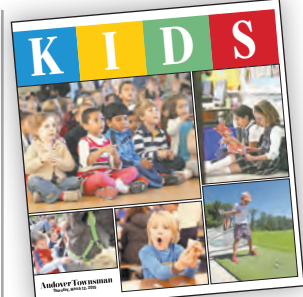




'BURIED BY BLIZZARDS' TO COMMEMORATE WINTER OF 2015 PAGE 8



A SALUTE TO ANDOVER'S YOUTHS INSIDE



LOCAL ROSTER TAKES SWING AT SPRING TRAINING PAGE 24

OUR 127TH YEAR

Andover Townsman

Issue No. 18

MARCH 12, 2015

75 CENTS

EMOTIONAL ENDING



Emily Connors (11), Paige Hartnett (12) and Julia Perry (21) leave the court to the support of their teammates at the end of their loss to Braintree in the Division 1 state semifinal basketball game at the TD Garden in Boston Monday night.

MARY SCHWALM/Staff photo

Thumbs down on second land deal

Town shifts right to purchase farm property along river to AVIS

By BILL KIRK
bkirk@andovertownsman.com

Two up, two down. That's the record so far of conservation properties considered — and rejected — for purchase by the Board of Selectmen and Conservation Commission following last year's Town Meeting vote authorizing the spending of \$800,000 on open space.

It's a record that has some people scratching their heads.

"They've decided they want to save money," said John Hess, vice president of the Andover Village Improvement Society, a local land preservation group. "They are not looking at it as an opportunity to save land — they are looking at it to save money."

Last year, Town Meeting voted by a wide margin to give selectmen and the Conservation Commission authority to use \$800,000 in borrowing authority left over from a previous land deal that fell through.

The warrant article that was approved carried a list of a dozen or so properties that land preservationists had been eyeing for years to secure for recreation and conservation purposes.

Two of those properties have come up to purchase and both have been shot down.

The first was the 8-acre Phillips boathouse property, which the town made a low-ball offer on of around \$500,000 after the school had made it clear it wanted at least \$1 million for the property. Phillips ended up selling the property for more than \$2 million to the Andover Companies, which has its headquarters adjacent to the boathouse land.

The second property on the list was a 20-acre farm at 1320 South St. Last week, selectmen voted to bypass the purchase of the property. Instead, AVIS

See FARM, Page 2

Mentally tough Golden Warriors close out season at Garden

By DAVID WILLIS
dwillis@andovertownsman.com

Andover High School football coach E.J. Perry knew there were concerns and questions two years ago when he decided to add the

Golden Warriors girls basketball team to his coaching roster.

Known for his fiery competitiveness during both games and practices, Perry had never coached female athletes before.

"They didn't know what they were getting into a couple years ago with the Andover football coach walking in," said Perry, who replaced four-time state champion coach Jim Tildsley. "To be honest, I didn't

know what I was getting into.

"But let me tell you, this senior class embraced me so much. It has worked because these girls, girls

See HOOPS, Page 3

Teaching jobs at risk for FY 2016 Preliminary budget calls for net loss of school positions

By TIM LIMA
tlima@andovertownsman.com

Students next year could face larger class sizes if a preliminary budget for the Andover school district moves

forward.

Superintendent Marinel McGrath last week outlined a spending plan for fiscal 2016 that would result in the reduction of 21.5 current full-time-equivalent teaching positions,

impacting almost all grade levels.

According to McGrath's report to the School Committee, the cuts could potentially result in the reduction of available class sections in every

subject as well.

"To recap, the preliminary budget is one that does not sustain the same level of services for FY16 that were available in FY15 in regard to class

See BUDGET, Page 2

Two battle for one-year School Committee seat

By TIM LIMA
tlima@andovertownsman.com

The Andover Townsman continues its Election 2015 coverage this week with profiles on the two candidates seeking to fill the one year remaining on the School Committee seat vacated early this year by former member turned state Sen. Barbara L'Italian, D-Andover.

School Committee candidates face off in 1st of 2 forums. Page 10

Next week, we will provide profiles of the four candidates seeking the two available, three-year seats on the Board of Selectmen: incumbents Daniel Kowalski and Brian Major and challengers Robert Landry and Neil Senior.

To see our profiles on the four candidates seeking the two, three-year seats on the School Committee, which were published last week, and keep tabs on our ongoing election coverage, check out www.andovertownsman.com as well as www.eagletribune.com.

Making their case Selectmen candidates trade views on town at forum

By BILL KIRK
bkirk@andovertownsman.com

Candidates for the Board of Selectmen last week staked out starkly different positions during a political forum at the Public Safety Center.

With a standing-room-only crowd of nearly 70 people watching, debate centered around spending and budget issues, but also touched on the search for a new town manager and improved government transparency, among other issues.

"I've spent the last couple years shedding light on financial conditions in this town," said challenger Bob

Landry, one of the co-founders of a watchdog website.

"Tax bills are growing at an unsustainable rate; spending and tax policies are out of touch with the residents."

Landry went on to criticize one of his opponents, 18-year incumbent Brian Major, for being part of the problem — specifically for not being able to find a solution to the town yard relocation project and for overseeing the rising cost of retiree health care and pension liabilities.

"I'm campaigning on accountability," Landry said. "Does Mr. Major take any personal responsibility for the town yard and



our long-term obligations exploding?"

Major, speaking remotely via a video screen because he was traveling out of town, said selectmen need to look at all of the community's needs, adding that many other projects aside from the town yard have been completed during his tenure.

It was just one of several exchanges throughout the evening between the four candidates running for two,

three-year seats in the March 24 town election. Joining Major and Landry in the race are current board Chairman Dan Kowalski and challenger Neil Senior. The forum was hosted by the Service Club of Andover.

Major's comments also brought a response from Senior.

"With all due respect to Mr. Major, the town yard and budget problems have been going on for years," he said, adding that a vote for Major would be a vote for "more of the same" and "kicking the can down the street" on

See FORUM, Page 9



Annie Gilbert hopes to see school projects through completion

After serving two terms on the School Committee, Annie Gilbert is hoping to win election to one more year serving the community. She said that she has worked to get a number of initiatives started, and

See GILBERT, Page 10



Paul Properzio wants to give back to the local schools

Newly retired from his career as an educator, Paul Properzio hopes to continue having an effect on the education process by bettering his town's public School Department.

"I want to give back to

See PROPERZIO, Page 10

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Father charged with endangering infant twins

By TIM LIMA
tlima@andovertownsmam.com

An Andover man who police say was under the influence of prescription drugs and alcohol when he took off with his 9-month-old twins in the car after an argument with his girlfriend last week has been charged with multiple offenses.

Ronald Ricci Jr., 29, of 3 Penobscot Way, Andover, was arrested on March 3 in the driveway at his house and charged with operating under the influence of drugs and two counts of operating under the influence of liquor with child endangerment, as well as malicious destruction of property in excess of \$250.

According to police records, a Stop & Shop employee called police just after 3 p.m. reporting that an argument between a man and woman was taking place in the store's parking lot on North Main Street.

Commander Charles Heseltine said that before officers reached the store, Ricci had taken off with his two infant children in the car. When officers arrived, Ricci's girlfriend, the mother of the children, gave police his name and address.

Police went to Ricci's home and observed him pulling his car into his driveway, Heseltine said.

"After an investigation, officers determined the subject to be under the influence of prescription drugs," Heseltine said. "The two children were in his vehicle at the time of his arrest, hence the charges of reckless behavior."

No injuries were reported to the children during the incident.

According to Heseltine, Ricci was also charged with destruction of property after allegedly causing more than \$250 in damage to the jail cell door while in custody.

School spirit

Andover High School fans showed their support for the boys basketball team as it faced Cambridge Ringe & Latin during Division I North Semifinal basketball action last Wednesday, March 4. The strong backing, however, wasn't enough to allow the Golden Warriors to extend their season. See story, page 24.

CARL RUSSO/Staff photo



BUDGET

Continued from Page 1

increase in English as a Second Language students this year.

With the additional hires, the proposal reflects an overall net reduction of 9.1 full-time-equivalent positions.

According to McGrath, if the spending plan advances, the loss in teaching positions would increase class sizes from fourth grade through high school.

In fourth- and fifth-grade classrooms district wide, class sizes would increase from the current average of 21 students to between 25 and 29 students next year.

In grades six through eight, class sizes would jump from 24 students on average to between 25 and 29 students. And at the high school, class sizes would go

from the current range of 22 to 25 students per course to between 25 and 29 students next year.

McGrath said the increased class sizes would work to reverse the positive trends the schools had been making in that area. In 2009, the schools faced larger class sizes due to the recession. But since, the school district's budget has incrementally grown, leading to an increase in educators to allow for fewer students per class, she said.

McGrath said changes are due to a forced reduction in available funding for the school district — its second in two years. Last year, the district saw the removal of about 40 instructional assistants.

If the budget outlined is, in

fact, adopted, McGrath said she expects teachers will still "provide our children with the best educational experience we can. They deserve that from us. And they'll receive that from us."

Member Joel Blumstein called the budget "responsible, but sobering." School Committee members said they appreciated the process that was taken to determine the budget, something they acknowledged was difficult.

Discussions on the school budget were expected to continue at Wednesday night's Tri-Board meeting, when the group made up of representatives of the Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen and School Committee was scheduled to review the proposed spending plan.

Commission members didn't want to buy the property.

"I can't read their minds," she said. "They discussed it in executive session and nobody's talking."

She agreed with Hess that Town Meeting approved spending money on purchasing open space, but that town leaders don't appear willing to do that.

"We have a relatively short list of properties we thought were important," she said. "Voters approved the funding authorization at Town Meeting. I'm surprised two properties on the list came up so quickly. I don't know why selectmen chose not to buy either of them. I just don't know. That would be a good question for Dan Kowalski and the rest of the Board of Selectmen. Are there any properties on the list they would support?"

Kowalski countered that it's not just a decision by selectmen, but that the Conservation Commission also must weigh in.

He noted that Conservation Commission Chairman Don Cooper was in the audience last week when the board was discussing the South Street farm property.

"He made no public comment about this parcel of land," Kowalski said.

Cooper could not be reached for comment.

