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NATIONAL TITLE
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OUR 127TH YEAR

Andover Townsman

Issue No. 19

MARCH 19, 2015

75 CENTS

FROM ANDOVER TO THE GARDEN



COURTESY BOSTON CELTICS

Andover's Michael Briggs receives a standing ovation after being honored as the Boston Celtics' "Hero Among Us" last Friday at the TD Garden in Boston. For a video of Briggs' big night, see www.andovertownsman.com.

By MICHAEL MULDOON
Staff Writer

An inspirational Briggs turns Celtics' 'Hero Among Us' on famed parquet

The Celtics roared back from an 11-point deficit to beat the Orlando Magic last Friday night. Evan Turner was dazzling with 16 fourth-quarter points.

But the loudest applause of the evening may have been for a young man from Andover who isn't even on the team. Michael Briggs, a member

of the MVC Large champion Andover High varsity basketball team, stood center court as the Celtics' "Heroes Among Us" honoree last week.

He's a junior with Down syndrome, a sweet jump shot, an infectious personality and an insatiable love of the game of

basketball.

Briggs stepped on the famed Garden parquet during a break in the second quarter. The PA announcer told his inspiring story and Briggs was also featured on the massive Jumbotron above the court. Briggs did a Rajon

Rondo-esque 360 spin move, waving to the fans in all corners of the arena.

The fans (the announced attendance was a capacity crowd of 18,624) went wild. The Celtic players roared their

See **BRIGGS**, Page 2

Water, sewer rates set to rise

5 percent hikes would fund system improvements

By BILL KIRK
bkirk@andovertownsman.com

Residents would pay an additional \$19 a year for water and another \$20 annually for sewer service if a proposed rate hike is approved by the Board of Selectmen next week.

Town officials are proposing that the water rate increase by 5 percent next year to cover costs associated with treating and distributing water to residents and businesses.

Currently, water customers are charged \$3.10 per 100 cubic feet of water used, which is equivalent to 748 gallons. A typical, 10-minute shower uses anywhere from 25 to 50 gallons, depending on whether a low-flow fixture is used.

Public Works Director Chris Cronin has proposed increasing water rates to \$3.26 per 100 cubic feet.

He and Finance Director Donna Walsh explained that the average user in Andover would pay \$391 a year for water after the rate hike. The average user in communities comparable to Andover pays \$492 a year while the average user in the Merrimack

See **HIKE**, Page 2

Selectmen's race heads to the polls

Strong turnout expected next week

By BILL KIRK
bkirk@andovertownsman.com



Tuesday, March 24, is Election Day in Andover, with multiple candidates running for numerous seats.

This week, The Andover Townsman publishes the final installment in its series of profiles of candidates.

Four candidates are running for two, three-year seats on the Board of Selectmen. Incumbents are Brian Major and Dan Kowalski; challengers are Neil Senior and Bob Landry.

Last week, The Townsman ran profiles of two candidates running for a one-year seat on the School Committee: Annie Gilbert and Paul Properzio.

Earlier, profiles were published of four candidates

running for two, three-year seats on the School Committee: incumbent David Birnbach and challengers Susan McCready, Kim Sousa and Ted Teichert.

Other candidates on the ballot, are a facing no opposition, include:

- Sheila Doherty, moderator
- Marilyn Fitzgerald, Greater Lawrence Regional Vocational Technical School District Committee
- Francis O'Connor, Andover Housing Authority
- Eric Stubenhaus and Charles Hanes, Trustees of the Punchard Free School.

See **RACE**, Page 3



Dan Kowalski: 'Agent of change' seeks another term

At a political forum two weeks ago, selectmen Chairman Dan Kowalski described his first term in office as a "roller-coaster ride."

During a recent interview with the Townsman, Kowalski said he almost got off that ride.

He said serving his first and only term so far as a selectman has been "twice

See **KOWALSKI**, Page 5



Bob Landry: From website watchdog to political player

Bob Landry got off to an inauspicious start in local politics.

Several years after moving to Andover, Landry decided he wanted to get more involved in civic affairs, reaching out to the late Greg Rigby after seeing a letter by him in The Townsman about runaway pension and retiree health care costs.

See **LANDRY**, Page 6



Brian Major: Board veteran brings insight, passion to post

Talking to Selectman Brian Major about Andover is like talking to a history book that has been updated to the most recent event.

Major, 49, an 18-year member of the Board of Selectmen, has a story about nearly every aspect of the community, from youth services and schools to budget battles and business success stories.

See **MAJOR**, Page 6



Neil Senior: Time for new approach to development

Neil Senior doesn't have any political experience. He hasn't been to Town Meeting in years. While he's lived in Andover for seven years, he's spent much of his time traveling out of state, including a 10-month stint in California.

But Senior, who recently took a new job that allows him to be in town a lot more these days, said the time is

See **SENIOR**, Page 7

Job cuts, SPED costs, contracts at forefront for final school candidates forum

By TIM LIMA
tlima@andovertownsman.com

A reduction in teaching positions, the potential of swelling class sizes and special education funding were among the focus points at Monday night's School Committee candidates forum.

It was the final public meeting of the six candidates who are vying for three open seats on the board at next week's town election.

Four candidates are competing for two, three-year seats on the School Committee — incumbent David Birnbach and challengers Susan McCready, Kim Sousa and Ted Teichert.

Two candidates are running

for a single, one-year seat — incumbent Chairman Annie Gilbert and challenger Paul Properzio.

The forum, held at Bancroft School, was hosted by the Bancroft Parent-Teacher Organization and the League of Women Voters of Andover and North Andover.

In response to last week's news that a proposed School Department budget for next fiscal year calls for the loss of 21.5 full-time equivalent positions, Birnbach said it's a result of signing a "very rich teachers contract in the last go-round."

He said the costs of negotiating these contracts, which he said increase teachers' salaries by 2 to 10 percent,

have "huge" impacts in the classroom.

Concurrently, he said, administrative costs have grown in recent years as teachers have been laid off — something he said he finds troubling.

Teichert, a former town selectman, agreed, saying he was surprised to find that administrative costs for the district have risen 21 percent in recent years, as teaching jobs have been cut.

Like Birnbach, Teichert said he also thinks the teachers were given too much in the last round of contract negotiations.

"If you're going to give more

See **FORUM**, Page 2

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March 24th

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BRIGGS

Continued from Page 1

approval. The Magic players did the same. Heck, even the referees did.

When Briggs left the court, Celtic radio analyst Cedric Maxwell sprinted about as quickly as he's done since chasing the 76ers' Dr. J 30 years ago. He caught up to Briggs, a longtime season ticket-holder who Maxwell knows well, and gave him a bear hug.

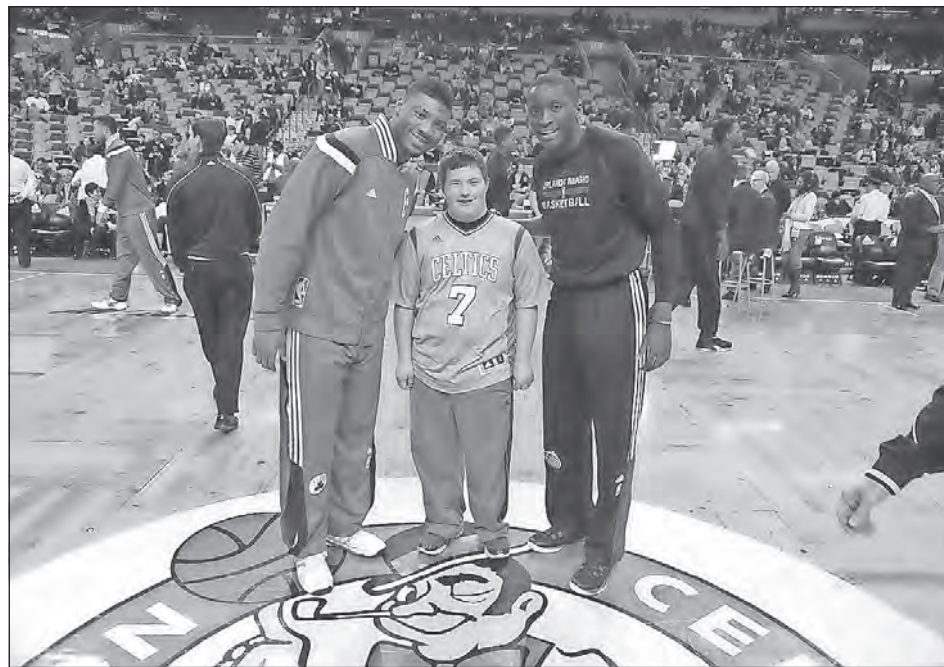
Briggs' favorite part of the whirlwind day? That was easy.

"The fans clapping for me. That was fun. It was really cool," he said.

It's not the first time he's received a rousing ovation on the court. A sellout crowd waiting for the Andover-Central Catholic showdown last year erupted when he hit a shot late in the junior varsity game.

Then there was the 2014 Commonwealth Classic Christmas Tourney in December when he scored late in the game against Methuen.

Those happened quickly. He had plenty of time to



BRIAN BABINEAU/Courtesy photo

Andover High School basketball player Michael Briggs is flanked by Celtics first-round pick Marcus Smart and Orlando Magic star Victor Oladipo, the runner-up in the NBA slam dunk contest, after he was honored as the Celtics' "Hero Among Us" last Friday night at the TD Garden in Boston.

think about this one.

Was he nervous? "Nope," Briggs said. "No way. I slept really good."

Around the game of basketball, Briggs is a confident young man, befitting a varsity athlete with a slew of close friends from

the powerhouse Andover program.

"The program has been amazing since Day 1," his father, David, said.

His mother, Kim, added, "They just see him as Michael. He's their teammate."

Past "Heroes Among Us" winners have included war heroes, ordinary citizens who sprung to action to save lives and philanthropists who have given millions of dollars back to the community.

The Celtics treat their

"Heroes Among Us" like true heroes, offering them four tickets with a list price of \$1,650 apiece.

Briggs was accompanied courtside by AHS teammates Connor Merinder, Max Beati and Perry Wynn. Teammate D.J. Minor, Briggs' parents, Andover head coach Dave Fazio and Golden Warrior assistants Alan Hibino and Ben Gibson also were on hand.

Briggs was sitting so close to the Celtics bench that he could talk to the team. Actually, he did talk to the team — standout rookie guard Marcus Smart and head coach Brad Stevens among them. Stevens shook his hand like an old friend.

Fazio called the night and the Hollywood treatment "surreal."

Hibino said they were "treated like royalty."

The Celtics get a flood of nominees for the award, which is given out at all the home games, but Fazio said they certainly got this one right.

"He's been an inspiration to everyone in our program and our community," he said. "It's a wonderful celebration."

Gibson has worked closely with Briggs these last three years, fine-tuning his skills and rebounding endlessly for the junior whose love for the game seems to know no bounds.

When asked what playing basketball for Andover has taught Briggs, Gibson said, "He's the one teaching me. It's awesome to see Mike with this honor. He lives up to it every day."

The Briggs family has had season tickets for 18 years. David's Boston Cafe & Catering worked with the Celtics for many years.

Briggs and his family have relished the "New Big 3" of Garnett, Allen and Pierce and "Beat-in-L.A." for the 2008 NBA title, befriending finals MVPs Paul Pierce and Maxwell, and even flying three times with the team to away games.

But there was nothing quite like last Friday night.

"It's very special," his father said.

Added his mother, "It's absolutely unbelievable. You can't put words to it. I'm so proud of him. He was so confident. I would have been a wreck. But he held it all together."

FORUM

Continued from Page 1

to the teachers, the rest of the department is going to have less," he said.

McCready also touched on the contracts, saying the impact they have on students must be as much of a priority as the dollar figure, but that "it's done, and we need to move forward."

In recent meetings with Superintendent Marinel McGrath, McCready said she feels confident that the

district is doing its best to maintain reasonable class sizes, especially at the youngest grades.

"I think they are working to maintain class sizes as much as they possibly can, especially in kindergarten to third grade, knowing that that's where it's most important to keep class sizes as reasonable as we can," she said.

Sousa said she's hesitant to accept the reduction in positions, saying there's still time before the budget is finalized. "At the end of the day, you have to analyze everything,"

Sousa said. "I think that there are still ways to possibly figure out how teacher cuts won't happen, but we have to plan for it. I think hopefully we will have another source of funding, maybe, that will come up."

Sousa also said class sizes are an issue, calling them something that "we have to tackle and get behind if this happens. We need to make sure that they don't grow too big, and maybe there's other ways we can manage that as well."

When asked about the high cost of special-needs education and whether enough is being done by the district to support those programs, Gilbert said Andover pays more than the average for special needs because it does more than the average.

"There is a state average, and we spend more than that for our population of special-education students," she said. "We are part of a cohort of communities that spend, perhaps significantly, above the state average, because we are investing in significant ways in our special-education programming."

She added that several communities across the state "don't do what we do," and said that families travel to Andover for, among other factors, its special-needs programs.

Properzio said that open communication is key in growing the district's special-education programs.

"I personally believe that

special education is a very sensitive issue and that we cannot shortchange those students who qualify for special education," he said. "The most important thing is to have a dialogue with those parents and students and see if they're being well-served."

If the School Committee learns that the special education community feels it is not being served well enough, he said, "we need to find out why and what we can do to fix that problem."

The 90-minute event, broadcast and recorded by AndoverTV.org, was moderated by league member Heather McNeil of North Andover. The town election is next Tuesday, March 24.

SETTING PRIORITIES

Here's what the six School Committee candidates had to say about their highest priority within the School Department's Strategic Plan:

DAVID BIRNBACH: Project-Based Learning. "The world cares less about what you know, and a whole lot more about what you can do with what you know. And unfortunately, too much of our learning environments are still in the acquisition of knowledge and not enough in the application of knowledge."

SUSAN MCCREADY: Innovation. "When I came back to Andover, I was surprised at how far behind we were with technology and those opportunities, because when I was a graduate, I felt that we were very far ahead and I was well

prepared for going into the academic world, and into my career."

KIM SOUSA: Innovation. "I think that what we have to do is make sure we have the right environment for the innovation. So we can always add innovation and we should, we have to, to keep up with the learning, but we also need to make sure that we have the right learning environment."

TED TEICHERT: Technology and Communication. "We need to walk through this process before we run, and when we do, we need to make sure that it's measurable to get our performance back as a whole. As far as the communications, I want to make sure it's open and that people are able to identify and address any questions that the public may have."

ANNIE GILBERT: High Achievement for All. "I think we're at a point, with the implementation of PARCC testing, on the heels on a number of years of MCAS testing, that people are starting to think, 'What are we doing?' I will be very up front in saying that I think there's a lot more to being a well-educated child than just high-stakes testing."

PAUL PROPERZIO: Innovation and Communication. "For me, innovation and education have always gone hand-in-hand. It's important to keep parents, as well as students, apprised of any changes that are upcoming in the schools. It is my firm belief that this is possible in Andover, but we have to keep our lines open."

HIKE

Continued from Page 1

Valley pays \$573 a year, making Andover the lowest in the region.

Cronin said rates have been kept low in Andover because "we stopped doing work at the treatment plant ... and our water rates fell behind."

He said the increase is needed to pay for maintenance, including water main flushing, hydrant flushing and work around the water treatment plant.

"We need to do the maintenance," he said. "We have a great plant and a good distribution system, which needs work. It's a very good water system, but it's old and needs work."

Meanwhile, town officials are proposing that the sewer rate also go up by 5 percent, which would add \$20.40 to the typical bill. The average user would pay \$436 a year compared to \$781 for comparable communities and \$633 in the Merrimack Valley.

The largest portion of the cost of sewer is the annual assessment made to the Greater Lawrence Sanitary District, where Andover sends its sewage for treatment. Currently, that assessment is pegged at \$1.8 million, but could go up to nearly \$2 million, which would mean a potential increase in the sewer rate.

In addition, the water rate could go up depending on how negotiations go with North Reading, which buys water from Andover. North Reading is currently paying a rate that is lower than what Andover residents pay. If that rate remains low, the costs to Andover residents could increase. On the other hand, if negotiations result in North Reading paying a higher water rate, Andover's rates could go down.

The Board of Selectmen, acting in their capacity as Water and Sewer Commission, is expected to vote on the final rates at its regular meeting on Monday, March 23.

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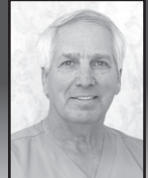
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State official urges caution on snow relief

By BILL KIRK

bkirk@andovertownsmen.com

State emergency management officials are cautioning cities and towns to be more conservative in their estimates for federal snow storm relief, saying there is no guarantee a check will be in the mail.

Last week, a story in The Andover Townsman quoted town leaders as saying they expected millions of dollars in federal aid as a result of a series of crippling snowstorms that struck during a three- to four-week period in January and February.

But an official from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, or MEMA, said those estimates may be way too high and the expectation for financial relief "premature."

"Massachusetts has not even requested assistance yet," Peter Judge, a spokesman for MEMA, said. "The assessment process is still underway."

He went on to say that comments from city and town officials amounted to nothing more than a "wish list. ... It's just in the hope stage right now."

"Somebody gave them misinformation and they all

jumped on board. They are just way, way ahead of the curve."

But town officials say they knew all along that snow removal aid hinged on approval from the federal government.

"The key word is 'eligible' costs," Town Manager Buzz Stapeczynski said. "We follow the guidelines, then it's up to the feds what they will determine is eligible. We know they'll knock things out, that they'll find some of our things ineligible. That's normal."

He added that the idea of grouping the storms into one, large event was the state's idea.

"We knew that was a risk," he said. "They've never done it before. It's new and different, but we think they can support it because the storms came one right after another. I think it's pretty inventive. I like that approach. It's innovative. And we can justify what we did. Our record here is 110 inches and we are close to that now. It's a record-breaking year."

Andrew Maylor, the town manager of North Andover, agreed.

"We were told to include the broader period," Maylor said. "We understand there is no guarantee. We submit

the material in the hope that the federal government will send us the reimbursement. You never come into this with any expectations. We do what's asked and hope for the best. It's not a perfect process."

He added, "We appreciate that the state wanted to include the other storms. But the data we provided showed each of the storms separately."

Judge said there is no guarantee the Federal Emergency Management Agency will allow communities to combine all the storms into one, large event.

"It's a huge reach," he said. "The first storm is a stand-alone disaster. We expect that will qualify as a stand-alone disaster, and there will be aid for infrastructure, overtime and snow clean-up. But that will only be for 48 hours. We are trying to get FEMA to say, 'Put all the storms together as one, major disaster.' But FEMA has never said that before."

He stressed that storm relief, at least at this point, is only for the 48 hours around an event and has not been extended to include additional clean-up or other costs.

"If we do get the assistance, we don't know what

type of assistance it will be," he said, adding that MEMA is meeting with Gov. Charlie Baker to write a letter to the president seeking disaster relief. Once the president declares an emergency, then the process of getting reimbursements will start.

Some officials say that if the federal government doesn't step in to help out, then the state should.

"We are going to do everything we can to have this whole series of storms declared an emergency to give us relief," Haverhill Mayor James Fiorentini said. "Letters have gone to the White House. This is the governor's initiative, which we support."

But, he said, if President Obama and the Federal Emergency Management Agency decide not to issue funding based on all four storms, he and other municipal leaders will ask the state Legislature to file a supplemental budget request to pull money from the state.

"We will ask the Legislature to take money from the rainy day fund," said Fiorentini, who is president of the Massachusetts Mayors Association. "They should rename it the snowy day fund."

Hearing on assisted-living facility to resume March 31

A continued discussion on a special permit proposal for an assisted-living facility at 139-143 Elm St. that was planned for last week has been pushed back three weeks.

Planning Board members announced at their scheduled meeting last Tuesday, March 10, that the discussion planned for that night would be postponed until the end of the month.

The discussion will reconvene Tuesday, March 31, at the World War I Memorial Auditorium at Doherty Middle School at 8 p.m.

According to Kathryn Forina, administrative secretary for the Planning Board, one of the board members could not attend the March 10 meeting due to a family issue. As a result, the applicant requested the meeting be delayed until all voting members of the board could be present.

Hundreds of people have signed a petition in opposition to the proposed project, which would bring a 103-unit, assisted-living facility for seniors to Elm Street.

The 88,126-square-foot building would be constructed on a hill at

139-143 Elm St., which is currently occupied by a single-family home surrounded by about 10 acres of open fields, woodlands and wetlands.

According to the town planning office, the seniors living there would be housed in a single structure that is 35 feet tall at its highest point.

Neighbors to the project have said that the building, built atop a hill, would be too imposing for a residential neighborhood, changing its character.

— Tim Lima, staff writer

TOWN BRIEFS

Wood window repair primer on tap

Thomas Barber of Thomas Barber Restoration and Construction of Lynn will share his knowledge of restoring old wood windows at the BallardVale Historic District Commission's monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 1, at 7 p.m. at Memorial Hall Library, second floor, 2 North Main St., Andover.

Barber's one-hour talk and demonstration will offer a chance to learn the ins and outs of wood window repair and how to make one's home more energy efficient. He will offer solutions for repairing old windows rather than replacing them.

The free event is open to

the public; reservations are not needed. Questions can be directed to BallardVale Historic Commission District Vice Chairman Diane Derby at derby01@comcast.net.

YMCA hosting March 31 blood drive

The Andover/North Andover YMCA, 165 Haverhill St., Andover, is holding an American Red Cross blood drive on Tuesday, March 31, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The blood drive coincides with March's designation as Red Cross Month, which is a time dedicated to recognize those who support the Red Cross.

Those unable to give blood

can support blood donations by organizing a blood drive, volunteering to assist with Red Cross activities, or creating a SleevesUp virtual blood drive online at redcrossblood.org/SleevesUp and asking others to make a lifesaving donation.

To make an appointment to give blood, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit redcrossblood.org or call 800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Andover High class of 1970 planning 45th reunion

The Andover High School class of 1970 is gearing up for its 45th reunion this fall.

Classmates who are

interested in helping to plan the reunion are asked to contact Chris Doherty at Chris.doherty@raveis.com.

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

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Laine Gordon
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Ellen Greenberg
Suzanne Grover
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Stewart & Diane Henry
John P. Hess &
Kathleen Murphy Hess
Tom & Kim Hillson
John Hogan Jr.
Karen Ishihara
Annmarie Jaillet
John Jannetti
Anita Johnson
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Betsy Kachel
Sue Keamy
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Tammy Kessel
Lauren Kosky-Stamm
Lucia Derba Krinsky
Line Landry
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Sarah Letsky
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Lisa Levenson
Dorothy Lim
Melissa Longin
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Elaina MacLean
Dena Madden
Luke Magner
Brenda Manchester
Bridget Mason
Robert & Doris Mason
Bob Matthews &
Eileen Shannon
Judy Matulsky
Sarah Meier
David McCready
James B. McIntyre
Mary Noeleen McIntyre
Tom Middleton
Patrice Minton
Valerie Moger

Meredith Mondejar
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Lisa Primes
Philip A. & Arleen
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Annie Riley-Trottier
Linda Ritchie
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OBITUARIES

Karen (Meuse) Stickney

ANDOVER — Karen (Meuse) Stickney, of Andover and formerly of North Andover, died, Saturday, February 28, 2015 at Brigham & Women's Hospital in Boston.



She was born in Winchester and raised in Woburn. Karen was a resident of Andover for the past 20 years and was a member of St. Augustine's Church. She was a dedicated employee of Tufts University for 28 years, working in operations.

Karen always made a point of acknowledging the achievements of others. Whether it was her family, friends or acquaintances, she would take the time to recognize and congratulate them. Her favorite expressions were, "Don't ever talk or judge, you never know what your future holds. I always know a true friend, because they never left my side."

Family members include her loving husband of 22 years, Stephen D. Stickney; her son,

Matthew S. Stickney and her daughter, Meghan R. Stickney, all of Andover; her parents, Ada L. (Meehan) Meuse of Billerica and the late Joseph J. Meuse; brothers, Joseph J. Meuse, Jr. of Topsham, Maine, John P. Meuse and his wife, Kathy of Billerica and Gerald R. Meuse and his wife, Judy of Sagamore Beach; her sister, Mary A. Walby and her husband Charles of Madison, Conn. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

ARRANGEMENTS: Memorial Funeral Mass was held at St. Augustine's Church in Andover on Wednesday, March 18, at 10:30 a.m.

Interment will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in her memory to: Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, 353 Southern Artery, Quincy, MA 02169. Arrangements are by the Crosswell Funeral Home, 19 Bow Street, North Reading. www.crosswellfuneralhome.com.

Rita Markham, 80

August 4, 1934 — March 15, 2015

HAVERHILL, MA — Rita Markham was born in Riga, Latvia, and arrived in the United States via Ellis Island in 1951. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from Merrimack College and worked as a forecast analyst for Lotus Development Corporation.



Her first marriage was to Dave Davies. She later married Charles Markham, who has been her loving companion for 25 years. She is survived by her husband, Charlie; her sister, Edita Carle; her children, Karen, Grant and Ellen; her grandchildren, Dylan, Max, Jackson, Nick, and Sinead; and several nieces and nephews, who will remember her

love of family, artistic talents, and kindness toward others.

