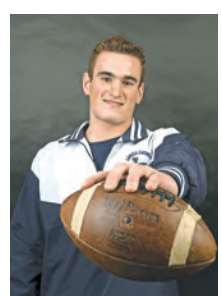




**TEMPLE CELEBRATES CHANUKAH SINGALONG**  
PAGE 13



**BALLARDVALE TREE-LIGHTING TRADITION GROWS**  
PAGE 15



**JACKSON CALLAHAN OF ANDOVER HOLDS THE GAME BALL**  
PAGE 20

**OUR 128<sup>TH</sup> YEAR**

# Andover Townsman

Issue No. 5

DECEMBER 17, 2015

75 CENTS

## Ritzer family to honor legacy of Colleen

By JILL HARMACINSKI  
jharmacinski@eagletribune.com

SALEM, Mass. - Tom and Peggie Ritzer endured dozens of court hearings and a murder trial that spanned two months, with brutal details of their daughter's murder spoken at every turn.

But when Philip Chism, 16, was found guilty of Colleen Ritzer's murder on Tuesday, the couple asked the public to remember how the good of one person can impact so many.

"As part of this new phase in our lives, we, our family and friends, will continue

our efforts to share Colleen's story and how one person can make a profound difference in the lives of so many," said Tom Ritzer, wearing a suit with a pink tie as he addressed the media Tuesday evening.

Pink was Colleen's favorite color.

"We will honor her legacy and be her voice during the continued judicial process. Colleen never gave up, and neither will we. We will not allow her death to define how she is remembered," Tom Ritzer said.



DAVID LE/Staff photo  
Tom, Peggie, Laura, and Dan Ritzer, stand and wait to speak at a press conference after a guilty verdict was found in the murder trial involving Philip Chism who was found guilty of murdering former Danvers High School teacher Colleen Ritzer.

**'He got what he deserved'**

By TERRY DATE  
AND GABRIELLA CRUZ  
Townsman Staff

Local residents reacted with a mix of relief and revulsion that Philip Chism was found guilty of murder, rape and robbery of Andover resident Colleen Ritzer but may only be sentenced to 15 years in jail.

Up and down Main Street men and women applauded the verdict, saying they were glad justice was served, especially on behalf of the Ritzer family.

Heading into Dunkin' Donuts for his daily, late afternoon coffee, was Rick Porter.

"I think he got what he deserved," Porter said of Chism.

Porter has been following the case closely and was dismayed by the defense's attempt to cop an insanity plea.

"It was premeditated and a horrific crime," he said.

See REACTION, Page 3

## Trailblazing a boardwalk



AMY SWEENEY/Staff photo  
Jim Reilly, left, Bob Decelle and Steve Cooper finish up the boardwalk they have been building on the Bay Circuit Trail located off Serenity Lane in Andover.

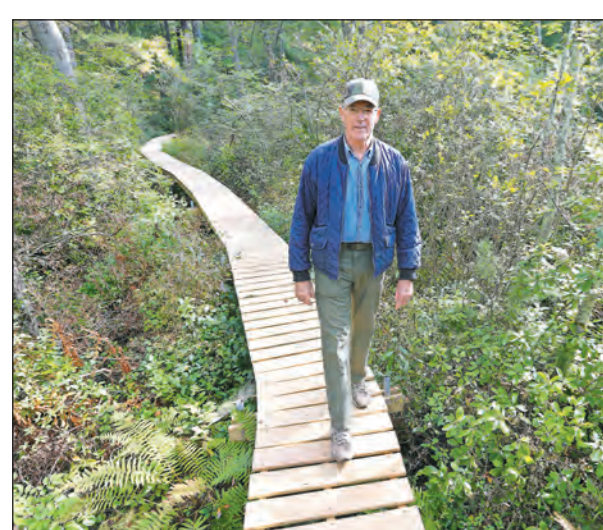
Just an eighth-of-a-mile, elevated path an important link

By TERRY DATE  
tdate@andovertownsman.com

Here on this Andover slice of the 200-mile Bay Circuit Trail hikers once trekked roadside asphalt, whooshing cars hard at their shoulders.

Now, they can duck into woods off High Plain Road and mosey over a soft-as-felt boardwalk to the tune of birdsong from the branches of red-leafed maples.

Three Andover retirees — a firefighter, an airline



WINSLOW TOWNSON/Courtesy photo  
Steve Cooper strolls down the boardwalk he and two other local men built as part of the Bay Circuit Trail, which runs through the suburbs of Boston.

instructor and a dentist — carved this eighth-of-a-mile elevated walkway, hacking their way through wetlands pooled in water, mired in muck and tangled in woody vines, saplings and trees. Quite a feat.

Bob Decelle, 67, Steve Cooper, 69, and Jim Reilly, 73, then pounded piers and erected the wooden boardwalk. From April to December they worked two to three days a week, five hours a day.

See BOARDWALK, Page 2

## Committee may vote on school chief Thursday

Some still have doubts about whether district should hire Berman

By GABRIELLA CRUZ  
gcruz@andovertownsman.com

The School Committee is expected to approve a long-term contract for interim superintendent Sheldon Berman at its meeting this week, despite a growing number of parents who are calling for a delay in the vote.

The committee will meet in executive session at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 17, "to conduct a strategy session in regards to negotiations with nonunion personnel (interim superintendent of schools)." At 7 p.m., the committee will return to its public meeting room for an open meeting in which, according to the agenda, they will vote on Berman's contract.

The committee's vetting and hiring process has received criticism from parents and community members since contract negotiations for a long-term superintendent began in October. Those who have spoken publicly say that the committee hired Berman as a one-year solution with the promise of conducting a search for a more permanent head of schools come this fall.

"As I understand it, this temporary superintendent was to have served one year while the search for the previous superintendent's permanent replacement continued," said Jack Whelan, a local parent. "I am particularly concerned that the school committee move more carefully, and be absolutely sure before hiring this candidate."

But School Committee Chairwoman Annie Gilbert said that Berman's hiring process

See BERMAN, Page 8

**MORE INSIDE**

- School committee's response, Page 11

## Andover parents to pay \$575 for summer school

By GABRIELLA CRUZ  
gcruz@andovertownsman.com

The School Committee voted last week to charge parents \$575 for summer school if they want their children to get into calculus by their senior year.

It was one of several options considered by the committee to solve a curriculum problem that spans middle school to high school. The board voted 3-1 in favor of the measure. But not many of the nearly 100 parents present at last Thursday's meeting liked it.

"We should not be charging

parents for something that students could have and should have rightly been provided during the school day on school time," said Karen Bacchi, a local parent with three students in Andover Public Schools.

**Vote and debate**

School Committee chairwoman Annie Gilbert defended the vote.

"This vote is one piece of the puzzle," she said. "And this piece is about short-term

See MATH, Page 10

## Town OKs third voting venue

Congestion on Shawsheen Road cited as need for another polling place

By TERRY DATE  
tdate@andovertownsman.com

The town now has three polling places with selectmen's approval of Wood Hill Middle School as the third site, an addition that promises relief for traffic and polling place congestion.

Town Clerk Larry Murphy said the additional venue will cut, by a third, congestion at the Punchard Senior Center, part of the Town Offices complex.

"The Senior Center is tight quarters," he said. Parking is tight, as well, he added.

The change will cut, by half, congestion at Andover High School, he said. It will



TERRY DATE/Staff photo  
Andover Town Clerk Larry Murphy points out the newest polling place in town at Wood Hill Middle School. This gives Andover three polling places and will cut down on congestion, especially at Andover High School.

relieve traffic in the area and be convenient for East Andover residents, having a polling place closer to home.

Under the new alignment, precincts 2, 4, 5 and 6 will be at Wood Hill Middle School, precincts 7, 8 and 9 will be at Andover High School, and precincts 1 and 3 at the Punchard Senior Center.

The change will affect most of the town's 22,618 registered voters, the town clerk said.

"The only precincts that will not be affected will be 1 and 9," he said.

Precinct 1 has 1,993 registered voters, and Precinct 9

See POLL, Page 2

**INDEX**

- Business ..... 9
- Classified ..... 22-26
- Crossword ..... 14
- Editorial ..... 11
- Education ..... 7
- Letters ..... 11
- Obituaries ..... 4
- Police Log ..... 4
- Sports ..... 20-21
- TownsBeat ..... 13-14
- Townspeople ..... 16

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# BOARDWALK

Continued from Page 1

Through steamy, gnat-swirled summer mornings and chilly fall days, they forged a strong team and even stronger friendships.

"When our bad jokes didn't make us laugh we went home," Reilly said.

On Wednesday, Dec. 9, as the three-man crew was about to finish the Doyle Link boardwalk, they were glad.

"Yay," said Cooper, setting the final section in place.

"It's been a long haul, but we are glad it is done so people can use it," Decelle said.

Actually, the rope railing on the boardwalk will go up in spring. If people use it in the meantime they should do so with caution.

### State grant

Fifteen feet away from his workmates, the retired dentist, Reilly, appropriately enough held a drill in his hand laying down boardwalk steps. He fastened the treads with deck screws, his battery-powered drill spinning high notes and making a ka-chunk sound if the drill bit slipped.

The boardwalk's 1,400 treads wend over the wetlands like piano keys without end.

Decelle, the crew foreman, is an Andover Conservation Commission project manager and a member of the Andover Trails Committee.

Both organizations have a role in the boardwalk project on the Doyle Link trail system.

Much of the land belongs to the Andover Conservation Commission.

Andover resident Al French, who devoted 30 years to establishing the Bay Circuit Trail, wrote the grant for the boardwalk on behalf



AMY SWEENEY/Staff photo

Steve Cooper, left, and Bob Decelle work on finishing up the boardwalk they have been building on the Bay Circuit Trail located off Serenity Lane in Andover. Jim Reilly works in the back.

of the local Trails Committee, applying to the Massachusetts DCR's Recreational Trails Program.

In November 2014 the committee received the \$28,402 grant, of which \$22,721 was cash and \$4,476 was a match provided by in-kind contributions of volunteer labor hours.

"A lot of people at the state level didn't think it could be done (for that figure)," he said.

They figured it would take much more of a time investment in volunteer labor to construct an elevated boardwalk through swamp.

What they hadn't reckoned, and what French knew, was Decelle and his crew's ethic and experience.

"Decelle is a doer," French said.

"Only so many people actually walk the talk, and these fellows are an example of that," said French, 83. "The town is so much better off by these fellows."

### Solid structure

Andover is home to 17 miles of the Bay Circuit Trail, a crescent shaped system that bends around Boston and connects Plum Island to the north with Duxbury to the south.

And the 700- to 800-foot boardwalk, in the Doyle Link trail system, makes up a small part of Andover's 17 miles.

But it is an important link. Not just for the boardwalk's beauty and its safe, off-the-road venue, but for its legacy of teamwork and ingenuity.

Decelle and his crew engineered environmentally friendly work strategies for the boardwalk.

Decelle adapted a practice used in bridge construction to set the boardwalk's piers.

He attached a threaded, pointed augur end to each pier of galvanized pipe.

The crew hand sank the pipe through muck and mud until it struck the gravelly bottom.

Then they took wrenches in hand, tightened them on the pipe and turned them to anchor their ends to the hardpan.

"In many cases we were down twenty to twenty five feet through the muck of the swamp to get to solid ground," Decelle said.