Hess said that as one of the original supporters of last year's warrant article on the open space fund, he thought "it was clear that Town Meeting said, 'Put money aside and buy properties when they come up.' These were two properties on the list, but selectmen disagree. They are looking at the bigger picture of keeping our debt down."

"That doesn't mean they won't some time in the future purchase more land for conservation," he added. "Now they don't want to. They'd rather the land be used for development or some other purpose."

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FARM

Continued from Page 1

may now end up with the site although that outcome is by no means certain.

Hess and others blame selectmen for being pennywise and pound-foolish. But Chairman Dan Kowalski places the blame on Town Manager Reginald "Buzz" Stapeczynski and the Conservation Commission.

Kowalski said that shortly after last year's Town Meeting vote, he asked Stapeczynski to provide the board with a process on how to go about assessing properties on the list.

"If there were parcels of land on that list, I asked the

town manager to define a list — of vetting those properties, and that was never defined," he said. "I asked the town manager, I'd like to know, how was the land defined."

Further, he said, the Conservation Commission needs to prioritize the parcels of property.

"Presently, we don't have a prioritized list from the Conservation Commission," he said. "Then they need to work with the Board of Selectmen, who have a fiduciary responsibility to make sure any property is purchased in an appropriate manner."

The latest deal turned down by selectmen — the 20-acre South Street farm — may still result in the property being saved as open space.

Last Monday night, the Board of Selectmen gave up its right of first refusal to buy the property, granting that right instead to AVIS. The 1320 South St. property is on the market for \$637,000.

The town had been eligible to buy the property because the owners had an agricultural exemption placed on it by the town, allowing them to pay less in property taxes over the years because it is considered farmland.

The owner of the property, Jean Tisbert, has a signed purchase-and-sales

agreement with Stoneham developer Alvin Teh for \$637,684. Teh apparently wants to build single- or multi-family homes on the land.

AVIS and other land conservation people want to save the property as open space because it sits on the banks of the Shawsheen River and is near other conservation properties.

Susan Stott, a member of the AVIS board of directors, said her organization will be going through a due diligence process before buying the property. The group has until April 22 to come up with the money to purchase it.

"It's tight, but we think we can get it done," Stott said, adding that her group may want to sell off the upland part of the property and preserve the portion that is along the river.

One restriction, however, is that 70 percent of the land must remain as protected open space.

Part of the property is under the National Grid power lines. Another part is along the river and is filled with wetlands. A third part of it is developable.

Stott said AVIS would have preferred for the town to have exercised its right of first refusal. She said she doesn't understand why selectmen and Conservation

Commission members didn't want to buy the property.

"I can't read their minds," she said. "They discussed it in executive session and nobody's talking."

She agreed with Hess that Town Meeting approved spending money on purchasing open space, but that town leaders don't appear willing to do that.

"We have a relatively short list of properties we thought were important," she said. "Voters approved the funding authorization at Town Meeting. I'm surprised two properties on the list came up so quickly. I don't know why selectmen chose not to buy either of them. I just don't know. That would be a good question for Dan Kowalski and the rest of the Board of Selectmen. Are there any properties on the list they would support?"

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Alyssa Casey shoots over the defense of Braintree's Ashley Russell during the second half of the Division 1 State semifinal basketball game at the TD Garden in Boston Monday night. The game capped off a strong season for the Golden Warriors.



Colleen Caveney drives to the basket against Braintree during the first half of Monday night's Division 1 state semifinal game.

HOOPS

Continued from Page 1

like Rachael (Cormier) and Colleen (Caveney) and Talia (Dellatto) are so mentally tough. They not only dealt with me, but they welcomed me with open arms."

Andover girls basketball's tournament run came to an end two victories short of a dream finish Monday night as the North champion Golden Warriors (23-3) fell to South champ and defending state title-holder Braintree 61-37 in the Division 1 state semifinal at TD Garden in Boston.

The undefeated Braintree (24-0), which is ranked the No. 21 girls basketball team in the country by Maxpreps.com and No. 25 in the nation by USA Today, will now play for a perfect season on Saturday in the Division 1 state title game at the DCU Center in Worcester.

"My girls did all they could," Perry said. "But it just wasn't in the cards against a team as big and as talented as Braintree. We expended too much energy Saturday (41-38 North title win over Billerica; See story, page 25) and this Braintree team is so talented."

The Golden Warriors' best run Monday came at the end of the first quarter. After Braintree opened the game with a 9-0 run, Andover rallied, led by a basket each by Jillian Weber and Dellatto. Then, an aggressive drive and layup by Cormier at the buzzer cut the advantage to 16-10.

But the Wamps opened the second with an 11-0 run, and the closest the Warriors would cut it from there was 11 on a 3-pointer by Alyssa Casey (team-high 11 points).

"We cut it to around 10 a few times, but they were just too tough," said Perry, whose son E.J. Perry IV led the cheers for a small Andover student fan section. "That front court is just amazing for a high school team. They made the plays of the game."

Following the contest,

Perry shared a moment and a few words with each of the seniors on his team, from four-year varsity player Cormier to forward Fatouma Kone, who missed the entire season due a knee injury.

"This class really made it possible for me to fit into this job," Perry said. "Talia holds a special place because she fought her way back from the concussions to play again. Rachael overcame so much tragedy (the loss of her father) to be so important to us. She was amazing down the stretch in the postseason.

"Colleen was an average player as a sophomore and she worked so hard to become a top player and she will have a great career at Middlebury. And Carissa Reming worked so hard for us.

"Then there is Emily Connors who battled our great big girls every day in practice and was amazing and Paige Hartnett who hit some big 3s early in the season for us before we started to play more fast-paced. And we could have used Fatouma's size today."

An already emotional Perry clearly held back emotions as he talked about one senior in particular — his daughter, guard Julia Perry.

"It is obviously hard to see Julia go," Perry said. "As the 12th man on our team, she handled that role so well. She protected her teammates every day at home. We had many dinner conversations about what I was doing wrong. She protected every girl, and having the chance to coach her was an excellent bonding experience.

"This group was very special. This senior class ended a three-year wait for Andover basketball to get back to the Garden.

"I told the underclassmen that it is their job now to get us back to the DCU Center."

David Willis is a sports-writer/videographer for The Andover Townsman. Reach him on twitter at @DWillisET.



Andover High School head girls basketball coach E.J. Perry reacts to a call during the second half of Monday night's state semifinal game.



Meghan Stickney, left, hugs teammate Rachael Cormier as Talia Dellatto, right, stands to cheer in the final second of the Golden Warriors' loss to Braintree in the Division 1 state semifinal basketball game at the TD Garden in Boston Monday night.

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Selectmen: Stapczynski's rating is on us, too

Board offers explanation for retiring town manager's final performance evaluation

By TIM LIMA

tlima@andovertownsmen.com

On the heels of delivering soon-to-retire Town Manager Reginald "Buzz" Stapczynski a combined 72 percent performance rating for 2014, the Board of Selectmen this week sought to accept some responsibility for the operation of the town.

In their first public discussion of Stapczynski's performance review on Monday night, some board members explained that their overall grade of 72 for the outgoing manager is not entirely indicative of his work.

Selectman Paul Salafia said that for a job that's like having 1,300 employees and 33,000 critics, Stapczynski, who will retire June 30 after 25 years as town manager, has always "handled it very well."

"I looked at the large town projects and marked you down on that, but I should have marked us all down on that," said Salafia, whose individual score for Stapczynski was an 80. "Because really a lot of what (Stapczynski) does is tied to us and it's tied to a lot of different things in town.

"It's reflective of you, yes,

but it's also reflective on the rest of us."

Chairman Dan Kowalski, who scored the manager at 64 percent, said that all of the selectmen's ratings for Stapczynski fell within the satisfactory range — which extends from 60 to 74. He added the grades are not equivalent to the scale used by a classroom teacher.

Two of the board's five members — Alex Vispoli and Mary O'Donoghue — gave Stapczynski a board-low rating of 63, while Selectman Brian Major delivered a board-high 91-percent rating. Major said he didn't

understand the criticism directed at Stapczynski on the topic of big town projects. He cited the creation of the new Bancroft Elementary School and an in-progress new Cormier Youth Center as examples of the town manager's success.

He said the projects that haven't gotten off the ground are due in large part to the selectmen themselves.

"He's done exactly what we've asked of him," Major said of Stapczynski.

Major said he can't help but look at the areas in which Andover has grown over two and a half decades,

and credit it to the town's leader.

"Andover has been extremely blessed to have had Buzz at the helm for the last 25 years," Major said. "I look at what's occurred over the last 25 years and how we have come to, and maintained, our status as a triple-A rated community. We're one of 11 throughout the commonwealth that are triple-A rated."

Stapczynski said that while he may respectfully disagree with several selectmen on the ratings, "it's the way it works."

He said he was grateful of

the process and the ability to sit one-on-one with each board member for an independent discussion, something he said wasn't protocol in previous years.

In turn, selectmen thanked the manager for his many years of service to Andover and said the town is better because of his leadership.

What the scores ultimately could decide is the town manager's salary bump — something that could lead to a slightly higher pension. Kowalski said it's a topic that would be discussed at one of the board's next three meetings.

ESL coordinator wins national faculty award

An Andover woman was among six Northern Essex Community College faculty and staff members who were recently named recipients of the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development Awards for Excellence.

Abby Thomas, curriculum coordinator of the English as a Second Language Program, received the honor that recognizes outstanding teachers in the country's community colleges.

Thomas began teaching English as a Second Language at NECC in 1999 and became curriculum coordinator in 2008. For the last two years, she has worked with ESL faculty redesigning the curriculum to comply with state and federal financial standards. She holds a bachelor's degree in anthropology from Ohio State University and a master's degree in Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages from the University of Alabama.

The other recipients were Professor Amy Callahan of Newburyport, coordinator of the liberal arts — journalism/communication



Courtesy photo

Abby Thomas of Andover, front row, left, was one of six Northern Essex Community College faculty/staff members to receive the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development Award. She is joined by, back row, from left, Robert West, Linda Giampa and Kristen Quinn and, front row, from left, Amy Callahan and Deirdre Budzyna.

program; Kristen Quinn of Boston, associate professor of accounting; Robert West of Manchester, N.H., laboratory technician and natural science safety officer; Deirdre Budzyna of Newburyport, professor in the early childhood education program; and Linda Giampa of Amesbury, academic coordinator of the NECC Reading Center.