ANDOVER TOWNSMAN OBITUARIES

Obituaries in the Andover Townsman are paid notices.

To place an obituary, please visit andovertownsmen.com/submitobit. Call 1-800-681-6248 if you have any questions.

DA: Stolen ID used in elaborate luxe life fraud

By JULIE MANGANIS
Staff Writer

An Andover man's stolen identify led to the unraveling of an elaborate scheme that police say financed the luxe life of a Groveland woman and her housemates.

Investigators last week said Susan Yerdon, 46, of 19 Stonebridge Road, Groveland, financed her lavish lifestyle that included several luxury vehicles and a well-furnished house by defrauding at least 10 finance companies all over the country by setting up a series of sham companies.

The sham companies would then either borrow money from the finance companies or sell them what Yerdon purported to be accounts receivables for the phony firms, investigators say.

While neither Yerdon, who investigators say was the mastermind of the scheme, living in the Groveland home that they rented for \$3,300 a month had jobs, the driveway was filled with luxury vehicles: a Mercedes E Class, a Cadillac Escalade, a BMW 328i, and two other cars. The home had all the latest appliances and, investigators say, was nicely furnished.

And Yerdon carried a pricey Gucci handbag.

It all began to unravel in January, when an Andover man started receiving threats of lawsuits against him from lenders looking for their money. It turns out that Yerdon had appropriated the man's personal information to set up another phony company and obtain new loans.

She allegedly obtained that information from Michael Whitcomb, 54, of Haverhill, a used car salesman who had sold the Andover man a car and processed his auto loan — while also taking part in the scheme, prosecutors say.

The victim's identity "was essentially destroyed," said prosecutor Phil Mallard during Yerdon's arraignment last week in Salem Superior Court, where she, Whitcomb and four others are facing a variety of conspiracy and fraud charges. All six have pleaded not guilty to charges stemming from what prosecutors say was a five-year scheme that netted at least \$700,000.

Yerdon, along with another resident of the Groveland home, Vito Milone, 33, are each currently held on \$100,000 cash bail. Whitcomb's bail was set at \$200,000, due to his past record and his alleged role in stealing the Andover man's identity.

Mallard said Whitcomb also recruited a disabled veteran named Dennis Lopez, 60, to take several roles in the scheme, including providing his own personal information to obtain loans for the fictitious companies.

Lopez, who had a Section 8 housing certificate, also moved into a condo that Yerdon owned in Methuen — a condo that, despite hefty tax liens against Yerdon, could not be seized because she had declared it a homestead. Through the Section 8 program, the Newburyport Housing Authority, which

had issued his certificate, paid \$500 a month toward Lopez's rent, which went to Yerdon, Mallard told the judge.

Lopez, despite being deemed eligible for the housing voucher, was able to buy a Cadillac from Whitcomb, said the prosecutor, through his work in the scheme.

Lopez, along with two others, Sean Yerdon, 24, and Jennifer Madore, 27, who lived with Susan Yerdon and Milone in Groveland and allegedly took part in operating what amounted to a boiler room in the home, are all free on personal recognition in the case.

Yerdon paid close attention to detail as she created a virtual reality of non-existent employment agencies and fictional employees, forging payrolls and corporate books, opening bank accounts, printing up letterheads and business cards, creating email addresses, even creating fictional email dialogues between the fake employees. All of it was aimed at fooling the finance companies as they conducted "due diligence" investigations before loaning the money or buying up her supposed "accounts receivables."

Yerdon allegedly used names like "Pro Factor," "Pro Flex," "Pro Force," PFS, Argent and Quantum Staffing.

Some of the victims were traditional business lenders and others were engaged in "factoring," buying up the accounts receivables of small

businesses for 80 cents on the dollar, then collecting on the accounts — something they then couldn't do in this case, because those "customers" did not exist outside of Yerdon's computer and phones.

Several banks, including TD Bank, were also victimized in the scheme, Mallard said.

Investigators conducting a search of the home in February found a row of cellphones, each with the name of a different company or employee, lined up in the home, said the prosecutor.

To keep the money flowing, Yerdon would have to find new lenders or factoring businesses to provide money to make "token" payments to earlier lenders, similar to a "Ponzi" scheme.

Eventually, after running out of legitimate Social Security numbers from participants in the scheme, and burning through the credit ratings of those individuals, she turned to Whitcomb, who had sold her a car.

In addition to recruiting Lopez into the scheme, Whitcomb provided her with the Social Security number and other personal information of his customer, the Andover man, information that was used to take out another phony loan.

Lawyers for the six, who each were handed 33 CD-ROM discs of evidence last week, indicated in court that they are already in talks with the district attorneys office or will seek to discuss a possible plea with a judge over the next several weeks.

Cars vandalized, rummaged through over weekend

COMPILED BY TIM LIMA
tlima@andovertownsmen.com

A resident of Brookside Drive awoke this past Monday, March 16, morning to find the tires missing from her Honda Accord, and the windows to the driver's side window of the car smashed, according to Police Commander Charles Heseltine.

Two other cars on Brookside Drive also had minor damage, Heseltine said, but neither showed any "forced entry." However, he said that both cars were rummaged through, and sunglasses and loose change were taken.

According to police reports, detectives were called to the area to photograph the damaged cars and investigate the thefts.

smoke in a Greenwood Road building at 1:13 a.m. According to police records, the couple inside the building were verbally arguing about what happened.

A caller from Elm Street reported hearing someone on her roof at 2:33 a.m. Officers reported that the house was checked, nothing was found and the homeowner was spoken to.

Animal control officer Wayne Nader reported that a deer was stuck in a Hitchcock Farm Road fence at 4:25 p.m. The officer was given permission to put the deer down.

Wednesday, March 11

Arrest
Christian Stinchfield, 24, of 565 Andover St., Lowell, was arrested on River Road at 1:50 a.m. on a warrant charge.

Incident
A resident of Crescent Drive reported that drivers of two cars were outside their vehicles "yelling and screaming at each other." While the caller was still on the phone, both cars left the area. Officers

checked the area, but were unable to find the cars or the motorists.

Thursday, March 12

Arrest

Shawn Wilkes, 27, of 11 Ridge St., Nashua, N.H., was arrested on Route 133 at 12:45 p.m. and charged with possession of a Class A substance and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Friday, March 13

Arrest

Phillip Velez, 37, of 12 Phillips St., Apt. 1R, Lawrence, was arrested on Union Street at 2:11 a.m. and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, a stop sign violation, no inspection sticker, and two warrant charges.

Sunday, March 15

Arrest

Johnathan Velazquez, 30, of 114 Arborway Drive, Apt. 1, Braintree, was arrested on River Road at 2:32 a.m. and charged with leaving a weapon unsecured, a security violation.

Monday, March 9

Incident

A caller from McKenney Circle reported at 7:43 a.m. that her car was broken into some time the night before.

Tuesday, March 10

Arrest

Courtney Gilpin, 49, of P.O. Box 785, Andover, was arrested on Main Street at 8:40 p.m. and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and registration.

Incidents

Police officers and firefighters responded to a report of

RELIGION BRIEFS

Passover Story Hour with songs, crafts and more March 24

In celebration of Passover, Congregation Beth Israel of the Merrimack Valley is sponsoring a story hour at Whole Foods Market, 40 Railroad St., Andover, on Tuesday, March 24, from 4 to 5 p.m.

The program, which is geared for 3- to 6-year-olds and their parents/guardians, will feature the reading of a Passover story. Youngsters will also share songs, take part in crafts and enjoy snacks.

The program is free and open to the community. Reservations are requested by emailing EdDirector@BethIsraelMV.org or call the office of Congregation Beth Israel at 978-474-0540.

Congregational Beth Israel Community Seder April 4

A Community Passover Seder will be held at Congregation Beth Israel of the Merrimack Valley, 501 South Main St., Andover, on the second night of the holiday, Saturday, April 4, beginning at 6 p.m.

Rabbi Howard Mandell will lead the family-friendly seder, which will be geared toward people of all faiths and ages. Guests will enjoy a fully catered kosher meal and participate in the singing of traditional songs.

The suggested donation is \$40 for adults, \$20 for students and \$10 for children 12 and under. To make a reservation for the seder, call the synagogue at 978-474-0540 or email office@BethIsraelMV.

Open jam benefit for fire victims

A benefit for the owners of the 125-year-old colonial at 305 South Main St. that was destroyed in an intense fire last month will be held this Sunday, March 22, at the Great American Tavern in North Reading from 1 to 5 p.m.

The Reppucci family of Andover was not home when the fire broke out just before noon on Sunday, Feb. 22. Firefighters from five communities helped to knock down the blaze. The two-alarm fire shut down a portion of South Main Street (Route 28) for several hours.

Sunday's benefit is an open jam and open mike event for all ages. Organizers said participants can sing, dance and play instruments. Participants should bring their own gear, amps and guitar.

There will be raffles, with proceeds going to support the Reppucci family. Call 508-265-3498 for more information.



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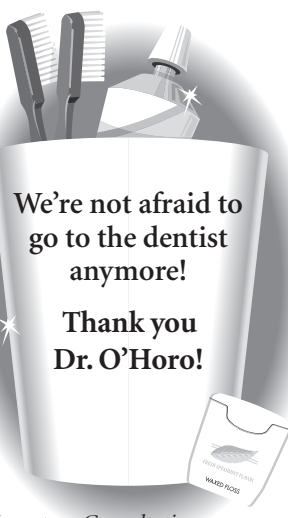
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KOWALSKI

Continued from Page 1

as much work as I thought it would take.”

“This job consumes you,” said Kowalski, 46, a father of two who lives on Enfield Drive. “It was a hard decision three years ago to run and it was a hard decision to run this time as well. Other areas of your life suffer — personal, professional, family. They don’t get the time they deserve.”

He recalled sitting in a Tri-Board meeting last year and mentioning that he was missing part of his daughter’s 10th birthday dinner celebration. School Committee member Annie Gilbert looked at him from across the table and asked: “Why are you here?”

“This job takes you away from your family,” he said, vowing he would never miss another birthday party to pore over town and school budgets.

But it’s that kind of work that also keeps Kowalski coming back.

“I have an interest in improving the town I live in,” said Kowalski, the current board chairman who works for IBM. “You want well-rounded candidates who are concerned about the community as a whole.”

He added, “I moved a lot as an adult and I knew I’d become more involved when I finally settled down.”

Following his heart

From the moment Kowalski moved to town in 2007, he began volunteering for the PTO at South School, serving first on the board and then moving up to vice president and eventually co-president.

He also joined the Board of Directors of the Andover Youth Foundation. He could be seen in the dunk tanks at numerous charity events around town. He was a familiar face at Board of Selectmen, School Committee and Finance Committee meetings, among others.

“I was trying to figure out how to best fit into the community,” he said.

Before he was first elected to office, the Townsman ran a photo of Kowalski at the microphone, speaking up on an issue at Town Meeting. Soon after, he was approached by Town Moderator Sheila Doherty to see if he was interested in serving on the Finance Committee.

He served for about a year when, in 2012, he said, his life “got more complicated,” courtesy of then-Selectman Ted Teichert.

“Ted chose not to run for re-election,” Kowalski said. “It was a difficult decision for me to move off the Finance Committee. I had a three-year appointment.” When he spoke to Doherty about it, however, she said, “Follow your heart.”

Major resigned and ran for the Board of Selectmen, placing second behind Brian

DAN KOWALSKI

Age: 46
Address: 24 Enfield Drive
Family: Wife, Kristin; daughters, Grace, 10; Emily, 13
Years in Andover: Since 2007; originally from Weymouth
Education: Bachelor of Science in computer engineering, UMass Dartmouth
Professional experience: IBM, controls and compliance, since 1991
Political experience: Board of Selectmen, since 2012, current board chairman; Finance Committee, 2011 to 2012; PTO volunteer, Board of Directors of Andover Youth Foundation
Other experience: Reserve police officer, Dunstable, 2003 to 2012

Major, but defeating three other candidates for one of the two seats that year.

He’s glad he ran. “I love this job and I didn’t want to have any regrets,” he said. “I’ve put my heart and soul into this. Sometimes you are swimming upstream. But you do get to influence and do good things for the community.”

Water projects

Kowalski said one of the first issues he tackled as a selectman was the water system. He said he was walking on the sidewalk near his house one day when he noticed one of the hydrants surrounded by bushes and clearly in need of maintenance. He discovered other hydrants in town with the same problem.

He pushed for \$2 million in funding from Town Meeting to upgrade the town’s fire hydrants.

As he worked on that project, it came to light that the town also needed a water main flushing program — something encouraged by the Department of Environmental Protection and done in many other communities, but never in Andover.

Town Meeting approved a \$400,000 flushing program that clears out the water mains, preventing rust-colored water, among other benefits.

“I drove that,” Kowalski said. “It was two, simple little initiatives that needed to get done.”

He’s tackled larger issues as well.

Board authority

One of his primary goals as a selectman, he said, has been to “re-establish the authority” of the board. He said that for too many years, “the lines have become blurred” about the roles of the town manager and Board of Selectmen.

Last year, he challenged Town Manager Buzz Stapeczynski over who should appoint one of the five Retirement Board members. For years, it had been customary for Stapeczynski to make the appointment, with approval of the selectmen. “I looked at the law,” Kowalski said. “It’s not the

town manager’s appointment. It’s the Board of Selectmen’s. It’s extremely significant. You want that fifth vote (on the Retirement Board) to represent the appointing authority — the Board of Selectmen.”

It’s proven to be an important appointment, as retirement costs have been identified as one of the largest, long-term liabilities facing Andover.

Kowalski also challenged the town manager over union negotiations.

For years, it had been assumed that all union contract negotiations would go through the town manager, who would then give periodic updates to selectmen.

Last year, during a contentious debate over the high cost of employee health insurance, Kowalski said he wanted to take a more proactive role in the process, so he attended a meeting of the Public Employee Committee, or PEC, which was voting on whether to reopen negotiations with the town manager over health insurance.

Stapeczynski wasn’t sure if Kowalski could take part, so Kowalski got a ruling from legal counsel Tom Urbelis clearing the way for him to participate.

“We provide policy direction to the town manager when it comes to contract negotiations,” he said, adding that while “I don’t want to look over his shoulder to make sure he’s doing the right thing,” sometimes it’s necessary.

Other accomplishments

Kowalski is also proud of his role in the creation of a new town auditing function, as well as his push for an expanded PILOT (payments in lieu of taxes) program for private nonprofit schools.

He said he’s worked hard to increase transparency in town government, including pushing for the release of old executive session minutes and calling for an overhaul in the way the town maintains meeting minutes.

Last year, he proposed slashing property taxes to help cash-strapped homeowners and businesses suffering from the bump in taxes due to debt payments on the Bancroft School coming due.

He also continues pushing for a 15- or 20-year capital improvements plan, rather than the five-year plan currently published each year by the town manager.

“My underlying message is that I’ve been questioning the status quo and I’m an agent of change,” he said. “I feel really good about the things I’ve accomplished over the last three years. If voters are willing, I hope I can look on the last six years the same way.”

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

The following real estate transfers were recorded recently in town:

■ **5 Trevino Circle:** CA INT and Yvon Cormier to Lubomir V. and Antoaneta S. Nechev, \$1,575,000
■ **12 Farrwood Drive:** Susan T. Russell to Manuel T. and Patricia Lowenhaupt, \$1,350,000
■ **8 Marland St.:** Brenda J. Cammarano to John R. and Ashley L. Fishback, \$445,000
■ **44 Washington Ave., Unit**

2: Jeffco Inc. to Kathleen M. Prizio, \$525,000
■ **16 Balmoral St., Unit 421:** Karla Sullivan to Chingiu Chen, \$154,000
■ **60 Colonial Drive, Unit 9:** Yamamoto K.A. Barreto Estate and Victoria Barreto to Cara Jean Donaghey and Perry C. Wentzel, \$83,000
■ **12 Saint James Drive:** 69 North Street LLC to John and Chrissoula K. Hagigeorges, \$689,900
■ **42 Boston Road:** Jayne M.

Minigell to Ryan L. Davenport, \$305,000
■ **300 Brookside Drive, Unit F:** Nitin Somaya to Muzaffer and Carin M. Yasli, \$247,500
■ **7 Burnham Road:** Schuyler L. and Megan A. Fairfield to Andrea K. Suranyi, \$319,000
■ **50 Colonial Drive, Unit 2:** James R. Gerrior to Jaime L. Durning, \$162,500
■ **50 Colonial Drive, Unit 6:** Roshanak Poursamadi to Xiaohong Valente, \$160,000

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT



We enthusiastically support **Bob Landry** for Selectman on Tuesday, March 24th!

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Watch Bob’s campaign video @ TownofAndover.com
Please join us in voting for Bob Landry
Tuesday, March 24th
Polls are open 7am-8pm
Andover High School
Committee to Elect Bob Landry, 4 Seminole Circle, Andover, MA 01810

Man killed in crash with sander truck on Route 125

By BILL KIRK
bkirk@andovertownsmen.com

A 54-year-old Haverhill man died after his Chevy Impala struck the rear end of a sander truck as both vehicles were traveling southbound on Route 125 on Monday.

Albert Marsden died around 3:30 p.m. Monday after firefighters cut him out of his mangled vehicle, which became lodged under the back of a 2005 Freightliner dump truck equipped with a sander driven by John Ianucci, 53, of Wilmington. Ianucci was not injured. The accident is under investigation by State Police.

The accident, which took place a few hundred yards north of the state police barracks in Andover, was called into State Police at about 2:15 p.m.

According to State Police spokesman David Procopio, the 2012 Impala driven by Marsden sustained “heavy front-end damage and was stuck under the truck.”

The highway was closed for about an hour while Andover firefighters used a hydraulic cutting tool, known as the Jaws of Life, to pull Marsden from the car. He was conscious when police and firefighters first got to the

scene, according to Lt. Stephen Walsh, commander of the Andover barracks.

Marsden was taken to Lawrence General Hospital, but is believed to have died in the ambulance, Walsh said. He was pronounced dead by hospital staff.

Since both vehicles were going in the same direction, police don’t believe the roadway had anything to do with the crash.

Procopio said on Tuesday that it was possible, “based on medical evidence, he suffered from some sort of medical episode just prior to the crash.”

“He started up a small incline, and the Impala hit the left rear tire and axles,” Procopio said. “They looked for braking marks, and it’s not clear if they found anything. His car was stuck under the truck, so he must have hit at a fairly high speed, or without much braking.”

Walsh said that the road, long considered an unsafe stretch of state highway, had nothing to do with the accident.

He said the accident is being investigated by the State Police Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Team along with the Truck Team.

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I would appreciate your vote on Tuesday, March 24

Paid for by The Major Committee, 10 Wabanaki Way
Andover, MA, 01810 Elizabeth Bigelow, Ed.D. Treasurer

LANDRY

■ Continued from Page 1

The duo teamed up with a third, like-minded resident, Bob Pokress, and together they launched www.townofandover.com, which was dedicated to municipal transparency — with a twist.

The twist, Landry said, is that they offered, “Jon Stewart-style news, so residents would get more engaged.”

Instead, the attempt at humor came off as mean-spirited and “snarky,” Landry said. He added, “it didn’t work. It was a failed attempt at humor.”

The result was that the website was labeled as negative, its backers as “bomb-throwers” who would toss a grenade in a room and then leave.

“When you make a mistake, you own up to it,” he said. “It was not meant to be malicious.”

In 2013, the tone of the website changed. It became more Tom Brokaw than Jon Stewart — a straight recitation of events as they saw them in Andover. They posted salary lists of town employees. They filed public records requests for health insurance information and other documents showing wasteful spending by the town.

But Rigby died last February and Pokress left the website, leaving it to Landry to carry on.

That almost didn’t happen.

Town Meeting amendment

After Rigby’s sudden death, Landry thought about “folding up the tent” and shutting down the website, he said.

“Nobody would have blamed me,” he said. “But the other part of me said, ‘Greg and I put a lot into this, at a minimum I should play out the string through Town Meeting.’”

“I’m glad I did,” he said.

Landry had a significant, though in the end mostly symbolic, impact on last year’s Town Meeting. He proposed an amendment to the budget that would have slashed \$680,000 from the employee health insurance account — the same amount of money that would have been saved if the town’s unions had voted to go with Tufts Health Care instead of staying with an existing plan offered by Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

The amendment failed by just nine votes after Town Manager Buzz Stapeczynski read a prepared legal opinion from town counsel Tom Urbelis saying that the amendment, for all intents and purposes, was illegal.

“We should not have to lawyer up to go to Town Meeting,” Landry said. “That tainted the vote.”

Public information

While the legal opinion may have swayed enough voters to kill Landry’s amendment, it’s not the first

BOB LANDRY

Age: 53
Address: 4 Seminole Circle
 Family: Wife, Line, children, Alex, 11, and Emma, 9
Years in Andover: 10; originally from Burlington
Education: Economics degree, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester; Master of Business Administration, Harvard Business School, Cambridge
Professional experience: Employee benefits broker
Political experience: None

every financial decision he made, which is why the town is currently in a bind with skyrocketing property taxes to pay for projects and salaries and benefits that it can no longer afford.

People in town, many of them senior citizens, he said, “are asking for good leadership and fiscally conservative policies that will keep the town affordable. It’s not a revenue issue. It’s how we are spending money on health insurance, post-employee benefits and pensions.”

He said the town has “huge issues on health care and retiree benefits. I know we’re not alone and that this is a national and statewide issue. But how will it change if we keep papering it over as if it doesn’t exist?”

The practice in Andover, he said, has always been to throw more money at a problem, and then ignore it.

For example, the town this year is planning on budgeting \$5 million for the pension liability when in fact that amount should be more like \$12 million.

“If we were being honest with ourselves — the assumptions in the actuarial report are suspect,” he said. “We are just stretching out the payment. We have structural deficits. These are massive problems.”

Getting at solutions

Landry said he is running because he wants to “get attention focused on this — our needs versus our wants,” adding, for example, that the town didn’t need to buy Phillips Academy’s former boathouse, which selectmen opted against. “It’s about priorities.”

Other communities are taking a more creative, proactive approach to their long-term liabilities. In Harvard, for example, he said selectmen are seeking a home-rule petition through the state Legislature that would allow the town to bypass labor rules to control its pension and health-care liabilities.

In Andover, progress could be made if it were easier to change some of those same rules. For example, employees in Andover who work 20 or more hours a week for 10 years are entitled to lifetime health insurance subsidized by the town’s taxpayers. Other communities require someone to work at least 30 to 32 hours a week to be eligible for lifetime benefits, he said. He added that someone who works part-time in Andover gets credit for a full year toward retirement.

“The Andover Retirement Board could fix a lot of this,” he said.

Town officials need to focus on this problem immediately, he said.

“Instead, we are getting the same kind of stuff — dragging it out, and the can is being kicked down the road on a massive problem,” he said.

MAJOR

■ Continued from Page 1

He remembers every detail of the debate over war memorials in The Park. He can talk authoritatively about school and town budgets from this and prior years.

At selectmen’s meetings, he is frequently asked by his colleagues about past practices of the board — how decisions were made and what role the board may or may not have had in appointments or other matters.

As the longest-serving member of the Board of Selectmen, Major is often turned to for his institutional memory as well as his understanding of Robert’s Rules of Order or other procedural questions. While not everyone always agrees with him, he is always agreeable.

Education and family

With a special needs son, Major has an insider’s view of what it’s like to be a parent advocating for a son in a school system as large as Andover’s.

He recalls former school Superintendent Claudia Bach’s efforts to reduce special education costs by bringing more Andover children back to the local schools rather than seeing them placed in programs outside the district.

The result, he said, was a series of specialty programs at Wood Hill, Doherty and West middle schools that focused on autism, English as a Second Language and other areas.

His son, who is autistic, entered the autism program this year and couldn’t be happier.

“He’s getting the services he needs to thrive,” Major said. “I’m ecstatic.”

Budget realist

That’s not to say that Major thinks everything the schools do is hunky-dory.

Far from it.

As a selectman, he has watched year after year as the School Department has increased hiring and spending even while the town side of the ledger has been able to hold the line on new hiring.

“It can be frustrating with the schools,” Major said. “They get a lump sum and can spend it however they wish. Plus, schools can share money between personnel and expense line items, something the town departments cannot do. As selectmen, we’d love to have more say, especially with contracts.”

For example, he said, the most recent teachers contract signed last year, which provides for a 5.5 percent pay hike over its three years, not including steps and other increases, is going to create a real problem as the town enters negotiations with all the other employee unions.

BRIAN MAJOR

Age: 49
Address: 11 Odyssey Way
 Family: Wife, Margaret; children, Rachel, 17; Danielle, 15; twins Brendan and Nicole, 12; father, Norman Major, chairman of the New Hampshire state Legislature’s House Ways and Means Committee
Years in Andover: Since 1992; originally from Plaistow, N.H.

Professional experience: Project manager for Philips Healthcare in Andover, 12 years
Education: Bachelor of Science in industrial engineering, Northeastern University, Boston; master’s degree in industrial engineering, Purdue University, Indiana; Master of Business Administration, UMass Lowell
Political experience: Board of Selectmen, since 1997
Community involvement: Boy Scout leader, Andover Youth Services board of directors, youth wrestling coach

“Unions look at what other unions get,” he said. “One union sets the bar — and that bar was set too high. We can’t afford to go that high.”

