left leg was badly injured in the bombing, said she could feel the energy of the crowd pushing her to the finish.

"It was really emotional crossing the finish line," she told the Associated Press. "We got our finish line back. That's all that mattered."

Security at the race was heavy, with cameras and police everywhere. It was an unfortunate but necessary measure that was, for the most part, unobtrusive.

Thanks to the efforts of runners, organizers and spectators alike, the Boston Marathon is back where it belongs — out of the hands of terrorists and solidly in the hearts of the people of New England.

*Meb Keflezighi was injured and unable to race in last year's Boston Marathon. He was a spectator on the sidelines when the Tsarnaevs' bombs exploded. As he recalled for the press after the race, thoughts of the victims and the determination to be "Boston Strong" kept him going as he tired.*

## GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER WALK



AMY SWEENEY/Staff photo

Dario Tagliaferri, 14, carries the cross as he leads the way with his father, David, right, during the first part of the annual Good Friday Prayer Walk in Andover last week. A few hundred people gathered for the 2-mile walk that involved stops at eight sites for prayer and song.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Affordable Care Act will transform health care

Editor, Townsman:

It's a fair bet to say that the Affordable Care Act is here to stay. Many say that it is an intrusion on their privacy, an abridgment of personal freedom and maybe even unconstitutional. There is no doubt that the rollout of the federal health exchange was an absolute disaster.

However, despite the fear mongering, misinformation and political posturing, millions of Americans have signed up on the federal and state health insurance exchanges.

So why the optimism? Because things are getting better. As a model for the ACA, the Massachusetts Health Care Exchange has been operating well for several years. Pre-existing conditions and annual and lifetime health insurance limits are gone. Access to Medicaid has been expanded for low-income families, federal subsidies are available for many new health insurance subscribers and new ways of bundling medical costs through accountable-care organizations are beginning to take hold.

The Affordable Care Act, or an amended version of it, will transform the American health-care system over the long term. The health-care system is extremely complex and will require several years to change how doctors are trained and paid, where we receive health care and how costs for hospitalization, pharmaceuticals and medical equipment will be reduced. It's a fair bet that as this transformation proceeds, changes in how the ACA manages health care will be needed.

The health-care industry makes up almost \$2 trillion, about 18 percent of the U.S. economy. According to several published sources, the annual rate at which health-care costs increases currently

### LETTERS POLICY

The Townsman accepts letters to the editor from the community. Letters should be typed, no longer than 350 words and must include writer's name, address and phone number (numbers will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters for length, clarity and style. Deadline is Monday at 9 a.m. for the next edition.

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E-mail: townsmen@andovertownsmen.com. Please include the letter in the body of the e-mail, not as an attachment.

exceeds the annual rate of growth of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product. That means that every year, fewer dollars are available for other important investments like education, job creation and highways. This crowding out of worthwhile future investment is unsustainable.

Medical industry experts have identified several ideas for how to reduce the annual rate of growth of health-care costs to equal the GDP and benefit the economy.

They suggest creating and standardizing an electronic health records system that all stakeholders in the health-care industry can use. Doctors, nurses, hospitals, pharmacists and other health-care professionals will be able to easily communicate and compare notes about a patient; the cost of filling out and managing mountains of paperwork will be significantly reduced and administrative mistakes in medical reporting will be drastically diminished.

Creating an independent payment advisory board will identify ways to reduce medical costs under the Medicare program. Promoting accountable-care organizations comprised of teams of health-care professionals will help increase medical care efficiency by focusing on the health of each individual, with the sharing of lab tests, for example,

improving the quality of care and reducing the need for re-hospitalization. If health insurance subscribers can bypass insurance companies at the exchanges and pay directly to accountable-care organizations — those who actually dispense health care — then there is a good chance that overhead costs in America's health-care budget can be reduced.

The transformation of the health-care industry in America will be a long-term effort. If members of Congress can learn to work together, they can make the health-care industry less expensive and more efficient. They will have achieved greatness by improving the lives of all Americans.

JOHN F. ZIPETO  
14 Canterbury St.

### Grateful for AFE Spelling Bee support

Editor, Townsman:

The champions this year were the Andover High School team, but, in fact, the whole community wins. The Andover Fund for Education Community Spelling Bee funds grants that enable classroom innovation and enrichment in every school discipline, ranging from the flying helicopters engineered by Dan Miley's middle school class to the high school Shakespeare & Company residency program to speed cup stacking at the elementary schools.

Spirited students, dedicated teachers and principals, selectmen and School Committee members, Superintendent Marinell McGrath, Memorial Hall Library, AVIS, Challenge Unlimited, the Rotary and Kiwanis clubs, Andover Youth Council, the League of Women Voters, Atria Marland Place, Whole Foods, Orange Leaf ... the AFE Community Spelling Bee brought out great community support from all corners for education in our classrooms.

Many thanks to the

tireless work of AFE members past and present, and to the many, many participants in this great annual evening of fun and friendly competition.

JOAN COHEN  
President

Andover Fund for Education

### RISE telethon embodied spirit of youth center

Editor, Townsman:

We would like to thank this opportunity to thank the community at large for their support of the RISE telethon, which was held on April 3 and 4. In excess of \$93,000 was raised over the two nights and all proceeds will go toward the Cormier Youth Center building project, which will have its official groundbreaking in May 2014.

We are, obviously, thrilled with the amount of money raised but more importantly, the RISE telethon was a symbol of community spirit and collaboration. From the senior citizens and young people who performed, our wonderful "celebrity hosts," the alumni who sent donations, the countless people doing all the background work, the businesses and individuals who made donations, as well as the volunteers and town officials who manned the phones, it was a wonderful illustration of what people can do when they come together. This is what the youth center project has always been about; bringing people from all parts of the community together to enjoy each other and do great things.

Thanks to everyone involved in the RISE telethon big and small. You truly embodied the spirit of the drive for the Cormier Youth Center. And, as we said that night, together we RISE.