Since 1978, the National

Institute for Staff and Organizational Development has been dedicated to the professional development of faculty, administrators and staff, and to the continued improvement of teaching and learning, with the ultimate goal of student success.

The 2015 NISOD Conference will be held May 23 through May 26 in Austin, Texas.

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BLACKNTA

AT_AT_20150312_1_05

A push for shade; Funds sought for Ballardvale Park playground add-on

By TIM LIMA
tlima@andovertownsmen.com

As crews prepare to begin construction of the new Ballardvale Park playground next month, the committee behind the project is hoping to include at least one addition to the design.

The group is about \$13,000 short of funds for a shade structure, which was the most-requested item by parents after new equipment for the playground.

While the structure costs more than \$43,000, because of advantageous construction bids secured by Deputy Director of Plants and Facilities Ed Ataide and the town, there was about \$30,000 remaining to put toward the expense.

The group is now turning to the community to close the funding gap, said Conservation Commission member Ellen Townson, a driving force behind the new playground.

"The way it came about was the town asked parents what they're looking for most at the park, other than new playground equipment," Townson said. "The biggest request was for a shaded structure, especially for little kids who may get hot playing in the summer."

The structure would be designed with a cement

foundation and metal bars supporting a wooden roof.

"It would be like a permanent gazebo with picnic tables underneath," Townson said. "It's beautiful."

The hope is to raise the outstanding \$12,800 in the next few weeks so the shade structure can be built with the playground.

"It's much cheaper to do it together than individually," Townson said.

A "Go Fund Me" page (<http://gofundme.com/Play-Ballardvale>) has been created for the effort.

In February, the Ballardvale Historic District Commission approved plans to redo the decades-old, deteriorating play facility at the park at Clark and Andover streets. This portion of the project is being funded by the town, with a combined \$300,000 approved by Town Meeting in 2012 and 2014.

Once the shade structure is funded, the playground group would then turn its attention to the second alternate — ornamental fencing for the front of the park, creating a divide between the road and the play equipment, Ataide said.

The goal is to have the new playground ready for use later this spring.



Troop 79 Boy Scouts sort some of the more than 4,000 food items collected during last year's food drive.

Courtesy photos

Troop 79 Scouts ready to canvas for food

Boy Scouts of America, Troop 79 of Saint Roberts Belarmine Church of Andover is gearing up for its annual Winter Food Drive, which kicks off Saturday, March 14 and continues through March 22.

The drive will cover approximately 1,300 houses in the northwestern section of Andover between interstates 495 and 93.

In recent years, the troop has been working to support the Neighbors in Need food bank in Andover.

Last year, the initiative began with distribution of informational fliers by 80 Scouts from Troop 79 and

Webelos from Pack 79, who went door to door with their parents and siblings. A week later, they returned with reminder notices and red food bags.

Then, on the designated morning, several dozen Scouts fanned out throughout the target area, traveling twice through the neighborhoods collecting food donations left out by residents.

In all, 4,156 food items were collected, sorted and packed into 63 milk crates and 42 boxes, which were then delivered to the Neighbors in Need warehouse in Dundee Park.

A similar scenario will play out again this year.



Troop 79 Boy Scouts Michael Potts, left, and Jim Quattrochi make a delivery during last year's food drive.

TOWN BRIEFS

2015 Medicare plan meeting March 17

Tufts Health Plan Medicare Preferred is holding an informational meeting to review 2015 Medicare plan options, benefits and costs on Tuesday, March 17, at 6 p.m. at the Courtyard, 10 Campanelli Drive, Andover.

Individuals will have an opportunity to learn about Medicare plans available through Tufts Health Plan, review enrollment periods and seek answers

from a Tufts Health Plan representative. The meeting is open to anyone looking to learn more about Medicare health plan options from Tufts Health Plan Medicare Preferred.

For more information, visit www.tuftshealthplan.com.

Talking deer at Foster's Pond annual meeting

The state's top deer management official will be the featured speaker at the annual meeting

of the Foster's Pond Corporation on Monday, March 16, at 7 p.m. at Memorial Hall Library, 2 North Main St., Andover.

Wildlife biologist David Stainbrook, who oversees deer and moose management for the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, will discuss deer management efforts in Massachusetts, including Andover's controlled hunting program.

In order to contain the town's deer population, the Andover Conservation Commission and

the Andover Village Improvement Society allow controlled bow-hunting on some of their reservations, including two that about Foster's Pond: the Wilkinson Reservation and the Foster's Pond Reservation. To date, the Foster's Pond Corporation does not permit bow hunting on its land.

Stainbrook will address the various concerns surrounding deer. He majored in biology at Allegheny College in western Pennsylvania and did graduate work on wildlife population monitoring focused on white-tailed deer at Penn State University.

The public is invited to the meeting. Admission is free.

Established in 1939, the Foster's Pond Corporation is a nonprofit, community-based organization. It works with the Andover Conservation Commission to protect the 120-acre pond. For more information about the pond and the corporation, visit www.fosterspond.com.

Professional Center for Child Development Gala set for May 1

The Professional Center for Child Development in

Andover is making plans for its 14th annual gala on Friday, May 1, at 6 p.m. at Andover Country Club, 60 Canterbury St.

The public is invited to join the center as it celebrates the potential in every child while raising vital funds to continue to provide the effective programs and services to children in need.

This year's event will honor the inspiration and dedication of the retiring Sandy Levine, who for 35 years has provided support services so that children of all abilities may remain in a secure environment. She has taught parent and caregivers to be successful advocates for children, working to transition children into settings beyond the classrooms and educating public organizations on how to provide continued community-based support for children with special needs.

Proceeds support the purchase of educational materials, medical supplies and therapeutic equipment for the center and fund vital music therapy and other programs in its classrooms. Visit www.theprofessional-center.org for sponsorship opportunities and other information.

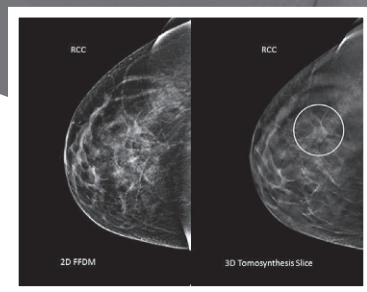
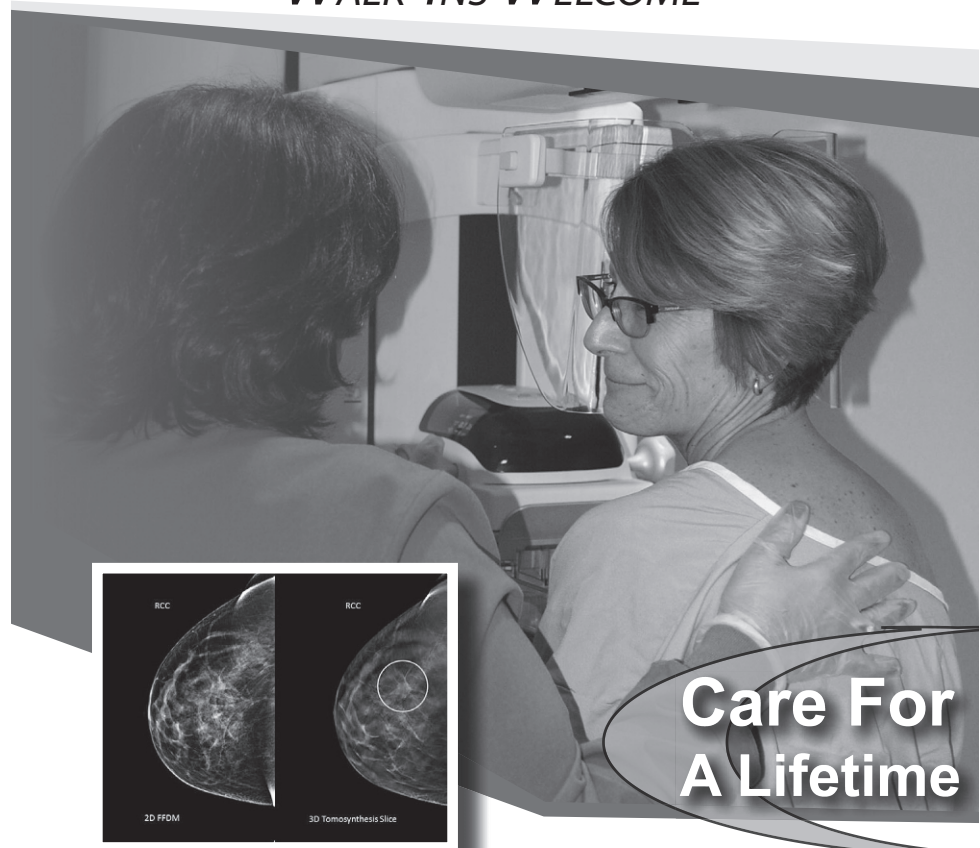
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A book-worthy winter

North of Boston Media Group to publish 'Buried By Blizzards'

By TRACEY DEE RAUH
Eagle-Tribune Managing Editor

The snowfall was so enormous Jan. 27 that we called the storm The Blizzard of 2015.

Little did we know that on its heels three more comparable blizzards would bear down on the region — storms with enough force and snow that any one of them could have lived up to the same name.

In less than one month's time, some communities already had broken the all-time record for an entire winter's snow accumulation, and other towns and cities North of Boston are on track to do so.

While covering the news, The Eagle-Tribune and its sister daily and weekly papers amassed an enormous portfolio of photos that will be published in the collector's edition coffee-table book, "Buried By Blizzards: The Relentless Winter of 2015."

The book will feature nearly 200 images by 12 staff photographers at North of Boston Media Group. The full-color pictures range from breaking news images to breathtaking scenic photos of a region blanketed by epic snowfall.

Beginning with the first blizzard, town and state officials urged people to

stay home from work, school was canceled repeatedly, and the roads were largely clear of traffic as people cooperated.

Essential employees — police officers, firefighters, utility company personnel, doctors and nurses, to name a few — cannot heed such warnings. Neither can news organizations. And so during all four storms, North of Boston Media Group reporters and photographers combed communities from Cape Ann to Southern New Hampshire, covering the news and documenting this historic winter, storm after storm.