Decelle knew it would



WINSLOW TOWNSON/Courtesy photo

Bob Decelle poses for a photo as they work to finish the boardwalk they have been building on the Bay Circuit Trail.

work. He had used it before on Andover conservation projects. He used it while rebuilding a walkway on the Mary French Reservation, named after Al French's wife, who died in the fall of 2001.

### Muck, mud and water

French, a longtime trail volunteer, says he feels a kinship with Decelle and his workmates. You get a lot more out of volunteering than you give. "That is something I deeply feel," he said.

Conservation Commission member Ellen Townson said she has seen many finely done projects in town but the boardwalk is one she hopes everyone in town will see and walk.

"It is so honorable to work long days in tough conditions and make sure that every board and (screw) are in just the right place to make this boardwalk safe and long lasting," she said.

She has seen the three of them work together.

"They get their work done while having a great time together joking and laughing," she said. "I've even seen a few tricks involved."

The three men devised a simple way to cross the wetlands and stand on a solid surface as they worked. Wooden pallets. They set the flat platforms at each station, leapfrogging the swamp.

The deepest water in the wetlands was a foot deep but the footing varied, from muck to mud to water.

### Teamwork

What didn't vary was the crew's camaraderie.

After all, Decelle, Cooper



WINSLOW TOWNSON / Courtesy photo

Jim Reilly and Bob Decelle pose for a photo as they work to finish the boardwalk they have been building on the Bay Circuit Trail.

— also a US Air Force veteran who served in Vietnam — and Reilly spent a lifetime working with teams and crews. They know how to get a long with others.

Decelle, well versed in forging trust during his years in the fire service, said working as a crew is familial.

It also helps to have the goal in mind or in sight, Cooper said.

Reilly said there was a progression in the crew's relationship that grew out of completing tasks, knowing what was next.

"You start reading each

others mind," he said.

On this day in December, in a wetlands with bushes sporting red winterberries, the crew's tasks wound down in neat fashion.

Decelle placed a short black level level on the last boardwalk section and read the bubble.

"Woaha, look at that, right on the nose," he said.

*Note: This winter the Andover Conservation Commission plans to install signs that mark the location of the Doyle Link boardwalk and describe its part of the Bay Circuit Trail.*

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## POLL

Continued from Page 1

has 2,565 voters.

Next time Andover voters head to the polls will be March 1, for the presidential primary. That day is likely to see a crush of voters.

The last time the town voted in a presidential

primary without an incumbent was 2008 when 49 percent of registered voters cast ballots.

### A long time coming

Years before Murphy started working in Andover he heard traffic at the high school was a nightmare on polling days, he said in an interview.

When the clerk started

working here in 2010, he saw firsthand how polling days turned Shawsheen Road into a parking lot.

"I've been searching for alternatives to remove congestion, especially around the high school," the town clerk said.

The Wood Hill suggestion arose at a town divisional meeting about six weeks ago, he said.

Someone from among the Plant Facilities, Elder Services, Public Safety and other representatives suggested the middle school.

It made sense, with the easy access to the school,

plenty of parking and a spacious gym. The voting will be in the gym.

After a visit to the school and consulting with school and other local officials, Murphy brought the suggestion to selectmen.

Murphy said the additional cost for the third polling place will be about \$1,200-\$1,500, money to pay for additional police coverage. The number of polling place workers will remain the same.

Selectman Alex Vispoli said the new polling presentation was complete and made sense.

His concern is that residents be made aware of the changes. He doesn't want to see voters show up at the wrong polling place.

The town clerk said the education effort will include flyers on the changes sent to residents with the annual census.

In addition, the changes will be posted on the town web site, www.andoverma.gov, and the Memorial Hall Library will publicize the changes in a variety of ways including through its web site and emails.

Press releases and announcements will be part of the education campaign, too, he said.

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## REACTION

Continued from Page 1

“He tried to cover it up after the crime. Hopefully he will get life. My heart goes out to the family.”

Joe Spanos, a former Andover High School TV production teacher of Ritzer's, said the whole case is unthinkable.

“Having two kids and a wife, thinking about what happened to Colleen, I can't even think about how her family feels,” he said. “You don't get satisfied with life and a possibility of parole. I expected life with no parole. That's what he deserved. I mean, what do you say? Life and possibly getting out? No. It's not enough.”

“It's unconscionable to think about the heinous acts that he committed. Of course, everyone that knows Colleen, we're sick to our stomachs.”

A jury in Salem Superior Court convicted the 16-year-old Danvers boy of first-degree murder under theories of both deliberate premeditation and extreme atrocity and cruelty.

They also found that Chism had committed an aggravated rape against Ritzer, 24, inside a Danvers High School bathroom, and that he'd committed armed robbery when he took her teal green underpants — a “trophy,” the prosecution had called it.

The convictions could mean Chism will spend the rest of his life in prison, the automatic sentence for murder in this state — but because he was under 18 at



A short moment of silence was held for Danvers teacher and Andover native Colleen Ritzer during the first game of the World Series at Fenway Park against the St. Louis Cardinals in 2013.

the time, he'll be entitled to ask to be paroled after 15 to 25 years.

### Looking forward

That's a reality Ritzer's parents said they must live with and will continue to monitor. (See related story)

But in the meantime, they want to remember all the good their daughter brought to the world before her untimely death.

In fact, shortly after she was murdered, the outpouring of grief was mixed with a surge in goodwill from people locally and across the region.

Shortly after her death, the Ritzer family established the Colleen Ritzer Memorial Scholarship in hopes of ensuring that Colleen's legacy and passion for teaching would live on.

“It would mean the world to my family to raise money

to support future teachers that will make a difference in the world,” Colleen's sister, then-high school senior, Laura Ritzer wrote on the “Remembering Colleen Ritzer” Facebook page three days after Colleen's death.

Then she had this message for her big sister:

“You left behind an amazing legacy Colleen, and we want more people to be an inspiration as big as you.”

Ritzer was laid to rest on Tuesday, October 29, 2013. More than 1,000 joined together to remember a woman who was described as an angel by many.

“Her heart and soul were encompassed in her family,” Ritzer's cousin Gina McDaniel said during the funeral mass. “(She) made people feel loved, comforted and optimistic. Colleen's grace made her life fulfilling. In



Colleen Ritzer

such a short period of time, one person has made a world of difference.”

In February 2014, the inaugural Step Up For Colleen Ritzer 5K walk and run was held on the streets of Andover where Ritzer grew up. More than 4,000 people turned out for the event to raise money for the Colleen's memorial scholarship fund.

“Colleen loved life, family and friends and teaching,” said Ritzer's father, Tom, who was joined at the race by her mother, Peggie; brother, Dan; and sister, Laura. “We are very proud of Colleen and continue to be amazed by the number of lives she has touched.”

Christmas was said to be Colleen's favorite time of year, and in December 2014, the 11th Annual Holiday Pops Concert was dedicated to Ritzer and benefited her memorial scholarship fund. The second annual Step Up For Colleen 5K was held in May of this year. In June, the Ritzer family announced that the Colleen

Ritzer Memorial Scholarship Fund would award \$30,000 in scholarships to high school seniors wishing to study education in college.

As the third anniversary of Ritzer's death approached, her longtime best friend Jennifer Berger asked that everyone perform a random act of kindness to remember and honor her best friend. The request led to the #Kindness4Colleen social media effort that spread across Twitter as people documented the acts of kindness they did to fulfill the message Ritzer tweeted a few weeks before she died.

“Every day may not be good, but there is something good in every day.”

### Andover reaction

The fact that Ritzer could do so much good made it even harder for some to understand her murder.

Several people interviewed Tuesday night in downtown Andover wondered what could possibly have motivated Chism to commit such a horrible crime.

Eileen Clinton, who works downtown at a staffing agency, was unequivocal in her reaction.

“I'm happy he was found guilty,” she said.

Dennis Reidy of Andover, heading to his car outside Dunkin' Donuts, was thinking of the Ritzer family in the wake of the decision.

He had met Colleen Ritzer's parents at the local 5K race, Step Up for Colleen, a benefit for the Colleen E. Ritzer Scholarship Fund.

“I'm sure they are grateful for the verdict,” he said.

On Chestnut Street in a parking lot by CVS, Jane Baldwin of Andover, a teacher, said the right decision, a guilty verdict, was reached.

“It was a horrendous case and he deserves it,” she said.

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## FAMILY

Continued from Page 1

Ritzer, 24, of Andover, was a math teacher at Danvers High School. Chism was a 14-year-old freshman when he raped, robbed and killed Ritzer on Oct. 22, 2013. Jurors convicted Chism of first degree murder with deliberate premeditation and extreme atrocity and cruelty.

The jury also found him guilty of aggravated rape and armed robbery.

Tom Ritzer said while the family is pleased with Tuesday's verdict, they know appeals will be filed in the case and future parole hearings triggered by “juvenile sentencing” guidelines.

“This guilty verdict, while the beginning of justice for Colleen, is certainly no cause for celebration as there can never be true justice for the crime committed,” he said. “There remains a tremendous and painful absence in our lives, one that, sadly, can never be replaced.”

Colleen's parents, often with Colleen's younger brother and sister, Dan and Laura, attended the trial, always accompanied by a pool of supporters.

Peggie Ritzer also took the stand at the start of the trial as a prosecution witness, telling jurors how her daughter wanted to be a teacher since she was in preschool. Colleen excelled at math, so she decided to concentrate on that subject, she said.

The mother also told jurors about the afternoon of Oct. 22, 2013, when Colleen, her oldest daughter, did not return to their Andover home. Peggie said she called Colleen's friends and eventually reported her missing to Danvers police.

As she addressed the media Tuesday evening, Peggie noted the family met a host of law enforcement officers. She praised them; state police, Danvers police, Essex County Sheriff's Department and Salem Superior Court officers who “demonstrated the highest levels of professionalism and sincere compassion since our unfortunate meeting two

years ago.”

Peggie specifically mentioned State Police Lt. Norman Zuk and Trooper Steven Buccheri, saying through their “caring actions ... we have witnessed the same kindness that defined Colleen.”

She also lauded the work of lead prosecutor Kate MacDougall and fellow assistant district attorneys Melissa Woodard, David O'Sullivan and Maureen Leal “for their passionate efforts to ensure

justice for our daughter and sister, Colleen.”

Tom Ritzer said the family will continue to witness Colleen's impact on those who never knew her through scholarships given in her name to students embarking on teaching careers.

“... those who plan to emulate Colleen by pursuing their dreams to become caring and passionate teachers,” he said.

Peggie Ritzer concluded by reciting one of Colleen's

favorite quotes, “there is something good in every day.”

“To celebrate our love for her and in recognition of the many lives Colleen touched and continues to influence, despite the immense loss we are forced to endure, we will carry on and do our very best to find the good in every day,” Peggie said.

Follow staff reporter Jill Harmacinski on Twitter @EagleTribJill.

## Wedding



Ostrowski - Person

~ 10/11/2015 ~

Jessica Katherine Ostrowski and Matthew David Person were married on Sunday, October 11, 2015 at the Wentworth by the Sea Country Club, a reception followed the ceremony. Jessica is daughter of John & Kristina of Andover. She graduated from Brooks School and Hobart & William Smith Colleges. She works at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. Matthew is son of David and Ann Person of Sudbury Massachusetts. He graduated from Lincoln-Sudbury High School, Colgate University and received his MBA & MS in Finance from Boston College. He works at Capstone Partners. The couple plan to honeymoon in 2016 and reside in Boston.