DIANE COSTAGLIOLA  
Chairwoman, Andover Youth Foundation  
BILL FAHEY  
Director, Andover Youth Services

## WEB QUESTION

### THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Editor's Note: Due to a technical glitch that delayed the posting of last week's web question, we are continuing voting for one more week.

Should the town fund a social worker at Andover Youth Services to help families struggling with heroin and other opiate addiction issues?

**YES.** It's an issue that's too important to ignore.

**YES.** AYS is underfunded and needs extra staffing anyway.

**NO.** Heroin and opiate addiction are not that big of a deal.

**NO.** The town needs to save money and stop hiring people.

## 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

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Colleen Ritzer's influence will be felt all along the route of next month's memorial walk/run through Andover.



The logo designed by Faith Smith for the inaugural Step Up for Colleen 5K seeks to encapsulate Colleen Ritzer and the legacy she left behind.

Courtesy photos

# Healing steps for Colleen

By **SONYA VARTABEDIAN**  
Editor

## Benefit 5K walk/run looks beyond tragedy to celebrate Ritzer's spirit

Six months after Colleen Ritzer's murder, the pain of her loss remains raw for many.

The sorrow is still felt every day in the halls of Danvers High School, where students and staff don pink on Wednesdays in memory of the young math teacher.

It exists on the campus of Assumption College in Worcester, where a tree will be soon be dedicated as a lasting tribute to the alumnae who left her mark there.

And it runs all through her hometown of Andover — from the sanctuary of St. Augustine Church to the classrooms of Andover High and especially over to Dascomb Road where a void that can not be filled has been left in her family.

But over the next 10

days, it is hoped the sorrow gives way to some healing in honor of the cherished woman from Andover killed last October whose legacy remains with all those she touched.

Thousands are expected to gather as two memorial events — timed one week apart and within days of Ritzer's 25th birthday — take their inaugural steps.

This Sunday, the alumni of Assumption College, where Ritzer earned her undergraduate degree in 2011 on the road to becoming a teacher, are leading a Ritzer Remembrance Walk on campus. The money raised will support an annual endowed scholarship recognizing two of Ritzer's passions — teaching and math.



An outpouring of love and support followed the 24-year-old teacher's tragic death last October.

FILE PHOTO

The morning will begin with a Mass in the college's chapel, followed by the dedication of a tree in Ritzer's memory adjacent to Kennedy Memorial Hall, where

the math major with a concentration in secondary education and a minor in psychology attended many of her classes.

The following Sunday,

May 4, the attention turns to Andover, where more than 4,000 people are expected to meet at The Park at Bartlet and Chestnut streets for the Step Up for Colleen 5K Walk/Run. The benefit to support charitable activities honoring Ritzer's legacy is being presented with the backing and assistance of her immediate family.

Organizers, led by family friend Nina Caron, say they have created the walk/run "as a way to celebrate Colleen's life and her commitment to help and inspire others."

They say they hope to promote a sense of community and overall goodwill as people of all ages come together to remember Ritzer and the values by which she lived.

"Colleen was such a giving person, and cared so much about other people," says Caron, a competitive runner from North Andover whose daughter was one of Ritzer's closest friends. "We need more of that in the world."

Busloads of people are expected from Danvers, Amesbury and elsewhere. Teams from all corners of Ritzer's life are forming. A group is in place at Sanborn Elementary School, which Ritzer attended as a girl. Students and colleagues from Danvers High, where Ritzer taught and was found murdered, are expected to be well represented. A Girl Scout troop is among the

See **RITZER**, Page 14

### LAWRENCE BAR ASSOCIATION LAW STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Lawrence Bar Association is now accepting applications for its annual scholarship program for the year 2014. This year there are two scholarships available: (1) \$5,000 provided by the Sargent Battershill Fund and, (2) \$4,000 provided by the Lawrence Bar Association Educational Trust. Scholarships will be awarded based on academic merit and financial need. Scholarships are available to law students from **ANDOVER, LAWRENCE, METHUEN** and **NORTH ANDOVER**. Students must be currently attending law school.



**Application Deadline: June 1, 2014**

The application may be obtained at our website [www.lawrencebar.org](http://www.lawrencebar.org)  
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**A LEGACY PASSED DOWN FROM GRANDMA BEV**

After Colleen Ritzer organized a family team in 2010 to participate for the first time in the American Heart Association Heart Walk in Vermont following the death of her grandmother, she wrote an article expressing her praise for the support her relatives received for the event. The piece, which also thanked the team's donors, was published in the Northfield News in Northfield, Vt., where her grandmother lived.

Looking back on the words Ritzer used to describe her grandmother, Aunt Susan Craig says she was struck by how closely they matched the attributes her niece had also come to live by.

Craig says the article Colleen Ritzer penned about her grandmother could have very easily been written about her niece as well.

"All of Colleen's words could be used in describing both she and her grandmother," Craig says.

Craig and her daughter, Jacqueline, say her family will now look to her niece's own words to remember her by — as well as to provide them strength and inspiration on May 4 as they set out for the inaugural Step Up for Colleen 5K.

Here are some excerpts from Colleen Ritzer's tribute to her grandmother published on July 8, 2010, along with a photo of her and family at the walk as the Footsteps for Bev team:

"In April of 2009, our family's hearts were shattered by the sudden loss of our mother and grandmother, Beverly Ritzer.