Presented in four chapters, one for each blizzard from Jan. 27 to Feb. 15, "Buried By Blizzards" tells the whole story of a fascinating time in New England.

"It was staggering to see the impact that these storms, coming one after another, had on the whole North of Boston region," said award-winning journalist Ken Johnson, who writes the chapter introductions for the book. "Compiling the statistics let me see just how powerful these storms were. It was incredible."

Karen Andreas, regional publisher for North of Boston Media Group, said it was an easy decision to publish the book.

"This winter has been relentless — the snow just would not stop," Andreas said. "In the future, we'll all want something to visually document this historic event. It's one thing to talk about the snow, but as we say, a picture is worth a thousand words."

Photo Director Amy Sweeney chose the images for the book, which are culled from her photo staff at The Eagle-Tribune, The Daily News of Newburyport, The Salem News, and The Gloucester Daily Times.

"Our photographers are very talented, and their work is some of the best photojournalism in the country," Andreas said. "The quality of this book is outstanding. You will not be disappointed."

ORDER YOUR COPY NOW

What: "Buried By Blizzards: The Relentless Winter of 2015," a hardcover, pictorial, limited-edition book.

When: The book can be ordered now for a discounted price of \$29.95 (regularly \$39.95). The book will be available April 27.

How: Order online at buried.pictorialbook.com, or mail in the order form in our ad on the bottom of this page. Call Linda Gardner at 978-946-2241 with questions.



RYAN HUTTON/Staff photo

Huge icicles hang from the front of 18 Walnut Ave. in Andover, and a giant snow bank obscures the view to the house after the fourth storm of the season, on Feb. 15.



Tom Dolan of Canterbury Street in Andover clears his driveway during the Feb. 2 storm as more snow continued to blanket the area.

CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

Federal aid sought for brutal winter of 2015

Andover joins other communities in requesting funds

By BILL KIRK

bkirk@andovertownsmen.com

Town leaders are looking for help from the federal government to pay for the high cost of snow removal this winter.

Not only has the federal government agreed to pay a larger portion of the costs for the late-January blizzard, which some people named Juno, but has also agreed to pick up part of the tab for three, ensuing

storms.

"It's big money," Chris Cronin, the town's director of public works, said.

Cronin said Andover was buried under 9 feet of snow in a three-week period. And a lot of it was still around as of late last week, he said, noting that his own home still had 4 feet of snow on the deck last Friday, March 6.

Andover submitted a reimbursement request of \$568,000 for the late

January storm. He said he expects the Federal Emergency Management Agency to cover about 75 percent of that, or around \$426,000.

Andover also filed additional reimbursement requests last Monday, March 2, Cronin said.

Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski told the Board of Selectmen last week that FEMA along with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency had agreed to let cities and towns tie

the storms together into one, large weather event that would be eligible for reimbursement.

Andover budgeted \$1.25 million in its snow and ice budget for this winter. As of last week, crews had overspent the account by \$960,000, according to Stapczynski. That includes snow removal, salt, and police and fire costs, the town manager said.

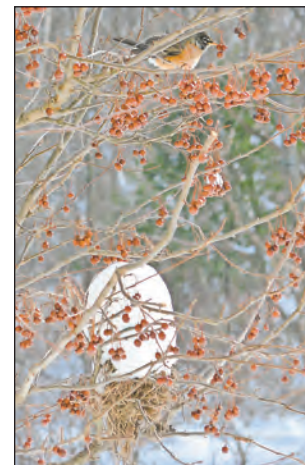
Between the federal reimbursements and funding within the town budget, Andover will get back to the \$1.25 million funding level for snow and ice, Cronin said. Other communities are

doing the same.

North Andover Town Manager Andrew Maylor said he expects to get about \$500,000 from the federal government as reimbursement for the winter's worst storms. For the first blizzard in late January, North Andover should get about \$293,000, he said.

He said the town also submitted additional reimbursement requests for the three other storms that FEMA said it would partially cover as well.

"It was an extraordinary season," Maylor said. "Not the record, but close to it. We had four very large storms in succession."



MARY HALL/Courtesy photo

It's been a tough winter for everyone, including this bird who founds its nest on Tucker Road covered in snow recently. Andover is seeking federal assistance to help cover more than \$2 million in storm costs this winter.

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FORUM

Continued from Page 1

solving the town's budget woes.

Both Major and Kowalski replied that being a selectman requires looking at all the needs and demands on the town and then making a decision.

"Being a selectman isn't about one thing," Kowalski said.

Major listed several projects the town had successfully completed while the town yard languished, including the High Plain/Wood Hill Middle School, a new public safety center and Bancroft Elementary School.

Town yard

The four candidates had different ideas about what to do with the town yard — the municipal services facility located between downtown and the train station. For years, town officials have sought to move it and make way for retail and residential development.

Major said the town should work with the state to build a parking garage near the station that could also be used to store town vehicles. While part of the municipal services' fleet could be housed there, the rest of it could be put in other locations throughout town.

Kowalski said the town yard issue was "complex" with "multiple solutions," but that there is time.

"We got 9 feet of snow and the buildings haven't collapsed," he said. "We need to identify long-term solutions."

Senior said the property should be redeveloped so that it brings in revenue and that the revenue should then be used to pay for a new town yard elsewhere.

"The new project can't cost more," he said. "It has to be a net profit for the town."

Landry, meanwhile, offered a more simplistic approach.

"We have the solution right in front of us," he said. "Leave it there."

He noted that the employees who work there like it and the people who want to move it need to come up with a viable proposal of their own.

"I understand folks who want to move it," he said. "But we've been trying for years from every different angle. We can't do it."

Town manager

On the question of the town manager search as Reginald "Buzz" Stapeczynski prepares to retire June 30, there appeared to be widespread agreement that whomever is chosen needs to be a proven leader with union-negotiating skills.

Landry said the recent, poor marks from selectmen on Stapeczynski's performance "point to the need for a new brand of leadership. ... We need a proven leader with a lot of experience who is a skilled negotiator." He said the next town manager needs to be a "fiscal conservative who supports transparency."

Major said the qualities he would look for include someone who is a "problem solver" and who "gets along with everyone to find solutions."

Kowalski said he was looking for someone who was an "active listener" who would help bring together disparate community groups.

"We need someone who will consider all the facts and make sound decisions,"



PHOTOS BY ALLESANDRA BISALTI
TOP LEFT: Current Selectman Brian Major, who was traveling last week, participated in the forum via Skype. TOP RIGHT: Candidate Bob Landry discusses his platform for seeking election to the Board of Selectmen. BOTTOM LEFT: Selectman candidate Neil Senior discusses his campaign platform at last week's debate. BOTTOM RIGHT: Selectmen Chairman Dan Kowalski discusses his re-election bid at last week's forum.

TECHNICAL GLITCH

Last week's two-hour candidates forum hosted by the Service Club of Andover at the town's Public Safety Center was videotaped by Andover TV, AndoverTV.org. But a technical glitch prevented an audio recording, according to Wess Murphy, executive director of the station.

As a result, the program will not be broadcast on TV or streamed on the website, www.AndoverTV.org.

the budget.

Landry said the town didn't get into its current position "overnight and won't get out of it overnight." He said the next town manager, with the support of selectmen, would need to "get to the root of it," which is collective bargaining and retiree benefits.

Kowalski countered that it "sounds well and good to say, 'build the budget to a 0 percent tax increase. But due to the issues associated with municipal contracts, we'd have to lay off teachers, firefighters and police officers. We have to be practical.'"

Landry said the real problem is that town and school leaders aren't looking at "total compensation" when coming up with their annual budgets. He said the town now pays \$5 million a year into its retiree health insurance fund when it should be paying \$13 million. The only way to cut that cost, he said, is to reduce benefit eligibility.

Major came to the defense of the town finances, saying Andover was just one of 11 communities in the state with a AAA bond rating and has one of the lowest tax rates among comparable communities.

He said by paying an additional \$1 million a year into the town's pension liability, as proposed in this year's budget, "that will shorten our pension liability by eight years and reduce our long-term taxes by \$82 million."

Major also said there were "many things" the town could do to reduce expenses, including having the new teen center cleaned by volunteer members from Andover Youth Services rather than by a paid custodian, which is how it's done in North Andover. He said the town is also working on a deal to purchase solar tax credits, which would reduce the town's energy bills.

Finally, Major said, the

Kowalski said, adding that it should be someone who has worked in a similar-size town who is able to "think outside the box. We need someone who is not afraid to shake things up a little bit."

Senior said he would seek someone who "holds people accountable," who can work collaboratively with others and who is on the same page as the rest of the town leadership. "The next town manager needs a vision and needs to be able to execute on it," Senior said.

All the candidates agreed the public should play a role in choosing the next town manager, through focus groups or a search committee.

Tax bills

When asked if taxes were too high, nearly everyone agreed they were, but they disagreed on what to do about the problem.

Kowalski said the board is currently trying to tie the budget to a "reasonable tax increase" for residents that also protects the high level of services people have come to expect.

Senior said the town needed to "build the budget off a 0 percent increase" as if the law had changed and "you couldn't raise taxes." He said it was "disturbing" that every department in town was seeking an increase in



AT LEFT: Selectmen candidates incumbent Brian Major, on the screen, and from left, challenger Bob Landry, incumbent Dan Kowalski and challenger Neil Senior square off in the Service Club of Andover's forum last week.

town should buy streetlights from National Grid — also something done by North Andover — which would save money in the long run.

Senior, too, pointed to

North Andover as an example in offering free, full-day kindergarten to the community, while Andover charges \$4,500 a year, the highest fee in the state, for the program.

"They increased the number of students and increased the amount of state aid," Senior said. "I don't see this kind of creativity or vision in Andover."

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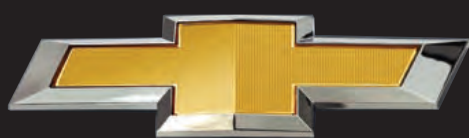
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TownsBeat



Jennifer and Evan Cullen-Struhl of Andover admire an interpretation of Sir Lionel Arthur Lindsay's "Pheasant and Wisteria" created by Andover Garden Club members Mary de Smet and Fran Karalli during Friday night's opening reception for "Addison in Bloom."