It’s not just salaries he’s worried about.

He’s also concerned about the long-term obligations that build off of those salaries, including retiree health insurance and pensions.

Fortunately, he said, Town Manager Buzz Stapeczynski has decided to put more money toward the pension obligation to reduce the pay-off time by eight years. That will save \$82 million in long-term costs, he said.

The town is doing the same with its so-called OPEB liability — the cost of paying out health insurance to retired workers. There, another huge liability looms, but the town is using free cash this year, which it placed in a trust fund that will help bring down that liability as well.

Those long-term solutions don’t necessarily help taxpayers today, Major said. That’s why he supports Selectman Alex Vispoli’s proposal to cap the budget increase this year at 4 percent while still taking a responsible approach to spending.

“We are saying to taxpayers, ‘This is what we’re striving for,’” he said. And then town officials can say to the unions, “When we only offer you a 1 percent raise, this is why.” We need to take a holistic approach to that negotiation.”

Town manager search

It’s this kind of philosophy Major is taking with the town manager search.

When Stapeczynski announced his retirement earlier this year after 25 years in the chief executive’s seat, Major was sad to see the manager preparing to go. The two have worked together for Major’s entire tenure as selectman.

“We’ve been blessed as a community to have him at the helm all these years,” he said. “Andover is one of only 11 communities in Massachusetts that is AAA bonded rated.”

Major recently gave Stapeczynski the highest marks of any of his colleagues on the town manager’s annual review. He cited the successful merger of the Public Works Department with plant and facilities, the promotion of Police Chief Patrick Keefe and the hiring of Fire Chief Mike Mansfield, among many other accomplishments.

The hiring of Chris Cronin to lead the new combined public works/plant and facilities department was “masterful,” Major said, noting that promoting from within raises the morale of everyone in a department. But he said the hiring of Mansfield, from Nashua, N.H., to the fire chief’s job has also worked well.

“That was huge,” he said, since it was an historic hire — the first time any chief had ever been hired from outside the ranks of the department.

He said that hiring competent personnel will go down as one of Stapeczynski’s strengths.

But he also sees Stapeczynski’s retirement as an opportunity to have a long-lasting imprint on the town.

The next town manager, perhaps first and foremost, has to be a strong union contract negotiator, he said.

“I’d like to see candidates who use creativity in the negotiating process,” he said. “They should be able to offer more in day-to-day compensation if they can get relief on health insurance co-pays, for example. The private sector uses an a la carte approach for health insurance. Maybe we could adopt the same kind of thing.”

Seventh term

Major said he is running for his seventh term because he wants to continue doing the work he has started, “trying to figure out big problems in town, such as what to do with the town yard, how to resolve building issues around the schools and making sure we put a solid financial plan in place.”

He added, “I hear from folks who are concerned about taxes, but there are others who appreciate the services they are getting from their taxes. When we put our budgets together, we have to account for all of that. We have to be mindful of what taxes look like, but also maintain a high level of service of delivery. It’s a hard mix.”

Above all, he said, he is running again because he loves it.

“I ask myself, ‘Do I still enjoy it?’” he said during a recent interview with The Townsman. “My passion for this is still extremely strong.”

RACE

■ Continued from Page 1

Polls at the Andover High School field house are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The last day to apply for an absentee ballot is Monday, March 23 at noon.

All absentee ballots must be returned to the town clerk’s office in the Town Offices Building on Bartlet Street by the close of the polls on Election Day, Tuesday, March 24.

If the ballot is to be mailed, voters must allow for adequate mailing time both ways.

Voting is permitted in the clerk’s office during regular office hours until noon on Monday, March 23.

The League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover has developed an online Voters Guide for the March 24 election. The guide contains information on all the candidates. For the contested races for Board of Selectmen and School Committee, the candidates have also submitted their responses to several questions asked by the public.

The guide is available now for all to access on the league’s website, www.lwv-andovers.org.

In addition, The Andover Townsman has expanded coverage of the election on its web site and will offer up-to-date results Tuesday night at both andovertownsmen.com and eagletribune.com.

For regular updates, follow us on Twitter and Facebook as well.

For those interested in watching history being made, attend the annual Oath of Office Reception for newly elected officials hosted by the town clerk’s office. Town Clerk Larry Murphy will administer the oath to the winners next Wednesday, March 25, at 5:30 p.m.

Immediately following the oath, the Board of Selectmen will meet to pick a new chairman and vice chairman, who will take over at the end of Town Meeting in May.



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SENIOR

Continued from Page 1

ripe for new leadership in Andover, and he wants to use his business acumen to be part of it.

"There seems to be an appetite for change," said Senior, 49, of 14 Alderbrook Road.

A new town manager will be hired by the Board of Selectmen by the end of June, residents are clamoring about skyrocketing tax bills, and neighborhood groups are forming across the community to challenge decisions being made by leadership.

"It seemed like a good time to say, 'Let me be part of this,'" said Senior, who is a vice president at Avid Technologies, a software company that specializes in the entertainment industry.

It's a job that doesn't require as much out-of-town travel as his old position with EMC, a computer data storage company, where he managed big budgets and big staffs. He said that experience can be applied to town affairs.

"The residents of this town are like the shareholders," he said. "The folks who run the town are like executives. It's incumbent on leadership that people get value for that. If my taxes go up, will my services get better?"

Blue collar upbringing

The son of a union steelworker who was so active in Boston politics he was known unofficially as the "Mayor of Hyde Park," Senior spent his formative years listening to big-city politicians talking about how to solve a myriad of municipal problems.

When his father died 10 years ago, the line to get into the funeral Mass went around the block and included such luminaries as good friend Mayor Thomas Menino.

Senior said his father "fought for what unions deserved. He had to fight; he was up against big corporations."

Ironically, the younger Senior has never been in a union. In fact, when Senior, one of the only children in his big family to graduate from college, got his first job as a manager for an IT company, his father thought he was the enemy, even admonishing him: "Don't ever forget where you came from."

If elected, those are words Senior likely won't forget, as he has "incredible respect" for the hard, often thankless work done by town employees, particularly police and firefighters.

"They do a job the majority of people don't want to do," he said.

At the same time, he said, he recognizes that unions need to be partners with town leaders in solving some of the financial problems facing communities like Andover.

"The benefits we sign

NEIL SENIOR

Age: 49
Address: 14 Alderbrook Road
Family: Wife, Alison; daughter, Isabelle, 10; two older children from previous marriage
Years in Andover: Seven; originally from Boston
Education: Engineering and business degrees, Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston and Lesley College in Cambridge; pursuing Master of Business Administration at Northeastern University, Boston
Professional experience: Vice president of customer service for Avid Technologies; formerly with EMC
Political experience: None

up for now we will pay for later," he said. "Unions need to be willing to negotiate. They have to be willing to meet in the middle."

Flawed budget process

Senior said he sees problems in the way the annual town budget is developed.

"There are increases in every department," he said. "Why is that? Every year there shouldn't be an increase. What type of process do they go through? Why aren't some budgets staying the same or being reduced? And what is the plan to pay for this? It seems they (town officials) feel like they have a captive audience and just go up 2 1/2 percent every year because they can. That's not the process we should follow."

He said budget writers should start from a baseline of zero-percent increases "and build around that."

He said one answer is to increase economic development, which would increase property tax revenues. He said the town of Franklin has an even tax classification rate for industrial/commercial and residential property owners. That way, more businesses are willing to settle in Franklin because they pay less in property taxes.

In Andover, meanwhile, business taxes are high and town employees seem to make it harder for businesses to locate here, which he said is like shooting themselves in the foot.

"If you polled business owners in town, you'd find that the permitting process here is brutal," he said. "People are working for the town and making it harder for businesses to come here."

The result, he said, is fewer property tax dollars that are needed to pay town workers.

Economic development

Senior said the town needs to take a fresh approach to business development, as well as other aspects of town life.

"It's disjointed," he said, adding the business community, residents and leadership don't all seem to work together. "Businesses are looking for help from the town."

As selectman, he would "propose the town have a liaison with the business community. We aren't trying to rebuild a ghost town here. With a little TLC, it (downtown and the business community) can be great."

Another way of raising revenue would be to tap nonprofit organizations, like local private schools, which currently pay nothing in property taxes.

The so-called "PILOT" program, which stands for payments in lieu of taxes, would charge fees to institutions like Phillips Academy, which already pays an annual PILOT fee; Pike School and Merrimack College. The charges wouldn't be as high as what for-profit corporations pay, he noted, but any money raised would help defray costs incurred by the town.

"This is an opportunity," he said. "We could work with the institutions. The town does provide services."

Phillips is the only nonprofit in town that currently makes annual PILOT payments. The town is in negotiations now with the school over a new, long-term contract for payments through that program. Selectmen and the town manager are also negotiating with other schools regarding new PILOTs.

Schools supporter

Senior said he and his family moved to Andover seven years ago because of the "quality schools and the quality of life." He said while people feel good about the elementary and middle schools in town, "you get mixed reviews at the high school."

While MCAS scores have been good at the elementary and middle school levels, "high school results have been declining over the last few years. And we had a principal who left abruptly. I want to understand what's going on at the high school. Is it funding or leadership?"

He added there are several "multi-unit development projects" that could add more children to the school district, increasing costs even further.

"I'm not saying they are bad, but they have an impact on the town," he said. "While we may approve something today, how does that impact schools, public safety and overall infrastructure problems?"

He said that as a selectman, he would want to ensure adequate funding for the schools, but would also work to make sure money is being spent wisely.

"The selectmen, town manager and School Committee have to be in this together," he said. "There's only so much money to go around. I'd prioritize toward the schools to improve the schools."

Baker's budget guts tourism funding

By CHRISTIAN M. WADE
CNHI State Reporter

Tourism officials are calling on lawmakers to restore millions of dollars to promote Massachusetts in the upcoming state budget, warning that cuts proposed by Gov. Charlie Baker will cost jobs and damage the economy.

Baker's preliminary \$8.1 billion budget cuts more than \$8 million from the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism, reducing its funding from \$14.2 million to \$6.1 million.

State funds for 16 regional tourism councils — including in the North of Boston region — plummet from \$5 million to \$500,000 in Baker's fiscal 2016 budget, which takes effect July 1.

The cuts come in the face of a projected \$1.8 billion shortfall in the state budget.

State officials say most cuts to the tourism agency will come by reducing work sent to the Boston-based ad agency Connelly Partners. The company has received \$7.3 million from the state in the past two fiscal years, under a marketing contract signed by former Gov. Deval Patrick.

But regional tourism bureaus say the cuts will devastate their industry.

"We understand that the state is facing a budget deficit and that many things are

going to suffer, but tourism is an investment that generates money to fund essential state services," said Ann Marie Casey, executive director of the North of Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau. "It's an economic engine that helps drive our growth."

Casey said the cuts will force her to lay off staff and shut down some of a dozen visitor centers scattered across the region, including a rest stop with bathrooms and other amenities off Interstate 95 in Salisbury.

Roughly three-quarters of nearly \$272,000 in funds received by the North of Boston tourism bureau last year were spent marketing the region in TV, radio and online and print advertising.

Casey said it also provides funding to local chambers of commerce to promote specific attractions and events including the Topsfield Fair and Salem's annual "Haunted Happens."

"These cuts will have a devastating impact throughout the region," Casey said. "We need this funding."

Baker spokesman Elizabeth Guyton defended the cuts, saying the Republican chief executive's budget fulfills his pledge to hold the line on taxes while increasing funding for cities and towns, schools and transportation.

Baker officials say they also are trying to ferret out

legislative earmarks for regional tourist destinations. The state's tourism budget now has 71 earmarks — more than other state agencies.

They also point out that Baker's budget package ramps up funding for international tourism marketing by \$500,000, for a total of \$1.5 million.

State spending on tourism has steadily climbed in recent years, from \$2 million in 2012 to \$14.2 million this year. Regional bureaus have also recently seen an uptick in funding.

Tourism is the third-largest industry in the state, and tax revenues from visitors are on the rise. State taxes on hotel rooms drummed up \$194.6 million in fiscal year 2013, up from \$160.9 million three years earlier, according to the tourism office.

At the same time, local hotel taxes raised an additional \$155.7 million, up from \$89.8 million.

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FUN TO BOOT

Mighty Mites gives future stars a competitive start

Look out, World Cup. A group of 4- to 6-year-olds spent the off-season mastering their skills in preparation for playing in the big game — or at least with the Andover Soccer Association travel league some day.

The youngsters recently completed the Department of Community Services' Mighty Mites indoor session this winter at High Plain Elementary School on Cross Street. The tots worked up each week to scrimmages by taking part in fun soccer drills and games that promoted proper passing, shooting form and field positions.

Meanwhile, the new spring session of Early Bird Soccer for ages 2 to 4 that is set to start March 30 at Old Town Hall on Main Street is already full.

The programs are led by coach Michaela McIver, an Andover native who aims to develop youngsters physically, emotionally and socially through positive recreational opportunities.

Fear not, future soccer stars looking to get into the action. Other local programs, including Michelle Doucette's Get Youth Moving, are signing up would-be soccer phenoms hoping to move the ball around.

And rest assured, outdoor spring and summer programs will soon be kicking into session with the approaching thaw.



Samuel Stocker, 5, prepares to toss the soccer ball onto the court.



Tyler Whitney, left, kicks the ball around during a session of Mighty Mites Soccer at High Plain Elementary School.



Youngsters practice their footwork in a session of Mighty Mites Soccer at High Plain Elementary School.



Taylor Dewar, 5, has her game face on as she focuses on the action down the court at High Plain Elementary School.



Coach Michaela McIver shares some tips with Thalo Fallon, 6. McIver leads the Andover Department of Community Services' Mighty Mites Soccer program for ages 4 to 6.

Photos by Carl Russo

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Teichert committed to excellence, inclusiveness

Editor, Townsman:
I am excited that Ted Teichert is running for School Committee. He has already served with great distinction in our community — from his 12 years on the Board of Selectmen to his volunteer work with Andover Junior Football League, Little League and youth soccer. He brought an ice skating rink to our town Park and donates his DJ services to many events. Ted has devoted a great deal of his time and energy to his civic responsibilities to help the people of Andover. He understands the things that make this town special.

Ted has been a thoughtful, engaged voice in town for many years and now he can bring his valuable experience to the school board. He has a low-key approach to dealing with others and is able to bring people together through his collaborative efforts. He has the best interests of students, teachers and members of our community at heart. Ted is not a one-issue candidate; he has a deep commitment to the core values of excellence and inclusiveness.

Through my involvement in town and many years as PTO president in both elementary and middle schools, I have been exposed to many facets of town politics. The School Committee's role includes hiring and supervising the superintendent, conducting negotiations with unions and management, budgeting, recommending and approving curriculum, and drawing and changing district lines. In addition, the School Committee must address some of the challenges Andover faces right now, including overcrowded classes, declining test scores, the high school principalship and SPED non-compliance issues.

Ted is committed to communicating openly with parents and the community at large about these issues. His inclusive decision-making process will ensure that issues are thoroughly vetted and clearly explained. This will be a welcome change.

Andover has its fair share of challenges right now. I want someone who can engage the community more, go up against our superintendent when necessary and be willing to look at best practice in making decisions for our schools. If you want this too, please join me in voting for Ted Teichert for School Committee.

TRACY CALLAHAN
6 David Drive

Birnbach promotes creativity, innovation in classrooms

Editor, Townsman:
Perhaps you have questioned why we have one of the shortest school days in the state and why our students must race to the next class with little time to process what they are learning. Perhaps you have thought about the possibility of reversing the elementary and high school schedules so teenagers who stay up later than young children can start their school day at 8:15 a.m. or 8:30 a.m. rather than 7:45 a.m. You may want students to have the option of taking physical education before the academic day begins, knowing exercise brings oxygen to the brain and enhances focus, attention and learning, also known as Zero Hour PE. You may have read about the importance of social-emotional learning and want your child's teacher to have exceptional training and professional development so she/he can foster a growth mind-set in the classroom.

If you want constructive ideas explored, discussed, refined and implemented, David Birnbach deserves your vote.

David's initiatives offer innovative opportunities for all students — including non-traditional learners. He thinks critically, asks challenging questions and approaches problem solving in creative ways. His work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, UMass Lowell and the Harvard Innovation Lab keeps him knowledgeable about what could be available for our students, if only we could have a growth mind-set and open our minds to innovative approaches to teaching and learning like teaching and blended learning. He is also a businessman and knows how to prioritize, budget and implement change in a timely fashion.

If you have imaginative ideas to share, want a voice in the discussion, are eager

for greater transparency and want results, join me in voting for David Birnbach.

JOANN GANTZ BENDETSON
Sunset Rock Road

Gilbert represents critical continuity on School Committee

Editor, Townsman:
Annie Gilbert is completing her second term on the Andover School Committee. I have supported her since her first run. At that time, however, it was not based on knowing her personally, but on the strong recommendation of a mutual friend who was certain that she would be a strong addition to the committee. He was right, and I've never, for a minute, regretted that support.

During her first term, she became the School Committee representative to the Bancroft School Building Committee, of which I was a member. Her participation in the process of building a new Bancroft School allowed me to get to know her in a professional and personal way. I immediately saw her work ethic, her attention to detail, her grasp of all of the minutiae that went into the process of the early choices in the building process. I also learned quickly that she held the interests of all of the citizens of Andover in her mind as she weighed in on the tough cost choices that the School Building Committee had to make. When I became School Building Committee chairman, Annie's assistance was invaluable, both in the efforts she undertook on subcommittees and in her input from the perspective of the needs of the students. She never wavered in her support of expenditures that directly impacted the needs of students, but she also never supported requested expenditures that did not directly relate to student needs.

Now Annie is seeking election to the one-year term remaining as a result of Sen. Barbara L'Italien's resignation. I believe that Annie feels strongly that serving the town as a member of a board or committee is a worthy endeavor, but she also believes that others should have the same opportunity. With three open seats on the School Committee this year, there is the potential that, in the midst of the budget process and two months before Annual Town Meeting, 60 percent of the School Committee could be new members. I commend Annie in her decision to run for this one-year term, hopefully to provide some continuity to the committee at this critical time. While I cannot vote for her this year, I respectfully ask you to consider casting your vote for Annie Gilbert for School Committee on March 24.

TOM DESO
North Charleston, S.C.

McCready offers fresh energy for School Committee

Editor, Townsman:
I am proud to support Susan McCready — a strong candidate for School Committee. I have had the pleasure of getting to know Susan through an All-Town PTO Committee for the past two years. She is passionate and dedicated to improving the educational landscape for our children.

As a lifelong resident of Andover, Susan has a firsthand perspective of what has worked well in our school system and areas that need attention. She is the mother of an elementary-aged child and witnesses the daily challenges and opportunities that exist in our schools. Susan is a "doer" and has supported our schools through her involvement as co-president of the Sanborn Elementary School PTO. She can leverage her experience and positively impact the entire school district. Susan wants to serve the larger Andover community through this role on the School Committee.

Andover is poised for change.

We need someone that is open-minded and thoughtful about decisions that need to be made within our school district. Susan brings a collaborative spirit with a strong business acumen and dedication to ensuring we deliver a quality education to all of our children. Many of us moved to Andover for the schools. We need to ensure that Andover returns to being one of the top districts in the state.

I encourage you to vote for Susan McCready — an individual with new perspectives and fresh energy — for School Committee.

JENNIFER SRIVASTAVA
8 Endicott Road

Sousa best suited to find solutions for the schools

Editor, Townsman:
Kim Sousa's experience makes her an ideal candidate for the Andover School Committee. As members of the High Plain Elementary School community, we have seen Kim Sousa's work first hand and are writing to explain why you should vote for her on March 24.

From her start as room parent, through her work in developing a school Wellness Committee and continuing in her role as president of the High Plain PTO, Kim has shown herself to be a hands-on, effective leader who confronts challenges and finds workable solutions. Professionally, her work on the Housing Board of Trustees provided her experience dealing with town officials. Her more than 20-year career at design engineering firms, especially those with municipal and K-12 academic design projects, makes her a perfect asset as we face tough decisions about the future of our high school and other aging infrastructures. As a mother with two young children in the system, she is personally invested in making Andover schools modern, efficient and highly successful.

Because of Kim's organized style and contagious energy and enthusiasm, she is able to balance these academic, professional, and personal obligations and merits. She is approachable, creative and would make an ideal mediator between parents and administrators. Kim Sousa is perfectly suited to serve on the School Committee and will be integral in helping the Andover school system reach its full potential.

MEG MCLAUGHLIN
ELLEN GERVAIS
KATHY COTE
JYOTI MAHAJAN
High Plain parents
LAURA PUTNAM
SHERRIDEN SWEENEY
MICHELLE HAZELWOOD
High Plain PTO members

Teichert represents needed change to School Committee

Editor, Townsman:
The Andover School Committee is ready for a change and that change is Ted Teichert. The community deserves a School Committee member who is focused on giving a quality education to our children. At the debate on March 4, Ted focused on issues that the Andover school system needs to be addressing. Ted is a person willing to question the declining school ratings, the declining test scores and the 45 issues of non-compliance found by the Department of Education review.

Ted has the commitment and experience of making informed, data-driven decisions and implementing strategic plans that will result in positive changes and best practices for the long term in the classroom. He possesses the unique characteristics of being born and raised in Andover, educating his children in the Andover schools, dedication to community

service and 12 years of experience as a selectman.

We need a School Committee member who is able to be attentive and responsive to the community's concerns, receive clear answers from the school administration and then foster a dialogue with the people of Andover. Ted is that person.

Ted is an informed, educated and committed candidate. He represents the change that is needed; please join me in voting for Ted Teichert on March 24.

TERESA TOUHEY SCHIRMER
80 Center St.

Gilbert a voice of reason, sound wisdom for schools

Editor, Townsman:
I write today to ask Andover voters to join me in re-electing Annie Gilbert to the one-year term on the School Committee. When Annie ran for her first term six years ago, she promised to make it her full-time job. She has done that and more, spending countless hours on projects to improve our schools and community.

I got to know Annie while working on the Bancroft School building project. I found Annie to be the consummate professional. She could always be counted on to be a voice of quiet respect and reason, someone who would not only listen to — but actually hear — every opinion and seek the best solutions.

Annie has demonstrated that she expects excellence of our school system, will work tirelessly with administrators, educators and community leaders to maintain Andover as a destination district, and will encourage the innovation necessary to push Andover forward as an education leader in Massachusetts.

This is a critical time for Andover's schools. We need Annie's wisdom and experience. She has offered to serve our schools and our town for an additional year. We would be wise to accept that offer. Please join me in casting a vote for Annie Gilbert on March 24.

CHRISTA DINAPOLI
95 Summer St.

McCready will be a unifier, leader for the local schools

Editor, Townsman:
I am writing this letter in support of Susan McCready who is running for School Committee. Having served as PTO co-president with her at Sanborn Elementary, and having seen her demonstrated passion and commitment to improving our schools and her inclusive approach, I am extremely excited she decided to run.

I have worked closely with Susan on many difficult school and community projects and her ability to communicate her ideas to others and generate support is truly impressive. She has the extraordinary ability to move projects forward using inclusion and consensus — she is a unifier (in addition to being a leader), which we need when dealing with the complicated issues facing the schools and the town. Susan recognizes we are all one community and we (parents of school children, parents of graduated children, seniors, children of aging parents) need a solution that works for all of us. I am continually impressed with her patience, her persistence, her exceptional ability to educate herself (and others) about issues and her ability to recognize how all stakeholders will be affected.

Susan has spent significant time volunteering in, and working to support, our school system. Her voice would be a valuable one to add to Andover's School Committee. Susan's impressive background (graduate degree in business and former vice president of product development at a technology company) provides her with skills that would be incredibly helpful in dealing with our school system's difficult budget issues. She also knows this community very well, having been raised in Andover and educated in its public schools. I want someone as smart, dedicated, hardworking and qualified as Susan working on behalf of my children, our schools and this town.

Please join me in voting for Susan McCready for School Committee on March 24.

ANITA JOHNSON
8 Germano Way

Three cheers for postal, newspaper delivery workers

Editor, Townsman:
It seems that the worst of this winter is about over and I wanted to share with your readers one of many reflections I am left with. It has to do with those below the radar people who, in my view, don't get enough recognition. In particular, I am referring to the newspaper delivery and postal workers. My wife and I have happily lived in Andover for nearly 45 years and can't remember experiencing a more difficult winter than this one. Our driveway is winding and steep and not easily plowed, which leaves me with the task of snow blowing.

One of the very few joyful moments after each snowstorm was the victory of breaking through the mountain of snow at the top of the driveway and being rewarded by always finding my newspapers and mail right where they belonged.

Just imagine how hard delivering newspapers and mail must have become this winter. The newspaper and mail boxes were mostly covered with snow and often difficult to reach. Yet, somehow, after every storm, both magically appeared. Hopefully, the same was the case for those of you reading this letter.

As a community, we do not recognize nearly enough others who strive to make our lives more comfortable than it otherwise might be in extreme weather conditions.

