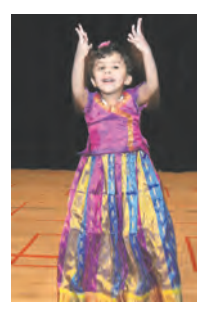




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OUR 127<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

# Andover Townsman

Issue No. 21

APRIL 2, 2015

75 CENTS

## BEST IN STATE



RYAN HUTTON/Staff photos

Shawsheen Elementary School physical education teacher Kevin Tiller does an exercise/dance with preschoolers Omar Drouby, right, and Tyler Irvin, both 4. Tiller says teaching for him is all about the kids.

## Search seeks public input

### Residents to weigh in on next town manager

By BILL KIRK  
bkirk@andovertownsman.com

Residents will be able to weigh in on the attributes they want in the next town manager during a series of forums to be held later this month.

The Board of Selectmen agreed last week to schedule the hearings, possibly at Memorial Hall Library, on April 14. The first hearing would be at 1:30 p.m., the second at 4 p.m. and the third hearing at 7 p.m.

The idea, they said, was to include as many people as possible in the forums, from stay-at-home parents who may want to attend the early session, to working parents who may want to attend the later forum after work.

"We need as much input as possible from the community," Selectman Alex Vispoli said. "Whether it's focus groups or forums or just encouraging people to email."

The sessions will be run by the town's hiring consultant, Mark Morse, of MMA Consulting Group in Plymouth.

In addition to comments from the public, Morse will be meeting with individual members of the Board of Selectmen along with department heads in an effort to develop a leadership profile, which will be used to gauge the finalists.

Morse said he also is meeting one-on-one with Assistant Town Manager Steve Bucuzzo, Finance Director Donna Walsh,

See SEARCH, Page 5

## Shawsheen's Tiller earns Physical Education Teacher of the Year honors

By TIM LIMA  
tlima@andovertownsman.com

Shawsheen Elementary School's Kevin Tiller has long been regarded as one of the state's best physical education teachers, but he'll soon have the hardware to prove it.

The Massachusetts Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance will present the 2015 Elementary Teacher of the Year Award to Tiller at its Honors and Awards Banquet in May.

"It's obviously a great honor," the 44-year-old Andover resident said. "And to me, it's all about my kids and trying to be the best teacher I can be for them. Because if I'm not good for them, I'm

really good for nobody."

Tiller's career as an educator spans 22 years and extends beyond state borders. After spending his early years in Farmington, N.H., he moved south to Massachusetts, joining the Salem public schools, before arriving in Andover in 2003. But after three years, Tiller was let go by the School Department — the result of budget cuts.

He returned to New Hampshire for several years before learning that his same position in Andover at Shawsheen School was available again.

Knowing he'd still be working with Shawsheen Principal Moira O'Brien and physical education program coordinator

See TILLER, Page 2



Physical education teacher Kevin Tiller helps out preschooler Jackson Berberian, 4. Tiller, who has been named Physical Education Teacher of the Year for the state, is known for playing an active role in his classes.

## Charles Street neighbors appeal to Town Meeting

### Street left in legal limbo as IRS seizes construction bond

By BILL KIRK  
bkirk@andovertownsman.com

A group of Charles Circle neighbors will be going before Town Meeting in May, asking voters to spend \$80,000 to finish paving their road so that it can become an accepted street.

The request is the last, desperate act of a group of homeowners who have been working since 2009 to get their road finished and accepted as a public way in Andover.

"I've been calling to get this done for six years," Joseph Ciampa of 5 Charles Circle said.

He has been thwarted at every turn, however — first by the developer, who may have declared bankruptcy; then by the IRS, which apparently seized a \$59,000 bond set aside to finish the road as part of the bankruptcy proceedings; and finally by the town, which either didn't know what was

See STREET, Page 2



COURTESY PHOTO

Andover's Tracy Callahan, in her first real test before this month's Boston Marathon, surprised herself with a strong run of 2:05 at the Bay State Half Marathon.

## The will to run

### Callahan to tackle Boston Marathon to support bombing victim

By DAVE DYER  
Staff Writer

Tracy Callahan is always up for a challenge, but she had never considered tackling the Boston Marathon.

Last year, however, the Andover fitness instructor went to the Boston Marathon finish line with family friend Jeff Bauman to relive the experience of the bombing from the previous year. Bauman had been attending his first Boston as a spectator the year before, when he was caught in the blast and

lost both his legs.

Bauman, who helped identify the bombers, recently wrote about his incredible experience in the much acclaimed book entitled "Stronger."

"The whole setting of what it must have been like, seeing all the people, got to me," said the 48-year-old Callahan. "And to think of what he (Bauman) went through was incredible. I said that I have to do that. It was a way of giving support to Jeff."

But Callahan, whose husband, Gerry, is the well-known Boston sports broadcaster, had another more personal reason for challenging Boston. It would be the ultimate validation of her return to full strength.

Almost three years ago, Callahan felt

See CALLAHAN, Page 5

## In memory

Leah Dennett, 14, front, and Will Grady, 15, lead Jared Martinez, portraying Jesus, in "The Way of the Cross" Monday night as part of St. Augustine Church's Holy Week observances leading to Easter Sunday. This year's presentation by the Youth Ministry at the church was dedicated to the memory of Andover native Kelly Johnson, who lost her struggle with substance abuse early this year at the age of 18. See page 11 for more photos, coverage.

CARL RUSSO/Staff photo



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# TILLER

Continued from Page 1

Brian McNally, he jumped at the chance to return to town in 2011.

"I said I had to go back," Tiller said. "I loved it."

It's proven to be a perfect fit for Tiller, who lives in town with his wife, Leslie, and their son, Cameron, a senior at Andover High School.

McNally, who nominated Tiller for the award, told the association, "I don't believe that I have ever known a more deserving person for this honor than Kevin."

Setting Tiller apart from most is his ability to infuse technology into his classes, which has paid off in a variety of ways, including assessing student performance, communicating home to parents and teaching from different platforms.

Tiller said grading student performance used to be largely subjective, with a student's effort based solely on watching them in class.

But now, he said, their effort level can be quantified into numbers. All of Tiller's students wears a pedometer that records both their steps and the level of their physical activity. The data is then retrieved after each class, and is stored to show their progress over a period of weeks, months or a semester.

Their grades on class assignments are uploaded to the site as well, which then can be accessed by parents. So when students ultimately receive their report cards, their marks should come as no surprise, Tiller said.

O'Brien said while Tiller's use of technology is unique, it's not the only thing that makes him special.

"We are so fortunate to

have Kevin at Shawsheen," she said. "He is an exceptional teacher and role model challenging our very diverse population of students and championing their successes. He infuses humor, animation, music and social thinking into each of his lessons."

Tiller's classes include a taped segment of instruction. He then plays the video on a big screen in the gym for students to follow along as he moves about the class, offering personalized instruction wherever needed. He said the video component allows him to be in two places at once, teaching students as a whole while also providing one-on-one attention.

"Mr. Tiller is a wonderful educator who brings such great energy and innovation to his craft," School Committee Chairman Annie Gilbert said. "We're thrilled he is being recognized with this award, though not the least bit surprised, given his own standard of excellence and that of the entire Health and Physical Education Department."

As meaningful as the award is for him, Tiller said that a recent moment with his family meant just as much. When Tiller learned McNally was initially unsure if he would be available to introduce him at the May 2 awards banquet, the physical education teacher got an unexpected offer from his son, who has Asperger's syndrome.

Cameron Tiller told his father he would make the introductions.