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**Lawrence General Hospital**  
MIRACLES

## OBITUARIES

### Louis J. Sirois, 85

October 23, 1930 — December 8, 2015

ANDOVER — Louis J. Sirois, 85, of Andover, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on December 8, 2015. He was the devoted husband of Yvette (Houde) of 61 years. Louis was the owner of L. Sirois and Sons Construction company before his retirement in 2001, and was an active member of Carpenters Union 111. Born in Lawrence, he was the son of Ludger and Germaine (Schelling) Sirois. Louis was a graduate of Central Catholic High School and Merrimack College. A proud veteran of the Korean War, he was stationed in Alaska with the Army Corps of Engineers. He was a 62 year member of the Andover Knights of Columbus and an active member of the Saint Augustine's Parish community.

Louis was passionate about his work, and his talent is evident in many homes in the Merrimack Valley. He was also an avid gardener and bird watcher, and enjoyed making many of his own bird houses to share with his loved ones. He enjoyed hosting family gatherings, and his legacy is his faith and his family.

Louis is survived by his wife, Yvette, his sons, Stephen L and wife, Elaine of Andover; David P and wife, Karen of Acton, Daniel V. and wife, Nancy of Windham, N.H., Charles F. and wife, Deborah of Acton, Edward J. and wife, Terri of Merrimack, N.H., Timothy G. and wife, Christine of Somerville, L. Joseph and Sara Hicks of Pasadena, Calif. and daughters, Anne Marie S. Messier and husband, Michael of Chelmsford and Amy L. Bailey and husband, Tony of An-



dover. He will be missed by 11 loving grandchildren, Ryan, Emily, Matthew, Nicholas, Jeffrey, Thomas, Christopher, Julia, Elizabeth, Charlotte and James. Louis is survived by three siblings, Philip Sirois of Andover, Madeleine Fluet of Lawrence, and Germaine Sheehan of Haverhill, and was predeceased by siblings, Father George Sirois OMI, Sister Marie Germaine S USC, Sister Rachael S USC, Marguerite Beaulieu, Pauline Ichnon, John Sirois, Martha Marchand, Vincent Sirois, Joseph Sirois and Francis Sirois. Louis enjoyed the company of a large extended family filled with nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and neighbors.

**ARRANGEMENTS:** Services were previously held on Saturday, December 12, 2015. Donations in Louis's memory may be made to the Poor Clares Monastery, 445 River Rd. Andover, MA 01810. For online guestbook, please visit the funeral home website, [www.pollardfuneralhome.com](http://www.pollardfuneralhome.com). The Kenneth H. Pollard Funeral Home is honored to serve the Sirois Family.

### Mrs. Lorraine S. (Sawyer) McAree, 87 Years

April 27, 1928 — December 11, 2015

Family was the center of her life

ANDOVER, MA, AND BOCA RATON, FL — Mrs. Lorraine S. (Sawyer) McAree, 87, a longtime resident of Andover and Boca Raton, Fla., and beloved wife of William L. McAree, passed away on Friday, December 11, 2015.

Born in Lowell, Mass., on April 27, 1928, she was the beloved daughter of the late Charles and Rose (LaPlante) Sawyer. Mrs. McAree was a graduate of the Lowell Commercial College and had been the Treasurer for the William L. McAree Insurance Co., Inc. for many years. Lorraine devoted herself in extraordinary fashion and commitment to her family. Her eyes always lit up whenever her daughters or grandchildren, John and Kristen, were in her presence. She provided countless hours of fun, love, and support. In her spare time, Lorraine enjoyed traveling with her husband, William, with whom she shared a beautiful and loving marriage for 63 years. She was an avid and expert bridge and card player, gracefully integrating competition, fun, and togetherness. She will be dearly missed.

Besides her beloved husband, William, Lorraine is survived by her loving daughters, Lisa McAree of Charlestown, and Susan McAree and her husband, Karl Kraus of Medford and Sandwich; son-in-law, Michael Harding of Methuen; sister, Annette Perreault of New Hampshire; grandchildren, John Harding and his



wife, Sarah, and Kristen Harding and her partner, Dan Beauchemin; step-grandchildren, Will and Zephania Kraus; and many nieces and nephews. She was also the loving mother of the late Joan M. Harding and sister of the late Lillian Martin.

**ARRANGEMENTS:** Her funeral Mass were celebrated in St. Augustine Church, 43 Essex Street, Andover, on Wednesday, December 16, 2015, at 11 a.m. Relatives and friends attended. Calling hours were held in the Burke-Magliozi Funeral Home, 390 North Main Street, Andover, on Tuesday, December 15, 2015, from 4 to 7 p.m. Interment will be privately held. Should friends desire, donations in Lorraine's memory may be sent to Lahey Hospital & Medical Center, Office of Philanthropy, 41 Mall Road, Burlington MA, 01805 in lieu of flowers. For additional information, please visit, [www.burkemagliozi.com](http://www.burkemagliozi.com).

### Claire F. Haywood, 88

October 21, 1927 — December 5, 2015

ANDOVER — Claire Frances (Sturrock) Haywood, 88, of Andover, passed away peacefully with her daughters at her side on Saturday, December 5, 2015 at Prescott House in North Andover. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y. she was the daughter of the late William and Clara Sturrock. Claire was the loving wife of 53 years to the late Robert Haywood.

She is survived by her daughters, Diane LeBlanc and her fiancé, Glen Davis of North Andover and Barbara Risch of Haverhill, as well as Barbara's children, Alana Johanson, Rich Risch and his wife Norma, April Afonso and her husband, Ron and Joe Risch as well as her sister, Marilyn Meyerson of Sana Belle Island, Fla. She was predeceased by her son, Peter. After moving to Andover she worked at Merrimack College first as a telephone operator then moving into the Public Relations Department. In addition, she was Merrimack's sailing coach.



After leaving Merrimack, she worked at The Teacher's Pet in Lawrence. In later years, Claire volunteered her time at the Andover Senior Center.

She will be remembered as a loving mother, a wonderful cook and as someone who enjoyed gardening, crafts and reading.

**ARRANGEMENTS:** Family and friends were invited to calling hours on Saturday, December 12, 2015 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Conte Funeral Home, 17 Third Street, North Andover. A service followed at 3 p.m. in the funeral home. For directions or condolences please visit [www.contefuneralhomes.com](http://www.contefuneralhomes.com). In lieu of flowers donations can be made in her memory to the American Diabetes Association or the Northeast Animal Shelter, 347 Highland Avenue, Salem, MA 01970.



## POLICE LOG

COMPILED BY  
GABRIELLA CRUZ

### TUESDAY, DEC. 8

At 7:21 a.m., a woman requested to speak with an officer regarding vandalism to her vehicle the previous day while it was parked at Andover High School on Shawsheen Road. Officers reported that the vehicle's rear-view mirror had been vandalized but that there were no signs of break-in to the vehicle.

At 11:16 a.m., at the Dascomb Road exit off of 93 South, Christine M. Connelly, 38, of 159 Pelham Street, Apt. 303, Methuen, for operating a vehicle after suspension. Officers also arrested Anthony Alphonses-Rivera, 26, of 177 Bailey Street, Apt. 1, Lawrence, and charged him with failing to stop for police, operating a motor vehicle and a miscellaneous equipment violation.

At 3:29 p.m., on River Road, police arrested Ryan Mitchell, 22, of 12 Warren Drive, New Boston, N.H., Rachel Martineau, 28, of 363 Pearl St., Apt. 1, Manchester, N.H., and Alexandra Cremona, 22, of 50 Perley, Concord, N.H., and charged them each with possession of heroin. Nicole Stanford, 20, of 27 Concord Gardens, Apt. 1, Concord, N.H., was also arrested and charged with being present where heroin was kept.

A Gray Road resident called police at 6:34 p.m., to report that several pieces of jewelry were missing from her home. Officers reported no forced entry and that one jewelry box had been taken from the home. The homeowner was instructed to take an inventory of her jewelry and detectives are investigating.

### THURSDAY, DEC. 10

At 8:38 a.m., a caller from Tech Drive reported that all four tires had been stolen off of his parked Mercedes.

Multiple 911 calls to police reported that at

sometime around 4:51 p.m., there was a motor vehicle crash on Dascomb Road. A female driver was reported to have a laceration on her hand but was not taken to the hospital. Both vehicles were towed.

### FRIDAY, DEC. 11

At 5:06 p.m., a caller reported that his truck had been vandalized sometime between noon and 5 p.m. while it was parked on Shattuck Road.

### SATURDAY, DEC. 12

At 8:40 a.m., police responded to a call from Lee Nails on North Main Street reporting a fight. Officers requested an ambulance for a 42-year-old male.

A Cross Street resident called police at 9:24 a.m., to report that someone had used one of their driveway markers to deflate their Frosty the Snowman blow-up lawn decoration.

At 2:30 p.m., on River Road, officers arrested Jonathan P. Boyson, 23, of 25 Atwood St., Wakefield, and charged him with operating under the influence of marijuana.

At 3:51 p.m., a woman reported that while her vehicle was parked on Punchard Avenue, someone had thrown sheet rock at her car and dented it.

### MONDAY, DEC. 14

At 11:33 a.m., officers arrested Julia C. Dietz, 18, of 3 Elm Court, on River Road on warrants for possession of marijuana and distribution of a Class C Substance. Dietz was also charged with resisting arrest and assault and battery on a police officer.

A staff member at Doherty Middle School requested to speak to an officer at 12:48 p.m., regarding a student being followed to school. Responding officers filed a report of suspicious activity on Bartlet Street.

At 6:05 p.m., police received a report of vandalism from a resident on Boston Road and officers filed a vandalism report.

# Camargo, Lyons exchange barbs

By BILL KIRK  
bkirk@andovertownsmen.com

The campaign for state representative is starting early this year, as the challenger for the 18th Essex District seat is already exchanging barbs with the incumbent.

Democrat Oscar Camargo, who recently moved from North Andover to 22 Rear Hidden Road, Andover, so he could run against Republican James Lyons, said the incumbent is out of touch with the district, is ineffective as a legislator and uncooperative with his colleagues on both sides of the aisle in the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

"This district is fiscally conservative but socially progressive," Camargo, 33, said in an interview last month. "Jim Lyons rode in on the Tea Party platform of being fiscally conservative. Unfortunately, he is very socially conservative, too."

Camargo, a native of Dallas, added: "That part right there, for me, his brand and style of fiscal conservatism. I want to cut wasteful spending, not the slash and burn style. In the end, a large part of it is cooperation. You have to work with others to get what you want accomplished."

"It's not just about party ideology. It's good government. Jim isn't capable of doing that, to the detriment of the district. I have no doubt he believes in what he believes in. But it's about results. He's proven only one thing to me: He's ineffective."

Lyons countered that he's been very effective since he took office after defeating former Rep. Barbara L'Italien in 2010, particularly regarding the state budget.

He said he voted against former Gov. Deval Patrick's budgets every single time because they were bloated.

"We now know how out of touch he was with spending," Lyons said. "He left behind a \$1 billion deficit. I was one person standing up to the establishment, to all Republicans and Democrats."

Furthermore, he added, Camargo is an opportunist who moved from North Andover to Andover just so he could run in another district after losing to Democratic state Rep. Diane Dizoglio in the primary last year.

"It's my understanding that he ran against a Democrat for the Lawrence seat in the last election cycle, in another district, where he wanted to represent the people of Lawrence, Haverhill and Methuen," Lyons said. "And now he wants to represent the people of Andover. He wants to criticize me, but I'd just ask — what is he trying to do? Now he wants to represent Andover, Tewksbury, Boxford and North Andover?"