"Today, we continue to live in her light and keep



Courtesy photo

The inaugural Footsteps for Bev team organized in 2010 by Colleen Ritzer, first row, second from right, to participate in a Heart Walk in Vermont in remembrance of her grandmother, includes, first row, from left, cousins Mary Yacavoni, Molly Yacavoni, Eric Craig and Jackie Craig, sister Laura Ritzer, Colleen Ritzer and brother Dan Ritzer; second row, from left, aunt Kathy (Ritzer) Yacavoni, father Tom Ritzer, mother Peggie Ritzer, uncle David Ritzer, aunt Penny Ritzer and uncle John Craig; and third row, from left, uncle John Yacavoni, aunt Susan Craig, aunt Patty (Ritzer) Gordon, cousin-in-law Deirdra Ritzer, cousin Andy Ritzer and family friend Danielle Kelty. Not pictured, Samantha Ritzer, Matthew Ritzer and Wayne Gordon.

her alive more than ever through the laughs and smiles that come from telling stories and memories. However, there will always be the irreplaceable gap in our hearts.

"Grandma Bev was a woman that lived her life for others. It made her day to help other people; to volunteer at the nursing home, or during services at church, and several other activities that she spent her life partaking in. She never had anything bad to say about anyone, and, if she did, she sure did a good job at biting her tongue! Her heart was too big for words to ever be capable of describing,

and those who were fortunate enough to meet her and spend time with her were certainly blessed and touched by her presence. ... She gleamed with happiness at any and every family occasion. ...

"Sadly, we were not able to give back to Grandma Bev the way we would have liked to while she was physically still here with us. So, as a small way of giving back, even though we know we could never measure up to all that she gave and did for us, our family took part in the American Heart Association's Heart Walk at the University of Vermont. We walked as a team,

called Footsteps for Bev, and together we raised over \$3,000 ....

"We are touched to know how many lives Grandma Bev impacted, but it is important to remember that the entire community of Northfield impacted hers as well. Our family would like to extend our deepest gratitude for the support we have received in helping to keep our mother and grandmother, Bev's, spirit alive."

Craig says the Footsteps for Bev team will proudly continue participating in the American Heart Association Heart Walk in Vermont every year, carrying on her niece's heartfelt tradition.

**RITZER: Thousands expected to gather at two memorial events**

Continued from Page 13

many readying matching Team Colleen shirts. That response is not lost on Ritzer's relatives.

It was the spring of 2010 — one year after Ritzer's beloved grandmother succumbed to heart disease — that she gathered her parents, siblings, aunts, uncles and cousins together for the American Heart Association's Heart Walk in Vermont, where grandma Beverly Ritzer had spent much of her life.

Together, they formed Footsteps for Bev and donned matching blue T-shirts with pink hearts adorning the chest and completed the course as a family. The walk became an annual event for the family, and, with Colleen Ritzer leading the way, the team raised nearly \$10,000 over the past four years in honor of Grandma Bev.

Susan Craig, one of Ritzer's aunts, and her cousin, Jacqueline Craig, never imagined her family would now be pulling together to honor the memory of Colleen Ritzer in a similar fashion.

"Colleen adored spending time with her family, attending all family gatherings and parties no matter the location or occasion, as long as it meant spending time together," Susan and Jacqueline Craig say in a submission of memories of

their niece and cousin. "She was such an inspiration to all of us and always put the needs of others before her own ... always the first to reach out offering encouragement or praise to everyone."

With that in mind, organizers of the Step Up for Colleen 5K and the Remembrance Walk at Assumption will detour from the painful events that occurred on Oct. 22, 2013 — events for which one of Ritzer's now 15-year-old students stands accused.

Ritzer's murder — carried out while she was doing what she loved most, teaching math at Danvers High School — will undoubtedly command attention in the courtroom as Philip Chism's case heads to trial in the months ahead.

For the two upcoming events, family and friends hope people pull together around the goal of remembering the good that came out of Ritzer's short life and the inspiration she continues to provide to many.

Susan and Jacqueline Craig say that will especially be the intent as about 30 members of Ritzer's family come to Andover on May 4 to Step Up for Colleen.

"This is such a fitting and meaningful event to celebrate her spirit through smiles, tears and memories," they say.

**Turning the town pink for Colleen**

Pink will be the color of the day on Sunday, May 4 as the family, friends, colleagues and classmates of the late Colleen Ritzer take to the streets of Andover for the first Step Up for Colleen 5K.

The looped course begins at 9 a.m. from The Park at

the corner of Chestnut and Bartlet streets in downtown Andover and winds through the Phillips Academy bird sanctuary. The race will conclude at the nearby Center at Punchard (formerly known as the Andover Senior Center) at 30 Whittier Court.

The race is geared for both runners and walkers, with everyone encouraged to wear pink, Ritzer's favorite color, or other displays of tribute to the young teacher.

Bill Pennington of Andover, the co-organizer of the annually successful Run for the Troops in town, is helping with Step Up for Colleen race logistics. He is preparing for an overwhelming turnout, with registrations expected to surge now with the conclusion of the Boston Marathon.

Registration for both the walk and run is \$25 in advance, and online registration continues until Friday, May 2, at noon. Race-day registration at Doherty Middle School on Bartlet Street is \$30. T-shirts are guaranteed to the first 2,000 registrants.

Race packet pick-up will take place Friday and Saturday, May 2 and 3, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Greater Boston Running Company, 45 Main St. in downtown Andover. Packets may also be picked up the morning of the race starting at 7.

Prizes will be awarded to the top male and female



Colleen Ritzer was known for tweeting inspirational sayings, including this one that loved ones say describes how she lived her life.

finishers overall and in the following categories: Under 12, 13 to 19, 20 to 29, 30 to 39, 40 to 49, 50 to 59, 60 to 69 and 70-plus.

Due to the high number of entrants expected, race organizers together with North Shore Timing Company have decided to only time runners who wish to receive a time and appear in the results. They said the decision will help keep down some of the timing cost and instead place more emphasis on raising money for a memorial fund. Runners who wish to be officially timed are asked to indicate that with their registrations.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Step Up for Colleen Fund, which supports charitable activities that honor the legacy of



A scholarship fund established in Colleen Ritzer's memory aims to carry on her passion for teaching.

award its first scholarships this spring to graduating seniors from Andover and Danvers high schools who demonstrate a passion for teaching, academic excellence and love of family.