"For him to say he wanted to get up in front of everyone and say something — that was big for me," Tiller said. "I told him that him offering to do that for me meant more than him actually doing it. It was awesome."



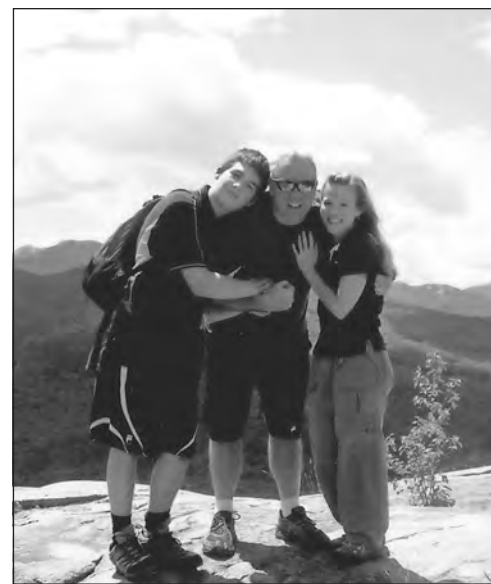
Shawsheen Elementary School physical education teacher Kevin Tiller oversees a class of preschoolers as they stretch on the floor. Tiller, who was named the state's top physical education teacher, is committed to providing one-on-one instruction to all his students.

RYAN HUTTON/Staff photo



Preschooler Omar Drouby, 4, stretches with the help of Shawsheen Elementary School physical education teacher Kevin Tiller.

RYAN HUTTON/Staff photo



Physical education teacher Kevin Tiller poses with his wife, Leslie, and son, Cameron, a senior at Andover High School, during a mountain climbing trip. He says he is proud to share the state Physical Education Teacher of the Year award with his family.

COURTESY PHOTO

## Andover Townsman

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### ADVERTISING DEADLINES

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Camera-ready advertising copy is due by Tuesday at noon.  
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## STREET

Continued from Page 1

going or refused to tell the neighbors.

"I've called the town five to six times a year for the last six years," a frustrated Ciampa told the Board of Selectmen at a meeting last week. In the beginning, he said, he was told that the developer had a "certain amount of time" to respond and install the final coat of paving on the road.

Then, he was told, if the developer didn't respond, "the town would take over the bond," and use the money to finish the road.

Then, he was finally told, "there was no bond — that the IRS took it."

He said the neighbors were dumbfounded to learn last

year that the IRS had taken the bond in 2008.

"We entrusted the town to protect homeowners from something like this happening," he said. "We were out in the dark. Not until last year did (Town Planner) Jacki Byerley tell us there was no bond. We were shocked."

Since 2007, he said, the road has only had a binder coat on it. It is getting chewed up, he said, and other problems have cropped up.

The Department of Public Works late last year issued a "punch list" of needed improvements to Charles Circle before it can be paved. They included inspection and maintenance of the drainage system, construction and repair of sewer manholes, brush clearing, tree planting, dead-tree removal,

installation of a top course of pavement to a driveway at 52 Rocky Hill Road, installation of 1.5 inches of top course pavement on Charles Circle, installation of street bounds and lot corners, repair of road and utilities and legal work for street acceptance, along with a 20 percent contingency, bringing the total cost to \$75,000.

An additional \$5,000 has been added for added legal costs, Ciampa said.

The result is that the original estimate of work, which came in at \$59,000, has risen to \$80,000.

Town officials were just as mystified as residents by the fact that the original bond had been seized by the IRS.

Selectman Paul Salafia, a former member of the Planning Board, which imposes bond requirements, said performance bonds were supposed to be placed in a passbook account and held jointly by the town and the developer.

"Why weren't we ever notified that the IRS took the bond?" he asked town counsel Tom Urbelis.

Urbelis answered: "I don't know. We are trying to find out."

Town Planner Jacki Byerley said in a March 18 letter to selectmen that the Planning Board approved the three-lot subdivision in 2004, construction was completed in 2007, but the road was never finished. She said numerous letters were sent to the developer, Contemporary Builders Inc., requesting that the company finish the road.

But that never happened and the Planning Board decided to seize the funds.

A letter was sent to the bank, originally Southern New Hampshire Bank, now known as Bank of New England, regarding the Planning Board's proposed action to seize the fund.

"On June 4, 2013, a letter

was received from the Bank of New England informing the town that the account had been closed and the funds seized by the IRS in 2008," Byerley said.

The former owner of Contemporary Builders could not be reached for comment.

Selectmen Chairman Dan Kowalski said he was "disappointed" that the neighbors had been left in the dark.

"We are just finding out about this now?" he asked. "And the IRS cleared out the account in 2008?"

Selectmen decided to hold off taking any action on the warrant article until after Urbelis could get some answers from the IRS and other players in the drama.

"We have contacted the IRS in the last month or so," he said. "There should have been a process where we received notice. We need more answers."

Ciampa said going before Town Meeting was really a last resort.

"We were left in the lurch by the developer," he said. "The only recourse we have is through the town."

He said he's worried that if the town never accepts the street as a public way, it could have a long-term impact on his property values because the street would left in a legal limbo.

Since the seizure by the IRS, the town planning division has adjusted how it takes bonds to prevent such seizures in the future, according to Byerley. She said developers are now required to submit a cashier's check payable to the town, "which will prevent the developer's name from being associated with the account. The funds are placed in a town of Andover controlled escrow account."

Further, all other accounts held by the planning division have been reviewed. "We do not anticipate this type of situation in the future," she said.

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# GRILLED TO FRIGID PERFECTION

## Local family ignores winter's wrath to win Kayem contest



COURTESY PHOTO

Patti Noonan's photo of sons Eddie, left, and Andrew putting a tropical feel on winter won Kayem's "Grill in the Chill" competition. The family received a new snow blower, grill and Box o' Meat from Kayem.

By TIM LIMA  
tlima@andovertownsmen.com

In the midst of the snowiest winter ever recorded, Andover's Noonan family captured a little taste of summer. The Noonans showed off their love for grilling and their fortitude — and walked away with a new snow blower and grill as a result.

The Dascomb Road family was the winner of Kayem Company's recent "Grill in the Chill" contest that aimed to reward people who didn't let the season's massive snowfall totals keep them from sparking up the grill.

The contest called for entrants to submit a photo of them taking on winter by continuing to grill despite the elements. Patti Noonan got the judges' attention with her creativity, and beat out hundreds of other

contestants for the top prize, which also included a Kayem Box o' Meat.

"We never put the grill away because I have four grown sons who come home often and bring friends," Noonan said. "Our freezer is always stocked."

Noonan said she chose to enter the contest after her snow blower broke this winter. Often the first one home from work, Noonan would find herself with shovel in hand, tackling her large driveway by herself.

When she heard the Massachusetts-based company's contest promotion on the radio and learned a snow blower was up for grabs, she decided to enter and recruited two of her sons to help.

Brothers Eddie, 25, and Drew, 23, agreed to participate and have some fun in the process.

Big fans of Jimmy Buffet, the brothers first turned to

their collection of Hawaiian shirts, which they paired with colorful board shorts for a truly tropical look. Then, they grabbed a couple cold beers and headed out to their snow-filled yard to man the grill.

Any thoughts of hypothermia quickly setting in soon faded, Eddie Noonan said. "We were having such a good time, we didn't realize it was 25 degrees with 2 feet of snow on the ground," said Eddie Noonan, who carried out the task in his bare feet.

While Patti Noonan said it didn't take her sons long after the photo was snapped to run back into the house to warm up in front of the fireplace, Eddie Noonan said that he and his brother stayed outside in the elements for a little while to finish the cooking job.