Camargo admitted that the reason he moved to Andover was so he could run against Lyons.

He said a friend who worked on his last campaign, Dr. Philip D'Agati of North Andover, convinced him to move to Andover to go up against Lyons.



Oscar Camargo is running for state representative as a Democrat against incumbent Republican Jim Lyons.



Republican Jim Lyons has represented Andover in the Mass. House of Representatives since 2010.

"When he saw how I did in my last campaign he felt encouraged," Camargo said. "He said, 'Instead of going against Diana, go up against Jim Lyons.'"

So that's what Camargo decided to do, moving from Brewster Street in North Andover to Hidden Road in Andover.

Camargo has moved a lot. He started out in Texas until the age of 10, he said, before moving with his family to Minnesota. He graduated from Eagan High School in Minnesota in 2001. According to a biography sent to The Eagle-Tribune by his campaign staff, Camargo joined the U.S. Army National Guard in 2000, a year before he graduated from high school.

He entered Northeastern University in the fall of 2002 with the intention of using their five-year program, he said.

While he was at Northeastern, he said in an email, "I deployed to Kosovo during that time period, from June 17, 2006 to Dec. 12, 2007. I requested an academic withdrawal from Northeastern which they happily obliged and reinstated me upon my return. I finished my final year of undergraduate studies in the Summer of 2008 before deploying to Iraq, 2009-2010, and Afghanistan, 2010-2011."

After returning from Afghanistan, he enrolled in The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, graduating in 2013 with a master of arts in law and diplomacy.

He is currently working for Triquetra Technologies as an analyst.

Camargo said his military training will serve him well in public office.

"As a veteran, I have proven my dedication to public service," he said. "As an active volunteer, I have proven my willingness to invest in our community's future. As a believer, I stand firm in the idea that our future is not a matter of chance -- it's a matter of choice."

## What's this bright idea

By TERRY DATE  
tdate@andovertownsmen.com

At first glance, or second, you might not have known this string of lights that town electrician Mark Gardella was draping on a tree outside Town Hall on Wednesday, Dec. 9 had bulbs of the energy efficient, labor saving variety.

But they are. They are the same LED lights that Marc Fournier's DPW elves placed on 48 wreaths up and down Main Street. The LED lights give off the traditional yellow glow of incandescent lights

but last much longer, an estimated 20,000 hours, and require far less labor.

When an incandescent bulb blew on a string in the past, the entire string had to be replaced. That's not the case with the LED bulbs. The wreaths, by the way, are artificial, and reusable.

Volunteers from the Senior Center and young people from Andover Youth Services helped DPW staff get the holiday wreath job done.



TERRY DATE / Staff photo

Town electrician Mark Gardella strings energy efficient, labor saving LED lights on trees outside Town Hall on Wednesday, Dec. 9. The town is using the LED strings up and down Main Street on its wreaths.

## ANDOVER TOWNSMAN OBITUARIES

Obituaries in the Andover Townsman are paid notices.

To place an obituary, please visit [andovertownsmen.com/submitobit](http://andovertownsmen.com/submitobit). Call 1-800-681-6248 if you have any questions.

## CORRECTION

VHS Inc., or Virtual High School, was never a for-profit company, as was incorrectly stated in last week's Townsman editorial. It was started as a grant project by Andover's interim superintendent Sheldon Berman in 1996, who was then superintendent of the Hudson, Mass., school system. He was the 'principal investigator' for the \$7.4 million, five-year federal grant. In 2001, after the grant ran out, VHS was launched on its own as a non-profit. Berman served on the board of directors of VHS until 2009.

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# New town web site under construction

## Town Notebook

Terry Date



Look for a new town web site by next summer, an interactive one that will include up-to-date town financial information.

Town Manager Andrew Flanagan announced last summer — when he was then a finalist for the manager post — that he wanted to launch an interactive and more informative town website.

He said in a Dec. 10 interview that he expects to select a company to create the site by the end of the month.

The town has \$50,000 in the 2016-17 budget to pay for the work. He estimated the site's annual cost at \$15,000, for training and upkeep and such.

Ultimately, the site will better connect the town and residents, he said.

Residents will have ready access to financial information on spending and budgets and taxes. Also, it will

make it easier to find out what is happening within different departments and divisions, and to access meeting minutes.

And residents will choose how to receive information, via texts or email, from police and fire departments, schools or the town.

"We need to evolve with the new ways to receive information," Flanagan said.

### No rubber stamps

Also at the Dec. 7 meeting, resident Brad Weeden, of 5 Summer St., urged selectmen to be vigilant when confirming appointments to the Planning Board.

Weeden said these confirmations are as important at the local level as U.S. Senate confirmations of Supreme Court justice nominations are at the federal level.

"That is how I look at it," he said.

He cited the Strawberry Hill Farm project, assisted living and apartment units, that came before the Planning Board twice in the last year as an example of how important a single development proposal can be.

Strawberry Hill was first denied then, last summer, approved when one member's swing vote changed.

The project approval is now being challenged on appeal in Land Court.

Weeden implored selectmen to not rubber stamp but rather exercise due diligence when confirming appointments to the Planning Board. He urged selectmen to review the voting records of those Planning Board members who come for reappointment.

The town manager appoints members to the Planning Board and selectmen confirm the members.

Selectmen Chairman Mary O'Donoghue said Weeden's point about due diligence was well taken.

She said in an interview that she routinely confers with department heads or the town manager on major appointments, inquiring about the candidates and their qualifications.

Weeden said he wants the public to be part of the Planning Board appointment process.

"I would like it if that vetting was more public," he said.

### Andover Cares

Selectman Paul Salafia saluted an Andover Cares benefit held by Karma restaurant on Nov. 30, highlighted by the appearance of four New England Patriots.

Salafia said the sold out event raised \$8,200 for the Rotary sponsored Andover Cares program, formed in response to the heroin crisis in town and elsewhere.

"I'm really proud of Karma, and I am really proud of the town," Salafia said.

### Resident comment

Resident John Pasquale remarked during the public comment portion of the meeting on the numerous power outages in town of late.

He also inquired about fire apparatus and a Clean Harbors Environmental truck he saw in town on Nov. 22.

He said you typically see Clean Harbors equipment in response to environmental hazards, and he asked the town manager to find out what, if anything, had happened.

The manager said he would check into the matter and report back on his findings.

# Water/sewer study will determine future rates

By TERRY DATE  
tdate@andovertownsmam.com

Selectmen await the results of a critical water and sewer rate study, pivotal information for deciding whether to increase rates next year.

The study will also include information on the town's long-term facility, line and other needs.

Environmental consultant Woodard & Curran of Andover started the study this month and is slated to present the completed report to the town by March.

The study will project the town's water and sewer needs — operating costs, improvements and maintenance, and debt service over the next 20 to 30 years.

More specifically the study will recommend water and sewer rates over the next five years to sustain the town's needs in that period.

"That is extremely important," said Chris Cronin, Andover's director of municipal services.

It is important because selectmen will use that information to determine the water and sewer rates for Fiscal 2017, which starts July 1, 2016 and runs through June 30, 2017.

"Critically important," agreed Mary O'Donoghue, chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

She said the board has

been pressured to raise rates for infrastructure improvements in the past so the study will give them hard information on which to gauge the town's needs.

Selectmen serve as water and sewer commissioners, and, in that capacity, determine the rates.

Right now, the water rate is \$3.10 per 748 gallons and the sewer rate is \$3.64 per 748 gallons, Cronin said.

The last water rate increase was in 2014, the last sewer rate increase came this year.

Selectman Dan Kowalski looks forward to seeing what the study says about the town's long-term needs, as well.

"That is critical because that is what is going to drive your rates for the next 30 years," he said.

Town Manager Andrew Flanagan said knowing the long-term needs will help the town in "developing a road map."

He's particularly interested in knowing what rates will be needed in the coming five years to adequately invest in the town's aging distribution system and its water treatment plant.

The Woodard and Curran study's base cost is \$40,000.

The town appropriated \$100,000 at Town Meeting in 2014 to study water and sewer needs and rates.

# Town: Utilities should be prepared to answer questions

By TERRY DATE  
tdate@andovertownsmam.com

One local resident had more questions than answers when she went before the Board of Selectmen last week to ask about work being done in her neighborhood by National Grid.

Mohawk Road resident JoAnne McConaughy asked at

the Selectmen's Dec. 7 meeting when the work was going to start, why it was being done in the first place, and whether the work would incorporate utilities other than electric.

The utility company has proposed installing 470 feet of conduit along about one-eighth of a mile on Mohawk Drive to the intersection of

Mohawk and Seneca Circle.

The National Grid representative said the project did not have a start date, information reiterated by National Grid spokeswoman Danielle Williamson in a subsequent call from The Andover Townsman.

National Grid will install underground conduits, tubing, for electrical lines. Existing lines are not buried at the

required 30-inch depth.

The National Grid representative at the meeting didn't know the depth at which the existing lines are buried, though he said it was not a safety hazard.

He said any interruptions to service would be minimal, an hour or 90 minutes at the most, and the project would not hinder traffic.

All the work will be done on town property about four to five feet off the road, he said.

The utility received selectmen's approval.

The request, however, gave rise to a request from Selectman Dan Kowalski.

In the future, for the sake of efficiency, he wants utility companies prepared to answer basic questions.

These are queries typically posed by selectmen or the public when utilities seek construction/installation approvals.

These include: When will work start and end? Will traffic be influenced? Will service be interrupted and for how long?

"Every time the utility companies come we ask really the same questions," Kowalski said.

Kowalski said he expects that in the future the town manager will provide utilities a checklist of questions they should be prepared to answer when they come to selectmen for a work request approval.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING: MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY

Memorial Hall Library has a lot of programs and activities in store.

Here are some of the featured programs on the calendar:

**Sai Maa Enlightened Living Group**, Mondays, Dec. 21 and 28, 7 p.m. in the Activity Room. The goal of participating in the group is to provide access to a life transformation that includes a continuing expansion of awareness and knowledge, and participating in a conversation that builds profound connection and community with others.

For more information, visit [www.sai-maa.com](http://www.sai-maa.com) or email [SaiMaaMeditationAndover@gmail.com](mailto:SaiMaaMeditationAndover@gmail.com). Register at [www.mhl.org/eventcalendar](http://www.mhl.org/eventcalendar).

## MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY CHILDREN'S ROOM

Here's what's in store for young people at the library at 2 North Main St.:

**Literacy Story Time**, Friday, Dec. 18, 10 a.m. Massachusetts Coordinated Family and Community Engagement will conduct a preschool literacy story time for ages 3 to 5 with an adult. Pick up a token in the Children's Room.

**Around the World in 30 Minutes**, Fridays, Dec. 18 and Jan. 29, 9:30 a.m. Explore different

**Career Networking Group**, Thursdays, 10 to 11:30 a.m. in Friends Alcove 1. Join this free group to expand one's network of business contacts, share ideas, and learn about effective job search strategies. Facilitated by certified career coach, Arleen Bradley. For more information, visit [www.arleenbradley.com](http://www.arleenbradley.com).