I am in admiration of those hard-working and less-recognized individuals — our newspaper and mail delivery professionals.

GEORGE J. FANTINI JR.
30 Cutler Road

See pages 10 & 11 for more Letters to the Editor



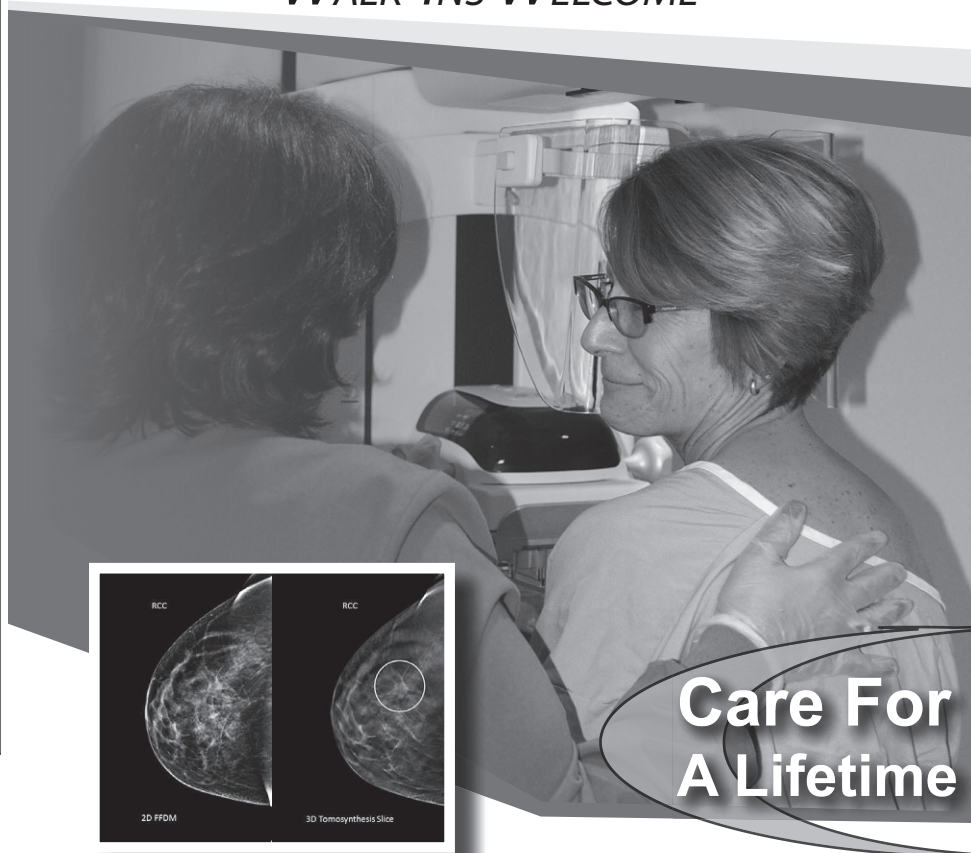
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kowalski brings balance to Board of Selectmen

Editor, Townsman:

I have known Dan Kowalski personally and professionally for almost 10 years. I can say without hesitation that Dan's dedication and commitment to the Town of Andover is unsurpassed and is deserving of re-election to the Board of Selectmen in the upcoming election.

Dan Kowalski has brought a balance to the board that I have not seen in recent years. Finding this balance is not easy. Elected officials often dedicated to the town and the job find it difficult to navigate the municipal process and create an effective team. Dan's common-sense approach and ability to reason through complex issues have made him a steady force on the board. He has been able to create a balance among the selectmen that has allowed progress to be made on a number of issues.

While Dan has used a fiscally conservative approach to look at many issues in the town, he also is able to balance the benefit of spending funds to make Andover a better community for everyone. Whether it's tackling the Ballardvale Fire Station, the Andover Youth Center or the town budget, Dan's common-sense approach and technical skills have created a highly functioning Board of Selectmen.

Please join me in voting for Dan Kowalski for re-election to the Andover Board of Selectmen.

CHIP STELLA
15 Charlotte Drive

Landry stands out for fiscal responsibility

Editor, Townsman:

The average Andover property tax bill for a single-family home has increased from \$5,466 in 2003 to \$7,967 in 2013 — an increase of 46 percent over 10 years with continued projected increases before us. One candidate running for selectman stands out because of his demonstrated quest for more fiscal responsibility. That candidate is Bob Landry, co-founder of www.TownofAndover.com, the organization dedicated to promoting

transparency and accountability for the Town of Andover.

People may remember Bob as the individual who identified \$1 million in healthcare savings for the town and advocated for it in a spirited exchange at last year's Town Meeting. Bob, along with the late Greg Rigby, is also responsible for exposing the dire situation of Andover's unfunded pension liability and working to implement changes now to address this problem.

This election is critical to the future of Andover and we believe that change is essential for the responsible use of our tax dollars. That is why we fully support Bob Landry in his bid to be elected to Andover's Board of Selectmen and encourage others to do the same. Please vote for Bob Landry on March 24.

MARTHA MILLER
RON RIEDER
47 Rattlesnake Hill Road

Major understands complexities facing Andover

Editor, Townsman:

The debate between the candidates for selectmen revealed that we still have a long way to go to getting to the root causes of how to provide services to Andover residents, at an appropriate cost, with measurable results. While some of the candidates talk about "transparency," transparency requires understanding the actual processes of governing, educating our students and improving Andover's stature as a place to invest. In business, we call this "walking the process," which yields much more insight into how Andover can address the issues that face it and other municipalities.

On this basis, Brian Major deserves your vote for another term on the Board of Selectmen. He understands the details of how to achieve a balanced outcome for the town, given constraints on resources. A few examples:

- Working directly with the planning manager and Schneider Electric to bring 800 high-paid employees and \$24 million of capital investment to Andover.
- Driving support for the

new amenities zoning for Dascomb and River roads.

■ Streamlining the permitting process to encourage more commercial growth.

■ Increasing pension funding to bring in the date for fully funding the town's pensions by eight years to 2032, and saving \$82 million in interest cost.

■ Continuing to work on the OPEB reduction through increased funding and reductions in future benefits, within the current state laws.

Brian, a certified Master Black Belt in Lean Six Sigma, works tirelessly for the selectmen to ensure that committees and town employees get to the relevant facts and process understanding before making bold statements that might appeal to some voters, but have little chance of implementation. Paired with the new town manager, Brian and the selectmen have an opportunity to engage the public to preserve Andover's reputation as a place to live and work. We are already seeing the level of public engagement increase dramatically, through the great work being done by Andover residents in support of the zoning overlay for the Historic Mill District.

Andover's challenges can't be solved solely through a spending freeze, new health insurance provider or tough union negotiations. The town needs to attract commercial growth, and the interplay between quality schools, infrastructure, permitting and other town services is critical to attracting growth. Brian understands these complexities and deserves your vote for another term on the Board of Selectmen.

GREG SEBASKY
15 Muirfield Circle

Kowalski works to see big picture for good of the community

Editor, Townsman:

We are writing this letter in support of Dan Kowalski for selectman. Dan has been a fresh, new face on the board over the past three years. Dan is always eager to learn about processes and doesn't take things at face value. He asks the hard questions when faced

with town issues in order to get the citizens of Andover the answers they deserve.

Our experience with Dan has been that he is open-minded and approachable. There have been many times when we have needed his counsel or had concerns about decisions being made by the Board of Selectmen and he has been receptive to our concerns. Dan has shown a willingness to work collaboratively with members of all the boards, including his own; the constituents, and town and school administration. One of his best attributes is his ability to look at the big picture. He understands that Andover needs balance and that all the pieces that make the town click need to work well in order for our community to thrive. Dan has been a fair and objective advocate for the schools and realizes that its problems are not just school issues, but town issues as well.

We believe that Dan Kowalski has done a tremendous job as a selectman and deserves your vote for another three-year term. Please join us in voting for Dan Kowalski for selectman on Tuesday, March 24.

DIANE COSTAGLIOLA
Belknap Drive
ANDREA ZAIMES
Williams Street

Town needs Major's financial expertise, leadership

Editor, Townsman:

I have known Brian Major for many years and I fully support his re-election to the Board of Selectmen in 2015.

He has been a leader in establishing metrics for managing performance of town officials and provides experience beyond any of his opponents. Specifically, his creation of the "Andover Budget Model" that sets metrics for the future town budgets has been instrumental in forecasting budget problems and avoiding them before they occur. His financial expertise in analyzing the town budgets against the current fiscal challenges makes him uniquely qualified to continue on the board. We need people like Brian who know how to make recommendations and decisions based on all the facts before

taking action. Major brings the kind of experience that we need in changing times like these.

With the impending change of town manager coming, we need people like Brian Major to provide the leadership and continuity so important in these changing times. Major is a person of strong integrity and deserves our fullest support.

TED GEORGIAN
11 Lovejoy Road

be attending Andover schools soon.

Bob is simply trying to stop wasteful spending so that the town will be able to afford the services residents need and want, while keeping property taxes affordable for all of us.

Please make sure to vote for Bob Landry on Tuesday, March 24.

MAUREEN KELLER
8 Fosters Pond Road

Kowalski committed to transparency, open government

Editor, Townsman:

I am a 27-year resident of Andover writing on behalf of Dan Kowalski for selectman. Dan steps up to the plate to lead and take on responsibility; his actions over the last three years have clearly shown that. Most importantly, Dan has fought for transparency, open government and fiscal responsibility.

In the area of transparency, Dan has advocated many things — making executive session meeting minutes available on the town website (that had been unavailable for years), ensuring all Board of Selectmen votes are in the Finance Committee book for Town Meeting, and developing the process used to evaluate the town manager. This process ensures that our next town manager knows exactly what is expected of the position.

In the area of fiscal responsibility, Dan has leveraged his professional knowledge to introduce a new "internal audit" function in the town of Andover. Dan works in an audit function in his professional career and understands the importance of auditing how money is spent. This internal audit function will ensure there is accountability of how taxpayer dollars are spent.

I didn't realize Dan's many accomplishments in his current term and his future vision until I reviewed his website, danforselectman.com. His website provides a wealth of information. Vote for the candidate who has been actively involved in the community, is well respected, thinks with an open mind and has helped lead Andover down a better path.

Vote "Dan Kowalski for Selectman" on Tuesday, March 24, for Andover's sake.

BILL ALCOTT
22 Yardley Road

Kowalski has made community involvement a priority

Editor, Townsman:

I'm writing this letter to encourage you to re-elect Dan Kowalski as an Andover selectman. I first met Dan seven years ago when our oldest girls started kindergarten together. Since then, Dan has been actively involved with our schools and our community.

He served as South School PTO vice president and co-president for multiple years and brought many innovative ideas to the group. His enthusiasm was contagious. Dan also helped with class parties, built sets for South and Doherty Middle School theatrical productions, and volunteered to help with Andover High School Senior Safari. Dan has always given his time freely for the kids of Andover.

Dan has also spent his time volunteering for community organizations. He has been a coach for Andover Soccer Association as well as an avid supporter of Andona, a local women's group whose mission is to help the youth of Andover learn, grow and achieve. When Andona needed a male model for the Andona Fashion Show, Dan stepped up. When Andona needed an emcee for the "Andover's Got Talent" fundraiser, Dan took the stage, and when Andona needed a local community leader to "take the plunge" in the dunk tank at Clown Town, Dan was happy to help.

I believe a selectman should be an active member in his community and Dan more than qualifies. He has served Andover well as selectman for the last three years, and I have every confidence that he will continue to do so. Please join me in voting for Dan Kowalski on Tuesday, March 24.

LISA KOLE
1 Trombly Court

Landry an advocate for controlled spending

Editor, Townsman:

I strongly support Bob Landry for the Board of Selectmen. I have been following Bob's efforts both through his website, townofandover.com, and at Town Meetings over the past few years and I think he has demonstrated the type of leadership Andover needs right now.

Unlike most elected officials who simply talk about controlling spending, Bob tried to do something about it. At last year's Town Meeting, he came up just nine votes short for his health insurance amendment that would have saved taxpayers \$1 million per year. Bob had the courage to speak out publicly and criticize the teachers union for blocking a common-sense change for town employee health insurance from Blue Cross to Tufts.

Some of my friends in town have asked me if Bob supports the schools, given his criticism of the teachers union at Town Meeting. I know he supports the schools. Bob has two young children in the Andover school system and I have two young grandchildren who will

Town manager deserves higher ratings

Editor, Townsman:

I grew up in Andover during the pre-town manager years and left at the infancy of the concept.

Returning in late 2006, I've noticed the changes to date. From what I've seen of "Buzz" Stapczynski, he is doing a credible job under trying circumstances. He has made himself available to the voting public at Old Town Hall and to get a gentleman's "C" rating is ridiculous. He should get an "A-plus" for longevity. To have lasted 25 years through the regimes of many selectpeople is worthy of Buzz's trial under fire.

In the scoring by the different selectpeople, two are neophytes in service and the ones with more service gave a more logical rating. Maintaining a high standard of AAA bond rating is worthy of at least a few more "A's" by the current group of selectmen and one selectwoman. Surely, they jest with their current standard.

ROBERT STEFANI
322 South Main St.

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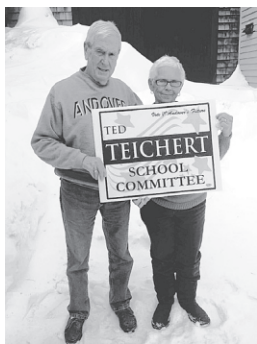
TUESDAY, MARCH 24



AHS Swim Coach
Marilyn Fitzgerald



AHS Ski Team Coach
Tom Busta



Longtime Andover teachers
George & Martha Walsh



Branscombe Family



AHS Track Coach Peter Comeau

Just a sampling of Team Ted.....

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| H. Charles Heseltine | John Moffitt | Art Barber | Arthur Iworsley | William Hart |
| Cynthia & Lester Mencis | Mike & Margie Musso | Sean D'Urso | Ed & Eleanor Sullivan | Charlie Alagero |
| Jim & Karen Oppenheim | Sue Ellen & Wyley Robinson | Ann Grecoe | Mary McGivern | Helen & Paul King |
| John Petty | Mary Cavallaro | Stu McNeil | David Murphy | Ray Cormier |
| Jane Gifun | Francis & Joyce Ritterhaus | Mary Barry | Paul Barry | George Saalfrank |
| Frank Comparato | Joseph & Louise Ponti | Brenda Ashfin | Audrey Nason | Paula Dennett |
| Rich Gannon | Bob Pokress | Jamison Tomsek | Jeremiah O'Sullivan | Sally & Scott Seero |
| Michael & Kathleen Shea | Greg & Maria Alexandris | Chip & Maura Reardon | Joe & Bethany Spanos | Carlo & Mary Cadet |
| Richard Bordelais | Mike Roli | John Teichert | Dana Gould | Lori Swain |
| Debbie Christopher | Myrna Silverman | Ellen Townson | Tracy Callahan | Tracy Schirmer |
| Judy Norton | Chip Stella | Phyllis O'Grady | Tom Powers | Kim Grady |

For more information, see Facebook page – Ted Teichert for School Committee



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Opinion

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mix of experience, innovation deserve vote

March 24 marks the busiest election day in recent memory. A strong slate of qualified candidates has emerged for both the Board of Selectmen and School Committee, giving voters a real choice when they head to the polls on Tuesday. For School Committee, we endorse current Chairman Annie Gilbert for the one-year seat and incumbent David Birnbach and former selectman Ted Teichert for the two, three-year seats. For selectmen, we endorse current Chairman Dan Kowalski and board newcomer Bob Landry for the two, three-year seats.

For the one-year school board seat, we believe Gilbert has proven experience and demonstrated a willingness to work with other town officials in bringing in a budget that is well-disciplined and within the means of the town to afford. While she was on the committee that saw ratification and approval of a teachers union contract last year that was overpriced and unaffordable, she stuck to her guns for several years prior to that in what was a long, drawn-out fight with that same union over the prior pact. For the two, three-year school seats, we like Birnbach and Teichert primarily for their desire to challenge the status quo. Birnbach, in his fourth term, is experienced but he's also innovative. He proposed a Science-Technology-Engineering-Arts-Math (STEAM) charter school for the district to push a technology curriculum. He was vilified by many, particularly teachers and administrators, but it was also quite clear that he was on the right track. A number of programs have been implemented that mimic the kinds of programs the STEAM school would have provided. He also voted against the most recent teachers contract, saying it took money away from more creative programs that would have been better for students.

Teichert, meanwhile, has also spoken of fiscal austerity and says he wants to closely watch the budget for unnecessary spending. He's on the right track when he is critical of poor AP test scores while Andover schools are among the top districts in the state in per-pupil spending. We worry that his judgment might be clouded by his wife Jeanne's critical dealings with the Special Education Department, but are hopeful that he will have the perspective needed to make the right decisions based on data.

For selectmen, we support Kowalski's bid for a second term particularly for his desire for greater transparency and his willingness to push against the status quo. Kowalski has worked in his past year as chairman to improve the flow of information to the public, ensuring recently that the town manager's annual review was as open as possible. He has been critical of the town manager's performance over the last year.

Brian Major, the other incumbent, has been a steadfast member of the board who has served the town well for 18 years. But he also has walked pretty much in lock-step with Town Manager Reginald "Buzz" Stapczynski over the last couple of decades to the point where the town is facing some serious, long-term consequences due to escalating taxes, overspending and scant oversight of generous union contracts. As Andover prepares to bring on a new town manager, the time seems right for Major to yield to a fresh face on the board, too.

We support Landry in that role. The founder of a watchdog website in town, Landry has expertise in the health care industry. He has exposed what he sees as poor fiscal management of the town and worked hard to open up the flow of information, and the town is better off as a result. He has taken a hard line on spending at Town Meeting, but has always remained civil in his dealings with people who held different opinions.

The fourth candidate for selectmen, Neil Senior, has impressive credentials and good ideas. We would encourage him to seek a role elsewhere in town, perhaps on the OPEB task force or on the Finance Committee. With his business background, a little civic experience could go a long way toward making him a well-rounded candidate in the future.

WEB QUESTION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

The town of Andover, through its Conservation Commission, has acquired hundreds of acres of open space over the years for public enjoyment. Last year's Town Meeting overwhelmingly approved spending \$800,000 to buy more land that becomes available, but officials have since rejected two potential deals. Do you think the town should buy more open space?

YES. We need to protect the environment and preserve land.

YES. It is good for our children and grandchildren to have room to roam near their homes.

NO. It is a waste of taxpayers' money. Any leftover funds from previous land deals should go back to the general fund for other town needs.

NO. Open space is overrated. It just attracts mosquitoes and ticks. And it costs a lot to maintain.

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

It's been an intensive campaign season leading up to the next Tuesday's town election. This year, voters will decide pivotal races for both the Board of Selectmen and School Committee. Do you plan to vote?

YES. There are many important issues in town that need to be addressed and local selectmen and School Committee members make important decisions about how my tax money is spent. 24 votes, or 53 percent.

YES. It is my civic duty. I always vote. 16 votes, or 36 percent.

NO. Elections don't matter. 3 votes, or 6 percent.

NO. I'd like to, but I'll probably be busy that day. 1 vote, or 4 percent.

Gilbert has shown drive, passion on School Committee

Editor, Townsman:

Giving back to your community requires passion and commitment. Annie Gilbert has exhibited both for many years now in support of her community and the Town of Andover. Annie's resume of giving back speaks for itself, Andover School Committee, Bancroft School Building Committee, Shawsheen and Bancroft PTO boards, Bancroft School Council, Andover Coalition for Education and member of Andover Parent to Parent board.

I have had the pleasure of working with Annie for the last seven years as we have both served on the Bancroft School Building Committee. Her thoughtful guidance during the planning, design and construction for the new Bancroft School was invaluable. It has and continues to be clear to me that Annie is driven to ensure that our community has the best resources available, both now and in planning for the future, to deliver the highest quality education for our children and future leaders. This has been a hallmark of the Town of Andover for many years. Annie is now finishing her second term serving on the Andover School Committee and I am confident that Annie's drive, passion and education experience will continue to be a valued asset as a member of the Andover School Committee.

Please be sure to get out and join me in casting your vote in support of Annie Gilbert for School Committee on Tuesday, March 24.

JOSEPH REILLY
460 River Road

McCready's business background will serve schools well

Editor, Townsman:

We are proud that our cousin, Susan (Middleton) McCready, is running for School Committee. Susan grew up here, graduated from Andover High School (class of 1985), and decided to raise her family here. Susan cares deeply for this community and is passionate about the quality of education for all children in Andover.

Susan found that her Andover education prepared her well for college, graduate school and a career in business management. Susan wants to make sure that Andover Public Schools are preparing today's students with the same, if not more, rigor she experienced. Susan is aware of today's challenges in our school district. If elected, she will investigate, analyze issues and work with parents, residents, school administration and School Committee members to find solutions that work for all.

Susan would bring tremendous experience to the School Committee. With a Bachelor of Arts in economics and a Master of Business Administration/Master of Science in information systems management, she has the business background to evaluate how we can maximize tax dollars to enhance the education of Andover children. She has educated herself on how our schools work. Susan has spent considerable time inside the schools, volunteering in the classroom, library, front office and cafeteria. As a PTO president and participant on committees and task forces, she has gotten to know many parents, teachers and school administrators.

Susan has deep roots in Andover and a broad network beyond the school community to tap into for advice. In addition to lifelong friends,

her dad is a senior living in town, one of us is a small business owner with children at Bancroft Elementary and the other is a retired Andover High School math teacher. Susan can draw upon this range of perspectives to help determine what education priorities we in Andover value and would support funding. Susan has the credentials, skills and experience to really make a difference. Please vote for Susan (Middleton) McCready for School Committee on Tuesday, March 24.

BRIDGET MASON
Owner, Tiny Tunes!
77 Summer St.

EILEEN SHANNON, ED.D.
Retired AHS mathematics teacher
91 Central St.

Sousa will help engage, inform the community

Editor, Townsman:

I am writing to express my support for Kim Sousa for School Committee. I have known Kim for 10 years. Kim has 21 years of experience as a marketing and communications professional in the design and engineering business.

She has worked on numerous K-12 school design projects, has written RFPs for municipalities and has worked on many municipal building projects. Through this work, Kim has worked closely with school committees, boards of selectmen, town managers, city councilors and, most important, with the community at large. Given the many town and school projects that are embedded in our strategic plan and town master plan, Kim would be a welcome addition to the School Committee as we seek to work with the town to prioritize these projects and map out the feasibility of bringing some of these projects on line, all while balancing the need to keep tax bills from rising out of control.

Finally, Kim's deep experience with engaging the community on school and municipal projects will be welcomed and is much needed. If there is one thing I know, as I reflect on my last five years, it is that the School Committee can always do a better job engaging the community and keeping it informed. Whether it's a major building project, new curriculum initiatives or merely communicating on the day-to-day successes around the district, Kim's experience as a communications professional will help us engage the community and her experience is second to none.

PAULA COLBY-CLEMENTS
119 Chestnut St.

Gilbert offers leadership to complete school projects

Editor, Townsman:

It is an honor to write to you in support of Annie Gilbert for School Committee. Annie is a dedicated and hard-working public official who has a proven track record of service to the Andover community. She has already served two terms, and twice has held the leadership position as chairwoman of the School Committee. During her tenure, Annie spent six years as a member of the School Building Committee that oversaw the successful construction of the new Bancroft School. This project was completed on time and under budget, and Annie worked diligently to ensure that the School Committee and the community were well informed of its progress every step of the way.

Annie has been a tireless advocate for quality education and has worked strategically and collaboratively with the other elected and appointed officials in town to ensure that

the needs of the students, staff, administration and families are well represented throughout the budget process. She also currently serves on the advisory board for the Andover Coalition for Education, an organization that contributes great value and educational resources to our school system.

Annie brings integrity and credibility to every task and project she undertakes. It is clear to me that we need her expertise and leadership skills for one more year to allow her the time to follow through on major initiatives such as the relocation of the Shawsheen preschool program and the proposed renovation of the Andover High School media center. Annie's knowledge, leadership and effective communication skills will be critical to the success of these very important projects. Annie is an asset to the entire Andover community. I urge you to please join me in voting for Annie Gilbert for School Committee in the March 24 election.

CYNDI WEBBER
9 Gavin Circle

Teichert will strike balance on School Committee

Editor, Townsman:

On March 24, it will be a great pleasure to vote for Ted Teichert for Andover School Committee. Ted has long been involved in town affairs. He will be able to strike a balance between the needs of the school children, especially those with special needs, and the seniors who are threatened with rising taxes.

I hope that Andover voters will join me in supporting Ted Teichert for School Committee.

JOHN F. MOFFITT
68 Beacon St.

'Blood-boiling code words' don't add up

Editor, Townsman:

I have read a lot about the Fiscal Year 2016 town budget development process in The Townsman and other print media. I also attended the Candidates' Forum sponsored by the Service Club of Andover. Recalling several discussion points, I realized what I heard were code words for, "I am going to lower your taxes." Here are a few examples:

"Our taxes are too high." Compared to what? Andover tax bills have traditionally been compared to communities like Lexington, Winchester, Sudbury and others. According to the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, Andover's average residential tax bill increases over the past 10 years have been pretty much in the middle of the pack of several other well-to-do Massachusetts communities. From 2005 to 2014, average per-capita income increased in Andover by about 56 percent, about the same as the average tax bill increase.