"We always finish grilling," he said. "The picture had to be authentic, and no food goes uneaten at the

Noonan house."

Matt Monkiewicz, president of marketing for Kayem, said the contest was all about surviving winter with a smile and turning lemons into lemonade — or, as he put it, taking 100 inches of snow and grilling hot dogs.

"As New Englanders, we know that the best response is to be resilient and try to have a little fun with it," he said.

As for the prizes, the Noonans said all of them will be put to good use.

"The Kayem Box o' Meat will be gone in a weekend," Patti Noonan said.

### TOWN BRIEFS

#### Easter tradition continues with Good Friday Walk

The annual Good Friday Walk, an annual Easter time event for more than 25 years, will be held on Friday, April 3, at 8:30 a.m. beginning at St. Augustine's Church on Essex Street.

The approximately two-hour walk will stop at eight prayer points.

At the various stops, clergy from Andover Baptist, New England Bible Church, Christ Church, Faith Lutheran, Free Christian, St. Augustine's, South Church and Grace Point Community will lead prayers for peace in the world, for the schools, veterans, government, elderly, fire and police departments, and for the churches in town.

All ages are welcome. There will be coffee, orange juice and hot cross buns for everyone to enjoy right before the walk starting at 8:15 a.m. at St. Augustine's Church.

#### Creative Living Andover readying for 29th annual meeting

Creative Living Andover will hold its 29th annual business meeting on Thursday, April 9, at 7 p.m. at the Creative Living House, 368 South Main St., Andover.

Creative Living Andover supports individuals with developmental disabilities and their families so that they can live fulfilling lives in their communities. It will be celebrating 30 years as a vital community organization next year.

The program will begin with light refreshments, followed by the business meeting. Guests are invited. Admission is free.

Raffle tickets will be available. Reservations are requested by calling 978-470-3165 or emailing info@creativelivingandover.org by Monday, April 6. For more information, visit www.creativelivingandover.org.

#### Making sense of food allergy news

Andover allergist Dr. John Saryan will discuss important food allergy research reports that have made the news recently at the Merrimack Valley Asthma & Allergy Educational Support Group meeting on Tuesday, April 7, at 7 p.m. at St. Michael Elementary School, opposite St. Michael Parish Church, 196 Main St., North Andover.

Sharon Schumack, director of education for the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, New England Chapter, which is sponsoring the meeting, said in a release that recent reports on peanut allergy studies have generated a lot of interest, but also a lot of confusion and misinterpretation. She said while the findings are an important addition to understanding how peanut and possibly other food allergies may be prevented in future generations, all of the precautions that families, schools, child care centers and others take to keep people with allergies safe need to be continued.

Saryan is the chairman of

the Department of Allergy and Immunology at Lahey Hospital & Medical Center. He attended the recent national medical conference at which several important studies were discussed, and will share his impressions and advice. There will be time for questions and discussion. The program is free and open to

the public. Registration is not required.

For more information on the New England chapter of the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, or to obtain a free copy of "Eating Out with Food Allergies," call 781-444-7778 or visit www.asthmaandallergies.org.

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**TOWN BRIEFS**

**Human rights activist to speak at Merrimack April 8**

Dr. Charlie Clements, executive director of the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, will discuss his efforts in changing local policy to stop pesticide poisoning among undocumented farm workers in California as part of Merrimack College's Building Community, Reaching for Justice Speaker Series on Wednesday, April 8, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

The free lecture will be presented in Murray Lounge in the college's Sakowich Campus Center, 315 Turnpike St., North Andover.

Clements is a public health physician and human rights activist whose work during the El Salvadoran Civil War is detailed in the Academy Award-winning documentary, "Witness to War." His work has included organizing the creation of water and wastewater systems in areas with no running water or sewer along the Rio Grande Rive

The public is welcome. Register online at [www.merrimack.edu/BCRJevents](http://www.merrimack.edu/BCRJevents) or at the door.

**Free Christian Church hosting April 14 blood drive**

Free Christian Church, 31 Elm St., Andover, is hosting an American Red Cross blood drive on Tuesday, April 14, from 2 to 7 p.m.

The American Red Cross is celebrating National Volunteer Month in April and saluting the hundreds of thousands of volunteers who help fulfill its lifesaving mission.

Donors of all blood types — especially those with types O negative, A negative and B negative — are needed to help ensure blood is available for patients this spring. Those who are unable to give blood can invite others to make a lifesaving donation by creating a SleevesUp virtual blood drive at [redcrossblood.org/SleevesUp](http://redcrossblood.org/SleevesUp).

To make an appointment to give blood, download the Red Cross Blood Donor

App, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call 800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

**Annual rabies clinic on tap for April 11**

The Andover Animal Hospital will conduct its annual rabies vaccination clinic for dogs and cats on Saturday, April 11 at its office at 233 Lowell St. The clinic will be from 8:30 a.m. to noon. The cost of the vaccination will be \$12 per animal. All animals should be leashed or restrained.

A current, signed rabies vaccination certificate required for three-year vaccination. Otherwise, the vaccination will be good for only one year. State law requires that all dogs and cats be vaccinated against rabies by six months of age; they must be three months of age before they can be vaccinated.

Residents who have not yet licensed their dogs for 2015 should call the Town Clerk's office at 978-623-8255 or visit <http://andoverma.gov/clerk/> for more information.

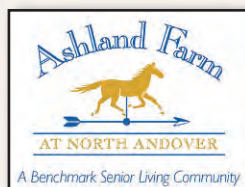
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# Making it official



CARL RUSSO/Staff photos

Town Moderator Sheila Doherty takes the oath from Town Clerk Larry Murphy for her ninth time. Her late father, James, held the moderator's post for 29 years before she assumed the one-year post in 2007.

## Town clerk swears in new, returning elected leaders

BY BILL KIRK  
bkirk@andovertownsmen.com

Town Clerk Larry Murphy must have gotten a tired right arm by the end of the day last Wednesday, after swearing in two selectmen, three School Committee members, the town moderator, a member of the Housing Authority and, finally, a member of the Punchard Free School Board of Trustees.

About 50 people — mostly friends, family and political colleagues — crammed into the third-floor conference room at the Town Offices for the March 25 ceremony, with a dozen or more people standing in the hallway.

Murphy administered the oath of office after a few remarks by Town Manager Reginald "Buzz" Stapczynski. "This is a new beginning with new faces," Stapczynski told the assembled group. "Use this time to reset the vision and goals you have. In a few weeks, I'll be retiring and Marinel (McGrath) will also be retiring, giving our organization new talent and new blood. What kind of community do you want to have for the next 25 years?"

In addition to selectmen Dan Kowalski and Bob Landry, Murphy also administered the oath to School Committee members Ted Teichert and Susan McCreedy, who were elected to three-year terms, and Annie Gilbert, who was elected to a one-year term.

Also sworn into office were three elected officials who were unopposed at the polls, including:

- Sheila Doherty, the incumbent moderator. She was re-elected March 24 to her ninth, one-year term. She won her first election in 2007, taking over the position from her father, James Doherty, who had served as moderator for 29 years before retiring in 2006.

- Housing Authority member Francis O'Connor. He was sworn in to a five-year term. He drew a chuckle from the crowd when he joked that he was 80 years old at the start of a five-year term.

- Eric Stubenhaus, a trustee of the Punchard Free School. Murphy noted that Stubenhaus, elected in 1998, was the longest-serving elected official in town.

Refreshments were served following the official business of the ceremony.