Those unable to participate are invited to make a donation to support the fund

To register for or donate to Step Up for Colleen, visit <http://colleenritzer5k.com> or [www.northshoretimingonline.com/reglivecb.aspx?eventyear\\_id=146](http://www.northshoretimingonline.com/reglivecb.aspx?eventyear_id=146). More information is also available at the event Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/StepUpforColleenRitzer](http://www.facebook.com/StepUpforColleenRitzer).

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by Nicholas T. Papapetros, DMD, FAGD

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Colleen Ritzer, pictured at various times in her life, including after her graduation from Assumption College, top left; as flower girl at the wedding of her preschool teacher, Laura Fogarty, top right; and with brother, Dan, and sister, Laura, bottom right, is remembered for her love of family, her caring ways and her zeal for life.

# 'She knew how to lift spirits'

By JUDY WAKEFIELD  
jwakefield@andovertownsmen.com

She was supposed to be turning 25 years old on May 13 and most likely celebrating by hanging out with her BFF (best friend forever) to giggle about that cute guy in her singing group whom she was too shy to ask out on a date.

Colleen Ritzer was a bit old-fashioned about dating and she was solidly old-fashioned about friendships as she was loyal and committed.

That's what Ritzer's best friend, Jennifer Berger of Andover, misses the most as she along with others continues to mourn her best friend's tragic death last fall.

Berger said "Colleen the teacher" seems to garner the most attention in tributes, but the pretty brunette with a great smile, who taught eighth grade in Stow for a year before getting the job in Danvers High School, was so much more.

"The people who mattered most to her really mattered, like her friends and family," Berger said. "Her birthday is near Mother's Day and we always worked around that for her birthday celebration ... she really loved her mom and her whole family."

She also cherished her friends.

"She loved to write and would always text me inspirational messages during my busy tax season," said Berger, a certified public accountant who works at Price Waterhouse. "... She just knew how to lift my spirits. I miss that."

The two girls met in kindergarten at Sanborn Elementary School and were in the same class every year there except for fourth grade. Together, they went on to West Middle School, then Andover High School, both graduating in 2007.

That's when their educational lives parted — with Ritzer heading off to Assumption College in Worcester and Berger settling in at Bentley College in

Waltham. But their friendship endured.

"Colleen had a car so she would come to Bentley and we always had fun," Berger said.

There's a lot Berger misses about her best friend — including their girls nights when they just hung out, laughing and eating junk food. She said the two knew each other so well that finishing each other's sentences happened a lot because each always knew what the other was thinking.

"I miss our long walks, because Colleen was a great listener, the best listener I have ever known, and she never judged," Berger said. "I could tell her anything and get it all out."

Berger said she has no plans to attend the trial of now 15-year-old Philip Chism who is charged with the murder of Ritzer, his math teacher, at Danvers High School. But she has her opinions of the case.

"I trust the justice system. ... I know he's just a kid, but, yes, he should be tried as an adult. He chose to do what he did and he could have chose not to do it," she said.

But Berger said she prefers to focus on the positives in the aftermath of the horrible tragedy. She said the Step Up for Colleen memorial 5K honoring Ritzer on May 4 is a great example of how people are remembering her best friend.

"It's so great to see the support," she said. "It's another reminder of Colleen and I hope she is always remembered."

The night before Step Up for Colleen, Berger said a group of Ritzer's friends will meet up and most likely have dinner in Newburyport, as Ritzer enjoyed that seaside city. She imagines they will laugh and cry a lot as they share stories of their friend and her life that ended much too early.

A sad reason to gather, for sure. But the group will work hard to stay positive as Ritzer would want that, Berger said.

## Tributes to Colleen

Colleen, thanks for all of the advice, the good times and for inspiring me to strive to become the best person I can be. Oh, and for introducing me to yoga pants ... now I get it! Love you.

**MEREDITH "MERRY" DAVIDSON**  
Childhood friend

Ms. Ritzer is a very special person to me. She was my geometry teacher last year. She taught me so much — school related and about life in general. I have never met anyone as happy as she was every single day. Walking into her class brightened my whole day because of how upbeat and eager to teach she was. Her love for turtles and the color pink was always a discussion at hand, as well as her sticker collection. On every test/quiz we got back, she would add a sticker to it. Little things like that showed how much she loved her job and being our teacher.

I was able to go to Ms. Ritzer with any problem I

was having, and she always helped. She would always show me the positive side of things and often reminded me, "Every day may not be good, but there is something good in every day." I was and still am truly inspired by her and I feel so grateful that I was fortunate to have her as a teacher"

**LAURA VOISINE**  
Danvers High School junior

I was fortunate enough to have Ms. Ritzer my first day of high school as my home-room teacher/adviser. ... When I knew it was time for home room, I would always become so excited because of the fact I was going to have home room with her. It was such an enjoyable time that I cherish even more today.

Ms. Ritzer to me was a role model. She taught me to be strong during difficult times and stay positive. She also taught me how to be a better student and, more importantly, a better person. She was the nicest woman I've ever met and not a day

goes by where I don't think about her. I miss her with all my heart and feel we all need to live on her legacy. The 5K is one of the many ways we can support her and everything she has done. I'm honored to have had the chance to know her, not only as a teacher, but as a role model.

**MIKE PLANSKY**  
Danvers High sophomore

In high school, you have some bad days, some stressful days, and of course the "I need to go home and sleep" days. However, I was lucky enough to have a teacher that helped me get through any type of day that came. Ms. Ritzer encouraged me, believed in me and always turned any day into a better day. I will never forget all of Ms. Ritzer's encouraging words and her amazing smile to push me through the tough days that may come in the future.

**MOLLY STERNS**  
Danvers High School

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# Townspeople

## INSIDER'S PERSPECTIVE

### Local officials share careers for Youth in Town Government Day

The Andover/North Andover League of Women Voters teamed with Andover High School and town officials to present its third annual Youth in Town Government Day last week.