"We must be fiscally responsible." How has the Town of Andover not been fiscally responsible in the past? Based on what? Fiscal responsibility is certainly reflected in the town's top-tier AAA bond rating. The Board of Selectmen and the voters at Town Meeting have approved municipal budgets and the town has spent funds within approved budgets. Have we all been complicit in chronic fiscal irresponsibility? I think not.

"Public officials must be transparent in budget deliberations." Hello? Voters have been overwhelmed with the number of public meetings scheduled by the Board of Selectmen, the Finance Committee and the School Committee to openly discuss municipal budgets, school budgets and more.

How much more transparency do voters need?

The code words can definitely get voters' blood boiling. But when you look beyond the details behind the code words, you should realize that we get the municipal services that we ask for and that the budgets we approve at Town Meeting every year reflect the quality of life that we all seek here in Andover.

JOHN F. ZIPETO
14 Canterbury St.

Teichert a loyal leader for his hometown

Editor, Townsman:

I was raised in Andover and have known Ted Teichert for more than 35 years. I have watched his career as a civil servant grow. I think you would be hard pressed to find anyone who has the passion for his hometown that Ted has. His dedication and accomplishments as a selectman have served him well in his endeavors to continue to make Andover a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family.

Ted is now seeking a seat on the School Committee. There are 6,000-plus students in the Andover schools and the challenge to meet everyone's needs — teachers, students and parents alike — sounds daunting to me, but if anyone can take on the challenge with compromises and solutions, it's Ted.

Ted Teichert is a leader. He is thoughtful, passionate, fair, dedicated, loyal and, let's not forget, has a sense of humor that comes in handy with town politics. Please vote for Ted Teichert on March 24 to be your next School Committee member; he is the right choice.

JESSICA GOODWIN HART
Princeton

Landry brings data-driven, common-sense approach to town

Editor Townsman:

I am writing to respectfully invite you to join me in voting for Bob Landry, candidate for selectman. I met Bob two years ago through our friend, Greg Rigby, as they started TownofAndover.com. I have had numerous conversations with Bob over these past two years as he has worked diligently to develop an understanding of how the Andover town government functions and the various issues Andover faces on both the municipal and school side of government.

I've been impressed with the level of Bob's research, his willingness to ask hard questions in a direct and respectful manner as well as his commitment to transparency of government. Bob brings an analytical, data-driven approach, with a lot of common sense to the table and is motivated by a desire to improve our community. He will bring a needed breath of fresh air to the Board of Selectmen.

To the surprise of some, Bob is also a very strong supporter of education. He is a parent of students in the school system. Again, he wants to see transparency in the budget; however, he supports funding of well-supported educational initiatives and facilities. He can balance the important priorities of controlling the rate of tax increase with appropriately funding the schools.

On Tuesday, March 24, I ask that you join me in casting a vote for Bob Landry for selectman.

DENNIS FORGUE
Former School Committee member,
chairman
18 Reservation Road

READER ACCESS

EDITORIAL SERVICES

To reach the newsroom with a news tip or request, please call the appropriate person:

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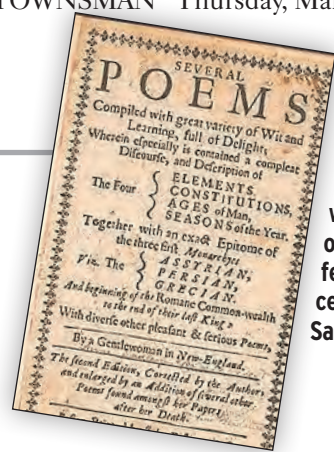


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TownsBeat

A PAGE FROM THE PAST

Female writers — including teen diarist — give voice to Andover's history



A book of poems by Anne Bradstreet, who will be one of the female writers celebrated on Saturday.

Courtesy image

By JUDY WAKEFIELD
jwakefield@andovertownsmen.com

To be sure, there were no references to BFFs or mean girls. But an Andover teen's diary from 1867 bears parallels to the teen blogs of today in many ways.

Boys and clothes were an important part of 14-year-old Abby Locke's 19th century life back then, just as they are today.

Snooping sisters were known to steal glimpses at their siblings' diaries, just as they love to read secretive texts of today.

Reading through the pages of Locke's post-Civil War diary, which has been preserved by the Andover Historical Society, offers a glimpse of real life in Andover in the mid-19th century from a decidedly teen perspective.

"We are thrilled that it was preserved all these years," said Carrie Midura, programs and public relations manager at the historical society. "Yes, it's a coveted piece in our collection."

The historical society showcases the diary on Saturday in honor of its Women's History Month "March Write In" celebration.

Locke and four other female writers of the past will return to Andover for one afternoon of living history presentations at the society's Blanchard House on Main Street.

Andover High School freshman Madeline "Maddy" Wagner, 15, is portraying Locke, a student at Abbot Academy from a well-to-do family in town.

"I just think it's so cool to even have this diary," Wagner said. "That's what I love about our historical society. They preserve things like this."

Wagner said the girls of today don't typically write diaries. She doesn't keep one, and neither do her friends. They blog and text instead, she said. That makes Abby's diary even more special.

Midura said while there are at least two other diaries in the historical society's collection, Locke's is the only one penned by an Andover teen.

Wagner, whose favorite subjects in school are history and math, is getting ready for her role, memorizing parts of Locke's diary that she will recite as visitors tour through the society and get to know the illustrious writers of yesteryear.

The honor student who has been volunteering at the historical



Courtesy photos

Madeline "Maddy" Wagner, 15, of Andover, practices getting into character for her re-creation of Abby Locke, an Andover teen who kept a diary of her life in Andover in 1867.



Carrie Midura, programs and public relations manager at the Andover Historical Society, completes a fitting on Madeline "Maddy" Wagner for her role on Saturday as Abby Locke.



MaryRuth Luther of Andover channels Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, while Carrie Midura of the Andover Historical Society performs a fitting on the dress she'll don for Saturday's program.

DEAR DIARY ...

E.W.D. is one of the stars of Abby Locke's diary as she writes affectionately about his visits as well as about other boys, many of whom were students at Phillips Academy who went off to war. And, clothes and shoes played an important role for a teen girl almost a century and a half ago, as evidenced in Locke's writings.

Here are some excerpts from Locke's diary, which has been transcribed by the Andover Historical Society and is posted on its Blanchard House Blog:

Wednesday, Dec. 18, 1867: Since last writing, E.W.D. has been up three or four times. Been to ride with him once. ... Bob Means came up to invite me to a dancing school party at No A. Friday night. E.W. Donald came up tonight to make a call with me, but I had a cold and did not feel able to go out.

Friday, Dec. 20, 1867: A large wagon carried all the Andover people to No A. It came for me at quarter to 8. I wore my white-tucked muslin, coral jewelry, scarlet sash and fan, and scarlet heels and bows on my white slippers. I had Louise's white opera cape and lace handkerchief and looked as well as possible. Had a splendid time. Got home at half past 3.

Wednesday, Dec. 25, 1867: Willie Donald came up in the afternoon (how nice he is) and took tea. Mother did not get us presents. She says she will New Year's ...

See **DIARY**, Page 14

Of prose and poetry: The town's early published women



Andover Stories

Gail Ralston
Andover Historical Society

From the earliest days of Andover's history, women writers in town have figured prominently. This month, the Andover Historical Society is featuring just a few — women who carved a well-known niche for themselves with their mighty pens.

The works of Anne Bradstreet clearly rise to the top. Bradstreet became the first poet in the New World. As a young girl in England, Bradstreet had access to the books of the family where her father worked. She studied history and the classics, developing strong convictions of Puritan

theology.

Her marriage in 1628 at the age of 16 to Simon Bradstreet was a close one, bringing her to America in 1630. She enjoyed a life of privilege with her father, Thomas Dudley, the second governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, and her husband as secretary. In 1644, the Bradstreets moved to Andover.

Finding herself often alone and raising eight children, Bradstreet turned to poetry in her "spare time," an avocation her husband encouraged. Brother-in-law John Woodbridge, first minister of Andover, took her poems in manuscript form back to England. Without her permission, he arranged for their publication in London in 1650 under the title "The Tenth Muse."

Though Bradstreet's health was always a struggle, she wrote more than 25 published volumes of poetry, finding strength and inspiration in her religious devotion.

She died at age 60 in North Andover; the precise location of her grave is unknown.

A lesser-known poetess was Annie Sawyer Downs. At her death, she was described as having an "affluent memory (that) matched a genius for precision." Also known as "a delightful conversationalist and an ideal teacher," she was born into a household of high scholarship. Downs was best known for her poem "Historic Andover," written on the occasion of Andover's 250th anniversary.

Vying for the honor of "Andover's historian" were three townswomen who each wrote in a unique way: Sarah Loring Bailey, Charlotte Helen Abbott and Bessie Goldsmith.

Bailey was born in 1834 and taught for a while in the West Parish district school, later teaching in high schools in Massachusetts, Kentucky and Illinois. In 1871, she became interested in writing historical articles. Her

"crowning effort" is known to many — "Historical Sketches of Andover." Originally intending to write just a few brief sketches, she was encouraged by friends to expand her scope. After two years of research, "Sketches" was published in 1880.

Abbott was a member of Puncard High School's first graduating class in 1859. As both a teacher and a dressmaker, her first love was documenting the families of early Andover history. For 25 years, she also wrote a column in *The Andover Townsman*. She authored "Abbott Genealogies." That and other works may be seen at the historical society.

Also writing for *The Townsman* was Bessie Puncard Goldsmith, authoring the column "Siftings" under the signature "The Townswoman." Goldsmith's father was William Goldsmith, who served as principal at Puncard High. Bessie herself was what people liked



COURTESY PHOTO/Andover Historical Society
Anne Bradstreet's poetry often drew on her religious devotion.

to call "a character." She served on the Andover police force for 25 years and taught fellow townswomen how to use their newfangled gas stoves. Living in the house where she was born, she was

active in the November Club, the Garden Club, AVIS and the Andover Historical Society. In 1964, the society published her book, "The Townswoman's Andover."

Andover is fortunate to have been home to numerous other female writers, whose stories could fill their own volume. No matter their format, their century or their focus, a quote from Annie Downs could aptly describe all: "There are those that stimulate and urge us onward, not only by their word and deed, but simply because they are themselves."

Andover is indeed grateful to all of these women for sharing themselves in their many works.

Andover Stories is a recurring feature in *The Andover Townsman* prepared by the Andover Historical Society. Visit www.andoverhistorical.org for more.

One of the pieces from Gayle Caruso's "Free Fall" series that is featured in the Andover artist's new exhibit, "Free Fall, 1000 Drawings," at Merrimack College's McCoy Gallery.

Courtesy image



Out & About: '1000 Drawings' celebrates a grateful life

Andover artist Gayle Caruso unveils "Free Fall, 1000 Drawings," her collection of 11-by-14-inch, mixed-media paintings created in the months following a near-death hospital experience, opening this week at McCoy Gallery at Merrimack College, 315 Turnpike St., North Andover.

Caruso's works, a combination of drawings, paintings and collages, are grouped together in two, 500-piece grids supported in a specially engineered display.

The works are drawn from two series, "Divine Light"

and "Free Fall," in which a signature figure of a body is repeated. Together, the pieces seek to illustrate Caruso's out-of-body experience following an operation a couple years ago in which her heart stopped and her world briefly turned to black.

The public is invited to an artist's reception for Caruso and "Free Fall, 1000 Drawings" on Sunday, March 22, from 3 to 5 p.m. in McCoy Gallery. The exhibit runs through April 15. Gallery hours at McCoy are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more

information on the exhibit, visit www.merrimack.edu/mccoy.

Hop to the annual Easter Egg Hunt March 28

The town's annual Easter Egg Hunt gets rolling on Saturday, March 28 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Andover High School on Shawsheen Road.

Recreation Director Kim Stamas said the indoor event will be held in the school's cafeteria. There will be games, prizes, arts and crafts, pictures with the Easter Bunny and egg

decorating. An egg hunt will conclude the festivities.

The event is for ages 2 to 10 and costs \$10 per child. Registration is required by calling the Andover Department of Community Services at 978-623-8274 or visit www.andoverDCS.com for more information.

Make some noise for community drumming

SoulWorks Rhythm will present a dynamic and

See **OUT**, Page 14

Spring into Boutique Blowout 2015

Local retailers are gearing up for their annual Boutique Blowout two-day shopping event this Friday and Saturday hosted by the Andover Business Community Association.

More than 20 downtown businesses will be enticing shoppers into their stores for a variety of sales and other promotions.

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

Instead of being based at Old Town Hall on Main



Courtesy photo

Chic Consignment on Main Street is among the shops gearing up for this weekend's Boutique Blowout.

Street, as has been past tradition, Blowout events will take place at each individual shop and business, which will encourage the public to make

the rounds from one end of downtown to the other.

As a further incentive for shoppers, the town of Andover is offering free

parking in approved lots and spots on both days of the sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

An official Boutique Blowout index guide will be available at all the participating locations. They include Coco Collection, Dovetail, dresscode, Indra Salon & CityScapes, Irresistibles, Izzy's Emporium, Chic Consignment, Madox, IM Wireless, Quiet Pleasures Jewelry, Sole Armour, Nest, Cristina's Bridal, Kokee Flowers, Tobey Grey, Helen Thomas and Soiree and eateries Sweet Mimi's, LaRosa's, Casa Blanca, D'Agostino's Deli of Andover, One Thong Cafe plus Red Stone Liquors.

Follow Boutique Blowout Andover on Facebook for developing news on the event.



Courtesy photo

Samuel Zhang and Yazhini Ramesh will join six other young musicians from Andover in performing at Sunday's 22nd annual Strings Welcome Spring Concert.

A youthful Strings Welcome Spring

Several young Andover musicians are tuning their instruments for Merrimack Valley Suzuki Strings' 22nd annual Strings Welcome Spring Concert on Sunday.

The local violinists and violists under the direction of North Andover strings teacher Trudy Larson will join young performers from across the region for the 3 p.m. concert at First Church Ipswich, 12 Meeting House Green.

Gavin Batsimm, Kayla Lang, Katie Maloney, Yazhini Ramesh, Samuel Zhang, Ivan Qin, Vivien Qin and Vasu Thirumalai will represent Andover in the concert. North Andover residents Catherine Kazmer, Jade Pierce, Caleb Ginsburg and Max Robinson are also performing.

The 1 1/2-hour varied

program will include works by Bach, Vivaldi, Handel and Mozart, fiddling tunes and more, performed by small ensembles, soloists as well as the full group. Larson is on the teaching staff together with Sarah Skinner of Danvers and Junko Simons of Haverhill.

General admission tickets are \$10, \$5 for students and seniors; family rates are available. Proceeds will be donated to the Ipswich-based Partners in Development to provide ongoing schooling, supplies, clothing and health care for three Haitian children for a year.

"The students love to perform and this concert gives them a worthwhile purpose," Larson said in a release.

For more information, call 978-685-7844.

A Requiem in tribute to influential music director

Choral Evensong will perform the "Durufle Requiem, Op. 9" in gratitude for the life of Donald Teeters, Boston organist and choral director, in a concert next Sunday, March 29, at 5 p.m. at the Parish of Christ Church, 33 Central St., Andover.

The piece will be performed by the choirs of Christ Church, Andover and Christ Church, Hamilton-Wenham, conducted by John Russell. Barbara Bruns will serve as organist, with Anney Barrett featured as mezzo-soprano and Kate Jensik on cello.

"Requiem, Op. 9,"

commissioned in 1947 by the French music publisher Durand, was written in memory of Maurice Durufle's father. At the time of commission, Durufle was working on an organ suite using themes from Gregorian chants. He incorporated his sketches for that work into the Requiem that uses numerous themes from the Gregorian "Mass for the Dead." Nearly all the thematic material in the work comes from chant.

Bruns, minister of music at The Parish of Christ Church, Andover and Russell, director of music at Christ Church,

Hamilton-Wenham, will lead the choirs of both churches in the performance.

Teeters was one of the longest-serving conductors, music teachers and organists in the Boston area. He was music director of The Boston Cecilia from 1968 to 2012 and All Saints Parish, Brookline from 1967 to 2014. He also was a professor of music at New England Conservatory in Boston from 1971 to 2014.

He led the first U.S. period-instrument performance of J. Bach's "St. John Passion" in 1981 and was a pioneer in the modern revival of Handel,

performing a 19 oratorios with The Boston Cecilia, one of Boston's historic choral organizations founded in 1876. He led the U.S. premiere of Benjamin Britten's "Phaedra" and numerous world premieres.

Bruns, the associate conductor of The Boston Cecilia, has a long association with Teeters.

"Magnificat" and "Nunc Dimittis" of Herbert Howells will also be performed at the service. For more information, call Christ Church, Andover at 978-475-0529 or visit www.christchurchandover.org.

DIARY

Continued from Page 13

society for three years said she developed an interest in antiques from her mother. She enjoys discovering items from the past, and learning the history surrounding the items fascinates her even more.

"I just love our town history and to see how things change," Wagner said.

Joining Wagner in the living history presentation will be MaryRuth Luther, who will portray Elizabeth Stuart Phelps; Heather Price who will take on the persona of Harriet Beecher Stowe; Margaret McDonald, who is bringing Anne Bradstreet to life; and Jean Cookson, who channels Bessie Goldsmith.

Retired Andover teacher Barbara Bunn, who worked in the local elementary



Harriet Beecher Stowe

schools for 35 years, was on the committee to organize the event.

"It's important to remember these female writers," Bunn said. "I feel they are forgotten and should be remembered and recognized."

The 30-minute presentations will run from 1 to 4 p.m. Volunteers will give

MARCH WRITE IN EVENTS

MEET THE HISTORICAL AUTHORS: Saturday, March 21, 1 to 4 p.m. Authors Harriet Beecher Stowe, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, Bessie Goldsmith, Anne Bradstreet and teenage diary writer Abby Locke will be portrayed in 30-minute, living history presentations. Last tour starts at 3:30 p.m. Admission: \$5 members, \$7 non-members, children under 12 free.

TODAY'S AUTHORS LIVE PANEL: Thursday, March 26, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Six local authors, including Carol Gordon Ekster, Peggy Rambach, Cheryl Murnane, Susan Kell, Tara Winters and Kristin Bair O'Keefe, will be part of a panel discussing writing in the 21st century. Writing styles and inspiration sources will be discussed. Audience questions will be welcome. Admission: \$5 members, \$7 non-members, children under 12 free.

BOOK CLUB TALK & DESSERT: Tuesday, March 31, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Explore the past through "Nothing Daunted," the captivating true story of two restless society girls who left their affluent lives in 1916 to "rough it" as teachers in the wilds of Colorado. Penned by Dorothy Wickenden, editor of The New Yorker, the book is the focus of this month's book club reading and guided discussion.

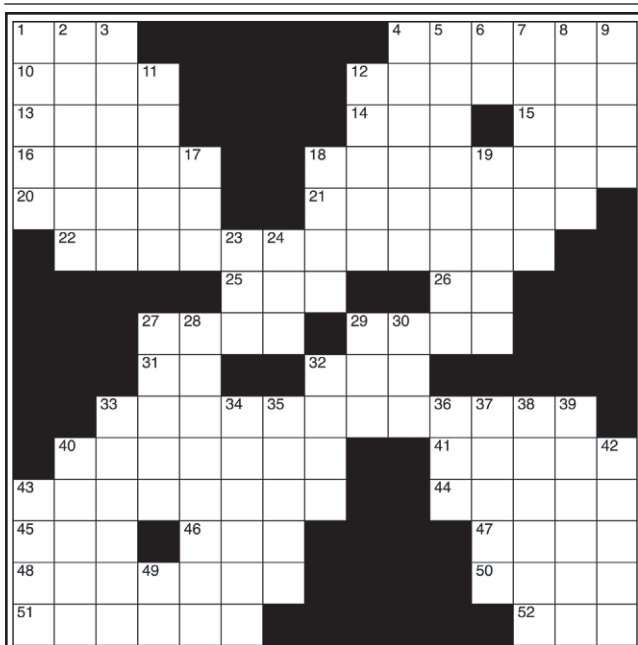
All events take place at the Andover Historical Society's Blanchard House at 97 Main St. For more information or to register for any of the programs, visit <http://andoverhistorical.org/marchwritein> or call the historical society at 978-475-2236.

guided tours of the museum as visitors go room to room to meet the five wordsmiths, who will each offer five- to seven-minute presentations.

Wagner will be dressed in period costume for the presentation, her outfit

consisting of a corset, hoop skirt and a long white skirt adorned with purple ribbon. She thinks it will be a great program.

"This event lets you get in the heads of these writers and that is pretty cool and a lot of fun," she said.



Solution in Classified Section

CLUES ACROSS

1. Cycles/second
4. Fit for cultivation
10. Saami
12. Perceived scent
13. Liberal rights organization
14. Female flying fighters
15. Durham school
16. Ancient Scand. poet
18. Charitable performances
20. Siddhartha author Hermann
21. Letter destination
22. P.S. Buck's Pulitzer
25. Feel regret
26. Initials of e = MC2 author
27. From a distance

29. Cronies
31. Forty
32. Printing speed measurement
33. Nutty spread
40. White seedless grape
41. Hillside
43. Inflammation of a bursa
44. Artery
45. Nail polish brand
46. A routine that is hard to escape
47. Indigo plant
48. Owners
50. Animal fluids
51. Mustelid in its white winter coat
52. Communist

CLUES DOWN

1. Come into conflict
2. A collection of things wrapped together
3. Bath spatter
4. Gunsmoke actress Blake
5. Direct to a source
6. Cartoonist Capp
7. Somewhat blue
8. 40 weekday periods
9. El Dorado High School (abbr.)
11. Heartbeat
12. Brit. rutabaga
17. Angle (abbr.)
18. Said as a greeting or wish
19. Festivals
23. Rita ____, singer
24. Belonging to us

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ET

Andover's George and Terri Kelley are poised to perform their ninth annual Celtic Concert next Sunday, March 29, at Lawrence Public Library.

OUT

Continued from Page 13

interactive program at the BoomerVenture Campus located at The Center at Punchard on Thursday, March 26, at 6:30 p.m.

Participants will play West African, Japanese and hybrid recreational drums and other percussion instruments.

The evening will include background on the drums, instruction and an explanation of the health benefits of group drumming, which include reduced stress and increased immune system function. All equipment will be provided.

Monique Morimoto, MS, CPCC, and Stephen Whitney of SoulWorks Rhythm have provided rhythm-based events for the Beth Israel Parkinson's Wellness Program and numerous private and public venues. Their backgrounds are as a personal leadership coach/consultant/facilitator and professional musician, respectively.

The cost is \$5. The community is welcome. Registration is requested so equipment plans may be made. Register at www.myactivecenter.org or call 978-623-8321 to sign up. For more information on SoulWorks Rhythm, visit www.soulworksrhythm.com.

March Madness marches along at Melmark

Melmark New England in Andover is continuing to celebrate March Madness with a Zumba for Autism fundraiser on Friday, March 20, in which 200 participants and 16 instructors will dance the night away with VIP packages, raffles, refreshments and more.

Trivia Night will be held on Saturday, March 21, in the Melmark Locker Room Lounge on River Road. Twenty teams will compete while enjoying refreshments, raffles and more.

Dresscode in downtown Andover at 2 Elm Square will host "Ladies Night Out" on Thursday, March 26. Guests will enjoy light appetizers, wine and a 20 percent discount. Any shopper that mentions Melmark during the month of March will receive a 10 percent discount and Melmark will receive a donation equal to 10 percent of those purchases.

For more information about any of the March Madness special events or to learn more about Melmark New England, contact Director of Advancement Ellen Kallman at ekallman@melmarkne.org or visit www.melmarkne.org.

Celebration continues with Celtic Concert

Andover musicians George and Terri Kelley will present their ninth annual Celtic Concert on Sunday, March 29, at 2 p.m. at Lawrence Public Library, 51 Lawrence St. The free, one-hour concert will feature Celtic music for voice and piano. Several surprise guests will be joining the Kelleys. This year's concert will also include stories about how Celtic music is connected to Chinese, Italian, German and American music.

The public is invited. A reception will follow the performance, which is supported by The Irish Foundation.

Got an item for Out & About? Email townsman@andovertownsmen.com.

A MISSION COMPLETED

Local teens pitch in for Philadelphia causes

A dozen high-schoolers from St. Augustine Parish in Andover spent their February vacations serving the less fortunate in South Philadelphia.

Led by youth minister Katie Scanlon LeBlanc, the local teens set out on their mission trip on Feb. 14, one day earlier than planned to beat a forecasted snowstorm. The teens, accompanied by several adult chaperones as well as LeBlanc, traveled in cars and vans loaded with supplies and food for the week.

They attended Mass on Feb. 15 at Villanova University, where Fr. Peter Donahue, OSA, and Fr. Michael DiGregorio, OSA, Provincial of the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova, sent them forth on their mission with a special blessing. Each teen was also provided with an Augustinian Mission cross to wear for their week ahead.