Eric Stubenhaus, right, the longest-serving elected official in town, was sworn in by Town Clerk Larry Murphy as a trustee of the Punchard Free School last week after winning another term.



Housing Authority member Francis O'Connor, right, shakes the hand of Town Clerk Larry Murphy after being sworn into a five-year term.



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

Newly elected School Committee members Susan McCreedy, left, and Ted Teichert as well as returning member Annie Gilbert, right, took the oath of office last Wednesday in a swearing-in ceremony led by Town Clerk Larry Murphy. Gilbert was re-elected as chairman at a School Committee meeting one night later.

## Newly shaped School Committee gets down to business

BY TIM LIMA  
tlima@andovertownsmen.com

be her final year on the School Committee.

The Andover School Committee had a different look last Thursday night.

Two nights after the annual town election, new members Susan McCreedy and Ted Teichert sat in the seats filled just one week before by outgoing board members David Birnbach and Don Robb.

In welcoming Teichert and McCreedy to the committee, Chairman Annie Gilbert said the group would now "jump into the biggest job a School Committee does: Hiring a superintendent."

Birnbach, who was in India during the election, failed to win his fifth term on the committee. He said this week that he "had fun serving on the School Committee ... and I wish Ms. McCreedy and Mr. Teichert well. I don't have any additional comments."

Gilbert herself was fresh off a re-election victory, winning the contest for a one-year seat on the committee.

She took her normal spot as chairman — and immediately earned her peers' unanimous vote of confidence to retain the lead role for a second year. Gilbert, who opted to run for the one-year term that opened up following the resignation of Barbara L'Italien to assume her position as the district's superintendent in January, has openly said this will

Current Vice Chairman Paula Colby-Clements motioned to pass the baton off to Joel Blumstein, a move that was also unanimously endorsed. Blumstein will take over as vice chairman following the May Town Meeting.

After spending the last several weeks as a board member, Robb was now seated in the audience. He stepped in to temporarily fill the void left by L'Italien's resignation until her permanent replacement could be voted in at last week's election.

A former member of both the School Committee and Finance Committee, Robb said the temporary assignment was a "good experience and I enjoyed it."

"It brought back a lot of memories and it also reminded me of how much goes on with this group and how important it is for the town," he said.

Gilbert thanked him for his service, saying it "couldn't have been a more seamless and significant contribution you made."

She joked that she hopes Robb stays involved — at least until Town Meeting.

The new School Committee faces leading the district through the search and hiring of both an interim and permanent superintendent, at a time when longtime Town Manager Reginald "Buzz" Stapczynski is also readying for his retirement in June.



Selectman Dan Kowalski's daughters, Emily, left 13, and Grace, 10, joined him for last week's swearing-in ceremony.

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# TownsBeat

## Staying true to their lives



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo  
**Jules Teichert, 15, left, and Emily Rothmann, 17, do a reading as Jared Martinez, portraying Jesus, falls for the second time. The teens of St. Augustine's Church present "The Way of the Cross" annually at the start of Holy Week.**



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo  
**Jaime Street, as Mary, comforts her son, Jesus, played by Jared Martinez, as members of the St. Augustine Youth Ministry look on during Monday night's prayerful presentation.**

### Holy Week presentation honors memory of local teen

By TIM LIMA  
 tlima@andovertownsmen.com

St. Augustine Parish Youth Minister Katie Scanlon LeBlanc said that a service to honor the life of Jesus Christ at the start of Holy Week was also a fitting way to pay respect to the life of Andover native Kelly Johnson.

For 20 years, LeBlanc has been marking the beginning of Holy Week, the week preceding Easter Sunday, by leading her youth ministry in a prayerful Stations of the Cross presentation — a reenactment of Jesus' last steps before crucifixion.

In seeking ways to make this year's presentation unique, she saw an opportunity to honor Johnson, whose battle with heroin addiction led to her death just days into 2015 at the age of 18.

"I've never done this in memory of anyone specifically, but it came to me that it had to be for Kelly," LeBlanc said. "She would have graduated high school this year. I contacted the Johnsons, and they said, 'Absolutely — please, Katie — there has to have been meaning in her life, and this would be a powerful tribute to her.'"

On Monday night, 34 students in grades nine through 12 presented the

Stations of the Cross at St. Augustine Church on Essex Street in Andover.

Some of the students knew Johnson personally, LeBlanc said, though most did not. But she said it's not about that. Rather, it's about finding meaning in someone's life and applying it to your own.

"It's a week about brokenness and looking at our own lives," LeBlanc said. "It's not just about Good Friday. It's about sadness, but also it's about hope. I think that the grave can't be Kelly's last word. That's kind of what this last steps is about."

"And it's about trying to give Jesus who lived 2,000 years ago some relevance in our lives."

For the second consecutive year, 18-year-old Jared Martinez, a senior at Andover High School, represented Jesus in the presentation. While it was certainly meaningful for him and a "humbling honor," he said this year's tribute to Johnson gave it an added dimension.

"It definitely adds something extra," he said. "I feel like it's much more personal this year because she was part of our community, and her family still is."

"It's about Jesus' last steps and how he conducted himself. It's less



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo  
**Members of the Youth Ministry at St. Augustine's Church gather for a scene on the altar during Monday night's presentation of "The Way of the Cross." The annual program is part of Holy Week observances leading up to Easter Sunday.**

about the death, and more about the life afterward. It's about remembering Kelly and keeping her and her family in our thoughts and prayers."

Andover High School senior Jaime Street, 18, played the role of Mary, also for the second straight year.

"The fact that we are

teens, and are doing this for Kelly who was our age and in our grade, and would have graduated with us if things went differently definitely makes it more special," she said.

"They both kind of struggled. A big thing with the Catholic faith is that Jesus was God, but also human, and he had the

same struggles that we all have. It's very much about us drawing connections from Jesus' suffering to our own lives. Obviously we don't worship Kelly like we do Him, but it's a way of showing respect."

Johnson, the daughter of William and Gail Johnson,

See HOLY WEEK, Page 12

Rejoice in the promise of spring — and the future

**Rabbi Robert S. Goldstein**

Temple Emanuel of Andover



After record-breaking snow and colder than usual temperatures, spring is finally here. Andover's Main Street is humming, the ice cream shops are busy and the restaurants are lively. It is no coincidence that the spring holidays of Passover and Easter celebrate liberation and renewal.

Though theologically very different, both Passover and Easter fall in the season of our release from winter's harsh grip. The connection between these two observances and rebirth is evident in the prominent role eggs play in both Passover and Easter.

For Jews, a roasted egg is placed on the seder plate which sits in the middle of the table during the festive Passover meal. It is a symbol of the special sacrifice that was brought to the ancient Temple in Jerusalem on Passover.

For Christians, there are many associations with eggs at Easter. Eggs symbolize new life, just as Jesus emerged from the tomb to eternal life.

At Friday night's Passover seder at Temple Emanuel, family and friends will tell the story of a people once in bondage who were delivered from harsh slavery. Freedom did not come easily or quickly. There were 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. Along the way, the Israelites faced challenges, disappointments and self-doubt, but redemption came with their arrival in the Promised Land.

So, too, in the story of Easter was there suffering before resurrection, pain before salvation.

There is something reassuring about springtime in New England, even redemptive, especially after an unusually harsh winter. We earned it ... we deserve to rejoice!

Passover and Easter are both holidays about faith in the promise of the future. The holidays that so many of us will celebrate this weekend are about hope and the much anticipated warm and sunny days ahead.

Life is a balance between challenges we cannot control and extraordinary moments of grace. There is suffering in the world, and there are times when we find ourselves wandering, lost in the desert.