FRANCES Y. J. WHEELER/Courtesy photos

Boutique Blowout

Annual shopping event to shine spotlight downtown

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
jwakefield@andovertownsmen.com

It's been a long cold winter for downtown businesses as the record-setting snowfall and cold temperatures kept some shoppers at bay.

But that's all starting to change. And next week, local retailers will welcome spring in a big way with their annual Boutique Blowout two-day shopping event hosted by the Andover Business Community Association.

More than 20 downtown businesses will be luring customers in their doors next Friday and Saturday, March 20 and 21, with specials that come around only once a year.

In addition to the retailers that have made the Boutique Blowout a much-anticipated event every year, local salons and restaurants are also getting into the act, too, this year. Stylists will be offering blowout specials and eateries will be serving up menu items and wine tastings especially for the occasion.

One big change this year is that instead of all of the retailers coming together for the sale at one location inside Old Town Hall on Main Street, as has been past tradition, each individual business owner will be welcoming shoppers into their own storefronts.

"This year, we will not be using Town Hall, but rather inviting customers to warm up with our sunny smiles right in our stores," said Trish Martini, who owns Soiree on Main Street and is on the organizing committee for Boutique Blowout.

"We want to get the community excited about shopping downtown, despite the cold weather."

At least two new businesses, D'Agostino's Deli of Andover and Red Stone Liquors in Andover Village Square on Main Street, will be using the event as a chance to introduce themselves to the community.

"We want people to make a day of it. You can eat, drink and shop ... it will be fun," Martini said.

As a further incentive for shoppers, the town of Andover is offering free parking both days of the sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in approved lots and spots.

Taylor Simpson, the owner of Nest on Barnard Street, said the event offers a chance for the downtown businesses to collaborate for the common good. While her shop has held its own through the tricky business climate of the winter, she said others have not been as fortunate.

One shops, Wardrobe on Park Street, will be closing its doors soon, and other retailers have reported depressed sales.

"I'd like to continue to see the retailers helping each other so that every customer knows what's happening in town, in a way that we're all cross-promoting each other," Simpson said.

But she said the success of the downtown ultimately requires the community's support. She recently put out a call on the Andover Mums Facebook page encouraging people to grab three friends and head downtown for a bite to eat and some shopping. She said if the group picked three stores and everyone spent \$10 apiece at each business, that would be a boon to the downtown.

The next day she had sales rivaling a busy Christmas shopping day.

"It gave me tremendous hope," she said. "Some people don't realize that

See BLOWOUT, Page 14

A BURST OF SPRING

Study in florals for 'Addison in Bloom'

It was a breath of spring air inside the Addison Gallery of American Art last week as several works of art blossomed into colorful floral arrangements for the gallery's "Addison in Bloom" exhibit.



Rita DeLollis of the Village Garden Club of Andover puts the finishing touches on her interpretation of "Abstract Nature" by Jame Prosek.

The Andover Garden Club presented the show, which brought together the talents of members of several area horticultural organizations for a show-stopping display that attracted upwards of 600 people over its two-day run.

Floral designers from Andover's three clubs — the Spade & Trowel Club, the Village Garden Club and Andover Garden — combined with members of the North Andover Garden Club and the Boxford Village Garden Club to push the boundaries of traditional arranging.

See BLOOM, Page 14



Jennifer Cullen-Struhl of the Andover Garden Club went a bit exotic in interpreting Charles Burchfield's "Cicada."



Ann Lange of the Andover Garden Club gave a floral identity to Nancy Haynes' "Untitled."



Carol Prentiss of the Andover Garden Club lent her creative flair to Abbott Handerson Thayer's "Monadnock Angel."

A boost for the arts

Andover Cultural Council awards more than \$5K for programming

Local schools, music programs and a church are among the beneficiaries of this year's grant awards courtesy of the Andover Cultural Council.

The council is doling out a total of \$5,637 in grants to support 18 programs and initiatives taking place in Andover this year. The grants will pay for an array of activities that include visual art, music, literature, storytelling, dance, sculpture and more.

"This was the most exciting

funding round in recent memory," council chairwoman Leslie Seaton Malis said. "We had an unusual number of strong proposals for some really innovative and exciting projects that reach across all sectors of the community. The applications prompted some of the most in-depth reviews and discussions that our council has ever engaged in."

Among the projects are a children's storytelling series, a three-dimensional sculpture installation on the

grounds of West Parish Cemetery, a special needs youth choral performance, a Japanese women's drumming event at the senior center and increased family programming at the Addison Gallery of American Art on the campus of Phillips Academy.

The Andover Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 councils serving all communities in Massachusetts. Seaton Malis said the

See GRANTS, Page 14

2015 ANDOVER CULTURAL COUNCIL GRANTS

Addison Gallery of American Art: Family programming, \$387	Andover Cultural Society: 2015 Concerts, \$300	Collaborative for Regional Educational Services & Training: Student literary magazines, \$150	Jessica Daviso: Adire Textiles, Nigerian Art, Andover High School, \$300	Doherty Middle School: "A Midsummer Night's Dream," \$250	Essex Chamber Music Players: "Life & Poetry of Anne Bradstreet" at West Middle School, \$350	Kerrie Fraser: World Music Premiere at West Elementary School, \$250	Mistral: Young People's Concert, \$400	Monique Morimoto: "Celebrating Women Through Rhythm" at The Center at Punchedard, \$350	Museum of Printing: Printing Arts Fair, \$100	New England Classical Singers: March concert, \$250	Northeast Youth Ballet: "Nutcracker" performance at Collins Center, \$200	John Root: Edible Perennial Gardening and Landscaping, \$250	SHED Children's Campus: LEAP Community Days, \$375	Stories in the Streets: Andover Festival storytelling, \$375	Susan Smith: Living Legacy Project at Andover Senior Center, \$450	Treble Chorus of New England: My Own Voice choir, \$450	Trustees of West Parish Cemetery: PASSAGES, 3-D installation project, \$450
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Education

Turning the pages with readers and writers

Eleanor Mayer, 10, reads to her mother, Stacie, at West Elementary School last Thursday during the 20th annual Readers and Writers Conference. The week-long celebration welcomed more than a dozen authors, illustrators, storytellers and artists to the school.

PAUL BILODEAU/Staff photo



West Elementary School hosted its 20th annual Readers and Writers Conference last week.

Since 1996, the school has dedicated a week to welcoming authors, illustrators, storytellers, poets and all sorts of artists who tell stories through their individual art forms.

This year's event was no exception as students were introduced to a dozen accomplished professionals. Among those making

their way to West Elementary were New York Times best-selling author Soman Chainani, who penned "The School for Good and Evil," as well as Andover native Gretchen Detora, whose book, "Dave and Danny Pay it Forward," is based on a local family.

Also involved were AJ Smith, who specializes in fun stories and drawings for kids, and Ralph Masiello, an illustrator best known as "The Icky Bug Man," among

others. Finally, fine artists attended were featured, including Andover speed painter Rob Surette, who creates his life-size hero artwork in mere minutes.

As part of the week-long event, parents were invited to listen to their children share their own creative works.

The event is sponsored by the West Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization.

EDUCATION NOTEBOOK

Virtual school holding information session

TEC Connections Academy Commonwealth Virtual School, the state's newest full-time, tuition-free public school for students in kindergarten through grade 12, is now enrolling for the 2015-2016 school year.

Interested families can learn more about how virtual school works and if it's the right fit for their children by attending one of the school's information sessions over the coming weeks. One session for prospective students and their parents is planned for Wednesday, March 18, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Wyndham Andover Hotel at 123 Old River Road.

Families will have the opportunity to meet with a TECCA faculty member or representative, explore the program and curriculum, and ask questions about the enrollment process. Those interested may also attend parent-to-parent meetings to speak with currently enrolled families in a more casual setting.

The school can enroll up to 1,000 students for the 2015-16 school year.

For those unable to attend an information session, real-time, interactive online information sessions and an on-demand session accessible 24/7 are also available. For more information, call 800-382-6010 or visit www.TECCConnectionsAcademy.com.

Andover Montessori launches scholarship program

Andover School of Montessori is introducing a new Foundation Scholarship Program available to prospective students entering sixth, seventh and eighth grades. The program is intended for students with a strong academic standing and excellent citizenship.

Up to two full-tuition and two half-tuition scholarships will be awarded to students with exceptional academics and strong financial need.

Scholarship awards will be made without regard to race, religion, age, gender and political beliefs. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of funds available. The school has the right to not award any scholarships in any year.

The application deadline is April 15, but early applications are encouraged. Visit http://www.andovermontessori.org/pdfs/Foundation_Scholarship.pdf for details on the application process or call Yvonne Howard at 978-475-2299 or email admissions@andovermontessori.org for more information.

Shawsheen preschool screening dates on tap

Shawsheen School at 18 Magnolia Ave. will remain open as a preschool next year, while the school's elementary students are redistricted elsewhere in town.

Appointments for screenings and tours for students who will be enrolled in the preschool in the half-day or full-day programs in September are now being made for Fridays, May 1 and 15.

For more information about the program and tuition rates, refer to www.aps1.net or call the Shawsheen School office at 978-623-8850.

To submit an item for the Education Notebook, email townsman@andovertownsmen.com.

ADVOCATING FOR ALLERGIES



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Parents push for greater awareness in face of life-threatening conditions

By TIM LIMA
tlima@andovertownsmen.com

Parents of local students with life-threatening food allergies say their children face a unique set of challenges.

A group of those parents has been working in recent months to raise awareness about the conditions affecting their children and change how they're handled by the school district.

Karen Kennedy said that as she prepared to send her 5-year-old daughter off to kindergarten last fall, she wrote to the School Department explaining her youngster's dangerous allergy to tree nuts.

Kennedy said the response she got surprised and concerned her. She said she was told that children are expected to advocate for themselves.

"I replied that we were talking about a 5-year-old who is not, nor should be, developmentally ready to advocate for herself and since this was a life-threatening, documented condition, I was asking for more support," she said.

Kennedy said she felt as though more had to be done to improve and develop district-wide protocols for how the schools deal with children with allergies.

She reached out on Facebook for insight from other parents. After hearing from 15 people whose children were in similar situations, she launched a group in hopes of creating a "common voice."