Students got the chance to step into the shoes of the police chief, town clerk, town manager, public health director and others for the day and see what their jobs entailed.

As they shadowed the town leaders, the high-schoolers also had the opportunity to inform them about the issues they feel are important to both their lives and those of the youths of the community.

The day began with a get-acquainted session at Memorial Hall Library featuring icebreaker exercises provided by Andover Youth Services. Then it was off to spend a couple hours with their respective town officials as they went about their business.

Following lunch, Town Moderator Sheila Doherty led the group in a discussion regarding Town Meeting that included a question-and-answer session.

The pairings for the day were:

- Police Chief Patrick Keefe: Brianna Atwood and Joe Vano
- Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Connors: Courtney Comeau
- Town Clerk Larry Murphy: Zach Perry
- Library Director Beth Mazin: Michaela McMullen
- Youth Services Director Bill Fahey: Kyle Curtis and Meagan Levanthal
- Planning Director Paul Materazzo: Amy Bolten
- Public Health Director Tom Carbone: Leila Aruri
- Assistant Finance Director/Town Accountant Theo Moccia: Jack Cox
- Community Services Director Kim Stamas: Madison Tassanari
- Human Resources Director Candace Hall: Beth Manson
- Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski: Connor Batsimm

Molly Foley coordinated the April 16 event for the League of Women Voters, while Mary Robb was instrumental in identifying the students for participation and securing the appropriate approval forms. Sandy Casano helped to arrange the food and oversaw communication with the department heads.

Andover Youth Services provided the transportation to and from the high school. In addition to Fahey, the team from Andover Youth Services included Glenn Wilson, Tony Lombardi, Kyle Lightner and Neal Callahan.



ABOVE LEFT: Connor Batsimm, a senior at Andover High School, talks with Community Services Director Kim Stamas before spending a couple hours with Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski, who he was assigned to shadow during last week's Youth in Town Government Day. ABOVE RIGHT: Beth Manson, one of thirteen Andover High School students who spent the day shadowing different government officials, told Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski a little bit about herself during the morning introductions.



Andover High School juniors and seniors chosen for last week's Youth in Town Government Day started the morning by participating in some icebreaker exercises aimed at getting to better know each other and the town officials they would be shadowing.

## A salute to distinguished community service

### Andover Chamber to recognize efforts of 3 honorees

The Andover Chamber of Commerce will honor two community organizations and a retiring longtime civic leader this spring when it holds its 2014 Community Service Awards Ceremony and Breakfast. The event is set for Thursday, June 5, from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at Indian Ridge Country Club in Andover.

This year's distinguished community service honorees are the Andover/North Andover YMCA, represented by president and CEO Stephen Ives; Mary Montbleau, the longtime director of Andover's Department of Community Services; and Andover Youth Services, represented by director Bill Fahey.

"This year's recipients have contributed in many important ways to the civic well-being of Andover and surrounding communities. These two wonderful organizations and Mary Montbleau have all helped make

our community special, and they are all most worthy and deserving of this award," the event organizers say in a release.

Chamber leaders say the honorees are being recognized for the following achievements:

■ **The Andover/North Andover YMCA** has been in its present location on Haverhill Street since the early 1970s, and currently has more than 8,000 members. The organization's diverse offerings for young and old alike include health, fitness and wellness programs, such as swimming lessons and competitive swimming programs; youth development programs in dance, gymnastics, summer programs and camps, and youth basketball; educational programs in preschool and school-age care; and a STEM collaborative program with Merrimack College in North Andover. Cultural awareness,

social entrepreneurship and innovation are hallmarks of other programs.

The future of the local branch looks bright with last month's ground-breaking for a 50,000-square-foot expansion. Highlights of the project will include expanded fitness and wellness facilities, more pool and aquatics space, a new locker room, and an active science learning center. A portion of the new space will be occupied by Lawrence General Hospital, to provide pediatric care, physical therapy and rehabilitation programs.

■ **Mary Montbleau** served the town with distinction as its director of community services for 18 years before retiring earlier this year. Her accomplishments are many. With an eye for detail and personal touch, she succeeded in making the Department of Community Services a valuable resource for the

entire town, vigorously moving it into the world of technology. The result was that parents could more easily register their children for programs and pay for them online as well.

DCS' programming has vastly expanded through the years to serve a broader audience, with classes in Chinese language, Indian cooking and more. Inter-generational programs and activities are far more common than in the past as well. Montbleau believes more extensive community communication is one of the greatest single results of the growth of DCS programs and services.

■ **Andover Youth Services** has grown to be the leader in positive youth development throughout the Merrimack Valley since its launch in 1994 when the town used a \$15,000 smoking cessation grant as seed money to hire director Bill Fahey. In 20 years, the

#### COMMUNITY SERVICE HONOREES



Stephen Ives



Mary Montbleau



Bill Fahey

Youth Services Department has gone on to serve young people in every capacity imaginable, reaching more than 7,000 participants a year today.

AYS has developed among other things, service projects, outreach and development programs, educational opportunities, mentoring programs and emotional support services for local youths. It has initiated hundreds of summer programs, dozens of town-wide social discussions, new high school

varsity sports, including boys and girls lacrosse, wrestling and Ultimate Frisbee; a financially self-sufficient skate park program and the highly anticipated Cormier Youth Center, which is breaking ground this spring.

Tickets for the Andover Chamber's annual Community Service Awards Ceremony and Breakfast are \$25 and available by contacting the offices of the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce at 978-686-0900.



Louis Coiro of Andover was honored by UMass Lowell at its University Alumni Awards last week. The 1982 graduate of the university owns Tewksbury Physical Therapy and Drum Hill Physical and Sports Therapy in Chelmsford.

## Local man wins UMass Lowell Alumni Award

An Andover man was among seven UMass Lowell graduates honored last week with one of the school's annual University Alumni Awards.