As the earth comes alive again and flowers begin to bloom, we find inspiration in the miracle of spring. There are moments in our lives of sublime joy and we must never lose an opportunity to celebrate those special times.

■ ■ ■  
 Rabbi Robert S. Goldstein is the spiritual leader of Temple Emanuel in Andover.

### Picture perfect

Easter Egg Hunt fills baskets with fun

Boys and girls grabbed their pails and baskets for the town's annual Easter Egg Hunt last Saturday at Andover High School.

The popular holiday event for ages 2 to 10 featured a visit from none other than the Easter Bunny, as well as plenty of games, activities and egg decorating leading into the main event — the hunt for hundreds of colorful eggs.

This year, the Andover Department of Community Services is extending the fun with a photo contest spotlighting scenes from the Egg Hunt.

Photos taken by parents during the Egg Hunt have been uploaded to the photo section of DCS' Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/DCSAndover](http://www.facebook.com/DCSAndover). The public has until Saturday, April 4, at 5 p.m. to vote for their favorite photo.

The photo with the most Facebook "likes" will be published in next week's Andover Townsman, as well as earn a DCS gift certificate and bragging rights until next year's Egg Hunt. One photo will also be chosen at random for prizes.

The Andover Townsman



TIM JEAN/Staff photos  
**Noah Hafensteiner, 2, runs over to give the Easter Bunny a hug during the Department of Community Services' annual Easter event at Andover High School.**

Facebook Page at [www.facebook.com/Andover-Townsman](http://www.facebook.com/Andover-Townsman) is following the voting and posting updates as well. Like the page at to stay up to date on the latest contest happenings.

All rules, guidelines and restrictions for the Easter Hunt Photo Contest are posted under the Notes section of DCS' Facebook page as well as at [AndoverDCS.com](http://AndoverDCS.com). Anyone with additional questions should call the DCS office at 978-623-8274.



**ABOVE: Children gather up colorful plastic eggs filled with toys and candy during the main event at Saturday's Easter Egg Hunt at Andover High School. AT LEFT: Sisters Riley Murphy, 8, left, and Haley, 7, are dressed for spring as they show off the eggs they collected during Saturday's hunt. The Department of Community Services is continuing the fun with a Photo Contest on its Facebook page. The photo from the Easter event that garners the most Facebook "likes" by Saturday at 5 p.m. will be published in next week's Andover Townsman.**





# Rotary Club honoring 'unsung heroes' May 7

STAFF REPORTS

For some, volunteering is its own reward.

But for the Rotary Club of Andover, "extraordinary volunteers" deserve more than that.

On May 7 at the Wyndham Hotel, 123 Old River Road, the local branch of the international business group will hand out its Citizens Who Care and Teacher of the Year awards. The recognition event starts at 6 p.m.

"Our club believes in 'service above self' as a way of life, yet it can be under the radar for recognition," Megan Donovan, president of the Rotary Club of Andover, said in a release. "This event is one way for the community at large to say thank you to deserving citizens."

Citizens Who Care recipients were selected by a

Rotarian committee from a large pool of nominees.

The spirit of volunteerism embodied in each honoree is celebrated in professional gallery portraits that are unveiled at the gala and displayed throughout the year at the Andover Town Offices as well as several banks and commercial buildings. The portraits are eventually archived at the Andover Historical Society.

Educator of the Year and Student of the Year awards will be handed out at the event as well. Those award recipients will be selected by a committee of three Andover educators and announced soon.

Tickets for the Citizens Who Care awards are \$50, and include a gourmet dinner. They can be purchased at [www.rotaryandover.org](http://www.rotaryandover.org).

## CARING CLASS

The following is the list of 2015 Citizens Who Care award winners and some of the organizations that benefit from their hard work and dedication:

- **Claire Bishop:** Lazarus House, St. Augustine's Church
- **Susan Connolly:** A Better Chance, Andover
- **Dave Doub:** AVIS, Andover Youth Services, Shawsheen River Greenway, Andover chapter of Appalachian Mountain Club
- **Marie Flynn:** Quota International of Andover, Town of Andover Town Hall, Friends of Memorial Hall Library
- **Annie Gilbert:** Andover School Committee, School Building Committee for the new Bancroft School, PTO, Andover Parent to Parent
- **Ted Gorrie:** Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence, Central Catholic High School, Boston Notre Dame Alumni Summer Service Learning Program
- **Kevin Lynch:** Andover Pop Warner League, Merrimack College Alumni, St. Augustine's Church
- **Phyllis O'Grady:** Andover Business Community Association, Andover Day, Boutique Blowout, Holiday Happenings
- **Amy Sebell:** Bread and Roses, Temple Emanuel, Hadasah, South Elementary School PTO advisory board
- **Claire Stahley:** Bancroft School PTO, Doherty School PTO, St. Michael's Church, Memorial Circle, Andover Coalition for Education, Andover Youth Foundation
- **Charles Zanazzi:** Greater Lawrence Family Health Center, Lazarus House, Exchange Club



COURTESY PHOTO

**Richard J. Santagati, center, chairman emeritus of Lawrence General Hospital's board of directors, receives the 2015 Distinguished Service to Philanthropy Award from Jack Dresser, president of the New England Association of Healthcare Philanthropy, as Lawrence General CEO Dianne Anderson, RN, looks on.**

## Santagati wins Distinguished Service to Philanthropy Award

Andover's Richard J. Santagati received the 2015 New England Association for Healthcare Philanthropy's Distinguished Service to Philanthropy Award last month at the association's annual conference.

The award, established in 1978, recognizes a New England healthcare philanthropist for his or her outstanding generosity and contribution of time, talent, leadership and resources to health care organizations. It is presented to someone who has demonstrated outstanding civic and charitable responsibility, and through their generosity, encourages others to get involved.

Santagati was nominated by Lawrence General Hospital, where he has been involved as a board member since 1988. In that time, he has been a member and chairman of every committee, led the board of trustees from 2006 through 2013 and is now as involved as ever in the role of chairman emeritus.

The former president of Merrimack College in North Andover from 1994 to 2008, Santagati currently serves on the boards of several national corporations, including Broadview Networks.

Lawrence General Hospital officials say he has helped the facility evolve into

a thriving regional medical center. Among the milestones achieved over the last five years are clinical affiliations with Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and the Floating Hospital for Children at Tufts Medical Center; the opening of new imaging and sleep centers, as well as a cardiac catheterization laboratory; and the renovation of the inpatient pediatric center. Throughout his tenure, Santagati has championed philanthropic support, working with the development office to increase giving to Lawrence General by 520 percent over the same period.

"Dick Santagati's decades of outstanding volunteer leadership and service to Lawrence General Hospital have made our organization not only one of the fastest growing hospitals in Massachusetts, but also the premier regional health care system in our region. Our entire region owes him a debt of gratitude," Dianne J. Anderson, president and CEO of Lawrence General, said in a release.

Added Nicholas S. Zaharias, vice president of Philanthropy at Lawrence General, "Dick's vision, dedicated leadership, generous financial support and unselfish commitment to excellence in serving the local community are absolutely unparalleled."

## TOWNSPEOPLE

### Promoting an important cause in a big way

Andover's Steve Ross, president of Clear Channel Outdoor's Boston division, was honored recently at Joslin Diabetes Center's 11th annual culinary fundraiser, A Taste of Ginger, at Museum of Fine Arts Boston to benefit Joslin's Asian American Diabetes Initiative.

Ross is a longtime supporter of Joslin Diabetes Center in Boston, often donating billboards throughout the Boston area to promote its fundraising events, including the black-tie High Hopes Gala each fall. This year, Ross donated seven Clear Channel billboards for A Taste of Ginger.