All events take place at the library, 2 North Main St., Andover, and are sponsored in conjunction with the Friends of Memorial Hall Library. Registration is requested. For more information or to sign up, visit [www.mhl.org/eventcalendar](http://www.mhl.org/eventcalendar), or call 978-623-8401, ext. 31 or 32.

languages through songs, rhymes, stories and games. For native speakers and those who want to expose their child to different languages and cultures at an early age. Appropriate for infants to age 5 and an adult. Pick up a token in the Children's Room.

**Reading in a Winter Wonderland**, Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2:30 p.m. This program, which is geared towards ages 6 and 7, will include winter stories and activities. Registration is requested.

**Find-Out Friday**, Jan. 15, 3:45 p.m. Geared towards ages 5 and up. Online registration is required.

**Pajama Party**, Tuesdays, Jan. 19 and 26, 6:30 p.m. Preschoolers and a favorite adult will have fun with stories, songs, a short movie and a craft. Pick up a token in the Children's Room before the program.

**Game Day with the Jr. Friends**, Wednesday, Jan. 20, 3:45 p.m. Open to children 6 and up. Online registration is required.

**Night Readers**, Wednesday, Jan. 20, 7 p.m. For ages 9 to 12 and a favorite adult. Register online.

**Family Book Bingo**, Saturday, Jan. 23, 2:30 p.m. Geared towards ages 5 and up. Online registration is required.

**Preschool story times**, including Wiggle Words, Make Way for Toddlers, Little Listeners and Afternoon Time, are now in session with even more program offerings, including additional classes on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Class times will shift slightly; check for the final schedule at [www.mhl.org/eventcalendar](http://www.mhl.org/eventcalendar). Pick up a token in the Children's Room before each program.

All events are sponsored by the Friends of Memorial Hall Library; registration is requested. For more information or to sign up, visit [www.mhl.org](http://www.mhl.org), or call 978-623-8401, ext. 31 or 32.

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# Award-winning artist returns to Andover

Laura Seeley went to South Elementary and returned this month to teach students to draw

By GABRIELLA CRUZ  
gcruz@andovertownsmen.com

A sea of wide eyes and focused faces surrounded artist Laura Seeley as she leaned over an easel and drew a red bow tie under the chin of a button-eyed teddy bear.

With blank pieces of paper on clipboards in their laps, 40 South Elementary School Kindergartners sat around Seeley as she instructed them on how to draw a teddy bear similar to the animals featured in her picture books. Seeley went through every step with great detail to make sure students could follow along and end up with a work of art they were proud of.

Seeley, an Andover native and South Elementary alumnae, is an award-winning author and illustrator of many children's books, including The New York Times Bestseller *The Boy of Steel*. Seeley shared her talents with the kindergartners earlier this month, teaching them how to create drawings just like hers - or at least close to hers.

In an instructional drawing session, Seeley took the amateur artists through every detail, big and small, necessary to complete a drawing of a plush teddy bear wearing a red bow tie. Students were extremely attentive to each step Seeley demonstrated and followed her instruction with great care. When Seeley showed them how to add depth to the teddy bear, students looked down at their own drawings and with



Artist Laura Seeley, an Andover native, shows South Elementary Kindergartners how to draw a teddy bear.

GABRIELLA CRUZ/Staff photo

short, soft strokes of their pencils, added wisps of hair around the bear's face.

"It is such an invaluable program in so many ways," said Susan Mulhern, a parent member of South Elementary's School Council. "Specifically that she is an alum and providing an incredible role model for

the children. Second, she will be teaching all the children how to do illustrations which is a fabulous extension of our school's art and literacy program. And third, it is such a generous gift to give back to the school."

Along with the kindergartners, first-, second- and

## ON CAMPUS

Over the summer, Connor Reardon, a sophomore football player at Andover High School, successfully completed and was awarded Honor Graduate from Bravo Platoon, the two-week Norwich University Future Leader Camp (FLC) at the nation's first senior military college in Northfield, Conn.

FLC is designed to develop the leadership skills of current high school students by providing a challenging and meaningful adventure camp experience. Physical fitness training was part of the first week as were paintball, rappelling, climbing wall, basic first aid training, crisis preparedness, water survival skills, orientation and leadership classes. After qualifying, participants went for a day of rappelling on the 80-foot cliffs of Deer Leap Mountain in Killington, Vt., and the following day participated in survival skills training. After a three-day overnight camping trip where participants cooked their own meals and learned wilderness survival skills, they were put to the test in team and individual competitions. Each participant served as a team leader during the program and received a written evaluation from their instructor and senior staff.

To qualify, applicants are

required to have a minimum GPA of 2.5 and submit three letters of recommendation. All participants had to demonstrate involvement in a leadership-driven organization outside the classroom such as Junior ROTC, Civil Air Patrol, Sea Cadets, student government, athletics, scouting, church, community, employment and/or volunteer organizations. This season, participants came from 15 states and the United Kingdom.

At Worcester Polytechnic Institute, all undergraduates are required to complete a research-driven, professional-level project that applies science and technology to address an important societal need or issue.

Samuel Khalandovsky of Andover recently completed an intense, hands-on research project in Switzerland titled, "The Canton of Zurich's Roadmap: Smart Energy Region 2050."

Khalandovsky is a junior majoring in robotics engineering.

Kylie Fox, Shawna Fox, and Phillip Igoe were named to the chancellor's list at UMass Dartmouth for the spring 2015 semester.

Evan Gaj attained dean's list

status at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pa., for the spring 2015 semester.

Samantha Okun graduated cum laude with a degree in kinesiology from San Diego State University during its commencement ceremonies in May.

Michael Galietti and Simon Voorhees graduated from Lehigh University in May during its 147th spring 2015 commencement ceremonies at Goodman Stadium in Bethlehem, Pa.

Galietti received a Bachelor of Science in chemical engineering and Voorhees received a Bachelor of Science in behavioral neuroscience.

Emerson Curbeam and Qingxue Hu graduated from Boston University in September.

Curbeam received a Bachelor of Arts in economics and Hu received a Doctor of Dental Medicine in dentistry advanced standing.

Nine local residents were named to the dean's list at Boston University for the spring 2015 semester. Students recognized for this honor include: Katherine N. Angelakis, Sahil A. Bhaiwala, Sara C. Bustos, Brian M. Hanafin, Shawn S. Jin, Hyunkyung Kim,



South Elementary School Kindergartners look on as artist Laura Seeley shows them how to add detail to a drawing.

GABRIELLA CRUZ/Staff photo

third-grade students each had their own group sessions with Seeley. Four sessions with Seeley would normally cost \$700, but Seeley donated her time to the school.

Seeley grew up in Andover before attending the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, N.Y., where she studied Art and Design. After graduating, Seeley did some freelance design but began realizing that there was something missing from her work. She began writing rhymes to go along with images she had drawn and eventually developed

a 64-page search-and-find book, *The Book of Shadowboxes, A Story of the ABCs*, which was named "Best Children's Literature" by The Council of Authors and Journalists.

Multiple award-winning children's books followed and Seeley also created illustrations for other authors' picture books. After teaching commercial, editorial and children's book illustration courses at The Atlanta College of Art, Seeley began visiting schools across the country to teach students the art of drawing. Seeley now lives in Southern

California and works out of the Laura Seeley Studio in Dana Point, Calif.

With so much experience and so many awards under her belt, Seeley said that the most important thing she hopes students learn from her is that there is no shame in starting over and making changes.

"As I tell the kids, most of us are not Mozarts," Seeley said in an interview. "Unlike him, most of us don't get it right the first time. I smile at my young audience and tell them, that even as an adult, I still don't get it right the first time. That makes them smile."

Courtney E. McDonald, Ronak R. Nair, Christine A. Wu.

The following local residents graduated from Boston University in May: Elaine N. Wu, Bachelor of Arts in biology, magna cum laude; Shawn S. Jin, Bachelor of Science in human physiology, magna cum laude; Danee Rodriguez,

Bachelor of Science in communication; Ronak R. Nair, Bachelor of Science in biomedical engineering; Ritik Ray, Bachelor of Science in computer science; Kristine H. Xue, Doctor of Medicine in medicine; Stephanie Shin, Master of Arts in teaching in social studies education; Nisreen A. Dahod, Master of Science in

computer science; Courtney E. McDonald, Bachelor of Science in business administration in business administration and management, magna cum laude.

Natalia Santiago was named to the dean's list for the spring 2015 semester at Salve Regina University.

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## MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY TEENS

Upcoming December events for teens at the library include:

**Teen Writer's Group meeting**, Thursday, Dec. 17, 7 p.m. Share one's work and meet other writers.

**Teen Room After Hours**, Friday, Dec. 18, 5 to 8 p.m. Enjoy pizza, games, movies and more. Permission slips are available in the Teen Room.

**Movie Nights**, Tuesdays, Dec. 22 and 29, all starting at 6:30 p.m.

**Play with the new Ozobot robots**, Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2:30 to 4 p.m.

**Button Making**, Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2 to 4 p.m.

There's a ton of fun in store for teens at MHL in January

Upcoming January events for teens at the library include:

**Movie Nights**, Tuesdays, Jan. 5, 12, 19 and 26, 6:30 p.m.

**Yankee Swap**, Monday, Jan. 4, 3 p.m. Bring a wrapped gift to the Teen Room to swap it for something else.

**VAB (Volunteer Advisory Board) meeting**, Tuesday, Jan. 5, 3 p.m. Plan something big.

**Teen Trivia**, Thursday, Jan. 7, 7 p.m. Test one's trivia knowledge with friends.

**Book Craft: Make a hedgehog**

(part one), Monday, Jan. 11, 3 p.m. Old books will be provided for the project.

Participants will learn how to craft a hedgehog through careful, meditative folding.

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# BERMAN

Continued from Page 1

was thorough and complete. Gilbert said that Berman was interviewed twice before the committee decided to offer him the interim position: once by a screening committee and once by the full school committee in public session.

"Members of the school committee conducted detailed reference checks, reviewed all available written articles about him, and deliberated on his qualifications publicly," she said in a letter to the editor approved by the full School Committee at a meeting Tuesday morning.

Committee members also say that Berman's reputation as a respected educator and innovator in many educational fields inevitably led to criticism, which they say is the case with any public official.

Parents, however, believe that some of the issues in Berman's previous jobs should have received more scrutiny.

Jeanne Teichert, a parent to three Andover students, said that when Berman was in Oregon, there was an effort to keep his performance reviews secret.

"That's the opposite of what we need right now," she said. "We need more transparency, not less."

As superintendent of Eugene School District 4J in Eugene, Ore., Berman was head of a nearly 16,000-student district. Berman started his position in Eugene in July of 2011 and in 2013, his contract as superintendent of the district was extended to 2016. In June of 2014, however, Berman left Eugene one year early citing "family circumstances," according to an article published in *The Register-Guard* on Wednesday, April 29, 2015.

According to the article,

a law firm representing the Eugene School District accidentally sent "hundreds of unredacted emails regarding Berman's job performance" that school board members had secretly exchanged via personal email accounts. In the emails, board members attempted to come up with a plan to secretly negotiate an exit plan with Berman.

"Eugene School Board members allowed Superintendent Sheldon Berman to come up with his own exit plan to avoid the release of a negative performance review, which one board member said could result in his firing," according to the article.

While some parents have raised questions about details of Berman's past, others are more concerned with what they believe to be a bigger problem - that the School Committee doesn't listen to parents.

Alexandra Troy, a local mother of three, said the main

focus should be that parents are upset with the committee's actions.

"I find it very arrogant of them to feel that they somehow know better than the rest of us parents who are voicing concerns," Troy said. "I think what really needs to happen is that the school committee needs to listen to parents. They're job is to act on our behalf. They are clearly not acting in our children's best interest."