Louis B. Coiro, a 1982 graduate of ULowell who has gone on to become the founder and owner of Tewksbury Physical Therapy in Tewksbury and Drum Hill Physical and Sports Therapy in Chelmsford, was selected as this year's recipient from the school's College of Health Sciences.

The event, which was held on April 16 at the UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center, honored a graduate of each of the university's six schools and colleges, as well as a recent alumnus already making his mark in his profession and the community. The celebration was also a fundraiser for student scholarships.

Coiro launched his two therapy practices in the late 1980s after working several years as a physical therapist in Boston. Both practices have

flourished to include 28 staff members who offer physical and occupational therapy. The team addresses a wide range of patient needs in areas including orthopedic and neurological, pre- and post-surgical, adult and pediatric care.

He has served for seven years as president of the New England Physical Therapy Network and has lectured nationally through the American Physical Therapy Association.

Coiro, who earned a bachelor of science in physical therapy from ULowell, is the chairman of UMass Lowell's Physical Therapy Department Advisory Board and a member of the College of Health Sciences Advisory Board. He was honored in 2011 with the Distinguished Service Award by the Physical Therapy Department.

In addition to Coiro, the 2014 honorees included James J. Barry of Marlborough, Ph.D., class of 1988 (College of Sciences), who has been in the medical devices field for more

than 20 years; Mark Cocozza of Boston, class of 1971 (Manning School of Business), who has spent more than 40 years in the shoe business; Patricia D. McPhail of Mississippi, class of 1954 (Graduate School of Education), a prominent member of the real estate community in Mississippi for nearly 40 years; Jacqueline Moloney of Chelmsford, Ph.D., classes of 1975 and 1992 (College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences), who has served for seven years as executive vice chancellor for UMass Lowell; and Richard A. Pierro Jr. of Hampton Falls, N.H., class of 1983 (Francis College of Engineering), who is co-founder, president and co-owner of Superior Controls in Seabrook, N.H.

The recent alumnus award went to Adam M. Hogue of Lincoln, class of 2003, a Lowell native who is an adviser at a financial-planning firm in Danvers as well as the author of the book, "Shaping the

Battlefield," about his experiences during an 11-month military deployment in Afghanistan.

The University Alumni Awards recognize graduates who have gone on to distinguish not only themselves but also the institution with their exceptional leadership, professional success and service to the campus and community. Recipients are nominated by faculty and staff, community members and fellow graduates. Since 1998, more than 100 alumni of UMass Lowell and its predecessor institutions have been recognized.

"The alumni honored each year come from different backgrounds, degree programs and hometowns. What they have in common is how they have put their UMass Lowell education to work to build successful careers, to further the mission of the university and to better their communities," UMass Lowell Chancellor Marty Meehan said in a release.



# TownsBeat

## In celebration of 'Simple Gifts'

### Andover Choral Society to revisit 19th century Americana

The Andover Choral Society is preparing to bring listeners back to a simpler time in American life when it presents its spring concert on Sunday, April 27, at 3 p.m. at the Rogers Center for the Performing Arts at Merrimack College, 100

Turnpike St., North Andover. "Simple Gifts" will feature beloved 19th century American folk songs and hymns. Among the selections on the program include the iconic American sound of Aaron Copland's "Old American Songs," movements from

Randall Thompson's "Frostiana" set and arrangements by Mormon Tabernacle Choir director Mack Wilberg. Baritone soloist Andrew Garland will join the chorus for the Copland works. He will also perform selections of early-American folk songs

arranged by Steven Mark Kohn and featured on his CD, "On the Other Shore." The chorus will be accompanied by a chamber orchestra arranged by music director Michael Driscoll. The concert hall is handicapped accessible

and the performance is sponsored, in part, by a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Tickets are \$20 for adults

and \$5 for students. They can be ordered online at [andoverchoralsociety.org/concerts](http://andoverchoralsociety.org/concerts) or reserved by calling 978-682-4050.

## Out & About: Kiwanis serving up annual Feast

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Lawrence is holding its 16th annual Fabulous Feast on Wednesday, April 30, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. at the Wyndham Andover Hotel, 123 Old River Road, Andover. Twenty restaurants, caterers and other food establishments from the Merrimack Valley will be offering up a generous sampling of their cuisine for the fundraiser, which also will feature silent and live auctions.

This year, the Kiwanis Club will honor two men at the Fabulous Feast: Enzo S. Fossella, the founder of the Service Club of Andover and owner of Enzo of Andover, and Brother Rene Roy, the campus minister of Central Catholic High School in Lawrence, who was a missionary in Rwanda and at the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

The evening will open with cocktails, a raffle and silent auction starting at 5:30 p.m. The food sampling as well as live auction and celebration of the two honorees will get started at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$50 and can be ordered online at [www.lawrencekiwanisclub.com](http://www.lawrencekiwanisclub.com).

### Sisterhood hosting Bulger author

The Sisterhood of Temple Emanuel, Andover, is hosting Phyllis Karas, author of the New York Times

bestseller "Brutal: My Life Inside Whitey Bulger's Irish Mob," as guest speaker for its annual Ways & Means fundraiser on Thursday, May 8, at 6 p.m.

Karas, an author, journalist and educator, will talk about how she found herself collaborating with Kevin Weeks, Boston's infamous mobster. She will also share insights into her current project about the Southie women who love bad men.



Phyllis Karas

Women of all ages are invited to the evening in support of the temple's sisterhood as well as Community Giving Tree of Boxford. The event, which takes place at the temple, 7 Haggetts Pond Road, will open with cocktails and a silent auction, followed by dinner and Karas' presentation. There will also be a drawing for a luxurious Boston experience valued at more than \$1,400. Tickets start at \$75.

The Sisterhood of Temple Emanuel is active in many programs benefitting the local and global communities. It sponsors Share the Light in which temple families and individuals support local families and children in need at the holidays as well as other collections

and drives and coordinates and sponsors a variety of activities and programs a temple. For more information, visit [www.templemanuel.net](http://www.templemanuel.net).