"The group was formed to have a common voice — to work to build the district's commitment to effectively manage food allergies in schools, to promote

consistency, to outline the protective practices and strategies, and increase public knowledge," she said.

"One of the first statements from that common voice of parents was 'for the schools to say what they do, and then do what they say.'"

Every week since the start of the school year, the group has been sending emails and talking with school administrators, including Superintendent Marinell McGrath, about the issue of allergies, Kennedy said.

At the parent group's request, a set of protocols was published on the School Department's website in January, Kennedy said.

According to Rita Casper, director of nursing for the Andover schools, the district has had a life-threatening allergy policy since 2007, when the School Committee had its policy manual updated by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees.

A list of protocols and guidelines was developed in August 2008 and they underwent an update last August, she said. Casper said that the guidelines have been on file in the superintendent's office and available in the online School Committee policy manual all along.

Now, she said, they have been posted on the School Department website for easier accessibility, "rather than have to comb through the (School Committee) policy manual."

Allergy guidelines

The four-page document, available under the "Nursing" tab on the School Department's website, lists the responsibilities

of various parties toward food allergies.

The School Department is assigned 10 guidelines. The district is charged with creating a system-wide emergency plan for addressing life-threatening, food-based allergic reactions, training all employees on allergic reaction symptoms and appropriate action, and encouraging that school celebrations be food-free.

The schools also are responsible for implementing "no food trading and sharing" and "no utensil sharing" procedures with a particular focus at the elementary school level.

In addition, a life-threatening food allergy aware table, identified by a universal symbol, is designated in each school cafeteria. The tables are to be cleaned and sanitized by assigned school personnel. Students may invite a friend to sit with them at the allergy aware table, though parents of those children will be asked to pack lunches that do not include foods containing nuts or fish.

Is it enough?

While some parents have been pleased with how their child's school handles allergies, Kennedy said others in her group feel more still must be done. She noted that there is some confusion about protocols and how closely they are monitored.

Kennedy said students with allergies aren't required to sit at the allergy aware table and that staff do not always monitor who is sitting at the tables and with what foods. She added that she believes some schools are better at the procedures than

others, and is hoping for more consistency.

According to Casper, the allergy aware tables are monitored by assigned staff members.

"The principal assigns a staff member to oversee students sitting at an allergy table and it is his or her responsibility to supervise that table in accordance with the health care plans of the students at the table," she said in a written statement.

She also said that Andover nurses have developed a student training class for management of allergies "because we recognize that many of our students need to be educated as they become more independent." The free class, which begins in the fourth grade, is meant to teach students how to recognize an allergic reaction, she said.

"In all that we do, the safety and well-being of our students is our utmost concern which is why we continue to educate our entire community and continue to make progress," Casper said. "In Andover, I believe we are doing a good job."

As the various groups continue to work on the issue, Kennedy said one of the benefits that she believes has arisen is that parents now have a supportive network to turn to as they advocate for their children with allergies.

"We are not alone in this journey," she said.

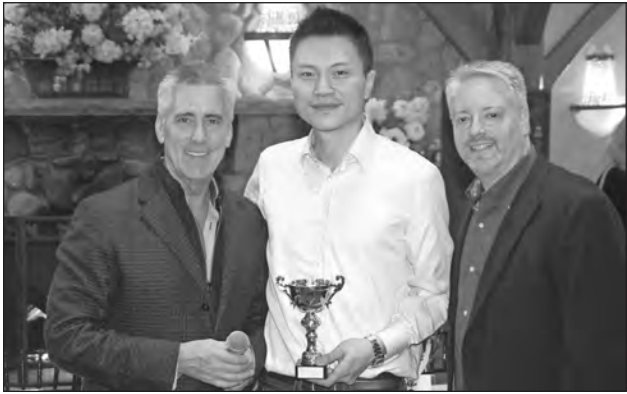
For the full list of guidelines for everyone from school staff to parents to school transportation employees, visit <http://ma-andoverpublicschools.civ-icplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/6288>



Dreams do come true

South Cooperative Theater wrapped up a successful weekend of its fully staged production of "Peter Pan Jr." The cast, featuring more than 60 performers, performed a modern version of the Disney classic about a boy who won't grow up to three packed houses at West Middle School.

PHOTO COURTESY CRISTEN FARRELL PHOTOGRAPHY



COURTESY PHOTO

Iverson Guo, center, owner of Karma in Andover, celebrates his restaurant's victory for Best Appetizer with KISS 108-FM personality and celebrity guest host Billy Costa, left, and event chairman Jonathan Brody at the annual "An Evening of Sweet Indulgence."

A savory victory for Karma

Karma restaurant in Andover took home the crown for Best Appetizer at the fifth annual "An Evening of Sweet Indulgence, and More!" last month at Tewksbury Country Club.

More than 250 people had tickets to sample desserts and appetizers from 19 vendors spanning seven communities. Radio and TV personality Billy Costa returned to host the event and conduct the live auction segment.

Karma got the nod for the night's tastiest appetizer for its tuna and salmon entry, with Lowell's 50 Warren claiming the Best Dessert title for its fresh lemon curd tart.

The judges included Suzanne Giaquinto, pastry chef from L'Andana Grill in Burlington; Scott Whitley from the Pat Whitley Restaurant Show; and Kevin Soucy, winner of the night's auction to be a guest judge.

■ BUSINESS BRIEFCASE

Solectria renews Riverwalk lease

Lupoli Companies has completed a four-year, 85,000-square-foot lease renewal with Solectria — A Yaskawa Company at its 46-acre Riverwalk Properties campus in Lawrence.

Brian Tisbert, senior vice president at Jones, Lang, LaSalle, brokered the deal. In anticipation of the impending lease renewal, Solectria retained Tisbert to research various options in the Merrimack Valley. However, the company decided that its current facility was the best fit for the operation.

"Keeping clients happy and satisfied is key to our success. Maintaining positive tenant relations is critical to retention and paramount to our strategic tenant/landlord partnerships," Gerry-Lynn Darcy, vice president of real estate for Riverwalk Properties, said in a release.

Ten years ago, Solectria co-founders Anita Worden, James Worden, Aybike Crott and Michael Zuercher-Martinson left the electric vehicle business and set out in a small, 5,000-square-foot office space at Riverwalk Properties to develop a company to be a leader in PV inverters. The company now occupies 85,000 square feet of space in the same building where they first opened.

Today, Solectria is the third-largest commercial inverter manufacturer, producing all of its three-phase central inverters at the Lawrence location. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of Yaskawa, the fifth-largest inverter manufacturer in Japan.

To learn more about Lupoli Companies Real Estate Division, visit www.lupolicompanies.com or www.riverwalkmills.com. For more on Solectria, go to www.solectria.com.

Unexpected kickstart

Andover startup scores \$1M in backing for home monitoring system

By SHANNON FLYNN
Staff Writer

What began as a \$200,000 crowdfunding campaign turned into a million-dollar project for a technology startup in Andover.

Immedia Semiconductor created Blink, the first in-home monitoring system that is completely wireless. To support development of the product, Immedia used the crowdfunding website Kickstarter as a "restarter" for the company, Peter Besen, its chief executive officer, said.

The original goal was to raise \$200,000 in 45 days. The Kickstarter campaign, which began last July, raised \$500,000 in three weeks. By the end of August, the campaign had raised just under \$1.1 million and gained a community of approximately 7,000 backers.

"It's not unheard of what happened to us," Besen said. "There's obviously amazing things on Kickstarter."

According to Kickstarter's statistics, only 40 percent of projects get funded, technology having the lowest rate at 23 percent.

If Immedia had not met their Kickstarter goal, Besen said that would have been the end of the company.

"I think that realistically speaking, if we hadn't raised funding, we would've just shut down," he said. "It was close for us, but it was a slam dunk."

Besen said his product is unique to the market. Blink is a little white box housing a camera and motion detector. The way it works is that once motion is detected, it sends a message to the homeowner's cellphone as an alert to the disturbance. The app also provides access to live video of the home at any given time. Some other features include an arming/alert mode, HD video and audio, night vision and temperature sensor.

"It's really an interesting product. Since there's no direct competition right now, and it's in a space that's growing so wildly, we're pretty excited about it," Besen said. "Our product can do things others can't. That separates it from all



PAUL BILODEAU/Staff photo

Peter Besen, CEO and co-founder of Immedia Semiconductor in Andover, holds Blink. The company used Kickstarter to raise funds to develop the home security system, eventually raising five times the money it needed to launch the product.

ABOUT BLINK

- Current pricing is \$69 for one camera or \$169 for a set of three.
- Only available to Kickstarter backers at the moment.
- Will be sold on Amazon Prime.

other products by itself."

During its crowdfunding campaign, the company received a lot of feedback on Blink from backers, which led to some additional components, including a wireless alarm for an extra \$25.

The founders of Immedia never expected they would be creating a product like Blink when the company launched in October 2000 with the mission of developing video and image processing chips.

"We actually focused on very clever algorithms to reduce the amount of noise," Besen said. "We were able to make the image good even though the sensor and lens were so small. That's our specialty."

The majority of Immedia's work was within the computer industry, but about a year ago, that market began to go dry when PC makers decided high-quality computer cameras

were not a priority, Besen said. U.S. investors stopped putting their money into expensive chip making.

"That was a bad place for us at that point," Besen said. "The market vanished for us."

That's when the company began to create its own products, rather than just chips. Blink is the first creation of what Besen hopes will be a series of products to come.

Smoke detectors and window alarms will be added to Blink next. Immedia is also looking to create an alarm system where users can pay \$15 a month to undercut competitors.

Immedia Semiconductor is the third start-up company for Besen and his Massachusetts Institute of Technology colleagues. Their last start-up was acquired by Broadcom. Besen said he worked for a few years selling BluRay solutions, "and then we got entrepreneurial fever again."

Although Blink has not hit the market yet, its creators are already looking toward enhancing the next generation. This would include cellular data usage so Wi-Fi will not be required for receiving alerts, and weatherproofing Blink so it can be used outdoors as well. Lastly, Blink would be available for Windows users,

not just iOS and Android.

The "alpha" deliveries of Blink are just a few weeks away. Besen said it will be the very first release to the backers. Although Blink will not be completely functional, it will allow Immedia to receive additional feedback and see if it works properly.