The teens performed a variety of tasks, including painting, cleaning, sorting and packing food contributions at area shelters, food pantries and other nonprofit, social service



St. Augustine youth minister Katie Scanlon LeBlanc, second from right, and Sister Lisa Valentini, right, who served one day with the local teens, pose for a group photo at Villanova University at the start of their February vacation mission trip to South Philadelphia.

organizations. They volunteered at the Aquinas Center, St. Joan of Arc Parish, the St. Francis Inn homeless shelter, the Catholic Worker House of Philadelphia, Catholic Charities, Philabundance and City Team.

LeBlanc said that the "Unitas mission trip," as it is called, is based on four pillars — simple living, living in community,

reflection and daily service.

The Andover contingent stayed in the Aquinas Center, a community center and retreat house associated with St. Thomas Parish in South Philadelphia. The teens surrendered their cellphones and electronic devices for the week. They spent time together in daily prayer and also attended Mass each day at St. Rita

Shrine, which is served and managed by the Augustinian Friars. Tina Conlin, chaperone and cook, kept the teens fed with home-cooked meals.

During their free time, the travelers enjoyed some of the classic tourist activities in Philadelphia, including the "Rocky" steps and Philadelphia's popular cheese steaks.

3 local students nominated to U.S. Service Academies

Two students from Andover High School and one from Phillips Academy who have been nominated for admission to the U.S. Service Academies were honored last week by U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Richard Colby Gilbert and Demetrios Kostakis of Andover High and Michael Adams of Phillips are among 15 young men and women from the Third Congressional District who Tsongas selected for appointment to the U.S. Military, Naval, Air Force and Merchant Marine academies.

Gilbert has been nominated to the U.S. Military Academy, Kostakis to the U.S. Air Force Academy and Adams to the U.S. Naval Academy. Gilbert and Kostakis were on hand for last week's reception in Lowell; Adams was unable to attend.

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

Once Tsongas' nominations are forwarded to the Service Academies, each student's eligibility is evaluated based on their academic and extracurricular record, leadership skills, physical stamina and other requirements. The Appointments for entrance are offered by the Academies

Richard Colby Gilbert of Andover High School, who has been nominated to the U.S. Military Academy, poses with U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas.



Andover High's Demetrios Kostakis receives his commendation from U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas honoring him for nomination to the U.S. Air Force Academy.

as the students are evaluated.

"These nominees stood out because of their exemplary academic records, as well as their outstanding achievements in athletics and extracurricular activities," Tsongas said in a release. "They have each exhibited a strong desire to serve their communities and their country, which make them excellent representatives of the Third District and its proud military tradition."

Rotary Club of Andover cues up local speakers

The Rotary Club of Andover is welcoming a pair of speakers with local ties to its final two Friday morning meetings of the month.

This Friday, March 20, Andover resident Shawn W. Carroll, who has worked with CBRE/New England since 1999, will discuss his career.

Carroll has managed properties in Woburn, Billerica, Wakefield and Boston. He is the general manager responsible for the Fan Pier project in Boston. He earned his Bachelor of Science in business management from Boston College and is a U.S. Navy veteran, having served onboard the aircraft carrier USS George Washington (CVN-73).

Next Friday, March 27, Heather Arvidson, who grew up in Andover, will discuss her work with the Peace Corps.

The 2007 graduate of Andover High School first heard about the Peace Corps while on a mission trip with her church youth group during high school. As her undergraduate work at Colby College in Maine was winding down, she applied for the Peace Corps and left on her first assignment to Swaziland in June 2012. She spent two years there working as a volunteer at a small rural primary school, where she kept busy doing a variety of things, from teaching computer skills to starting a library.

Arvidson will be discussing her work in southern Africa at the Rotary



Heather Arvidson, seated, second from right, will share her experiences with the Peace Corps at the Rotary Club of Andover's March 27 meeting.

COURTESY PHOTO

meeting, highlighting how the Peace Corps allows volunteers to give their time and energy to their communities.

The Rotary Club of Andover meets Friday mornings at 7:30 at the Lanam Club, 260 North Main St., Andover. Anyone

with an interest in a particular speaker or topic is welcome to attend. To learn more about the civic organization of men and women who work for the good of the Merrimack Valley while having fun at the same time, visit www.rotaryandover.org.



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Education

PARCC standardized tests under scrutiny

By CHRISTIAN M. WADE
CNHI State Reporter

Governor skeptical of new assessments, calls for review

With Andover among more than half of the state's school districts preparing to take new standardized tests this spring, Gov. Charlie Baker wants an independent review of the controversial assessments.

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers, or PARCC, tests are designed to measure students' knowledge of new education standards known as the Common Core, which the state adopted in 2010.

PARCC, which was given to students in school districts throughout the Merrimack Valley and North Shore in a trial run last year, could replace MCAS, a hallmark of standardized tests in Massachusetts education for more than 20 years. The state Board of Education will vote on the switch this fall.

Baker, a Republican who took office in January, first wants a thorough vetting of the new tests. He said many stakeholders have been left out of the debate.

"We need a public discussion on this," Baker told reporters recently after announcing his

pick of Paul Sagan, a high-tech executive from Cambridge, as chairman of the 11-member Board of Education.

"I think it's an embarrassment that a state that spent two years giving educators, families, parents, administrators and others an opportunity to comment and engage around the assessment system that eventually became MCAS basically gave nobody a voice or an opportunity to engage in a discussion at all before we went ahead on Common Core and PARCC," Baker said.

One of Sagan's first tasks will be to assemble an advisory committee to review the PARCC tests. Baker also directed him to schedule public hearings across the state this summer to hear from school officials, teachers, parents and students following a second test run of PARCC exams this spring.

Common Core has come under attack nationally from Republicans — including Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, who leads the Republican Governors Association — who argue that they amount to a federal

takeover of education that usurps local control of schools.

More than 40 states have adopted Common Core, though some have since changed course and distanced themselves from the standards.

But the push for unified testing standards has prompted a backlash in at least a dozens of states, including New York, Florida and Pennsylvania.

Baker, a former state Board of Education member who helped develop the MCAS standards, is also skeptical.

During his 2010 gubernatorial run, Baker testified against the Common Core before the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. He argued that Massachusetts would lose control of its standards if it switched, abandoning a curriculum that has made it a leader in education.

Baker spokesman Billy Pitman said the governor's scrutiny of PARCC has "nothing to do with politics."

"It's about maintaining and improving the high-quality education and standards that Massachusetts is known for,"

he said.

Nearly two-thirds of Massachusetts public schools took part in the PARCC test-run last year. This spring, students in at least 197 districts — including Andover as well as Lawrence, Haverhill, Danvers, Gloucester, Marblehead and Beverly — will take the test and receive a grade.

Burlington Schools superintendent Eric Conti, whose district was one of only two in the state to give the computer-based version of PARCC to all of its students in third through eighth grades last year, said it takes time to work out the logistics of any new standardized testing system.

"Even with MCAS, it took the state at least five years to get comfortable with it," he said.

He said the PARCC test has "great potential," but there are myriad issues to solve, from minor software glitches to the challenging needs of districts that can't afford the technology demands of online testing.

"It certainly has more potential than MCAS," he said. "But we're not there yet."

While a recent MassINC poll shows growing support for PARCC among school administrators, the leader of the state's largest teachers union said many educators are concerned about "over-testing."

"The testing madness needs to stop," said Barbara Madeloni, president of the Massachusetts Teachers Association, which is backing legislation on Beacon Hill calling for a moratorium on standardized tests. "We need to step back and have some deep community conversations about the purpose of education."

The PARCC test, developed by education publishing giant Pearson in collaboration with more than a dozen states including Massachusetts, is part of a shift to national educational benchmarks that emphasize critical thinking, reasoning and problem solving.

The standards set expectations for math and English at each grade level. The goal is to replace a hodgepodge of educational standards that vary by state.

Students in third through

eighth grades, as well as 10th grade, currently take MCAS tests in math and English, with students in other grades also taking annual science tests. Even if the Board of Education adopts the PARCC tests this fall, 10th-graders would continue to take the MCAS, which they must pass to get a diploma.

Lisa Guisbond, executive director of the Citizens for Public Schools, a group that opposes PARCC testing, praised Baker's decision to solicit more views on the proposed switch.

She said "high-stakes" tests are used not only to assess students but school districts, which puts pressure on students and parents, as well as districts, particularly low-performing ones.

"The over-reliance on standardized testing stifles innovation, narrows the curriculum and hinders students from developing advanced thinking and problem-solving skills," Guisbond said. "We need to stop it."

Christian M. Wade covers the Massachusetts State House for North of Boston Media Group. He can be reached at cwade@cnhi.com.

Andover Youth Council eager to spring into new season

Alex Bensley

Andover Youth Council

Despite the narrow roads, slow traffic and frustrated drivers, Andover Youth Council managed to work hard and make progress in achieving its goals this winter.

AYC has done volunteer shoveling, gone to a selectmen's budget meeting, worked with Middle School Youth Leadership and plenty more. Drea Grieco, a first-year member, said, "We've been representing ourselves in a multitude of community gatherings."

Mary Hellauer, a second-year member, said, "If anything, (the weather) has caused us to work harder and be even more efficient in meetings because we know we have lost some valuable meeting time this year due to the snow."

Members say the weather can't defeat this group of diligent, passionate, enthusiastic individuals. AYC thrives on group chemistry.

"To me, AYC means that I can go to anyone in the group and ask them for help on a project or ask them their favorite jelly-bean flavor and it's totally normal to ask either and always a fun vibe," Hellauer said.

Hellauer speaks the truth about this group. Chemistry has been a significant part of its progress.

First-year members have quickly caught on, and at this point, it's difficult to distinguish the first-year members from the returning members.

Dillon Clancy, a first-year member, said, "It's a great group of kids that I'm thrilled to be able to associate myself with."

As winter comes to a close and spring rolls around the corner, Andover Youth Services events will be heating up. The Java Jam and Telethon are two events that are aimed at raising money for the new Cormier Youth Center. The slogans for the past two years have been "Believe" followed by "RISE." The slogan for this year should be bigger and better than ever. Just you wait.

Of the upcoming Telethon, Clancy said, "I just think the whole event is great because it really brings the community together."

AYC has been working on small projects within the community,

such as Art Appreciation at Andover High, Middle School Youth Leadership and Voices (Un)Heard.

Voices (Un)Heard will create a video by interviewing students from the high school. Essentially, through this small project created by AYC, students will be asked questions such as what their life goals are, how they think they can change the community and if they feel that their voice is heard or not. This small project hasn't taken off yet, but it is an idea that members of AYC are working on and will look to implement this spring.

AYC has also been working on making a different video to convince people to donate money for the Youth Center. This video has not been created yet, but members have decided that people from all over the community, such as those just moving to Andover, young kids and the elderly, will be represented. The video will be sent out to the community. Grieco called the video "our movement of leadership." One day, through the magic of the electronic media, this video should appear before your eyes. Nothing more will be said here — you will have to see for yourself.

Speaking of reaching out to the community, after the death of former Andover High School student Kelly Johnson, Andover Youth Services organized an open microphone event at Old Town Hall. Shortly after, AYC reached out to Mr. Steve Murray to schedule a meeting with him regarding the death of Kelly and also the community in general. Mr. Murray is now the full-time principal at Andover High School, and he looks forward to meeting with AYC again in the future. Grieco said that Mr. Murray "is able to bring our voices to the larger School Committee and back us up and give us the support that the youth of Andover need."

Get ready for this spring, Andover. AYC has goals that are through the roof and you have the chance to be part of it.

Believe. RISE. What's this year going to be?

You will see. It's going to be a wild ride.

Alex Bensley is a senior at Andover High School and a member of the Andover Youth Council.



COURTESY PHOTO

Andover High School students Abby Goldman, Karli Pearce, Daniel Bailey, Anna Root, Shannon Manuel, Kerri Thibodeau, Cameron Ritchie, Jonathan Bailey, Claire Sullivan, Jimmy Thibodeau and Ryan Case were among more than 40 who helped raise money last month for the Celtics Foundation and Andover Special Olympics Basketball.

AHS Interact scores big for Special Olympics hoops team

The Boston Celtics Shamrock Foundation got a boost last month thanks to the Golden Warriors. A group of 31 members of the Andover High School Interact Club, together with 12 members of the high school's Red Cross Club, volunteered at the Feb. 27 Boston Celtics basketball game to raise money for the foundation.

The group sold 50/50 raffle tickets, with half of the \$5,000 proceeds benefitting the Andover Special Olympics Basketball Team. It was the most money ever raised by a single group for this cause.

As a result of their hard work, the Rising Stars Andover Special Olympics Basketball Team will be able to pay for its gym time for two full years.

"I am so pleased that we were asked to participate," Interact



COURTESY PHOTO

Selling 50/50 raffle tickets at the Feb. 27 Boston Celtics game are, from left, Kerry Manual, Justine DiPasquale, Gina Campbell and Maggie Shea. This enthusiastic group raised more than \$7,000 for Special Olympics basketball.

president and AHS senior Shannon Manuel said in a release. "And I am particularly proud that we raised a record

amount of money for this worthy and exciting cause."

Interact clubs are the high school affiliates of Rotary

International. The clubs give students between the ages of 12 and 18 the opportunity to make a real difference in society, while having fun at the same time.

Andover Interact meets at least twice a month. It is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Andover. The club's recent projects include a successful winter coat drive for Lazarus House shelter in Lawrence and support for the annual Feaster Five road race and Andover Coalition for Education's Scarecrow Festival. The club also participated in Rotary International's World Peace and Understanding Dinner.

The Rotary Club of Andover is a civic organization of men and women that meets Fridays at 7:30 a.m. at the Lanam Club, 260 North Main St., Andover. It welcomes prospective members.

High Plain peers into Mount Washington Observatory

High Plain Elementary School students got a glimpse at life inside Mount Washington Observatory during a special enrichment program last week.

William Broussard, the outreach educator at the observatory, traveled to Andover to meet with every grade and share the work the scientists do atop New Hampshire's massive, 6,288-foot mountain.

The youngsters learned how extreme weather can quickly reach peak conditions on the mountain, creating challenging conditions for the scientists as they conduct their research.

High Plain Assistant Principal Marika Lyons said that one of the highlights for the students was the chance to talk directly to a scientist on the mountain. The scientist Skyped into High Plain, and his appearance was

broadcast on the big screen in the school's auditorium.

"He showed them the weather instruments measuring the current conditions and shared videos and photographs of the weather phenomenon that occur in such extremes," Lyons told The Townsman.

Superintendent Marinel McGrath attended the presentation as well, joining students as they learned about life within the observatory.

The Mount Washington Observatory has been in operation since 1932 and is staffed around the clock. Over the years, the staff there have survived 231-mile-per-hour wind gusts, white-out blizzards and snow drifts measuring more than 20 feet tall. They have amassed one of North America's longest continuous climate records, and



JAY SOUSA/Courtesy photo

Scientists working atop Mount Washington spoke to an auditorium of High Plain Elementary students via Skyp last week about the work that they do and the difficulties associated with it.

developed an intimate understanding of the place known as the "Home of the World's Worst Weather," according to the observatory's website.

"It was a wonderful presentation, full of weather facts and the wonderment of nature," Lyons said.

— Tim Lima, staff writer

One talented school

Bancroft Elementary stages fun-filled Variety Show

This month's Bancroft Elementary School Variety Show certainly lived up to its billing — with everything from a unique American Sign Language presentation to a number of talented vocal acts on the program.

The annual show, staged March 5 at the Collins Center for the Performing Arts at Andover High School, raises money for the Bancroft Parent-Teacher Organization and Yearbook Committee.

The show allows everyone who wants to participate a turn in the spotlight, and this year's assembled acts did not disappoint.

Students danced, played piano, showed off their gymnastics moves and acted out scenes. Others sang, both solo and in small ensembles. Some bands even performed for the audience.

Kristi Call, a member of the school's PTO, ran the event and said it was a fun evening and a good way to show how talented the Bancroft Elementary student body is.

"Every kid showed courage when they got on the stage and shared their talents with a large audience," Call said. "The kids worked hard and every act made me smile."



EMAI LAI/Courtesy photo

Fifth-grade Girl Scouts, from left, Elizabeth Anderson, Thea Fergus, Madeleine Harris, Elise Hellmann, Olivia Howard, Molly Lynch, Charlotte Moulson and Katherine Stack show their school spirit during the Bancroft School Variety Show.



EMAI LAI/Courtesy photo

Sophia and Sydney Call entertain the crowd with "Light Your Way" at this year's Bancroft Elementary School Variety Show.



JULIANA LUGG/Courtesy photo

Kindergarten students, from left, Nam-Wuan Bach, Brady Kirn, Adalia Roy and Kate Livermore stole audience members' hearts as they presented the Pledge of Allegiance in American Sign Language.



Courtesy photo

Riley Loveland, left, Bridget Rinklin and Bella DeFiore, aka the BFFs, perform a number at the Variety Show.

Cultural immersion

Phillips strengthens ties with China on overseas tour

Seventy students and 10 faculty members from Phillips Academy, Andover, are strengthening their school's more than century-old ties to China this month with a visit to Asia centered on arts and culture.

The travelers' education immersion has included performances at Shanghai Datong High School and Shanghai Symphony Hall.

Their appearance last Friday, March 13, at Symphony Hall, home to the China Shanghai International Arts Festival, featured Andover students and faculty alongside performers from Shanghai's "Dancing into the Future: I Can Too" project as well as the Datong Chinese Orchestra and Shanghai Youth Choir.

Head of School John Palfrey, who is also in China for a number of alumni and parent events, made a cameo appearance with the Andover choir at Shanghai Symphony Hall.

"With the power to inspire communities, build mutual understanding and transform lives, music is deeply embedded in the culture of Phillips Academy," Palfrey said in a release. "I am immensely proud of our students' talents in all forms of artistry and flattered to have joined them on stage."

Palfrey said the tour is hoped to serve as a catalyst for the school's increasing involvement in China.

"China is an important strategic area of focus for our school," he said, noting that Andover has strong alumni and parent support networks in the region. Some individuals serve as alumni-admission representatives, event hosts



THOM LOCKERBY/Courtesy photo

Phillips Academy students perform at Shanghai Da Tong High School in Shanghai last week. The school is one of three in China that Phillips forged a partnership with in 2011.

or members of committees leading philanthropic initiatives.

Andover's first connection with China began in 1878 and 1879 when 11 Chinese boys enrolled at the academy. One of those boys, Sir Chentung Liang Cheng, class of 1882, later served as Chinese minister to Berlin and Washington, D.C.

Phillips renewed its interaction with China in the 1960s when it began offering Chinese language courses. The relationship grew stronger in the 1970s with plans for a student exchange program, which became official in 1980 with an agreement between Andover and the Harbin Institute of Technology.

A more recent endeavor, established in 2011, is a partnership among Andover and three Chinese schools: The High School Affiliated to Renmin University, Shanghai Datong High School, and

SHANGHAI BOUND

Several Andover students traveled to China this month on an arts and cultural immersion program. They are: Viviane Garth, Vivian Liu, Bryan McGuiggin and Lucius Xuan, class of 2015; Angela Dolan, Claire Glover, Samantha Hagler and Erica Nork, class of 2016; Evelyn Mesler, John Moreland and Brett Sawka, class of 2017; and Mae Zhao and Aditi Kannan, class of 2018.

the Affiliated High School of Peking University, Yunnan Experimental School. Students and faculty from Phillips and the three Chinese schools gather each summer in Kunming for a program that focuses on water resources, cultural exchange and language immersion.

Leaders from each of the schools met in Shanghai last week for a summit during which they reaffirmed their commitment to the international program and discussed new ways to enhance their partnership and extend educational opportunities beyond the

summer months.

About 10 percent of Andover's 1,100 students are international. Of those, several dozen students come from China, with 12 new students from the country enrolling each year.

A need-blind school for both domestic and international candidates, Phillips admits students based on merit and talent, without regard to their family's economic circumstances. The academy is said to have one of the most comprehensive financial aid programs in the U.S. and meets 100 percent of a student's demonstrated need.

ON CAMPUS

Four local residents were among the more than 3,000 graduates from Tufts University in Medford last spring. They include Linda Backe, Bachelor of Arts; Noah Kurinsky, Bachelor of Science, summa cum laude; Joseph Thibodeau, Bachelor of Arts; and Kaleigh Timmins, Bachelor of Science.

In addition, the following local residents were named to the spring 2014 dean's list at Tufts: Mitchell Carey, Jaymi Cohen, Hadley Green, Allan Yau, Backe, Kurinsky and Thibodeau.

Emma Lamoreaux and Josephine Saiz were named to the fall dean's list at Keene State College in New Hampshire.

Adam Bloom-Paicopolos made the dean's list in the first semester of his freshman year at the University of Maryland with a GPA of 4.0. A 2014 graduate of Andover High School, he is majoring in government and politics.

Simon Voorhees was named to the dean's list for the fall semester at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pa.

James Bancroft earned a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice from Fitchburg State University during its winter ceremony.

Devon Follett and Dennis Levesque were named to the dean's list for the fall semester at Fitchburg State University.

Montanna Skye Valler was named to the academic dean's list at Niagara University in New York for the fall semester.

Four local students were named to the fall dean's list at Endicott College in Beverly. They are Margaret Catherine Cranney, a sophomore majoring in liberal studies/education; Colin Alton Henderson Flynn, a freshman majoring in accounting; Morgan Karaline Manning, a sophomore majoring in psychology; and Nicholas Anthony Sarno, a senior majoring in business administration.

Julia LeBlanc, a freshman

at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, has been named to the dean's list for the first semester of the 2014-15 academic year. LeBlanc is majoring in English and psychology.

Maeve Awiszus earned a spot on the dean's list for the fall semester at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, Conn.

Frank Borseti and Aaron Edelman made the dean's list for the fall 2014-2015 semester at Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, N.Y. Borseti is a sophomore in the biology program at RIT's College of Science and Edelman is a freshman in the electrical engineering program at RIT's Kate Gleason College of Engineering.

Sarah Knowles achieved dean's list honors for the fall semester at the University of Maine.

Five local students were named to the fall dean's list at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Conn. They are Rachel Annino, Reid Campbell, Olivia Foley, Carly Golan and Emily Lowenstein.

Shannon Conway and Zachary Sargent were named to the dean's list for the fall semester at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Conway is a senior majoring in psychology — special education and Sargent is a freshman majoring in business administration.

Seth Bilazarian, James Falese, Jennifer Hill and Glen Martin were named to the dean's list for the fall semester at Wake Forest University in Winston Salem, N.C.

Dautey Akufu, Christian Connors and Derek Peterson were named to the dean's list for the fall semester at Curry College in Milton.

Paige Biederwolf was named to the president's list at Clemson University in South Carolina for the fall semester. Biederwolf is majoring in pre-business.

EDUCATION NOTEBOOK

ACE tips off March Madness celebration

The Andover Coalition for Education is celebrating 10 years of steadfast support for the Andover Public Schools this month with a March Madness fundraiser.

The event takes place Saturday, March 28, from 7 to 10 p.m. at The Lanam Club, 260 Main St., Andover.

Guests are invited to watch some college basketball while raising money for the local schools. There will be an open bar from 7 to 8 p.m., heavy hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction. The "Elite-8" NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament games will be on screens for viewing.

Sanborn Elementary School students are working to make basketball-themed centerpieces for the event. The youngsters are decorating basketballs to reflect the different programs that ACE has sponsored in the schools.

The organization has raised more than \$500,000 over the last decade to support local educational programming.

Cocktail attire in the colors of guests' alma maters is encouraged. Tickets are \$50. College and university pennants are also being sold for \$25 to display at the event. For tickets or more information, visit www.aceandover.org.

A visit from the 'Woodland Wonders'

Kindergarten students at South Elementary School were treated to a visit from Michelle's Menagerie on March 5. Wildlife educator Michelle DeBye presented her "Woodland Wonders" program, which introduces the mysteries and wonders of animal life to youngsters.

DeBye has been teaching children and adults about animals and their importance in the world since 1989.

During her program, the students learned about life cycles and how animals survive during the cold winter months. DeBye talked about mammals and amphibians hibernating, reptiles brumating and birds migrating.

The eight animals featured in the enrichment program were duck, frog, rabbit, flying squirrel, skunk, snake, Virginia opossum and turtle.

NECC hosting open house in Lawrence

Northern Essex Community College will host a special open house at the new Dr. Ibrahim El-Hefni Allied Health and Technology Center at 414 Common St. in Lawrence on Saturday, March 28, from 10 a.m. to noon.

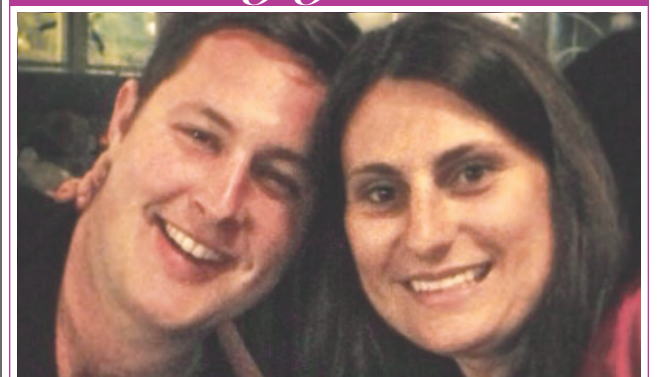
Prospective students and community members are invited to tour all sites of NECC's Lawrence campus, explore the college's available degree and certificate

programs and attend financial aid workshops. Representatives of more than 30 campus organizations and departments, including Student Engagement, Financial Aid, Admissions and Career Services, as well as faculty members will be on hand. Several popular transfer colleges will also be represented.