### Spring dance twirls into Ballroom

The Andover Senior Community Friends host a Welcome Spring! dance at The Crystal Ballroom on Sunday, April 27, from 6 to 10 p.m. at The Town House (Old Town Hall), 20 Main St., Andover.

D.B.'s Orchestra will supply the music for guests' listening and dancing pleasure starting at 7 p.m. From 6 to 7 p.m., dance teacher Tom Webster of Dance New England will warm everyone up with some practice steps and instruction.

Complimentary refreshments and soda will be provided; no outside food or beverages is allowed, per order of the Andover Health Department. Free parking will be available behind Old Town Hall.

Tickets are \$15 per person or \$25 per couple in advance; all tickets at the door are \$15. Proceeds support the activities of the Center at Punchard, formerly the senior center. Tickets may be purchased in advance at The Center on Whittier Court and Andover Bookstore on Main Street.

### Folk ensemble to commemorate Armenian genocide

Area Armenians will commemorate the 99th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide with a program featuring a performance by the Arev Armenian Folk Ensemble on Sunday, April 27, at 3 p.m. at North Andover High School.

The musical troupe that presents Armenia's traditions through traditional instruments such as the duduk, zurna, dhol and oud will be the highlight of the program with its performance titled "Weaving Armenia's Story through Music."

Presented by the Armenian Genocide Commemorative Committee of Merrimack Valley, the program will be dedicated to the memory of 1.5 million victims of the Armenian genocide that began in 1915 and extended through 1923.

A crowd spanning four generations is expected to attend. In addition to the musical performance, a memorial service concelebrated by pastors from different Merrimack Valley churches will introduce the program, accompanied by a combined choir, and the winners of a student essay contest will be presented with awards.

Admission is free; the public is invited. A reception will follow in the school cafeteria.

Registration ends May 30<sup>th</sup>



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# Sports

## FITTING HONOR

### Press box to be dedicated to Townsman sportswriter



Rick Harrison

**STAFF REPORTS**

Few have done as much for young athletes in Andover as Rick Harrison.

Now the community wants to give thanks to the retired Harrison, an Andover native who wrote for The Townsman for 42 years (1965-2007) and also was a longtime youth baseball and basketball coach in town.

A committee has been formed through the Hoops for Hope League to raise money for the Rick Harrison Press Box at the Peter Aumais Park baseball field adjacent to Andover High School on Shawsheen Road.

"Rick's coverage of the youth and high school sports for the Andover Townsman and Lowell Sun were legendary," said

**TO CONTRIBUTE**

Checks should be made payable to Hoops for Hope and mailed to: Hoops for Hope, c/o Glenn Verrette, 46 Porter Road, Andover 01810. Donation can also be made by credit card or PayPal under the donate to Rick Harrison Press Box page at hoopsforhope.com.

Andover Hall of Famer Glenn Verrette, who is helping spearhead the press box effort.

"His Townsman articles were lengthy, detailed and

extremely well written. Rick's youth coaching (25 years in basketball, 28 in baseball), combined with his steady leadership, had a tremendous positive impact

on thousands of young people in Andover. His dedication and service to Andover must not be forgotten."

When he retired from the Townsman, Harrison estimated he had written about more than 50,000 young athletes in town.

The committee already heard back from one prominent athlete who is still making a name for himself.

Bill O'Brien, head coach of the NFL's Houston Texans, wrote, "Rick Harrison was a great coach for all of us growing up in Andover. I hired John Perry here in Houston. We both played hoops for Rick in Andover. I played baseball for him also. Mike Lane, a policeman in Andover and one of our best friends, also played hoops and baseball for Rick."

# BREAKTHROUGH SLUGGER

## Awiszus a force with the bat to lead Warriors

By DAVID WILLIS  
dwillis@andovertownsm.com

Throughout the preseason, Tim Awiszus couldn't seem to find his groove. That sweet swing simply felt off.

"Before the (regular) season started, I couldn't seem to get the barrel of the bat on the ball," Awiszus said. "But in the season-opener, I really got one on the sweet spot of the bat and it flew. That's when I started feeling good."

Starting with that at bat, Awiszus seems to have found that swing in a big way. A year after fighting tooth and nail to earn a place on the varsity roster, Awiszus has begun his senior season with the Andover High baseball team in outstanding fashion.

The outfielder entered the week hitting a whopping .500 with eight RBIs, helping the Golden Warriors to a 4-1 start.

"I feel like I am seeing the ball pretty well and am off to a good start," Awiszus said. "There is no feeling better than hitting the baseball and really helping out the team."

Growing up in Andover as a star infielder for the Little League and Babe Ruth programs, Awiszus dreamed of playing baseball for the Golden Warriors.

After spending his first high school season with the freshman team and his sophomore year on JV, Awiszus set his eyes on making the varsity squad a season ago.

But on a team filled with veteran players, Awiszus faced the challenging task of finding a role to grasp as his own.

"Going into last year, Tim had earned a spot on the varsity team," Warriors coach Dan Grams said. "But it looked like he might not see much playing time. Tim came to me and said, 'Coach, I just want to play. I will play anywhere on the field.'"

So the veteran coach had some advice for his young player.

"Coach Grams told me to have every glove in my bag when I came to the field and be ready to play anywhere," Awiszus



DAVID WILLIS/Staff photo

Tim Awiszus has proven dangerous with the bat in his hand. After scraping to make the varsity team last year, the senior has emerged as one of the Golden Warriors' most powerful hitters over the last two seasons.

said. "I just wanted to get into the lineup anyway I could."

"I had always played the infield growing up, first as a shortstop then third baseman. But toward the end of my sophomore year, I started to try a little outfield in JV. So last season, I went to the coaches and offered to play the outfield."

Awiszus did not find his way into the lineup in the opening game of his junior year. But he earned his first career start in Game 2, and has not looked back since.