Besen's advice for other companies looking to crowd-fund is most importantly to know it's going to be a lot of work, from targeting the pitch and deciding the rewards for different levels of contributions, to other marketing incentives.

"I wouldn't discourage anyone, but I think that the reality is just to expect that the actual work to get a quality product out is going to take a lot of effort," he said. "It's going to be much more complicated than you imagine."

Despite all the work, Besen said he would use crowdfunding again to launch other products. Besen said he enjoyed watching and tracking the numbers each day.

"On top of everything else, it was a lot of fun. The whole process was fun," he said.

"The only downside, maybe, for a company like us, where you have a lot of funding, is you're kind of tipping your hat to your competitors," he said.

THE ANDOVER CONNECTION

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Attorney Marybeth McInnis

beneficiaries will receive not only what they wish for them to receive, but all the law allows.

Attorney Marybeth McInnis, together with her father, Attorney James McInnis, believe foremost in establishing a good working relationship with clients. This happens when clients are comfortable and confident that their decisions and wishes will be heard and respected. For much of their work, McInnis Law Offices charges a flat fee so clients can feel free to explore their feelings, express their wishes, and become informed by asking questions.

Estate planning gives a person the opportunity to determine themselves, within the boundaries of the law, how their assets are distributed. Dying without a will forces the state to take charge. Children and family members in that situation are subject to the decisions of strangers. For the elderly, selecting someone they trust to have Power of Attorney is a decision that should be made while healthy and clear

thinking because it is as important a decision as one can make in a lifetime.

Attorney Marybeth McInnis grew up in North Andover and continues to live in the community with her husband. She is a member of the American Bar Association, the Boston Bar Association's Estate Planning Committee, and the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys. She is also a Director of the Friends of Merrimack College, Trustee of the James W. O'Brien Foundation, Inc., and is also licensed to practice in New Hampshire as well as Massachusetts.

McInnis Law Offices is at 807 Turnpike St. (Rte. 114) in North Andover. The office is comfortable and sunny with convenient parking. Call for an appointment at 978-686-6112.

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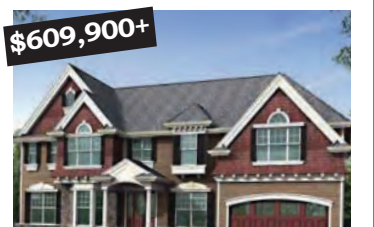
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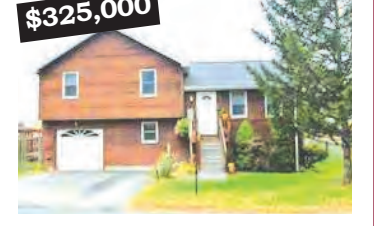
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Sports

Andover Day at Fenway South

Batting gloves, a signed ball and memories from JetBlue Park

By BILL BURT

bburt@andovertownsmam.com

It was Andover Day at Jet-Blue Park in Fort Myers, Fla. last Tuesday. Or at least it felt that way.

Three longtime Andover residents — Red Sox catcher Ryan Hanigan and Northeastern University baseball players Michael Geaslen and Dustin Hunt — participated in the annual Red Sox-Northeastern exhibition game at the Sox home park to open spring.

Hanigan was acquired by the Red Sox over the winter in a trade for Will Middlebrooks.

“A great experience,” said Hanigan, who played against Boston College in the second game of the day. “Andover’s got some pretty good baseball.”

A year ago, Hunt was the starting pitcher against the Red Sox, not allowing a run over two innings. He sat this one out as he pitched on Sunday against Kentucky, striking out nine in only five innings. On this day, he enjoyed the scenery.

“The best part is interacting with the players in the very beginning during their batting practice,” said Hunt, a sophomore who was named to the Colonial

Athletic Association All-Rookie team last year.

“I just focused on pitching (last year) and didn’t get to take everything in as much,” he said.

“It was awesome watching Aaron (Civale) strike all those guys (four). I was happy for him. I really enjoyed talking to Hanley (Ramirez) and (David) Ortiz. Hanley was a real good guy who signed a ball for me and took a picture. It was another great experience.”

For Geaslen, a freshman, it was extra special.

“My main goal while being at Fenway South and playing the Red Sox was to enjoy

every minute,” Geaslen said. “From the moment I got there, I took out my phone and took pictures of everything, and tried to take pictures with everyone.”

“The batting practice and warm-ups were amazing, just the fact we got to watch and learn from the pros,” he said. “It was great to see how friendly and talkative they were. They were all willing to take photos with you and chat.”

“I talked to Shane Victorino for most of the batting practice. He was a great guy and ended up giving me his batting gloves ... I can’t wait for next year.”



COURTESY PHOTO

Andover catcher Ryan Hanigan, center, who was acquired by Boston over the winter, poses with fellow Andover ballplayers Michael Geaslen, left, and Dustin Hunt last week when they traveled to JetBlue Park in Fort Myers, Fla., for Northeastern University’s exhibition game against the Red Sox.

CLOSING SHOT

Merinder, Giribaldi cap off AHS careers in North semifinals

By DAVID WILLIS

It wasn’t supposed to end this way, not after four years on the Andover High varsity basketball team.

From the time they were freshmen, now-seniors Connor Merinder and David Giribaldi were front-and-center for the Golden Warriors, the All-Scholastic scoring machine and the big man that was as dominant on the defensive end as he was with the ball in his hands.

But after all the games and the nearly countless points, the two stalwarts and their teammates came up a little short in their hopes of extending their season just a bit longer.

“It’s sad,” coach David Fazio said. “These are great kids that I could not have asked for more from for the last four years. I have been blessed to coach guys like these, and they gave it everything they could.”

Despite a fierce comeback, Andover could not earn a return trip to the Tsongas Center for the North final, falling to top-seed Cambridge Rindge & Latin 78-62 in the Division 1 North semifinals last Wednesday, March 4.

The loss meant the end of an era as the Warriors said good-bye to superstars Merinder and Giribaldi along with the rest of the 2014-15 senior class, which included Reid Bryant, Jonathan Rodriguez and Griffin O’Connor.

“It’s so tough,” Fazio said. “This is a very special class. Reid fought through so many injuries to be here, Gabe was a spunky guard and Griffin always gave it his all. And of course Giri and Merinder. It’s going to be strange next year.”

It will certainly be a different Warriors team without Giribaldi, who entered the elite class of 1,000-point scorers last month, and Merinder, the All-Conference forward who will continue his basketball career at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn.

“They fought so hard, and they have for four years,” Fazio said. “Connor just epitomizes what every high school coach dreams of. He is selfless, he cares about his team and coaches so much and he has given everything he could to the program.”

“In Giribaldi, you have an All-Scholastic who has played the whole year with a torn abductor muscle and never missed a game. He was playing with 10 percent of his athleticism and he was still terrific.”

The two stars very nearly led Andover back against Cambridge as Merinder scored 14 of his game-high 25 after halftime while Giribaldi scored 12 of his 17 following the break.

Cambridge raced out to a 26-11 lead after one quarter, and by late in



CARL RUSSO/Staff photos

Captain Connor Merinder attempts a shot in traffic during the Division 1 North semifinals against Cambridge Rindge & Latin last week. Merinder scored a game-high 25 points, but the Golden Warriors were eliminated from post-season play with the loss.



David Giribaldi drives to the hoop surrounded by Cambridge Rindge & Latin defenders. Giribaldi scored 17 points in his final game for the Golden Warriors.

the second quarter had extended the advantage to 38-18.

But the Warriors ended the first half with a flurry. First Merinder hit a jumper, Giribaldi followed that with a three-pointer, Merinder added a slashing layup and Jonathan Rodriguez stuck a jumper to make it 40-28 at the half.

Giribaldi and Merinder continued that run into the second half, delivering a

10-2 run of their own, and with 3:30 left in the third, the advantage was down to 44-38.

“When we cut it to six, we felt very confident,” Fazio said. “But then, they come back with a couple of three-pointers, and suddenly the lead is back to 12.”

The Warriors were able to cut it to single digits one more time, when Rodriguez nailed a three-pointer to

make it 60-52 with 6:03 left in the game. But it would get no closer.

“They were just too athletic, and the way they drove to the hoop really put us on our heels,” Fazio said. “We tried to recover, but we came up short.”

David Willis is a sports-writer/videographer for The Andover Townsman. Reach him on twitter at @DWillisET.



MARY SCHWALM/Staff photo

Goalie Nick Scarpa was on task with 30 saves, including this save in the second period, but Andover High fell 3-0 to Arlington Catholic last week in the Division 1 North semifinals.

Final face-off for AHS boys’ breakout hockey season

By DAVID WILLIS

dwillis@andovertownsmam.com

It was already a breakthrough season, the best for Andover hockey in seven years and best ever in Division 1.

But the Golden Warriors were not ready to say good-bye.

“We weren’t ready for the season to end,” first-year head coach Chris Kuchar said. “We wanted to play a few more rounds.”

A season after missing the playoffs, Andover hockey advanced to the Division 1 North semifinals for the first time since the program joined the Division 1 ranks.

But that is where it ended. Despite a monster effort by goalie Nick Scarpa, the No. 4 seed Golden Warriors fell to No. 8 Arlington Catholic 3-0 last Thursday, March 5, at the Chelmsford Forum.

“We’re upset with the loss, no question,” Kuchar said. “But being here really was quite an accomplishment for these kids. No one other than this team thought we could make it this far.”

It was quite a turnaround for the Golden Warriors, who finished the 2013-14 season just 5-12-3 and did not qualify for the state tournament.

It also marked the Golden Warriors’ deepest playoff run since joining Division 1 in 2007-08, a year after they advanced to the Division 2 state title game.

“We ran into a very good team,” Kuchar said of Arlington Catholic, which upset top-seed Burlington in the North quarterfinals. “We knew that we had to play a flawless game to beat them. We had a couple breakdowns and they

took advantage. Our kids played their hearts out, but that is one big, strong hockey team.”

Arlington Catholic used its speed and size advantage to hold the puck in the Andover zone for nearly the entire night, firing 33 shots on Golden Warrior net-minder Scarpa.

Scarpa, a senior co-captain, held Andover in the game throughout the fierce attack. The senior made 10 saves in the first and 16 in the second period, allowing a single goal in each.