Emceed by Channel 7's Janet Wu, the event featured 26 participating restaurants and drew a crowd of nearly 400 guests, raising more than \$335,000 that will go toward enhancing the quality of life and health outcomes for the rising number of Asian Americans living with diabetes.



COURTESY PHOTO

**Andover residents Steve Ross, left, president of Clear Channel Outdoor Boston, and his wife, Lucy, with John Brooks, president and CEO of Joslin Diabetes Center in Boston and A Taste of Ginger event co-chairmen Summer Xia and Wesley Chen at the fundraiser for Joslin's Asian American Diabetes Initiative.**

Joslin Diabetes Center is committed to advancing diabetes research, clinical care, education and health and wellness programs on a global scale.

### Local woman hopes to score against cancer

Carol Lowenstein of Andover will be among the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute doctors, researchers and staff

who will be taking to the ice this weekend for a charity hockey game against the Boston Bruins Alumni to benefit the Jimmy Fund, which supports adult and pediatric cancer care and research at Dana-Farber.

The Dana-Farber Rink Rats game will be held on Saturday, April 4, at 1 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Rink in Somerville.

Lowenstein is the associate director of the Survey and Data Management Core at Dana-Farber. She has played hockey since high school and spent many years coaching with the Andover Hockey Association when her three children were in the program. She now plays with a women's recreational team – the Ms. Conducts. She said she saw this weekend's charity game as an opportunity to merge her passion for hockey with a chance to fund the work that's being done on both the research and clinical sides of Dana-Farber.

She has committed to raise \$1,000 in order to play in the game. Tickets for spectators are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children, and are available online and at the door. To support Lowenstein in her effort or purchase tickets, visit [www.jimmyfund.org/rinkrats](http://www.jimmyfund.org/rinkrats).

■ ■ ■  
To submit an item for the Townspeople column, email [townsman@andovertownsmen.com](mailto:townsman@andovertownsmen.com).



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\*Offer valid March 17 – May 25, 2015. Specials cannot be combined with other discounts and must be paid in full and booked with Reservations at least 48 hours prior to play. Specials do not include play at Lakewood Golf Club. Specials do not include tax or lodging. Not valid with previously booked packages. There is a \$10 surcharge for each round on the Judge at Capitol Hill. Ross Bridge specials are available Monday - Thursday from \$199. Some restrictions may apply. Offers subject to change.

# Education

## Model UN

### Sanborn students celebrate heritage at International Night

Sanborn Elementary School looked a bit like the United Nations last month as the school hosted its third annual International Night.

Students joined family members in donning their native country's traditional dress to highlight their culture and background for the school community.

This year, the event showcased two Indian dances, an Irish step dance and a Chinese song. The Andover Chinese Mom Dance Group performed a popular Chinese exercise dance as well.

Each country was assigned to a table during the event, giving those attending a chance to travel to several different nations, where they could see the contrast in the jewelry, clothing, toys, food and books each is famous for. Each student was also given a "passport" so they could collect stickers from each country they visited.

According to Molly Foley, one of the International Night coordinators, students, families and even teachers have all participated in the event in past years. China, South Korea, India, Egypt, Turkey, Romania, Poland, Greece, Denmark, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands, Puerto Rico, Argentina and Canada, among other countries, have all been represented, she said. Some participants have even presented a slide show, craft or a lesson about their native country.

While International Night provides a unique learning environment for children, it's also fun, Foley said.

"International Night is an opportunity for all of us to learn about where our families come from and enjoy the beauty and wonder of our world," she said.

— Tim Lima, staff writer



CARL RUSSO/Staff photos

Third-grader Mark Zhang and his mother, Ruiqi, dressed in Chinese formal wear to illustrate their country's heritage during the annual International Night celebration at Sanborn Elementary School.



Second-grader Ethan Entner takes the chance to try out a South Korean drum at Sanborn Elementary School's annual celebration of the diverse heritage that exists among the students and staff within the school.



Ananya Magesh, 3, performs a traditional dance to represent India at Sanborn Elementary School's International Night. Her sister, Harshini, is in the fourth grade at Sanborn.

## A show of brain power — and then some

By TIM LIMA

tlima@andovertownsm.com

Andover resident Abhijeet Sambangi bested dozens of competitors to become a runner-up in the International Brain Bee, a neuroscience competition held in Baltimore, Md. last month.

Sambangi, a freshman at Pingree School in South Hamilton, qualified for the competition after winning the Boston Brain Bee in February. Competing against 52 others from 33 states, Sambangi placed second at the nationals tournament the weekend of March 20, and earned a trophy and a \$1,000 cash prize.

Founded in 1998 by Dr.

Norbert Myslinski, an associate professor at Johns Hopkins University, the International Brain Bee is meant to motivate young men and women to learn about the human brain while also inspiring them to enter careers in the basic and clinical brain sciences. The competition focuses on the anatomy and physiology of the brain and spinal cord, as well as neurohistology, MRI identification of the brain and patient diagnosis aspects.

In preparation for the event, Sambangi studied books on brain functions such as sensations, intelligence, emotions, movement and consciousness. Other topics included brain

dysfunctions such as Alzheimer's and autism.

While most of the competition featured oral questions and answers, some higher tiers involved neuroanatomy laboratory tests using human brains.

According to a release, the International Brain Bee is a nonprofit, grassroots effort funded mainly by private contributions, but also helped by dozens of partners including The Society for Neuroscience, The International Brain Research Organization, and many colleges, universities, foundations, museums, hospitals, libraries, institutes, societies, and commercial companies and businesses.



COURTESY PHOTO

Andover native Abhijeet Sambangi, a freshman at Pingree School in South Hamilton, poses with his trophy after winning the Boston Brain Bee. He went on to place second in the International Brain Bee last month.

### EDUCATION NOTEBOOK

#### 2015 Congressional Art Competition now open

U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas is accepting submissions for the 2015 Congressional Art Competition.

The annual competition promotes artistic talent and achievement among high school artists, providing them with the opportunity to have their artwork displayed in the U.S. Capitol Building for one year.

Over the years, hundreds of students from across the Third District have submitted artwork to be judged by a panel of area artists, based on a platform of criteria.

Winners receive two complimentary airplane tickets to Washington, D.C. to participate in the national awards ceremony in mid-June.

The annual competition promotes artistic talent and achievement among high school artists, providing them with the opportunity to have their artwork displayed in the U.S. Capitol Building for one year.



COURTESY PHOTO

South Elementary School recently held its Eminent Person Day, at which third-graders were tasked with dressing as a noteworthy person and educating parents and guests about them. Max Hoffman, left, did his best President John F. Kennedy impersonation, while Sean Whelan portrayed Paul Revere.

An artists reception will be held on Saturday, April 25 from 10 a.m. to noon at Mill #5, 250 Jackson St. (fourth floor), Lowell, when Tsongas will announce the overall winner and runners-up.

For more information, call Tsongas' office at 978-459-0101.

#### South School gets creative

The fourth and fifth grades at South Elementary School enjoyed a visit from Lou Bernieri, a professor at Phillips Academy and director for the Andover Bread Loaf, on March 17 as part of an event sponsored by the school's

Parent Teacher Organization.

Bernieri led a creative writing exercise for the kids, asking them to think about three different questions and write responses for each. After, students had the chance to share what they wrote.

Questions involved describing what the world would be like if students could create their own. Several responses included the presence of unicorns, while very few mentioned homework or school. Another asked students to describe their "third eye," listing things that it could see in the past, present and future.