The Lawrence campus houses the majority of NECC's health care programs and features multiple state-of-the-art classroom and lab spaces, a high-tech health education simulation center, an information literacy lab, a library and more. For more information, contact Enrollment Services at 978-556-3700 or admissions@necc.mass.edu, or visit www.necc.mass.edu.

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

Engagement



Cowie - Morrissey

Peter and Wendy Cowie of Andover are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Katherine Adele to John Morrissey, son of and Richard and Cheryl Morrissey of Belmont, MA. Katie is a graduate of Bentley University and is a Social Media Advertising Supervisor at Resolution Media. John graduated with his Masters degree from Bentley University and is a Work Day Advisory Associate at PWC. Katie and John live in Huntersville, NC and have planned a September 2015 wedding at Salter's Point in South Dartmouth, MA.

Sports

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Andover relay earns gold at New Balance Nationals

By DAVID WILLIS
dwillis@andovertownsm.com

In the days leading up to New Balance Nationals, Andover's Andrew Matteucci found himself struck by a nightmare.

"I had a dream two days before Nationals that I false-started and got the team eliminated," said Matteucci with a laugh. "So I was thinking, 'Don't false start.' I managed to get off to a good start on Saturday, and the rest worked out really well."

Matteucci delivered a spotless start, Justin Mantrana and Sean Caveney followed with blazing second and third legs and Sebastian Silveira capped off the race with another dominant anchor leg, as Andover ran away as record-setting national champions over the weekend.

The Andover High foursome teamed to run a 29.51 in the 4x55 meter shuttle hurdles to earn first place at the New Balance Nationals on Saturday at the Fort Washington Avenue Armory in New York City.

"It feels amazing, still a little bit surreal," Caveney said. "Our goal coming in was to place in the top six so we could be All-Americans. Last year, we placed seventh, and it hurt to miss out on All-American honors. But we really had no idea we were in position to win."

The time also set a new New England record, snapping the mark of 30.28 set by Bedford in 2010, and was just off the New Balance National meet record (29.20).

"It is just an amazing feeling," Silveira said. "It can be very intimidating at nationals. But now that we are older and have done it before, we feel more like we belong. We stressed out a lot about our place last year. This year, we just went in and let it happen."

The team nearly did not even have the chance to compete.

Matteucci suffered a hamstring injury at the Division 1 state relays, and was forced to sit out more than a month, including the Golden Warriors' All-States victory.

"I spent a lot of time in physical therapy trying to come back," Matteucci said. "I tried hard to come back for the MVC meet, but I re-aggravated it."

"If I couldn't get back in time, they may have had to pull the relay from nationals. Imagine that. The 4x55 was my first race in about a month and a half, so it was really nerve-wracking."

Having Matteucci — one of three seniors on the squad along with Caveney and Silveira together with sophomore Mantrana — was a major relief.

"Having Andrew back to start had us feeling great," said Caveney, who will run at Davidson College in North Carolina in the fall. "And we all felt good and were so excited."

"To run at the Armory is such a dream, and it is such an honor to run against so many amazing athletes. Our focus really was to place in the top six."

But it didn't take long for the Warriors to realize they could accomplish more.

"Andrew did a great job getting us off to a good start," said Silveira, who will run at Princeton University in New Jersey next year. "Then Justin did a really good job on the second leg and Sean got us very close to the lead on the third leg. I just had to take it home with the anchor."



Andover teammates, from left, Andrew Matteucci, Justin Mantrana, Sebastian Silveira and Sean Caveney celebrate after winning the national title in the 4x55 meter shuttle hurdles at New Balance Nationals over the weekend.



Teammates Sean Caveney, left, and Andrew Matteucci run against each other last spring. Over the weekend, the two paired up with Sebastian Silveira and Justin Mantrana to win gold at New Balance Nationals.

The Golden Warriors won their heat in the sizzling 29.51. But even with the state and New England record time, the squad was far from comfortable.

"I knew that it was an excellent time for us," Silveira said. "But at first it didn't hit me that the time was really good enough for us to win. We were in the seventh heat, so we had to watch two more. Then all these people started

coming over and telling us how amazing our time was and that we were going to win, and then it hit me."

Sure enough, the time held up and the Warriors were crowned national champions.

"It was really overwhelming," Matteucci said. "Right after we found out, we were brought into a room to do a few interviews, then we were rushed right back out to the

podium. It was scary and exciting. I think I am still in shock a little."

The team, which will reunite for the spring season in hurdles and relays, had plenty to celebrate after the meet.

"To be national champions and beat the defending champs is just amazing," Caveney said. "We trusted each other that we would do anything to succeed and we did it. I couldn't ask for a better group

Harvard-bound Gray nabs All-American status at nationals

Mackenzie Gray of Andover competed in her third straight New Balance Indoor National Championships this weekend at The Armory in New York City.

Gray finished fifth in the triple jump (Championship Division) with a personal record of 40³/₄ feet, which put her on the podium for the first time as an All-American.

She also fought her way from a 15th seed in the long jump (Emerging Elite Division) to finish fourth with an indoor personal record of 18 feet, 4 inches.

She is a senior at The Governor's Academy in Byfield, where she has been a high honors student every semester.

Earlier in the season, Gray also nabbed the USATF New England Champion title for the second straight year in both the triple and long jumps at Harvard University in Cambridge.

This fall, Gray was recruited by several of the top Ivy League and Division I and III track programs. She has chosen to compete next year for the Crimson at Harvard, where she will study engineering.



Mackenzie Gray landed on the podium at the New Balance Indoor National Championships over the weekend.

to do it with."

Other standouts

Andover's sprint medley girls relay of Emily Rothmann, Julia Torres, Audrey Adam and Hanna Ameen took 12th place (4:19.92) in the Emerging Elite division.

Andover's 4x800 girls relay of Colleen Mullins, Grace O'Hara, Sarah Rothman and Cate Donovan placed 15th (9:55.13) in the Emerging Elite.

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

Bishop's Move

Next stop for record-setting vaulter: med school

College Stars

Michael Muldoon

Cornell University pole vaulter Eve Bishop of Andover has enjoyed a brilliant winter season.

In a recent five-week stretch, she (in chronological order):

- Tied her career-best (indoor and outdoor) with a 12-5.5.

- Broke the seven-year-old school indoor record with a 12-10 clearance.

- Was named field event MVP at the Deneault Memorial, where she broke her own school record with a 13-1.5, which ranks her third all-time indoors in Ivy League history.

- Won the Heptagonals (Ivy League championship) with a 12-9.5.

- Won the ECAC title with a 12-11.5.

Coming into the season,

her best efforts were an 11-11.75 indoors and 12-5.5 outdoors.

"I had a lot of improvement in my technique," Bishop said. "As a senior, you want to finish on a good note."

Best of all, this senior isn't finished. She still has the outdoor season where the school record (13-3.5 by Natalie Gengel in 2009) could be in serious

See BISHOP, Page 20



Cornell senior Eve Bishop of Andover is the third-ranked pole vaulter indoors in Ivy League history.

PATRICK SHANAHAN PHOTO

COMMUNITY SCOREBOARD

Daniels scores Northeast-10 MVP men's hockey honors

Andover's Johnny Daniels netted a hat trick to carry the Saint Anselm Hawks over Saint Michael's in Vermont, 6-3, last month, capturing its ninth Northeast-10 Championship.

Daniels led the way with three goals, including the game winner, and an assist. He scored all three of his goals in the third period.

He was named Most

Valuable Player for the Northeast-10 2015 men's ice hockey championship and was selected for the Northeast-10 All-Championship Team for men's hockey.

Daniels attended St. Augustine School in Andover before going on to Central Catholic in Lawrence, where he graduated in 2011. An applied physics major with a minor in mathematics at Saint Anselm, he is due to receive his bachelor's degree from the Manchester, N.H., college in May. He is the son

of Stephen and Suzanne Daniels of Salem Street.

Burt to highlight 2015 Super Bowl trip

Eagle-Tribune Executive Sports Editor Bill Burt will be highlighting his recent experience at the Super Bowl with the world champion Patriots and other behind-the-scenes sports stories as the featured speaker at this week's Andover Service

See COMMUNITY, Page 20



COURTESY PHOTO

The Andover Girls U-12 2 hockey team captured the recent division championship in the New England Bay State Girls Hockey Tournament in Dover, N.H. The team includes Grace MacDonald, Grace Kiley, Olivia McCabe, Lauren McCrimmon, Jade Owirka, Jessica Andrews, Jenna Purtell, Molly Handley, Charlotte Maravelis, Kiara McCormick, Izzy Marble and Lillian Jagger.



COURTESY PHOTO

Andover's Hockey Squirt 3 team took home the Tier IV State Championship on Sunday, March 15. The team includes Finian Burke, Carter Killson, Ryan Magner, Jaob Srivastava, Aidan Fenton, Nate Carriuolo, Thomas Ferdinando, Lucas Iannicelli, Nil Castro-Rovira, Itai Roe-Kozorovitsky, Patric Layman, Peter Elliott, Rayn Mittelman and goalie Michael Pelletier. The Squirt 3 team is coached by, back row, from left, Rob Castro, Jon Pelletier, Efi Roe and Sean Burke.

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BISHOP: Surprised by breakout winter season

Continued from Page 18

jeopardy. Bishop wasn't expecting a breakout season.



Eve Bishop

"Not at all," the 5-foot-3 Bishop said. "This has really surprised me." With all her accomplishments this winter,

the highlight was easy. "Definitely the Ivy League championship. We went 1-2-4, that was really cool," she said.

At Andover High, Bishop vaulted 10-6, but was better known for sprinting. Her 25.14 in the 200 meters ranks her third all-time in the region.

"I didn't expect to pole vault (at Cornell)," she said. "I was strongest in the 200, 300 and 400. I had to take a step back. It was almost like starting over."

As for going higher outdoors, she said, "I really hope so. I want to keep pushing. I didn't start my

pole-vaulting career really until middle of college. I want to push to reach my potential. There are definitely a few pieces of technique to improve upon."

It would be hard to improve much on her academics. With a double major in biology and chemistry, she holds a 4.08 GPA on a 4.3 scale. She's won two prestigious academic awards: Phi Beta Kappa induction and was named a Merrill Presidential Scholar for Cornell students ranking in the top one percent of the class.

She's applying to medical schools and would start in the fall of 2016.

"I've always put academics before track," Bishop said. "I'm more proud of (the academic success) than the track success."

All those accomplishments at an Ivy League school requires talent and drive in equal measure.

"My schedule is definitely overwhelming at times," she admitted. "It may sound nerdy, but it's fun stuff. Lots of bus rides I'm doing homework."

COMMUNITY SCOREBOARD

Continued from Page 19

Club meeting on Thursday, March 19, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Palmers Restaurant on Elm Street in Andover.

Complimentary appetizers, beer and wine will be served. The program is open to the public.

The Andover Service Club is a volunteer organization that seeks to make a difference in the lives of young people and individuals with special needs. Anyone interested in attending the meeting or learning more about the club should email info@serviceclubofandover.org.

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

Andover Girls Softball is accepting registrations for girls in kindergarten, first and second grades who want to join the town's newest 6U/8U girls softball program.

The program is especially designed for girls ages 5 through 8 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.

Contact Karen Wiley at boyk05wiley@comcast.net for more information.

Registrations for the spring in-town season for the 10U, 12U and 14U age divisions are also being accepted; sign up prior to March 27.

Visit www.andover-girlssoftball.org to register for any of the programs.

5 named to Austin Prep Athletic Hall of Fame

Austin Preparatory School in Reading will induct five individuals and one team into its Athletic Hall of Fame on Saturday, April 11, at the Wyndham Andover on Old River Road.

This will be the fifth induction ceremony for the school. The event honors athletes over Austin Prep's five decades.

This year's inductees are Thomas F. Birmingham, class of 1967, the former Massachusetts Senate president, being inducted as Austin's first three-time letterman in football, basketball and baseball; Michael J. Ciampa, class of 1976, being inducted for baseball achievements, including eight single-season and career records; the

late David E. Nelson, class of 1981, posthumously for ice hockey achievements including leading his team to its first league championship; Tara L. Williams-Cahill, class of 1996, for cheerleading and swimming achievements, including being named All-Around Athlete in 1996; Nathan F. Sherr, class of 2007, for football career that includes being named three-time league all-star; the late George "Matt" Miller, posthumously for work as director of student activities and 43-year career at Austin that began as a teacher in 1969; and 1985-1986 men's ice hockey team under head coach Steve Arnold, which won the school's first Massachusetts High School Hockey Championship.

The ceremony begins at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$60, which includes dinner and a cash bar. To purchase tickets, visit www.austinprep.org/hof.

Austin Prep Open Golf Tournament

Austin Preparatory School in Reading will host its 28th annual Austin Open Golf Tournament on Monday, May 18, at Indian Ridge Country Club in Andover.

The entry fee includes greens fees, cart, use of driving range and clubhouse, player gifts and lunch. Morning golfers receive breakfast; afternoon golfers also enjoy dinner.

The morning flight is \$200 and begins with a shotgun start promptly at 7 a.m. (check-in opens at 6). The afternoon flight is \$225 and begins with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. (check-in opens at noon). Those who register by April 17 receive an early-bird discount of \$25.

Dinner-only tickets are also available for \$45. The event begins with a cocktail hour starting at 6 p.m., followed by dinner, silent and live auctions and raffles. Auction items will include golf foursomes at area courses, Patriots and Red Sox tickets, wine baskets and more.

To register for the tournament, go to www.austinprep.org/austinopen. For more information, contact Maureen Crowley, external affairs events coordinator, at mcrowley@austinprep.org or 781-944-4900, ext. 836.

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

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Legals

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF HEARING

A public hearing will be held at Conference Room A, 3rd floor, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., Andover, MA on Thursday, April 2, 2015 at 6:30 P.M. on the petition of Kindred Homes, Inc., P.O. Box 483, North Andover, MA for a special permit under Art. VIII, §3.3.5 &/or for a variance from Art. VIII, §4.1.2 to raze all structures on a lot with insufficient area & construct a new single family dwelling.

Premises affected are located at 1 Highland Ave., Andover, MA in a SRB District and are shown on Assessor Map 5 as Lot 84. The application may be viewed at the Board of Appeals office between 8:00 a.m., and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

DAVID W. BROWN, CHAIR BOARD OF APPEALS
AT - 3/19, 3/26/15

Legals

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF HEARING

A public hearing will be held at Conference Room A, 3rd floor, Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., Andover, MA on Thursday, April 2, 2015 at 6:30 P.M. on the petition of Karl Warner & Elizabeth Johnson, 15 Elysian Dr., Andover, MA for a variance from Art. VIII, §4.1.2 to construct an attached garage that will not meet the minimum side yard depth requirement.

Premises affected are located at 15 Elysian Dr., Andover, MA in a SRB District and are shown on Assessor Map 2 as Lot 168. The application may be viewed at the Board of Appeals office between 8:00 a.m., and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

DAVID W. BROWN, CHAIR BOARD OF APPEALS
AT - 3/19, 3/26/15

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The Eagle-Tribune

Legals

TOWN OF ANDOVER BOARD OF HEALTH

Notice is hereby given that at its meeting of March 9, 2015, the Andover Board of Health voted to adopt revisions to its Recreational Camp for Children Regulations under the authority of M.G.L.c. 111, § 31. The regulations clearly permitting time-limits and address requirements for Camps Directors and Health Care Supervisors. A copy is available at the Community Development and Planning Department Office.

Gopala Dwarakanath, M.D. Chairman
AT - 3/19/15

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Essex Probate and Family Court
45 Congress Street
Salem, MA 01970
(978) 744-1020
Docket No. ES15P0536EA

Estate of:
Brian J. Baraby
Date of Death: 12/23/2014
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons:
A Petition has been filed by: **Elaine P. Baraby of North Andover, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order of testacy and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

And also requesting that: **Elaine P. Baraby of North Andover, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before **10:00 a.m. on 04/13/2015**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

The estate is being administered under formal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but recipients are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Mary Anne Sahagian, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 04, 2015
Pamela A Casey O'Brien
Register of Probate
AT - 3/19/15

Announcements

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maryciaraldi@barrettrealty.com

Lynn - Attractive 3 bedroom ranch on dead-end street with much to offer. \$230,000

Tache RE (978) 745-2004

Legals

TOWN OF ANDOVER PLANNING BOARD

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, March 31, 2015, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Doherty Middle School Auditorium, 50 Bartlet Street, the Planning Board will convene public hearings pursuant to Chapter 40A, Section 5 of the Massachusetts General Laws on the following proposed amendments to the Andover Zoning By-Law, Article VIII:

1. Amend Section 2.1 (District Boundaries) and 2.3.1 (Map Amendments) and make the appropriate changes to the Zoning Map of the Town of Andover to rezone to Single Residence A (SRA) from Industrial D (ID) that parcel of land located off of Fleming Avenue, (known by the Assessor's Office as 0 Fleming Avenue). Said parcel of land being a portion of Lot 4A on the Town of Andover Assessor Map 35 and it is the intent of this article that the entirety of Lot 4A on Andover Assessor Map 35 would be zoned SRA.

2. Amend Section 2.3 (District Boundaries) and 2.3.1 (Map Amendments) to rezone to General Business (GB) from Industrial A (IA) the parcels of land designated by the Town of Andover as 10, 12 and 16 Haverhill Street and 7 Tantallon Road and comprising Assessor's Parcels 5, 5A, 6 and 7 on Assessor's Map 35.

And further that non-substantive changes to the numbering of this by-law be permitted in order that it be in compliance with the numbering format of the Andover Code of Bylaws, or take any other action related thereto.

The full text of the proposed amendments may be viewed in the Planning Department between the hours of 8:00 a.m., and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

THE ANDOVER PLANNING BOARD
Zachary Bergeron, Chairman
AT - 3/12, 3/19/15

HOMES

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maryciaraldi@barrettrealty.com

Rockport - Work from home! Separate side entrance with roadside visibility and parking. Perfect for business or in-law apartment. Amenities include single level living, eat-in kitchen with laundry and open concept living room with fireplace. Near downtown, beaches, restaurants, performance center and train. Seasonal ocean views. \$435,000

Rick Petralia J.Barrett & Company 978-239-6207

Legals

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court

Essex Division
45 Congress Street
Salem, MA 01970
(978) 744-1020

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
Docket No. ES12P3240EA

Estate of:
Shalom Nisan Cohen
Date of Death:
05/16/2011

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of

Petitioner **R David Cohen of Medford, MA**, **R David Cohen of Medford, MA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

AT - 3/19/15

HOMES

Salem - Great 2 family with plenty of parking in awesome Derby Wharf area. \$489,900

Tache RE
(978) 745-2004

WINDHAM NH New Colonial w/Custom Kitchen, Lge Family room w/ gas FP Master Suite. Generous Allowances! \$599k (603) 382-0360

CLASSIC HOMES RE

TOWNHOMES/CONDOS

Beverly - First floor 1 bedroom condo with large open concept and deeded parking. \$149,900

Tache RE
(978) 745-2004

FREMONT NH Like New Condo! 2 Lge brdms, open concept, bamboo floors Mostly finished basement! NEW PRICE \$210k. 603-382-0360

CLASSIC HOMES RE

Gloucester-Top level garden style condo offers fully appointed eat-in kitchen opening into living room with exclusive balcony to enjoy ocean vista and breezes. Features include spacious rooms, air conditioning and one-car assigned parking. Close to Magnolia Village and beach and MBTA. \$178,000

Rick Petralia
J.Barrett & Company
978-239-6207

Gloucester-Upper level garden style condo offering open floor plan, two car parking, updated kitchen with s/s, w/d hook ups, hardwood floors and more. Close to downtown, shopping, highway, beaches and commuter rail. Pet friendly. Well maintained association with off-site management. \$119,000

Rick Petralia
J.Barrett & Company
978-239-6207

HAVERHILL, MA: Immaculate 2 bedroom + loft, lovely hardwood floors. Nice area near library. Handy to downtown/Rt 495. \$139,900. Phyllis Leonard RE 978-363-1842

Lynn - Beautiful, spacious 2 bedroom townhouse in a secure complex with underground gated parking. \$184,000.

Tache RE
(978) 745-2004

Peabody - 6 room, 3 bedroom condo in the downtown area. Colonial features and moldings, separate utilities and private entrances. \$205,000

Tache RE
(978) 745-2004

RAYMOND NH Duplex on almost 2 acres, very close to Pawtucketway State Pk! Have tenants pay your mortgage Only \$189k! 603-382-0360

CLASSIC HOMES RE

Salem - Beautiful townhouse in 1870 Victorian. Stainless kitchen with deck, 5 rooms, 2 bedroom, 1.5 baths and parking. \$249,900

Tache RE
(978) 745-2004

Rockport - Year Round Rental: Bears Neck! Spacious townhouse with 2 bedrooms, 2 baths. Year round harbor and ocean views. Close to shopping, restaurants, galleries and theater. Potential to use part of apartment for commercial space. \$2200 per month.

Mary Ciaraldi
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Rockport - Private .46 acre parcel in desirable South End. Abuts conservation land and close to Cape Hedge Beach and Rockport Village. \$147,500

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Gloucester - Three Spacious Buildable Lots surveyed with 285 ft of road frontage. Satisfactory percs for up to 4 bedroom septic systems on each. Wooded 3.65 acre wooded lot with Southern exposure. Great potential for green home development. Not a developer, build your own home and sell the other lots. Orders of Conditions in progress. \$225,000

Mary Ciaraldi
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978-778-6351
marciaraldi@jbarrettrealty.com

Gloucester - LAND Plum Cove-52 acres, 2-Private parcels - Build your dream home at the beach. Close to Lawrence Village. Sewer betterment complete with small balance-two lots combined meet the current R-20 zoning requirement.Offered at \$275,000

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Rentals

APARTMENTS

Amesbury, MA:
LOVELY LONVALE GARDENS
Country setting at its finest!
Amenities include: Remodeled kitchens, Smart Card laundry, pool and lush landscape. Easy access to seacoast, I-95 and 495. Call for details to view our model 855-592-4942

ANDOVER-HAMILTON GREEN - Open House Sat 10-4, Sun 12-3. **ONE MONTH FREE RENT** Restrictions apply. No application fees! Heat, hot water & trash included! Pets welcome! 2 bedroom starting \$1695.
Lisa Perez 978-623-8155

First Run

BRADFORD - LARGE 4 bedroom, 2nd & 3rd floor. New wall to wall & paint. Washer/dryer hook up on 2nd floor. Storage, off street parking. Great area. No pets. No smoking. \$1600/mo. 1st, last, security. 978-766-7145

BRADFORD, MA
Forest Acres

FRIENDLY COMMUNITY LIVING AT ITS BEST
●Pool ●Central AC ●Playground
Basketball/Tennis court ●Free storage
●Free heat, hot water, gas
Visit us 28 Forest Acres Dr. M-F 9:30 to 4:30, Sat 10-2 movetoforestacres.com

Gloucester-Long Term Rental. Fully furnished three room one bedroom top-level condo offers eat-in kitchen opening into living room with exclusive balcony. Features spacious rooms, air conditioning and assigned parking. Close to Magnolia Village and beach and MBTA. No Pets. First and Security required. Minimum credit score of 675 to qualify. \$1,485/mo

Rick Petralia
J.Barrett & Company
978-865-1203

GROVELAND, MA - 2 bedroom includes heat & hot water, hardwood, storage, deck, parking, new pool. Pets considered Starting at \$1300/mo. 978-891-3153

HAVERHILL, MA: Immaculate 2 bedroom + loft hardwood floors. Near library. No smokers, no pets Avail. now \$1300. PALRE 978-363-1842

First Run

METHUEN: 2 bedroom, 1st fr. quiet neighborhood, priv. entrance w/2 off street parking. hardwood flrs, updated kitchen & laundry no pet-s/smoking \$1300 978-697-3404/978-697-3136

METHUEN, MA - Elm Crest Estates. 2 Bedroom \$1,170 mo. - 1 Bedroom - \$950 mo. All utilities included. No pets. 978-682-4891
www.forrent.com/elmcrestestates

Rockport - Year Round Rental: Bears Neck! Spacious townhouse with 2 bedrooms, 2 baths. Year round harbor and ocean views. Close to shopping, restaurants, galleries and theater. Potential to use part of apartment for commercial space. \$2200 per month.