“Nick has just been outstanding for us,” Kuchar said. “He has carried us all season. He has been the best player in the MVC all season. But also seniors like (Zach) Walker and (Conor) Silk also did an amazing job bringing us here.”

It was Walker that nearly tied the game late in the first, taking the puck in on a 1-on-1 and firing a shot that looked destined for the goal. But Cougars goalie Dylan Morris turned him away.

The Warriors’ next best chance came with just over seven minutes left in the game, when Kuchar pulled Scarpa on a power play for the 6-on-4 advantage. But once again, Andover could not crack Morris.

Arlington Catholic went ahead with 5:12 left in the first, then added to the advantage 1:39 into the second on a goal assisted by Methuen’s Ryan Tierney.

“They were very good on defense,” Kuchar said. “We really couldn’t generate many chances on offense. But they fought.”

David Willis is a sportswriter/videographer for The Andover Townsman. Reach him on twitter at @DWillisET.

Warriors rule the North

Girls basketball delivers three thrillers en route to Division 1 North title

By DAVID WILLIS
dwillis@andovertownsmen.com

With just three seconds remaining on the clock, the North title and a trip to the TD Garden were still very much hanging in the balance.

Then in stepped Rachael Cormier and Alyssa Casey, and all that was left was celebrating for Andover High.

The senior point guard and her sophomore star teammate each stepped up with decisive free throws in the final seconds, clinching Andover's 41-38 thrilling victory over Billerica in the Division 1 North title game last Saturday.

The win earned the Warriors a berth in the Division 1 semifinals, held on Monday at the Garden (see story, Page 1).

"It's just unreal," Cormier said after Saturday's game. "I don't even remember the final second. I just remember running and jumping and celebrating. We knew it was going to be a hard game, and that we would have to battle. To win this is just surreal."

The title marked the Golden Warriors' first North crown since the 2011-12 team that won its third straight Division 1 state title led by Nicole Boudreau, Ally Fazio and Jackie Alois.

"I have never experienced anything like this before," said Casey, who scored a team-high 15 points. "It's incredible. I'm overwhelmed. I can't even describe how much fun this is."



The Andover High girls basketball team poses with its Division 1 North championship trophy after its 41-38 victory over Billerica in the North title game on Saturday.

DAVID LE/Staff photo

But it certainly was not easy against a gritty Billerica team that Andover had gone 1-1 against in the regular season.

Andover led 24-19 after three quarters, and sophomore center Jillian Webber gave Andover some rhythm early in the fourth, making a move in the paint and sinking a smooth hook shot. One possession later it was Cormier, playing with four fouls, who drove for a layup. Casey added a jumper and Dellatto, Caveney and Carissa Reming each hit free throws.

But Billerica rallied back and with just three seconds remaining in the game hit a three-pointer to make the score 39-38. Cormier was then fouled and went to the free throw line.

"I was freaking out and I looked at Rachael and you could just tell how focused she was," guard Talia Dellatto said. "The same for Alyssa when she got to the line. They were so calm and so focused. When you are that determined, special things happen."

Cormier knocked down

a free throw, then Casey grabbed a rebound and was fouled with just over a second left.

"You can't let the moment overwhelm you," said Casey, a 5-11 forward who was named MVC Division 1 MVP. "I know I can hit free throws. I have made a million in my life. I just had to do it."

Casey did just that with a swish. Billerica launched up a final shot, but it came well after the buzzer and the Warriors could celebrate a North title.

"We had to fight and stay

tough mentally through that," Webber said. "We were nervous, but we could not let down for a second."

Added an overjoyed Dellatto: "It was crazy. Winning is the best feeling ever. I was tearing up it was so emotional. I am so happy to do this with my team."

ANDOVER ADVANCES TO NORTH FINAL

Rachael Cormier chose a fine day for her most dominant performance.

The senior point guard scored 16 points, the most in her three-year varsity career; to lead Andover to a 56-48 victory over Chelmsford in the Division 1 North semifinals last Thursday, March 5.

"We were confident coming in, but not cocky," Cormier said. "We've grown so much and become a much better team since the last time we played them (Jan. 20, a tough 45-41 victory), and Colleen did an amazing job (on Chelmsford star Claire Markey)."

The always-reliable Caveney chipped in with 12 points while Alyssa Casey, despite battling the flu, scored 10 points and Carissa Reming had seven points.

"Oh my gosh, (our guards) did a phenomenal job on her," Casey said. "She (Markey) is one of my best friends so I feel bad for her that her season is over ... but I'm glad we're still playing."

WARRIORS ROLL OVER NORTH ANDOVER

By the time the final buzzer sounded, the Andover High

starters had turned to cheerleaders, rooting on their teammates as they finished off the final minutes of a truly dominant performance.

"I thought we were going to outplay North Andover, but I didn't think we would outplay them by this much," point guard Rachael Cormier said. "We knew that we could do this because we were so determined. We just want to keep the season going."

Behind 22 points by forward Alyssa Casey, Andover cruised to a 64-40 victory over North Andover in the Division 1 North quarterfinals last Monday, March 2.

"It just feels incredible," forward Jillian Webber said. "We have worked so hard, we took the right mind-set and we just wanted this game so bad. It is really surreal to win like this."

Webber added 14 points and dominated the boards (15 rebounds) along with Casey. Colleen Caveney chipped in with 15 points and the likes of Talia Dellatto, Cormier and Carissa Reming led a dominant defensive effort.

"North Andover is a great team who has battled us each time we played them this season," Reming said. "We knew them, and they knew us, and we knew how hard we had to work to prepare for them. So to win like this is amazing."

David Willis is a sports-writer/videographer for *The Andover Townsman*. Reach him on twitter at @DWillisET.

COMMUNITY SCOREBOARD

All-Conference honors for Casha

Andover's **Nysa Casha** made the most of her final New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference Swimming and Diving Championships last month for Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

The senior captain was one of several WPI men's and

women's swimming and diving student-athletes to earn all-conference and/or help combine to set 24 program records at the meet hosted by WPI at its Sports & Recreation Center Pool.

Casha met the NCAA-B standard in the 100 fly, finishing in 57.31. She also joined forces with Marissa Patterson (Hampton, N.H.), Zoe

Eggleston (Newtown, Conn.) and Emily Martin (Penfield, N.Y.) to take third in the 200 medley with a time of 1:47.55.

A business major, Casha has spent three years swimming in college, amassing six personal team records, along with three relay records. She is the only woman WPI swimmer to make the NEWMAC All-Conference team two

times, in both 2013 and 2015. In 2013, she made school history as the first female swimmer to be a Worcester City Champion.

Sign-ups for 6U/8U girls softball program

Registrations are still being accepted for the town's newest 6U/8U girls softball

program.

The program is especially designed for girls ages 5 through 8, in kindergarten through second grade, who are new to the sport. Players participate in one skills session and one practice per week, with games on Sunday afternoons.

The season runs from mid-April to June. Players who

register with a friend can seek to be placed together. Visit www.andovergirlssoftball.com to sign up or contact Karen Wiley at boyko5wiley@comcast.net for more information.

To submit an item for the *Community Scoreboard*, email townsman@andover-townsman.com.



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THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Sunny and colder	Sunshine	A wintry mix	Showers of rain/snow	Milder	Rain and snow	Mostly sunny; colder
High: 39° Low: 17°	High: 40° Low: 27°	High: 41° Low: 31°	High: 37° Low: 24°	High: 48° Low: 36°	High: 47° Low: 25°	High: 39° Low: 21°

A new pediatric specialty center has landed in Lawrence.

TogetherForHealthyKids.com

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

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

The following real estate transfers were recorded recently in town:

- **300 Brookside Drive, Unit E:** Leslie H. Frankel to Susan Fortuanto, \$270,000
- **400 Brookside Drive, Unit E:** Bette A. Macleod to Ryan J. Wright and Gabriella Guerrero, \$248,900
- **117 Jenkins Road:** Arch Land Development LLC to Michael A. and Eleonora E. Davolio, \$355,000
- **123 Jenkins Road:** Groezinger RT and Scott Groezinger to Jenkins Road RT and Sean Szekely, \$370,000
- **123 Jenkins Road:** Arch Land Development LLC to Jenkins Road RT and Sean Szekely, \$280,000
- **28 Kathleen Drive:** Kiker FT and J.M. Kiker to Suresh Ganapathy and Jyothy Shanker, \$615,000
- **6 Leah Way, Unit 6:** Andover Lincoln Woods LLC to Charles Wheeler, \$849,900
- **49 Lupine Road, Unit 6:** Melissa Harmon-Belliard to Debra D. Ozoonian, \$217,500
- **325 South Main St.:** Thomas and Lydia C. Fraser to James P. and Michelle R. Preston, \$505,000

Andover offering measles vaccinations

In the wake of the recent multi-state measles outbreak linked to a California amusement park, the Andover Health Division is strongly urging residents to consult with their physicians and ensure they are up to date on their MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccination status. Officials say vaccination should especially be considered before any upcoming travel. The town's Health Department will be offering the MMR vaccine to Andover residents in need of it. A limited amount of vaccine will be available. The cost may be covered by some insurances. The measles outbreak in California started in December and has since spread to at least 17 other states. The highly contagious viral illness can result in serious health complications. However, measles can be prevented with the MMR vaccine. To learn more about vaccinations available locally or to make an appointment, call the Health Department at 978-623-8295.

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<p>North Andover</p>	<p>\$1200.00</p> <p>High visibility!! Building renovated in 2012 - Great for mortgage business, attorney, accountant, real estate office, etc. - Located on 2nd floor with 2 offices, a reception area, a copy room, space for work stations, and a rest room. The office has beautiful hardwood floors and skylights. Plenty of parking. Heat & electric included. Easy access to route 495.</p>	<p>JACQUELINE MORGAN 978-490-4394 jmorgan1@remax.net</p>
<p>North Andover</p>	<p>\$584,900</p> <p>Popular Hickory Hill! Everything you want in this quality built, meticulously updated 10 Room, 4 Bedroom, 2.5 bath Colonial on level lot. Dramatic master suite, spacious 24 x 24 family room, & 2 car garage! Super convenient location! Minutes to Lawrence T station!</p>	<p>CHERYL FOSTER 614-335-4369 cherylfoster@remax.net</p>

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