This program is typically offered over a six-week period. However, organizers said that in the 90-minute time-frame, it reinforced the importance and fun of free-flowing creative writing.

For more information on Andover Bread Loaf and its work, visit [www.andover.edu/SummerSessionOutreach/ABWritingWorkshop/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.andover.edu/SummerSessionOutreach/ABWritingWorkshop/Pages/default.aspx).

To submit an item for the Education Notebook, email [townsman@andovertownsm.com](mailto:townsman@andovertownsm.com).

### ST. JOHN'S PREP HONOR ROLL

The following local students were named to the academic honors list for the second quarter at St. John's Prep in Danvers:

Fraser, Joshua Hurst and Christopher Kennedy  
**Freshmen:** Evan Cavanaugh, Richard Hart, Kyle Lattanzio, Amol Raisingani and Daniel Regan

#### HEADMASTER'S LIST

**Juniors:** Peter Dankert and Timothy Hornick  
**Sophomores:** Stephen Kenefick and Andrew Selima  
**Freshmen:** Thomas Pendleton and Michael Slattery

#### HONOR ROLL

**Seniors:** Andrew Cadigan and Anastasios Wallingford  
**Juniors:** Joshua Katz, Gavin Liddell, Walker Martin and David Yepez  
**Sophomores:** Parker Cain, Ryan Lattanzio, Michael O'Connor and Cole Sawyer  
**Freshmen:** John Donovan, Matthew Garcesche, Connor Hurley and John Rickards

**Sophomores:** John

### AUSTIN PREPARATORY SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

The following local students were named to the second-quarter honor roll at Austin Preparatory School in Reading.

#### HONORS

Caroline Benson  
Maria Bernal  
Alexander Gorman  
Niamh Green  
Alexis Horan  
Dokyoung Jeong  
Arianna Karafilidis  
Andrew Kazmer  
Joshua Kazmer  
Yu Jeong Lee  
Irina Noonan  
Mercedes Pare  
Maggie Pelletier  
Nicole Poirier  
Stephen Reddy  
Poppy Simmonds  
Thomas Van Doremalen

#### DISTINCTION

Meghan Bodette  
Logan Bravo  
Emily Cross  
William Hamilton  
Eric Kim  
Ryan McDonough  
Sana Nadkarni  
Luke Poirier  
Olivia Raza  
Sofia Saltamartini  
Patrick Szekely  
Casey Williams

### CLASS REUNIONS

#### 50th reunion in works for AHS class of 1965

The Andover High School class of 1965 will reunite on Friday, Aug. 14, at Andover Country Club, 60 Canterbury St.

Anyone who has not received initial information via email should contact Jeri (Haggerty) Marjerison at [marjeri@aol.com](mailto:marjeri@aol.com) and include their current email address, as well as other classmates' email addresses if known.

Comments and suggestions are welcome. Visit "AHS Class of 1965" on Facebook to learn more.

#### 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](mailto:chris.doherty@raveis.com).



# Sports

## COMMUNITY SCOREBOARD

### Andover Mite travel team nets Hallenbourg trophy

The Andover Mite travel hockey team the Bruins won its division to capture the 36th annual Hallenbourg hockey tournament last month in Billerica.

After notching strong wins in the first two tournament games and a tie in the third, the Mites finished with a 5-4 win in the championship game to claim the title.

The team is coached by Dave Cosentino, with assistant coaches Vic Pierni, Chris Rice and Andy Barrett.

### Atwood to play soccer at Florida Southern College

Nick Atwood, a senior at Andover High School, has signed to play soccer at Florida Southern College this fall.

Florida Southern head men's soccer coach Ryan Sniegoski has announced his newest recruit for the 2015 season with the addition of defender Nick Atwood from Andover, Massachusetts.

A defender, Atwood joins the Moccasins after a long career with the FC Greater Boston Bolts program, the same club that produced the Moccasins' current head coach Ryan Sniegoski.

During his time with the Bolts, which began with the U-10 team, Atwood played for several coaches who have also worked at the college level. He played just one year at Andover High School prior to playing exclusively for the Development Academy, but in that one season was voted the team's best defender. He was also co-captain of the Northeast Region Team for the Bay State Games in two summers, and co-captain of his Bolts teams for two seasons as well.

Atwood also won the USSF U-12 National Championship in futsal, playing as Revere FC, a team that's won the Northeast Region Championship each of the last four years.

Sniegoski described Atwood as "a very tough, athletic fullback who can also get up the field and help in the attack. He's a very blue-collar defender player who loves the game," according to a release.

"I would like to thank my coaches, especially my first soccer coach, Michelle Doucette, who got me started in soccer at age 4, and Val Guery, my first travel soccer coach," he says in a release.

To submit an item for the Community Scoreboard, email [townsman@andovertownsm.com](mailto:townsman@andovertownsm.com).



COURTESY PHOTO

The Andover Mite travel team includes, back row, from left, Kasey Cosentino, Austin Pace, Cameron Brosnan, Brooklyn Pizzimenti, Zachary Riiff, Evan Collins, Jack Vallarelli and Will Rice and, front row, from left, Dalton McDermott, Cameron Hosmer, Roman Barrett, Brian Pierni, Anthony DeLuca, Caleb Cafua and Anthony Pizzimenti.

# CAT TAKES CHARGE

## Former lacrosse star Gross takes over as Golden Warriors head coach

By DAVID WILLIS  
dwillis@andovertownsm.com

She is the middle child of the first family of Andover lacrosse.

Cat Gross' last name long ago became synonymous with the sport not just with the Golden Warriors, but in the Merrimack Valley Conference and entire state — as she and sisters Briana and Weezie terrorized the Massachusetts ranks on the way to each earning All-Scholastic honors.



Cat Gross

Now Cat, a 2009 Andover High graduate, has officially taken charge of the program she once starred for.

Just 23 years old, Gross has been hired as head coach of the Andover High girls lacrosse team, which kicked off its season with a 16-3 win over Masconomet Regional in Boxford this past Monday.

"I am just beyond excited," Gross said. "It's crazy to think I am already in this position. I have always dreamed of being a lacrosse coach, and one day being the head coach at Andover. It was a whirlwind process, but I am just so excited. I love the game and I already love these girls."

Gross replaces Liz Keady, who was 24-14-3 in two seasons as head coach. Keady left to become an assistant hockey coach for Union College in New York.

"We are so happy to have Gross back in the Andover lacrosse program," Andover athletic director Don Doucette said. "She is one of the most successful players in program history. We look forward to the energy and passion for the game she brings to the field every day."

No one is more thrilled to see Cat — she says only her mother calls her Catherine — take on the job than her mentor and former Golden Warriors lacrosse coach John McVeigh.

"I couldn't be more happy for Cat," said McVeigh, who was 146-31-2 in eight seasons with the Warriors. "I know she is going to do a terrific job."

Gross said she cannot remember a time lacrosse has not been a burning passion.

"It is all a blur, but I believe I was in the first grade when I started playing," she said. "From the time I can remember, I was playing lacrosse every day. I

See **GROSS**, Page 18



STAFF FILE PHOTO

Cat Gross, here during her playing career, starred for four years as a midfielder at Andover High. Now, she has taken over as the head coach for the Golden Warriors, opening with a victory on Monday.



ROB SARGENT/Courtesy photo

After starring at Andover High, Cat Gross spent four years as a starter for the University of Connecticut lacrosse team. She will now use that experience as the new Golden Warrior head girls lacrosse coach.

# Kiely reaches goal, caps career in style

By DAVE DYER  
Staff Writer

There is no sport more taxing on the body, and the psyche, than wrestling, so Central Catholic senior Jack Kiely of Andover is — for now — enjoying the end of his career in the sport.