"I was definitely nervous," Awiszus said. "Varsity is very different. But in my first game, I had two hits and that's when I started to believe I could play. My bat was pretty hot early on last year."

The slugger was more than just hot to start his varsity career, he was sizzling.

Awiszus recorded at least one hit in each of his first 12 games with the Golden Warriors, hitting a scorching .450 (13 for 29) over that stretch. He recorded four multi-hit games, including a 3-for-3 night, and drove in three RBIs in three different contests.

"The team welcomed me, and it made it easier because I was producing well," he said. "And I fell in love with playing the outfield. After just a few games, I really enjoyed it."

Awiszus finished his junior season with an impressive .307 average with 13 RBIs and five runs scored.

*"I feel like I am seeing the ball pretty well and am off to a good start. There is no feeling better than hitting the baseball and really helping out the team."*

Tim Awiszus

He then set to work preparing for his senior season, training with teammates including fellow outfielder Jack Cox, refining his swing and lifting weights.

Whatever he did in the offseason, including standing out for the golf team, it has certainly worked.

Awiszus headed into school vacation week hitting the outstanding .500 exactly (10 for 20), with eight RBIs and six runs. He has at least two hits in all but one game, including a four-hit day against Haverhill, and three RBIs in each of his last two contests.

"I feel like I am a power hitter," Awiszus said. "I like to hit to the gaps. I look for the fastball early in the count, something I can drive. The, if we get deep in the count I look for a breaking ball I can take to the opposite field."

His coach is thrilled with the star's progress, not just as a hitter but also as an outfielder and a leader.

"He is swinging the bat very well and is such a good hitter," Grams said. "But he has also become a very good outfielder. He made one of the best catches I have ever seen in the preseason. And even though he isn't a captain, he is one of our best leaders."

In the fall, Awiszus will be attending Florida Gulf Coast College, where he hopes to be a walk-on for the baseball team. But first, he wants to end his high school season with a bang.

"We want to start by winning the MVC title," he said. "Then we want to make a run in the tournament. We can all hit the ball, and we can pitch. We believe."

# Girls track claims first at Ottaviani Invitational

**GIRLS TRACK**

Jillian Gamache won the long jump with a 15-4 1/2 and took the 400 hurdles in 1:07.74 to take home MVP honors as Andover rolled to victory at the Ottaviani Invitational with 123 points, well ahead of No. 2 Haverhill (53 points) this past Saturday.

"It was a tough meet with all the wind," she said. "So I had to just fight through it."

Another double winner for the Warriors was sprinter Hannah Ameen, who won the 100 in 13.57 and ran the anchor leg of the winning 4x100 relay.

"I am so excited," Ameen said. "The whole team had an awesome day. We were confident and I knew we could win."

Also earning victories were Hannah Chapman in the high jump and Erin Logee with the javelin. Courtney Carver (pole vault), Miranda Lawrence (long jump) and Micaela Soucy (triple jump) added seconds for the winners.

Jillian Gamache won the long jump and 400 hurdles and Courtney Carver took the pole vault to lead Andover past Haverhill 94-51 last Wednesday, April 16. Courtney Comeau won the 100 hurdles and Michelle Gencorelli took the 200 for the winners.

**BOYS TRACK**

Robert Perry earned victory in the 800 in 2:04.40 and Joe Vetere won the pole vault with

**BASEBALL**

**Warrior bats on fire**

Quinn McCarthy finished 5 for 5 with three RBIs and three runs scored to lead Andover past Methuen 16-6 last Thursday, April 17. Alex Brickman tallied three hits and three RBIs, Tim Awiszus drove in three runs and Jack Cox had three hits for the winners.

Colin Flynn struck out 10 in a complete-game effort, allowing just six hits and no walks and throwing only 88 pitches to help Andover best Haverhill 10-1 last Wednesday, April 16. Tim Awiszus led the Warriors with four hits and three RBIs, Alex Brickman drove in four runs and E.J. Perry IV scored three runs.

**GIRLS LACROSSE**

**Gross, Grygiel star**

Weezie Gross and Charlotte Lenes each scored four goals to help Andover edge Billerica 14-13 last Thursday, April 17. Julia Manty added two goals and four other Warriors each scored once.

Courtney Grygiel scored six goals and had two assists to lead Andover to a 13-8 win over Norwell last Wednesday, April 16. Charlotte Lenes added three goals and three assists and Weezie Gross and Julia Manty each scored twice for the winners.

12-0 despite heavy winds to lead Andover to third at the Ottaviani Invitational with 70 points, just two points short of winner Central Catholic this past Saturday.

Andrew Matteucci added the other Warrior win in the 110 hurdles, while Sean Caveney (110 hurdles), Sebastian Silveira (400 hurdles) and the 4x400 quartet added seconds.

Sean Caveney won the 110 hurdles in 15.5 and Kevin Chen won the 100 in 11.6 as Andover beat Haverhill 84-61 last Wednesday, April 16. Robert Perry won the 800, Hamza Naveed took the 200 and the 4x100 relay was also won by the Warriors.

**SOFTBALL**

**Warriors win thriller**

With the game tied heading into the seventh inning, Amy Stankiewicz walked, advanced to second on a single, and scored on a hit by Nicole Ericson as Andover knocked off undefeated Methuen 5-4 last Thursday, April 17.

JoJo Olson added a key catch in left field and Paige Hartnett had three hits for the winners.

Tri-captain Mimi Olney recorded two hits, two RBIs and scored two runs to help Andover down Lawrence 13-4 last Friday, April 18. Amy Bordogna drove in a team-high three runs, Nicole Ericson scored three times and Amy Stankiewicz had three RBIs for the winners.



Courtesy photo

Robert Perry of Andover High School won the men's 800 meter run at the Ottaviani Invitational Track Meet last Saturday at Haverhill High School. Perry won in 2:04 with James Busi of Timberlane High School in New Hampshire taking second in 2:05.7.

See ROUND UP, Page 19



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