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Millwood Apartments

Tranquility, fresh air & plenty of parking await you at our oasis in the woods. Spacious 2 bedroom apartments from only \$1120-\$1440 including heat/hot water. Professional 24 hr. on-site management plus many other amenities. Enjoy country living while only 30 minutes from Boston. Cats Okay. 978-948-2056
1 1/4 miles East of Rt. 95 on 133, www.millwoodapartments.net

SALEM, NH: Best Location! 2 & 3 bedrooms \$1,150 - \$1,450; includes heat / hot water; Very clean, fully appliances. Coin-op laundry. No dogs. Call 603-458-1884

SALEM NH-Westgate Arms Carefree Living One Bedroom From \$850 Two Bedrooms From \$905 Heat/Hot Water Included No Lease Required. No pets. Subject To Credit Approval Call 603-898-9206 for info GILBERT G. CAMPBELL visit us at www.campbellapts.com

SALEM, NH - Willows Park, 2 Bedroom - \$1010/mo. 1 Bedroom - \$895/mo. Heat/hot water included. No pets. 603-894-4631
www.forrent.com/willowparknh

SUMMERVIEW R.E.

www.srses.com WE GET RESULTS!
1 Bedroom all utilities included \$895
Derry 3 bed heat & hw included \$1235
Manchester NH 1 bedrooms from \$750
Hudson NH 2 Bed All Utilities / Inc. \$1195
Derry NH Mobile Homes for Rent & Sale
Derry NH small 2 bedroom with garage. \$895
Join our Company in 2015
No Fees - Free paper ads - Free Lead-
**Southern NH. & Mass **603-432-5453

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www.forrent.com/willowparknh

VACATION RENTALS

OCEANFRONT SALISBURY BEACH/SEA BROOK Beautiful 3 bedroom condo, directly on the ocean with parking! June 1 & on
978-975-4001

SALISBURY BEACH OCEANFRONT
2 1/2 & 4 bedroom cottage & condos currently renting 2 wk min. Many choices, price vary.
Tom Saab RE 978-683-6699

ROOMMATES

BRADFORD, FURNISHED Room, off 495 & 125. \$600/mo. includes utilities. No pets. 1st & last month. 978-857-8775.

CLOSE TO MA/NH border, Rtes. 95/495, share large house. No pets. Heat, electric, washer/dryer included. \$545.
NON-SMOKER
Call 603-394-7336; or 978-807-0569

Kingston, NH: Must See!
UNIQUE HOME - furnished bedroom in quiet neighborhood. \$150 per week, includes utilities. Call 603-973-2650, after 5pm.

First Run

MIDDLETON: Good size furnished bedroom, in single family home. \$420/mo + 1/4 utils. Deposit. No smoking/no pets/drugs. 978-774-1390

NEWTON, NH: Share house \$125/wk, with utilities & cable. 1st & last required
Call 603-793-4550

PEABODY - Roommate wanted, private home in west Peabody close to highway, \$650/mo plus utilities. No pets. Call 978-728-2462

PLAISTOW, NH Seeking nonsmoker roommate to share 3 bedroom apartment. Spacious, 10.5 x 13 ft bedroom (including closet) with window. Private storage available. Private yard with garden. Some pets allowed. Comes with heat, water, cable, wi-fi, W/D, \$560 + 1/3 electric. Available now. Call Chris any time 603-396-0362

SALEM, NH Professional male seeks same, 2 bedroom Condo, fully furnished, heat/hot water/ electric included, \$600 No pets/Non Smoking, 1st & security. Call 603-571-3776.

SEABROOK Near beach & 95. Sunporch conversation with private entrance, new carpet, washer/dryer, use of house \$600/all utilities 1st/last Good references. No pets. 781-475-2923

LPN or RN / Resident Services Coordinator for GRACE MORGAN HOUSE - a small owner operated Assisted Living residence. 24-30 hours/wk, days. Interesting, rewarding position. Attractive wage. Previous Assisted Living exp a plus, but not required. Please stop by in person, or send resume to: Grace Morgan House, 489 Prospect St. Methuen, MA 01844. Fax: 978-725-4802 or email: scottcrickson2@comcast.net (please, no phone calls)

First Run

MEDICAL BILLER with experience needed part-time for multi-physician practice. Knowledge of e-Clinical Views preferred Salary commensurate with experience. Qualified candidates please fax resume to: 978-682-1475

First Run

Food Truck Operator - Seafood
Established seafood takeout and retail restaurant is putting the finishing touches on a brand new state of the art seafood Truck and seeks a highly motivated individual with a strong work ethic to fill Chef/Manager position. Position will be responsible for all daily aspects of the business operation and requires an entrepreneurial spirit. High energy, passion for quality food (lobster rolls, fried clams, fish sandwiches, etc...) and a sincere desire to connect with customers a must. Energetic and fun leader needed to plug into an existing and proven business model to drive the brand locally. Truck is owned and operated by a highly successful seafood processor / distributor with over 30 years experience. Applicant must have excellent communication skills and be proficient in Microsoft Office Products, POS, and QuickBooks. Position reports directly to the president/owner and offers great base pay with substantial performance incentives. Please email resume to: george@pswchmaritime.com with "GM Position" Header

NOTICE
Some advertisements running in this category may require an investment

CHILD CARE

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

DRIVERS

7D LICENSE REQUIRED
Immediate opening
Wheelchair experience a plus.
Paid vacation & 3 paid holidays included.
North Shore area.
Call Eva or John,
Caring Choice
Transportation
978-375-3026; 978-423-1288 for more info.

DRIVERS

We are looking for an experienced driver for an airport livery service geared toward the business traveler who is well presented, has great customer service skills, is friendly and has a clean driving record. Promptness is crucial. We also do sporting events, entertainment events and nights out in Boston in addition to airport pick ups and drop offs. You can contact Wayne via cell phone at (978) 500-7931

7-D DRIVERS WANTED
BENEFITS/SIGN-ON BONUS
ALL INFO AVAILABLE @MASSTRAN.COM
978-223-4020
CURRENT RMV UNATTESTED DRIVING RECORD NEEDED TO INTERVIEW

GENERAL HELP WANTED

First Run

Drivers Needed - Part time, for hot lunch deliveries to homebound elderly in Georgetown and Amesbury. Must have own vehicle. Travel Reimbursement provided. For information please call 978-686-1422 ext. 304.

Fitness Center Manager
Rowley area, Full time Experience required. Benefits. email resumes to Stephanie@quinniron.com

Golf Course Help
9 Hole Golf Course seeking seasonal grounds staff. Entails all aspects of grounds maintenance, clean up, mowing, landscaping, and irrigation work. Exp preferred but not necessary. Call 978-887-3100, or 978-356-7600

First Run

Michelle's Dry Cleaners in Lowell looking for COUNTER HELP Flexible Hours Call Abdo 978-996-0789

Newspaper Home Delivery
PCF, Inc. is seeking Delivery Service Providers (DSPs) for newspaper home delivery routes. DSPs are independently contracted. Most routes are 7 days, 2-3 hours daily, starting around 3AM. \$360-\$500/bi-weekly. Routes in: Andover, Beverly, Chelmsford, Danvers, Essex, Georgetown, Gloucester, Haverhill, Lawrence, Merrimack, Peabody, Rockport, Salem & Windham NH and surrounding areas. Saturday only routes, 4-6 hours daily, starting around 5AM. \$50-\$70 per route. Routes in: Beverly, Dorchester, Middleton, Gloucester. No \$5 collections. Ask about our \$10,000 Winter Incentive Program, \$600 DSP Referral Program & \$600 Sign on Bonus. Must be 18+. Call 1-800-515-8000 or online at www.pcofcorp.com/dsp.php

First Run

VETERINARY RECEPTIONIST/ASSISTANT Part-time weekday afternoons & Saturdays Experience preferred, but will train the right individual. Fax resume 978-276-2309.

First Run

Administrative

First Run

Job Wanted
Ads In This Classification Area WORK WANTED NOT HELP WANTED

Medical

All Care is offering a FREE Home Health Aide training beginning April 6th thru April 22nd out of our Lynn office. The hours of the training are Monday thru Friday from 9am-5:00pm. Upon successful completion of the training, you would be given per diem hours in your local areas. Work with clients in their homes, facilities, overnights and live-in cases. A vehicle, driver's license, current car insurance are required. To request an application, please call 781-244-1173 or email epujols@allcare.org EOE/M/F/D/V

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

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ATTENTION CAREGIVERS!
If you are a

New 2015 BMW
320i xDrive Sedan



\$329* Lease for 36 months.

*Lease financing available on 2015 BMW 320i xDrive Sedan vehicles, only at participating BMW centers on leases assigned to BMW Financial Services NA, LLC/Financial Services Vehicle Trust through March 2015. Monthly Lease payments of \$329.00 for 36 months based on MSRP of \$37,450.00. \$2,999.00 down payment. Due at Signing: \$4,323.00 10,000 mi /yr lease. Registration fees taxes, Doc. Fee not included. Programs available to qualified customers. Stock # 40671

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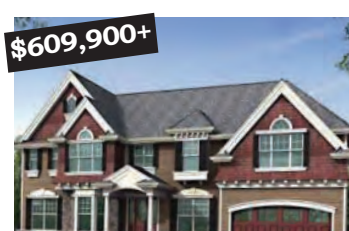
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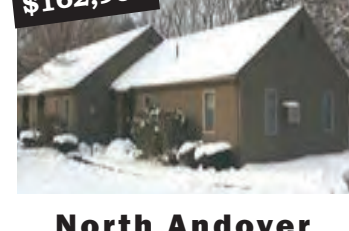
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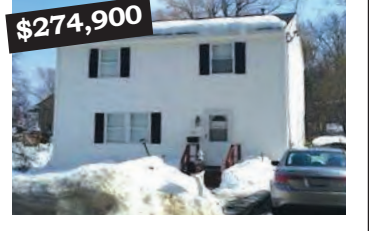
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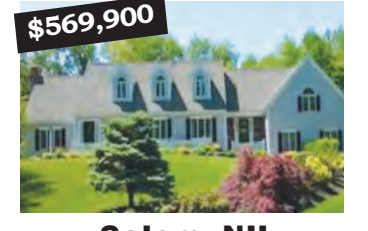
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Meehan re-emerges as contender for UMass president

By CHRISTIAN M. WADE
CNHI State Reporter

Marty Meehan stepped off Capitol Hill and into the chancellor's office of UMass Lowell in 2007, causing wariness in some quarters that a connected politician was given a job that should have gone to someone with a background in higher education.

But the former congressman's watch has since overseen a period of rapid growth on campus. Enrollment has doubled. Tens of millions of dollars for research, scholarships and projects have flowed into Lowell.

Now Meehan's being talked about as a candidate to run the entire state university system, which includes regional campuses in Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth, Lowell and a medical school in Worcester.

UMass President Robert Caret starts a new job as chancellor of the University of Maryland on July 1. At least in the Merrimack Valley, Meehan, who currently lives in Andover, is being talked up as his likely replacement.

"He's the obvious choice," said Rep. Brian Dempsey, a Haverhill Democrat and UMass Lowell alumnus. "He has transformed what was once a regional commuter school into one of the top public institutions in the country."

"We need someone with Marty's experience, proven track record and ability to lead the system," Dempsey said.

Though Meehan hasn't acknowledged his candidacy for the job, he'll have connections working in his favor should he join the running.

A longtime Meehan supporter, Robert Manning, chairs the 21-member search committee, elevating speculation that Meehan could easily become a front-runner.

Manning, another UMass Lowell alumnus who is co-CEO of MFS Investment Management, previously chaired the UMass Board of Trustees.

He's given millions of dollars to his alma mater including \$6 million for the Robert J. Manning School of Business. He received an honorary degree — a doctorate in humane letters — from UMass Lowell in 2011.



FILE PHOTO
UMass Lowell Chancellor and former congressman Martin T. Meehan, seen addressing the graduating students, faculty and families during commencement exercises at Northern Essex Community College in 2012, is being eyed as the next president of UMass.

Manning wasn't available for comment, but a UMass system spokesman said Meehan would be a strong candidate.

"If he does seek it, the conventional wisdom is that he would be a formidable competitor, but we fully expect to have dozens of other, equally formidable, candidates," UMass spokesman Bob Connolly said. "We have strong leadership across the UMass system and will likely have one or more significant internal candidates."

Another connection possibly working for Meehan is Korn Ferry, the Boston-based consulting firm chosen to conduct the nationwide hunt for the new UMass president. It's the same search firm that helped land Meehan his current job eight years ago.

Meehan declined to talk about his prospects. He issued a brief statement saying he is "happy" at UMass Lowell, but would be interested if the search committee reaches out to him.

"I'm very happy being part of the transformation of the Lowell campus, which is where my focus remains," he said. "If the search committee for the new UMass president contacts me, I would of course have a conversation. But that has not happened."

This isn't the first time that Meehan's name has been

mentioned for the job. He emerged as a potential front-runner before Caret was hired in 2010, but withdrew when former Gov. Deval Patrick raised concerns about the position going to a former congressman.

Gov. Charlie Baker, a Republican who tapped Meehan for his transition team, has pledged to stay out of the process. Spokesman Billy Pitman said the governor is "confident" that the search committee will find "several highly qualified finalists."

Meehan, 58, was first elected to Congress in 1992, succeeding Chester Atkins. The Democrat served nearly 15 years before resigning in July 2007 to accept the chancellor's job at UMass Lowell, where he attended college, replacing William Hogan.

Meehan, who makes \$374,000 a year, would almost certainly get a hefty raise if tapped to run the university system. Caret was hired in 2011 at \$600,000 a year, including salary and benefits.

Since taking the helm in Lowell, Meehan has overseen a nearly 50 percent growth in enrollment, to 17,000 students, according to the university.

Enrollment system-wide has risen 30 percent in the past decade, to 73,614 students in current year, according to university figures.

UMass Lowell's academic standing is also improving. The average combined SAT score of incoming freshmen is up more than 50 points since 2006, and the average incoming high school GPA has climbed to more than 3.27, according to the university.

But the biggest changes may be the most visible: Meehan's work to rebuild the riverfront campus has given rise to dozens of redevelopment projects and 10 new buildings. Among them are three new student dormitories, a student center and two parking garages.

The university has built an \$80 million technology center and a new \$40 million health and social sciences building.

"The projects they've done have remade the landscape of downtown Lowell," said James Cook, executive director of the Lowell Plan Inc., the

city's economic development agency, who has worked with Meehan on a number of projects. "Driving around the city, you can't miss the difference. It's a rebirth."

Meehan has also reeled in tens of millions of research dollars, from federal and private sources. Recent investments include \$5.6 million from NASA to build a device for deep space exploration and \$50 million from Raytheon to establish a campus in Kuwait.

The UMass Lowell endowment — which helps pay for scholarships, programE and special faculty positions — has nearly tripled since 2007, to \$78 million, according to the university.

Meehan's personal largess to state and congressional lawmakers also helps boost UMass Lowell's profile.

Meehan left Congress with nearly \$5 million in his campaign war chest. Since then he's given hundreds of thousands of dollars to Democrats and Congressional candidates in Florida, Rhode Island and other states, as well as charitable groups in Massachusetts, according to Federal Election Commission reports.

His still has nearly \$4.5 million in the interest-bearing congressional account and invests a portion in CDs, which generated about \$15,000 in returns between 2012 and 2013, according to FEC filings.

In the meantime, UMass Lowell's profile is rising. It climbed to No. 156 among top-teir universities in the U.S. News & World Report rankings. That's up at least 27 spots since Meehan arrived on campus.

Supporters say those and other accomplishments make Meehan a top contender for a promotion.

"Marty Meehan is an agent of change wherever he goes," said U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas, a Lowell Democrat who succeeded him in Congress. "His value to the UMass system is evident, and his track record of success certainly shows that he would bring the same skills, leadership and enthusiasm to any role."

Christian M. Wade covers the Massachusetts Statehouse. He can be reached at cwade@cnhi.com.

Lyons opposes increase in gaming reporting threshold

By COLLEEN QUINN
State House News Service

transparent than jamming it into a supplemental budget."

Slot machine gamblers in Massachusetts may be able to win up to \$1,200 before they must stop playing and report their winnings to the IRS, under a change to current gaming laws passed by the House last week.

Under current state gaming laws, future Massachusetts gamblers who win more than \$600 must immediately fill out a form at the casino to report their winnings. The federal limit before reporting requirements kick in is \$1,200, lawmakers said.

Amid objections of Rep. James Lyons, R-Andover, House lawmakers pushed the winning threshold up to \$1,200 for electronic games, including the change in an outside section of a \$350 million midyear spending bill that received unanimous approval.

The Senate could debate its version of the budget bill as early as this week, according to a spokesman for Senate President Stanley Rosenberg.

Lyons said he appreciates the fact that every other state has a \$1,200 limit, but he believes any changes to the state's gaming law require more public scrutiny.

"My concern is moving forward, what is the process we are going to put into place when the gaming industry comes back to us again?" Lyons said on the House floor. "To suggest that folks in Plainridge weren't aware of the rules before they invested \$250 million is foolhardy."

A Penn National Gaming slot parlor is set to open in Plainville on June 30, operating as Plainridge Park Casino. Everett and Springfield will see the construction of resort casinos in the next several years.

Lyons requested that if lawmakers opt to change the gaming law again in the future, "that the process is a bit more open and a bit more

The 2011 gaming law requires operators at a casino or slot parlor to stop a gambling machine after someone wins \$600. The person isn't able to play the machine again until a casino or slots employees takes down the player's name, address and 5 percent of the winnings for a state withholding tax.

State gambling regulators have argued the \$600 limit could drive future gamblers to other nearby states to play, since most states abide by the \$1,200 federal threshold.

House Ways and Means Chairman Brian Dempsey said the Senate wanted the \$600 limit set into the state's gaming law when it passed in 2011. "We always had concerns about that," Dempsey told his House colleagues before the bill passed.

House lawmakers originally voted in favor of a \$1,200 reporting threshold, but the Senate prevailed with a \$600 limit when the bill was ironed out in conference committee, according to Dempsey.

Dempsey urged his colleagues to make the change. "We have a vested interest to make sure gaming is very, very successful here in the commonwealth," he said.

"To somebody who is a gambler, the \$600 to \$1,200 can be a very big deal," Dempsey said. "You are stopping the flow of gambling."

The spending bill was the second major budget bill to clear the House this year without a public hearing.

Opponents to gambling in the state immediately criticized the move, and argued the IRS is contemplating lowering the reporting requirements.

"The partnership between casinos and state government is based on cheating and exploiting citizens, not promoting the public interest," Les Bernal, from Stop Predatory Gambling, said in an email to the News Service.

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ALL THOSE YEARS AGO

Compiled by
Susan McKelliget

POSTCARDS FROM HOME

Here's a look back at what was happening in town this same week at key points over the last 100 years, exactly as reported in the pages of the Andover Townsman:

100 Years Ago March 19, 1915

The Suffrage League of Andover takes great pleasure in naming Mrs. Maud Woods Park of Boston as its speaker at the next public meeting of the league to be held in Town Hall at 8 o'clock on the evening of April 14.

Howard Dunnells, son of Mr. and Mrs. George C. Dunnells, was thrown from his bicycle while riding in front of the Barnard Block on Monday afternoon, being struck by an automobile driven by Arthur Gray of Washington Avenue. The bicycle was badly damaged, but young Dunnells escaped injury.

St. Patrick's Day was fittingly observed in Andover, the Ancient Order of Hibernians celebrating with a concert and dance in Workman's Hall Monday evening, while Wednesday evening in the Town Hall the annual entertainment was given by the boys and girls of St. Augustine's Church.

75 Years Ago March 14, 1940

Annual Town Meeting provides usual quota of humor and fortunately sense. For a few jittery moments, the streets of Andover were destined to be darkened because under the roof of the Memorial Auditorium, some 800 Andover citizens had settled temporarily into lapsae mentorom over the task of lighting them. But failing to vote for those few minutes before reconsideration rectified the situation, for money sufficient to light the streets of Andover was the town's only sample of mob



Courtesy image

Greetings -

A 1914 Townsman describes the history of the B&M Railroad in Andover, saying that back in 1833, townspeople petitioned the Legislature for permission to construct a railroad station starting near South Parish Church and from there extending to Boston and Lowell. The back of this postcard suggests this bridge was probably built between 1846 to 1848, after the 8-mile Andover-to-Wilmington line was approved in March 1833. Later, lines to Bradford, Lawrence

and other areas were put together bit by bit, eventually reaching the New Hampshire border in 1837.

Cheers -

Postcards from Home is an occasional feature developed and produced by Susan McKelliget, first vice president of the Andover Historical Society, using postcards to offer a window into Andover's past. Do you have an idea for a Postcard from Home? Email us at townsman@andovertownsmen.com.

haywiracy.

A photo shows the cast of "the very successful minstrel show produced recently by the Margaret Slattery class." Some of the students are in blackface and wearing formal attire.

The recent Russo-Finnish Treaty of Peace inspired Dirk van der Strucken's talk on European affairs at the Shawsheen PTA meeting last night in the school hall. Tracing the important events in the conflict, Mr. van der Strucken stressed the advisability of peace even at the price that Finland had to pay and he described the great destruction of an "unrestricted war" in which there is no victor.

50 Years Ago March 18, 1965

Some 200 members of South Congregational Church signed a petition Sunday urging President Lyndon B. Johnson to take "immediate steps to

guarantee the constitutional rights and privileges of all American citizens." The petition said that members of Andover's South Parish were requesting prompt and positive action "to end such outrages" as have been occurring in Selma, Ala.

Andover Consumers Cooperative Inc., elected three officers, three directors and three alternate directors at its annual stockholders meeting held Tuesday in the Phillips Academy gymnasium. Reporting the most profitable year in its 25-year history, the co-op told stakeholders it would return an estimated \$59,914 to patrons in a 4.3 percent refund.

25 Years Ago March 22, 1990

The choice for a new town manager is down to just two candidates, both men and both already involved in Massachusetts government. Reginald S. Stapczynski, the current town manager of

Wilmington, and Richard T. Howe, deputy secretary for the state's Executive Office of Communities and Development, are the two finalists for the position.

While some Andover students and teachers went south to vacation during February break, Tom Meyers, a social studies teacher at Doherty Middle School, went south to investigate human rights violations in El Salvador. During his week-long stay, Mr. Meyers took a tour of a village called Corral de Piedos, which was attacked Feb. 11. His group, including 20 people from the Jesuit Human Rights Commission and Detroit Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, was going to the village to participate in commemoration services for people who died in the attack.

All Those Years Ago is compiled by Susan McKelliget with cooperation from the Andover Historical Society.

WHAT'S HAPPENING: THE CENTER AT PUNCHARD

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

The Story of World War II - the "Last Good War": Thursdays, March 19 through April 23, 1:30 p.m. Local historians Don Robb and Joe Ponti present a six-part series explaining the why, how and what America did to ensure victory; \$18.

Best Short Stories of 2014: Wednesdays through April 8, 10 a.m. Eileen Reilly, a professional educator and longtime book enthusiast, leads discussions from this annual collection of American short stories.

Statehouse Tour: Thursday, March 19, 8:30 a.m. A visit to Boston as part of Women's Outdoor Adventures; \$15, includes transportation.

Men's Breakfast: Friday, March 20, 8:30 a.m. Superintendent John Lavoie, will discuss Greater Lawrence Technical School's mission, course of studies, physical plant, where students come from and where they head after graduation, as well as how to take advantage of the services the school offers, including the dining room; \$4.

Ask the Lawyer: Friday, March 20, 10 a.m. Local lawyer Raymond Cannon Jr. will meet individually with interested attendees and answer general questions; advance sign-up is required.

Mindfulness Meditation: Fridays, 3 to 3:30 p.m. Increase mental clarity, calmness, happiness and health through meditation; the sessions are aimed at learning/practicing mindfulness; beginners welcome, by donation.

Community Drum Circle: Thursday, March 26, 6:30 p.m. Join Monique Morimoto and Stephen Whitney of SoulWorks Rhythm to play West African, Japanese and a variety of percussion instruments, while reducing stress, improving the immune system and having fun; \$5.

Healthy Living Center of Excellence: Friday, March 27, 9:30 a.m. An overview of

evidence-based programs that Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley can offer that are scientifically proven to provide results in areas such as chronic disease, diabetes and balance; free.

Introduction to Investment Clubs: Friday, March 27, 2 p.m. Dr. Frank Odium, who began an investment club 19 years ago, will speak about starting, organizing and maintaining an investment club; for those interested in starting a club or just learning about the topic; free.

Researching Family History: Monday, March 30, 1:30 p.m. Kim Lynn, a librarian at Memorial Hall Library in Andover, will explain how to begin genealogical research and then move on to using online databases such as Ancestry.com (available free at the library) to discover one's past; free.

Boston Symphony Orchestra Open Rehearsal: Thursday, April 2, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Enjoy Beethoven's Violin Concerto and Shostakovich's Symphony #10; \$61, includes performance and late lunch.

Healthy Living Tidbits: The Anti-Aging Checklist: Friday, April 3, 9:30 a.m. Art McDermott, a local nutritionist and coach, will discuss the behaviors, nutrition and supplements that have been proven to slow the aging process; a healthy breakfast will be served.

All events are open to the community. However, space is limited and registration is required.

The Center is open daily from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For a complete listing of classes and programs, check the center's newsletter or visit www.andoverseiorcenter.org. For more information, call 978-623-8321.

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THE ANDOVERS

North of Boston Living

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