Jack Kiely

"It's a tough sport, so there's a sense of relief," said Kiely, who has been wrestling pretty much

year-round since the seventh grade. "It's nice to have some time off."

It's particularly nice when you can end your career with a sense of accomplishment. Wrestling at 120 pounds for the third year, Kiely enjoyed his best season, finishing with a 46-8 record, which included a third place at the Division 2 state meet and fifth at the All-State meet.

The fifth at All-State qualified him for the New England Tournament, which had been his goal throughout high school.

"That was always my goal, so I was happy to get there," Kiely said.

For his career, Kiely posted a superb 147-38 record. His freshman year, he wrestled as a



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

Central Catholic's Jack Kiely of Andover, top, in what was probably his biggest win of the year defeated Methuen standout Billy Wehring 6-0 to help seal the Raiders' 38-33 upset victory.



AT LEFT: Central Catholic senior Jack Kiely of Andover, right, wrestled his younger brother, Andover High freshman Kevin Kiely, in a dual meet early in the season. The older brother won with a pin.

COURTESY PHOTO



PHOTO COURTESY JANICE COPPOLINO, ANDOVER DCS

Michael Nabout of Andover, left, and Aidan O'Mara of North Andover, both 10, mug for the camera midway down the "Stinger" trail at Ski Bradford.

## Ideal season for DCS Ski and Snowboard Club

After the snowiest winter ever recorded, most people gladly welcomed spring's arrival late last month. But for a group of young people with the Department of Community Services, they were sad to see winter go.

Nearly 300 elementary and middle school students from 10 Andover schools, both public and private, took full advantage of this year's monster snowfall by participating in DCS' Bradford Ski and Snowboard Club. Despite feet of packed snow still blanketing ski destinations across much of New England, the group has enjoyed its last trip to the hill.

The Bradford Ski & Snowboard Club has been one of Andover DCS' most popular programs for more than 40 years, offering six weeks of after-school skiing and snowboarding to students enrolled in the Andover Public Schools as well as the town's Andover Montessori and St. Augustine schools. DCS Director Kim Stamas, who coordinates the program and attends each session to supervise, said it was another outstanding season at Bradford this year.

"With the record-setting snowfall, conditions on runs were always great," she said in a release. Stamas added that this year's participants were a great group, and always had fun showing off their skills on the mountain.





**KIELY**

Continued from Page 16

113-pounder at Andover High School. Switching to Central Catholic in Lawrence was something encouraged by his parents, but he feels it had a positive impact on both his academics and his wrestling.

"It was a point at Andover when the teachers were on strike and things weren't going well," Kiely said. "But I think it really helped my wrestling."

"Central (wrestling) is really, really good and I got some good competition. My first year, I wrestled a lot with (New England placer) Pat Lacroix and I know that helped me a lot."

"Another thing that helped was that (assistant



COURTESY PHOTO

Central Catholic's Jack Kiely of Andover wrestles against a Greater Lowell wrestler in the Division 2 tournament. Kiely finished third and capped a fine career with a 46-8 record for the season. He was 147-38 for his career.

coach) Jamie Durkin came over (to Central from Andover) the same year.

He runs a tough practice — we call his workouts a 'Durkin practice' — and

that was probably good for me."

One of the memorable moments this year came in Central's dual meet against Andover when he wrestled his brother, Kevin, a Warrior freshman. Predictably, Jack won with a pin in the first period.

"We knew we were probably going to wrestle each other, but it wasn't that big a deal," Kiely said. "I have a great relationship with my brother."

Kiely believes, with hard work, his brother will also have a good career on the mat. He should have time to watch his matches because the three colleges he has applied to — UMass Lowell and Emmanuel College and Suffolk University, both in Boston — don't offer wrestling.

And, while he's currently enjoying his respite, he knows that he'll miss the sport.

"I have mixed feelings already (about ending his career)," he said. "There's such a great community in the sport, great friendships, and there's nothing that gets you in better shape than wrestling."

**GROSS**

Continued from Page 16

fell in love instantly with this amazing sport and I knew that I wanted to put all of my focus into it."

From early in her lacrosse career, Cat's role model was her sister, 2007 Andover High graduate Briana Gross. As a senior, Briana was an All-Scholastic after scoring 46 goals.

"My sister and I have very different personalities and were very different players," Cat said of Briana, who went on to play at Bates College in Maine. "But when we played together, we relied on each other very much and we pushed each other so much on the field and off. We really played well together and I admired her."

At the same, the two were also mentoring their younger sister, future All-Scholastic Weezie Gross (AHS, class of 2014), now a freshman attack at the University of Colorado. And it was often tough love.

"We would absolutely tear Weezie to pieces," Cat said, laughing. "We would be whipping balls at her to toughen her up. We lied about her age to get her into coach McVeigh's camp when she was 5 years old. We always taught her to go big or go home."

Cat Gross certainly made a big impression during her time with the Golden Warriors.

In her senior season, she was an All-Scholastic and MVC Division 1 co-MVP, scoring 46 goals and 81 total points — that after netting 36 goals as a junior.

"I had an amazing time playing for Andover," Gross said. "I learned more from coach McVeigh than anyone else I have worked with. He is a terrific coach. I also played with amazing teammates."

Following her high school career, Gross moved on to play college lacrosse at the University of Connecticut, where she starred for four years as a midfielder.

"The pace of the game was so much faster," she

said. "The first game I played was against UMass Amherst. As soon as I got in, a defender just rocked me with a huge hit. I realized, 'Oh, that is how it is.' I had to work to improve, but it was a great experience."

After graduating from UConn and completing her master's degree in education at Merrimack College in North Andover, Gross accepted a full-time job as a club lacrosse coach with the New England Twisters.

But when she heard that her dream job with the Golden Warriors had opened, Gross had to jump.

"I heard through my sister, Briana, who was an assistant under Keady, that the Andover job had opened," she said. "I checked with my boss and she was fine with me coaching there, so I decided I would go for it. It was perfect timing."

"I applied and interviewed and within about two weeks I had the job. Then, suddenly it was tryouts. It was like I was dreaming."

Gross' ability to take control of the program so quickly has impressed her boss.

"She really hit the ground running as fast as any coach I have ever hired," Doucette said. "Sometimes inexperienced coaches are hesitant. But she knows what she is doing and has tons of enthusiasm. We hope that, with her age, she will be here for quite a while."

Both Gross and Doucette agreed that her youth is not an issue.

"Some people might have reservations, but I can't control how old I am," she said. "I have always heard that I am mature, and I know that I want to coach."

"I have the mentality to work, work, work, and I will put in everything I can. And the girls have been amazing."

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

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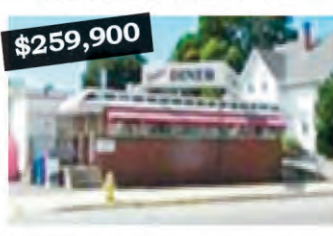
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THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Becoming cloudy	Spotty showers	A little a.m. rain	Mostly sunny; breezy	Mostly cloudy	Occasional rain	Rain and snow
<b>High: 53°</b> <b>Low: 46°</b>	<b>High: 64°</b> <b>Low: 46°</b>	<b>High: 52°</b> <b>Low: 30°</b>	<b>High: 47°</b> <b>Low: 29°</b>	<b>High: 46°</b> <b>Low: 30°</b>	<b>High: 46°</b> <b>Low: 33°</b>	<b>High: 46°</b> <b>Low: 33°</b>

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