The committee's communications and responses to parents have been concerning for other parents as well. Whelan said the members of the committee are "defensive."

"I am also concerned about the very defensive posture of some members involved in this decision," Whelan said. "I don't understand why the town's Director of H.R. is making supporting comments about and defending any candidate during the vetting process. She

should maintain a completely objective role during the selection process."

During a school committee meeting on Thursday, Dec. 3, Berman's connections with certain organizations as well as the committee's vetting process were questioned by a local parent, Krystal Solimine. After Solimine finished addressing the committee, the district's Director of Human Resources Candace Hall spoke in defense of Berman against Solimine's accusations.

"I don't think there's a person in this room that could run a school system, let alone in Eugene, Oregon ... that would not have critics out there at some point," Hall said during the meeting. "So, I would love to talk to that woman one-on-one and find out what it is that she has to say because I doubt whether she is going to have uncovered anything that I have not already uncovered. No one

has been able to come into this system and hit the ground running like Dr. Berman. To hit the ground running in five months and to have all of these positive things come forward? I will leave it at that."

In the letter to the Townsman, members of the School Committee explained that they are aware of their duties as elected officials and that the committee's process in hiring Berman has been unfairly criticized.

"We are proceeding in a measured way with our responsibility to select a leader of our schools on behalf of the community," members of the committee wrote in the letter.

Gilbert also provided a list of 14 references given to the committee by Berman during his vetting process, along with upwards of 12 letters of recommendation from Berman's colleagues giving positive reviews of Berman's performances.

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■ BUSINESS BRIEF CASE

**TD Bank raises \$2,993 for Creative Living Andover**

As part of its "Bring Change" campaign, TD Bank on Main Street in Andover hosted a community coin counting event and fundraiser that raised \$2,993.30 for Creative Living Andover. TD matched up to \$2,000 in coins counted for the final donation to the organization.

Creative Living Andover supports individuals with developmental disabilities and their families so that they can live fulfilling lives in their communities. The funds raised from Bring Change will go towards Creative Living Andover's after school program which has been developed in conjunction with Andover High School for students with developmental disabilities.

With 500 events planned through 2016, this program promises to raise more than \$1 million in support of local organizations. To learn more about the "Bring Change" campaign, visit [tdbringchange.com](http://tdbringchange.com). For more information on Creative Living Andover, visit [www.creativelivingandover.org](http://www.creativelivingandover.org).

**Local Realtor in the top 1 percent**

Andover Realtor, Gretchen Papineau, was recently recognized as one of the top 1,000 real estate sales associates for the third quarter of 2015 by NRT, the nation's largest residential real estate brokerage company.



Gretchen Papineau

Papineau's outstanding performance puts her in the top 1 percent of approximately 47,000 sales associates nationwide. More specifically, she is in the top half of this distinguished group.

**BNI Merrimack Valley networking meetings**

BNI Merrimack Valley chapter meets on Thursdays from 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. at the Lanam Club in Andover at 260 North Main St. The group's mission is to help members increase their business through a structured, positive, and professional referral marketing program that enables them to develop long-term, meaningful relationships with quality business professionals. The philosophy of this organization is built upon the idea of "Givers Gain": If I give you business you'll give me business and we'll both benefit as a result. BNI allows only one person per professional classification or specialty to join a chapter. For more information call Edna Peters at 1-800-783-6127 or email [epeters@partnersadvantage.com](mailto:epeters@partnersadvantage.com).

**LeTip networking meetings**

LeTip Merrimack Valley Executives, a free business networking group, meets on Wednesdays from 7 to 8:30 a.m. at Atria Marland Place, 15 Steven St., Andover. Bring business cards to hand out. For more information, call Paul Lambert at 978-609-6420 or email [PDLLAW@comcast.net](mailto:PDLLAW@comcast.net).

Monthly professional networking

The Networking Group meets one Tuesday each month from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Temple Emanuel, 7 Haggetts Pond Road, Andover. Past speakers have included professional recruiters, career counselors, human resource professionals, marketing leaders, business owners and more. New sponsorships are always welcome to help defray costs. For more information, contact Brotherhood President Mitchell Schneir at 978-470-1356. Visit [www.templemanuel.net](http://www.templemanuel.net) for a complete schedule.

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

**Affordable townhome hits market**

By JUDY WAKEFIELD  
[jwakefield@andovertownsmen.com](mailto:jwakefield@andovertownsmen.com)

A family of four simply outgrew their 965 feet of living space in a small, local townhome deemed "affordable" and an Andover housing advocate group is now handling the property's resale.

Andover Community Trust is a longtime supporter of more affordable housing in Andover where the average house is listed for \$599,900.

This permanently affordable, two-bedroom, 1-1/2 bath townhome is located at 42 Michael Way and is listed at \$168,192. It's located in the Abbot's Pond Condominiums development of 41 units. The monthly condo fee for the listed townhome is \$238. Michael Way is located off Andover Street, across from a group of medical offices at 28 Andover St.

ACT Executive Director Denise said the townhome is not an ACT-owned home but the group wants to make sure the home stays affordable. She said it is a Department of Housing & Community Development unit with a Universal Deed Rider. She said the former owner bought a house in Methuen for the family of four, which includes two children.

"ACT is very involved with supporting affordable housing in Andover," Johnson said. "In this

case ACT is handling the resale so that we can reach out to more folks looking for affordable homes in Andover and make sure that the affordable units Andover has remain affordable."

Another unit in Abbot's Pond is now on the market for \$359,900 while real estate records show that a neighboring two bedroom unit at 24 Michael Way sold for \$365,000 earlier this year.

This townhome is available for eligible households that meet regulations set by the state's affordable housing laws, Johnson said.

Applicant qualifications require that a one-person household not exceed a \$46,100 annual income; two-person household limit is \$52,650; three-person household is limited to \$59,250 and a four-person household annual income must not exceed \$65,800.

There is an asset limit of \$75,000 and a first-time homeowner with mortgage pre-approval is preferred.

The townhome also features a finished lower level with a closet and is on town sewer and water. Heat is by gas, and there is air-conditioning. The home includes a range, refrigerator, washer and dryer, storage area and is available immediately.

Anyone interested in purchasing this home should deliver a completed application to Andover Community



This property at 42 Michael Way is listed at \$168,192 and is located in the Abbot's Pond Condominiums. It is a permanently affordable residence and is available to families that qualify under specific income and asset guidelines.

Trust. Applications are available at [www.Andover-CLT.org](http://www.Andover-CLT.org) or by contacting Andover Community Trust, Inc. 2 Dundee Park, suite B02A, Andover, MA 01810; 978-276-9228; or go to [info@AndoverCLT.org](mailto:info@AndoverCLT.org) <https://www.AndoverCLT.org/>

**BoomerVenture turns winter inside out**

BoomerVenture has a variety of programs designed to meet the needs of the broadest possible range of Andover's 50-plus residents. Here are some of the fall offerings in store for the campus at The Center at Punchard, 30 Whittier Court, Andover:

- Exercise and Wellness**
- Everyday Mindfulness with Chip Carter:** Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. Connect mindfulness with one's "everyday life" in a very real and practical way; \$5.
- Reflexology with Uli Kapp:** Thursdays, 6 p.m. By advance appointment only; \$1 per minute, in 15-minute intervals.
- Energize with Exercise:** Mondays through Feb. 8, 3:30 p.m.

Fun aerobics and weight training workout, ending with a meditative cool down, with instructor, Denise Boucher; \$60.50

**Zumba Toning:** Thursdays through Feb. 11, 3:30 p.m. Combine weight training and cardio-fitness while dancing; Nancy Ryan is the instructor; \$49.50.

**Serenity Yoga:** Thursdays through Feb. 11, 7:15 p.m. Take part in an active practice of flowing postures with 15 minutes of meditation; Sheila Wescott is the instructor; \$54.

**Belly Dancing:** Thursdays through Feb. 11, 6 p.m. Learn basic moves from fast and fiery to slow and smooth; improve flexibility

and increase self-confidence while working all muscles; dance off calories; suitable for women of all body types and fitness levels; \$54.

**Films**

**Screening Room:** Award-winning, independent films are shown every Thursday starting at 6:30 p.m.

All events are held at The Center at Punchard and are open to the community. Space is limited and registration is required.

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**MATH**

Continued from Page 1

options and it's one step in a conversation that will be ongoing. We are all very committed, going forward, to including parents in those discussions."

Gilbert, along with committee members Joel Blumstein and Susan McCreedy, voted in favor of offering summer school courses for acceleration to interested students. Committee member Ted Teichert voted against the summer school option because of its cost to parents.

"I'm not in favor of having a summer school class where we're going to have to charge \$575 dollars," Teichert said during the meeting. "I feel like it's a little extreme and a lot more pressure on the families and students."

Blumstein, who questioned the cost of the summer courses, said that although taking summer school courses is not ideal for parents or students, his goal was to make as many options available to parents as possible.

"I want to express some optimism that we're going to

come up with a good, long-term option so that our future eighth graders are not in this same position," Blumstein said. "For the short term, I think that we need to accept that we're in a difficult situation for a variety of reasons. Some out of the ordinary steps are going to have to be taken. From that perspective, I favor giving parents as many options as possible."

Another option considered by the committee was for the school district to cover the cost of summer school.

Interim Superintendent Sheldon Berman cautioned against adding as much as \$72,000 to next year's budget.

"My hunch is that we'll be offering two sections of Geometry and two sections of Algebra I," Berman explained. "So we're looking at, essentially, a \$36,000 cost. If there were no cost (to students), we could double the number of sections, leaving us with the cost of \$72,000. I do worry, though, that we're walking into a very tight budget season."

**Finding solutions**

The summer school math

course is one of three 'stop-gap' measures available to students who wish to reach calculus by their senior year. The proposed options are temporary fixes to a problem rooted in middle school math curriculum. Various policy changes to math requirements plus the high school's transition to a full-year schedule have created a problematic equation for current eighth- and ninth-grade students.

Before the high school transitioned to its new, full-year schedule, students could enroll in two, semester-long math classes during their sophomore year. Taking two math classes back-to-back as sophomores allowed students to reach calculus their senior year.

The full-year schedule, however, prevents that from being an option. Now, in order to reach calculus during their senior year, interested sophomores must choose from three temporary options.

The first, which is the high school's preferred choice, is for students to double-up on math courses during their sophomore year. Because of the

high school's transition from a semester-based to a full-year schedule, interested students would take both Geometry and Algebra II concurrently, whereas before, they would take the two consecutively.

"It's not much different than taking say, biology and chemistry," said the high school's math program head Katherine Richard. "Geometry and Algebra II are not prerequisites for each other. The content is different; one is more logic-based, proof-based, learning about shapes and how they work together, and one is a continuation of Algebra I with manipulation of equations. It's not an entirely crazy idea to take them both at the same time."

The second would require students to learn the necessary math content independently or from a private tutor and then "test out" of a math course by demonstrating proficiency through an exam.

The third option, taking summer school math courses, has received the most push-back from parents.

**Speaking out**

During Thursday's

meeting, parents addressed the committee.

"This complex issue cannot be an excuse to have inaction in terms of getting real change to happen," said Carolyn Claman, who has four students in Andover schools. "My husband and I are really hopeful because we have a new superintendent and a new principal. They don't have the history of how we got here and there's nowhere to look but forward. There's hope that you can have the perspective of 'can-do' and 'yes,' instead of 'no.'"

The history Claman mentioned includes the district's implementation of a policy requiring eighth-grade students to pass an Algebra I screening test in order to take geometry as freshmen, which would keep them on track to reach Calculus by their senior year. The test, however, covered content that middle school students were never taught.

"Rather than let the change happen organically in middle school and ripple through into high school, there was a hard stop made last spring that

affected our current eighth and ninth graders," Claman said. "Current ninth graders are not asking for acceleration. They are asking to catch up, and be level and competitive, with their peers out there at other districts who have access to Algebra I in eighth grade."

Claman's comments were met with applause from the audience of parents in attendance. Others who addressed the committee spoke to the necessity of higher level math as a basic offering.

"I benefited from a good quantitative education and a quantitative career and that was really accelerated by my ability to take Algebra in eighth grade and calculus before I graduated," said David Bassi, whose son attends the high school. "I think it is a disservice to think about this as enrichment and acceleration. We should be thinking about reaching calculus by the time you graduate high school as a basic."

Berman said that currently, 55 percent of seniors take calculus. He said he hopes that number will grow.

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 Wednesday, Dec. 23rd 8:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m.  
 Thursday, Dec. 24th 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
 Closed Christmas Day

# Opinion

## A bright light extinguished but her memory endures

Call it the Power of Colleen. When Colleen Ritzer was murdered more than two years ago at the age of just 24, a bright light was extinguished. But friends and family - both near and far - refused to yield to the evil that put out that light. And in her memory, they lit a candle of their own in her honor. And that candle continues to shine, even as the dark chapter of her assailant, 14-year-old Peter Chism of Danvers, closes with his murder, rape and robbery conviction in Salem Superior Court on Tuesday.

The tone was set by her family, parents Thomas and Peggie, brother Daniel and sister Laura Ritzer, shortly after her death as they issued statements about their "amazing" daughter who loved spending time with family and had a passion for teaching and helping children.

A Dascomb Road neighbor called Colleen "a quiet, unassuming girl with a beautiful smile."

Patricia Meserve, president of Salem State University, where Colleen was a graduate student, said she was a "bright and vibrant student in the School Counseling masters' degree program." Meserve went on to say: "She believed children have much to offer and often do not realize how special they are as individuals. In her application to Salem State she said she was dedicated to 'helping students in times of need.'"

At her Oct. 28, 2013 funeral, about 1,000 people came to her parish, St. Augustine's, to pay their respects and remember a teacher, a friend, a neighbor, a colleague, a mentor, a student, and a family member.

Cousin Gina McDaniel said the effect Colleen had could be seen in the pews of the church - where scores of people from all walks of life bonded together to commemorate and celebrate her life.

"(She) made people feel loved, comforted and optimistic," McDaniel said. "Colleen's grace made her life fulfilling. In such a short period of time, one person has made a world of difference."

A series of public events continued to spread that life-affirming philosophy throughout the region. On a chilly, Friday night just days after the murder, the Danvers and Andover girls' field hockey teams held pink balloons as they gathered on the center circle of Lovely Field for a game under the lights. It was senior night. But really, it was Colleen Ritzer night. The balloons, which were pink in honor of Colleen's favorite color, disappeared into the darkness. The players hugged. People in the stands and on the field cried in the silence.

Colleen's family launched the Colleen Ritzer Memorial Scholarship in memory of their "beautiful daughter and sister."

At Assumption College in Worcester, where Ritzer earned her undergraduate degree in 2011, a memorial service was held in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit. One of Ritzer's college classmates and fellow math majors at Assumption, Katelyn Mahoney, launched a fundraiser selling hot pink wristbands, similar to the yellow LiveStrong wristbands, with the words "Find good every day" printed on them. The saying was one of Ritzer's mottos in life. Proceeds from wristband sales benefited the scholarship fund.

Danvers High School students and staff held similar ceremonies, even creating a memory garden in honor of Colleen, a favorite math instructor at the high school.

There were spontaneous outpourings of pink - such as when Andover High School students donned pink T-shirts before the Thanksgiving game against Central Catholic that year.

The Step Up for Colleen 5K was organized by Nina Caron, parent of one of Colleen's friends. Set for May 4, 2014, the event benefited the Colleen E. Ritzer Scholarship Fund. It took place nine days before what would have been Ritzer's 25th birthday.

Colleen's father Tom said at the start of the inaugural event that his daughter "loved life, family and friends and teaching. We are very proud of Colleen and continue to be amazed by the number of lives she touched. Colleen wasn't much of an athlete, but she sure would have loved being part of something like this. Today's race will benefit Colleen's scholarship. We hope this scholarship will help future teachers carry on Colleen's love of life and teaching."

More recently, on the two-year anniversary of her death, close friend Jennifer Berger started #KindnessforColleen - a Twitter movement in which people do good deeds for others and post comments about them.

It launched a flurry of thousands of Tweets about people doing kind things big and small for friends, family and even strangers. It was a fitting tribute for someone who loved Twitter and loved people. It was just one of many ways her life continues to have a lasting impact and while leaving a loving legacy.

## WEB QUESTION

### This week's question

There has been a big push in recent years to bring back Main Street, USA. The same is true right here in Andover, with events and promotions aimed at wooing shoppers away from the malls. But does it work? Is it enough? Do you shop downtown?

Yes. I love the convenience and small-town feel of downtown shopping.  
Yes. Anything I can get at the mall I can get downtown.

No. There isn't enough variety like at the mall.  
No. There isn't enough decent, free parking.

### Last week's question:

Is it ever going to snow?  
Results:

The first few months of 2016 are going to be brutal. The snow's coming, it's just a matter of when. 17 votes. 45 percent.

New England weather is bipolar to begin with - no matter what the prediction is, the weather will do the opposite. Meanwhile, meteorologists will continue to get paid even when they are wrong 50 percent of the time. 12 votes. 30 percent.

It'll stay a warm winter. If I say it enough times, it will come true, right? Besides, El Nino's current track will bring us warm weather all winter. 6 votes. 15 percent.

The amount of acorns that fell on my lawn this year was outrageous. If the Farmer's Almanac is right, lots of acorns means lots of snow. 4 votes. 10 percent.

## School Committee responds to Townsman editorial

The members of the Andover School Committee are deeply dismayed by the December 10 editorial about Interim Superintendent Sheldon Berman. While acknowledging that nothing credible has ever been uncovered to indicate wrongdoing on his part, the Townsman editorial repeatedly—and incorrectly—implies that he may have used his affiliations with professional organizations for financial or personal gain.

In addition, the column—as well as a related article—contains factual inaccuracies that could easily have been corrected had the writers first interviewed either Berman or the School Committee. When citing information that calls into question someone's personal or professional ethics, accuracy is paramount.

To address those inaccuracies, let us be clear. First, there is no conflict of interest. Berman now serves on precisely three non-profit boards. The list of 31 organizations that he has been affiliated with in the past stretches back into the 1990s, was on his resume when he applied for the position, and was voluntarily shared with the School Committee and the public in open meeting in the interest of transparency. Dr. Berman donated his time to these non-profits, who sought him out because of his expertise. The extensive network of professional contacts he

*Dr. Berman has been in leadership roles for decades. No one can hold such positions without making decisions that some people oppose. In fact, had we uncovered no criticism in our research, it would have been a red flag that he was just a "yes man" and unwilling to stand firm on tough issues that affect the district and its students*

developed through these affiliations strengthens his ability to bring fresh and relevant ideas to Andover.

Second, Berman has never been associated with a for-profit organization. At no time was VHS a company; it originated through a grant whose success helped it transition into a private non-profit. Neither did Berman ever start any companies, though in the 1980s he did co-found a national non-profit educational organization.

Also baseless is the editorial's implication that the School Committee's vetting process was less than comprehensive. Dr. Berman was interviewed twice, once by a screening committee and once by the full School Committee in public session. Members of the School Committee conducted detailed reference checks, reviewed all available written articles about him, and deliberated on his qualifications publicly.

Is there some critical information out there about Berman? Yes. Did that surprise us? No. We also discovered a number

of detractors while vetting the other finalist.

Dr. Berman has been in leadership roles for decades. No one can hold such positions without making decisions that some people oppose. In fact, had we uncovered no criticism in our research, it would have been a red flag that he was just a "yes man" and unwilling to stand firm on tough issues that affect the district and its students.

Ultimately, the criticism we found paled in significance when stacked against his history of innovative work, his national and international reputation for contributions to public education, his impressive list of publications and awards, and the preponderance of positive information from the references we checked. It is unfortunate that the Townsman did not take the time to explore the totality of Berman's record—nor ask us about our vetting process—before concluding that we hired him mainly because "we liked him."

It is true that we had originally intended to initiate a full search this fall for a permanent candidate. However, as discussed publicly at our October 22 meeting, several factors had emerged during our ongoing review of the situation. One was Dr. Berman's excellent performance over the four months we had worked with him. Another was the tremendously positive feedback we have received from the community about the difference he is making. A third was Berman's obvious commitment to Andover; his willingness to consider suspending his retirement pension in order to continue working here was something we never could have predicted. Finally, and perhaps most important, now more than ever we need stability in our key leadership positions.

We are proceeding in a measured way with our responsibility to select a leader of our schools on behalf of the community. It is fair to disagree with the School Committee's decision. It is not fair to question the integrity of the superintendent or the School Committee without any factual basis. We are a community that deeply values education. Unfounded accusations and insinuations are not worthy of us.

Signed by the School Committee: Annie Gilbert, chairwoman; Joel Blumstein, vice chairman; Susan McCreedy, Ted Teichert and Paula Colby-Clements.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### LETTERS POLICY

The Townsman accepts letters to the editor from the community. Letters should be typed, no longer than 350 words and must include writer's name, address and phone number (numbers will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters for length, clarity and style. Deadline is Monday at 9 a.m. for the next edition.  
**Mail to:**  
33 Chestnut St.,  
Andover, MA 01810  
**Fax to:** 978-470-2819  
**E-mail:** townsmen@andover-townsman.com. Please include the letter in the body of the e-mail, not as an attachment.

should we make it easier for a potential terrorist to harm us.

The holidays are a time of giving. To turn our backs on needy refugees during the holidays is particularly distasteful - especially when the justification is completely bogus.

**ANDY ROUSE**  
Andover

### Dangerous intersection at Salem Street, Grey Road

Editor, Townsman:  
The safety of the intersection at Salem Street and Grey Road needs to be improved. This summer I worked on my Eagle Scout project near that intersection. It involved building a boardwalk for hikers using the Ward Reservation. Over the days that it took to complete my project, I observed many cars attempting to beat oncoming traffic, flying

through the intersection without regard to potential pedestrians coming out of the walking trail.

Improvements need to be made now, before there is a serious accident.

The two roads intersect at an odd angle and there is poor signage to alert motorists. With the recent clearing of the Ward Reservation, more pedestrians have been utilizing this beautiful part of town and parking at the intersection, creating a dangerous condition.

There should be a stop sign on Grey Road because it has a poor line of sight for pedestrians, as well as oncoming cars. For the long-term, the town needs to square off the intersection to make Grey Road a traditional side street and allow a buffer space at the entrance to the Ward Reservation.

**KEVIN VISPOLI**  
Alison Way  
Andover

### 'Do your job' in reporting on superintendent

Editor, Townsman:  
I'm writing with concern of incomplete and irresponsible reporting on the pages of the Townsman.

Your newspaper has dedicated at least three recent articles to the involvement of Interim Superintendent Berman on various education related boards. These columns have expressed curious alarm about his industry activity, yet failed to provide any evidence to support an identifiable problem.

The Dec. 10 editorial concedes Dr. Berman's work on education boards "alone is not a problem" and "there doesn't appear to be anything wrong," but at the same time your columns are colored to suggest untoward activity.

Has Dr. Berman done something wrong or not? Has he profited or gained any advantage through his work with these organizations? The paper has repeatedly written that "where there is smoke there is fire" yet has not printed a smolder of actual wrongdoing.

You can't have it both ways when you're calling into question someone's professionalism and ethics. The implications are too serious for unproven, vague complaints to dominate your pages.

Additionally, after having spoken with Dr. Berman, I understand that the Townsman incorrectly stated he was involved on the boards of for-profit educational companies. Could some basic fact-checking by the Townsman resolve this discrepancy? Because if Dr. Berman is correct, and the paper has improperly characterized the boards on which he is involved, this is beyond a misprint. Such an egregious error would demand an explanation.

As a subscriber to your paper, I expect a fair and accurate representation of events in this town and the people who run it. In the words of Coach Belichick, it's time for you to Do Your Job.

**SHANNON SCULLY**  
School Street, Andover

## READER ACCESS

### EDITORIAL SERVICES

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

- **Interim editor**  
Bill Kirk on comments on overall editorial content and quality; 978-475-7000, ext. 8733, bkirk@andover-townsman.com
- **Reporter Judy Wakefield** at 978-475-7000, ext. 8726, or jwakefield@andover-townsman.com
- **Reporter Terry Date** at 978-475-7000, ext. 8723, or tdate@andover-townsman.com
- **Reporter Gabriella Cruz** at 978-475-7000, ext. 8732, or gcruz@andover-townsman.com
- **Sports Writer Dave Willis** at 978-946-2473; dwillis@andover-townsman.com.

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# TownsBeat

## Chanukah songlist mixes in Beach Boys music

By JUDY WAKEFIELD  
jwakefield@andovertownsmen.com

Wouldn't it be nice to truly switch gears and salute the Beach Boys at the annual Chanukah sing-a-long?

It's not a crazy idea as Andover's Temple Emanuel on Haggetts Pond Road always mixes up the song list at their annual Chanukah sing-a-long concert and this year was no different. This year mixed in Beach Boy tunes, like "Wouldn't It Be Nice," with traditional Chanukah songs. There were respectful suits and yamikas worn, blending in with festive Hawaiian shirts and casual ball caps at the concert held Friday, Dec. 11.

"We always have a theme and it was the Beach Boys this year. We want everyone to have fun," said Rabbi Robert Goldstein. "We've got several musical groups in our congregation, like the Soul Sisters and the Abbas, which is Hebrew for fathers, and everyone enjoys the night."

It was standing room only at the concert as 300 people attended, Goldstein said. It's one of the most popular events at the Temple as the congregation enjoys singing to celebrate their freedom.

Cuban, gospel and Spanish music have highlighted Chanukah sing-a-longs in the past. Chanukah started Sunday, Dec. 6 and ended Monday night, Dec. 14.

"We celebrate two birthrights - being Jewish and being American. We are very grateful to have our freedom," Goldstein said.

Every year the sing-a-long ends with a heartfelt rendition of "America the Beautiful."

"It's just a wonderful multi-generation sing-a-long...so many families come together. There were 1-month-old babies here and we went up to 70-years-old and older... it was a lot of fun," Goldstein said.



AMANDA SAGBA/Staff photos

Children of the religious school at Temple Emanuel perform their annual Chanukah Night of Music on Friday, Dec. 11. This year's event was themed after the Beach Boys.



Dressed appropriately in a Hawaiian shirt and ball cap to celebrate the Beach Boys theme, Dave Brown performs at Temple Emanuel's Chanukah Night of Music.



Children of the religious school at Temple Emanuel hosted their annual Chanukah Night of Music on Friday, Dec. 11.



Sam Gerber performs with other members of his band as part of the entertainment for Temple Emanuel's annual Chanukah Night of Music.



Cantor Idari Irelander leads the congregation as Temple Emanuel hosts their annual Chanukah Night of Music.

### ANDOVER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

#### DECEMBER

Thursday, Dec. 17

**PAJAMA STORY TIME WITH SANTA**, 6 p.m., Andover Historical Society, 97 Main St. Enjoy a quiet story hour with Santa as he reads "'Twas the Night Before Christmas" in the decorated Blanchard House; kids are encouraged to come in their pajamas; have a snack, explore the house, and take pictures with Santa; for toddlers to age 6; limited to 15 children; www.andoverhistorical.org.

Friday, Dec. 18

**MOVIE CLUB'S FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT**, Faith Lutheran Church,

360 South Main St., Andover. Families are invited to join members of the church's Movie Club for a screening of "Miracle on 34th Street"; the evening will begin with supper at 6:45 p.m., followed by the movie; free; 978-475-4059, www.faith-andover.org.

**SCREENING OF "A CHRISTMAS STORY,"** 6:30 p.m., Faith Lutheran Church, 360 South Main St., Andover. Ralphie has to convince his parents, his teacher, and Santa that a Red Ryder B.B. gun really is the perfect gift; children will watch classic Disney Christmas cartoons in the youth room; dessert and coffee will

be served during intermission; 978-475-4059.

Friday and Saturday, Dec. 18 and 19

**"SHREK JR.,"** Wood Hill Middle School, 11 Cross St., Andover. The annual school play will be performed at 7 p.m. on Friday and 2 and 7 p.m. on Saturday.

Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 19 and 20

**DANCE PRISM: THE NUTCRACKER**, 2:30 and 6:30 p.m. on Saturday and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, J. Everett Collins Center for the Performing Arts, 100 Shawshen Road, Andover. Tickets are \$20 for children and seniors, \$26 for adults; group

discounts offered; seating is reserved; handicapped seating is available and easily accessible; www.danceprism.com, 978-371-1038.

Through Sunday, Dec. 20

**"SAM CADY: STRUCTURES" EXHIBIT**, McCoy Gallery, Rogers Center for the Arts, Merrimack College, 315 Turnpike St., North Andover. The exhibition includes Cady's recent and early work; www.merrimack.edu/mccoy.

#### JANUARY

Tuesdays, Jan. 1 and 26

**BEHIND THE SCENES TOURS**, Tuesdays, Jan. 1, 1 to 2 p.m.; Jan. 26, 7 to 8 p.m., Andover

Historical Society, 97 Main St. Peek inside closets, pull aside curtains, and explore behind the scenes in the Blanchard House and Andover Historical Society. Tour the attics, closets, nooks and crannies and hear stories about rarely seen collections items. The stories will change with every tour, so there will always be something new to learn. Register online for a free tour at www.andoverhistorical.org/behind-the-scenes, call 978-475-2236 or email info@andoverhistorical.org.

Sunday, Jan. 24

**SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES FAIR**, noon to 3 p.m., Smith Center,

Phillips Academy campus, Andover. Representatives from more than 100 summer programs for middle and high school students will be present to talk with interested students and their families; admission is free and there is no need to register; sponsored by the Parents of Students of Phillips Academy (PSPA); www.pspaandover.org.

Sunday, Jan. 31

**ANDOVER CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERTS**, Bach's Magnificat in D, Vivaldi's Magnificat and Zelenka's Dixit Dominus, 3 p.m., North Andover

See CALENDAR, Page 14

# Local shop offers customized yoga pants

## Andover woman's 'Made-in-USA' clothing line an international sensation

By CAITLIN WALSH  
cwalshe@eagletribune.com

Rebecca McCrensky is the first to admit that the way she went about building her brand was a little unorthodox.

"I think most people generally start the reverse way, they usually start with a store and then move online," she said. "I'm kind of doing it backwards."

Luckily for her, it seems to have worked.

Located at 169 North Main St., across from Whole Foods, McCrensky's Altar Ego apparel store has opened its doors and is now selling her originally designed, printed yoga pants, tops, hoodies, boots and jewelry.

For the past year and a half, however, the yoga apparel company has been based online, where it blossomed into an internationally known brand with 1,500 "ambassadors" promoting it worldwide and an Instagram following of more than 18,000.

After seeing such success, and with much thought and consideration, McCrensky decided it was time to open a physical storefront, as well.

"As much as the virtual world is a huge opportunity, and you can sell to people whether it's in Mongolia or Australia or Paris, there's still something to be said for having a physical store," McCrensky said.

"People want to touch things, they want to try them on, they want to experience the brand," she said. "So as much as the Internet has been an amazing step for me, I do think having those components for the company, being able to offer that in-store experience, is going to really help."

Part of the draw for her bohemian-inspired styles, she suspects, is customer appreciation for American-made products and local businesses.

The manufacturing process for Altar Ego was an intricate one, something McCrensky has learned as

she has gone along.

Each new piece begins with a sketch she develops in collaboration with a graphic designer, who is based in Atlanta, Georgia. Then she sends the design and the fabric she purchases in bulk from Italy to be printed in Virginia. The printed pieces are then sent back and cut in Haverhill, and from there, McCrensky transports the cut pieces to a sewing company in Lowell.

"I do a lot of driving," she admitted. "I'm driving all over the place, all the time."

A native of Chelmsford who graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy, McCrensky, 34, points to her business background as a major factor in her success.

Her father, a builder, owns his own business, and she grew up with that influence. In 2010, she left her position with the women's specialty retailer Talbots and entered a two-year Master of Business Administration program at Babson College in Wellesley. After graduation



Rebecca McCrensky poses in front of her new store, named for her brand of yoga attire - Altar Ego. She owes much of the success of her business to the power of social media.

and a brief employment at Puma athletic wear, however, she decided to try her hand at something she had noticed

an emerging market for — printed yoga apparel.

Prior to the opening of the brick and mortar Altar Ego, McCrensky had been storing her inventory and running her business from the comforts of her parents' Andover home, where she's been living. She said she's been incredibly grateful for their support as she's launched the business.

She's also benefited by the assistance of a few Andover High School interns, whom she has hired to help her pack and ship product, manage the ever-growing Instagram account, and even occasionally model some of her clothing.

But mostly, she credits her success to the power of social media.

"The power of Instagram as a start-up is just unparalleled. It really gives people like me access that even five years ago you couldn't have," she said. "So for example, about 25 percent of my sales are international, and it's because of Instagram."

PAUL BILODEAU/Staff photo

**Two students at the Sandown North Elementary School in New Hampshire - Jaden Mwangi, left, and Kaylee Genualdo - help reveal an image of Lady Liberty made from crayons with the help of Andover-based artist Rob Surette.**



# Local artist and NH students craft portrait of Lady Liberty

By BREANNA EDELSTEIN  
bedelstein@eagletribune.com

Andover-based artist Rob Surette has struck again.

This time, he did it using 24,360 crayons and 350 students from the Sandown, N.H., North Elementary School.

One day last month in the school cafeteria, Surette got ready to unveil a project that had been a couple months in

the making.

When the artist, who has a studio in Andover but lives in North Andover, first went to Sandown back in September, he had plenty of crayons, Elmer's Glue, pieces of plywood and the idea to create a portrait of the Statue of Liberty.

Over several days of art classes, every student in the school was given 10 crayons

to stick in an already constructed frame. None of them knew what the final image would be. Among the most common guesses were: Elvis, the Mona Lisa and a dragon.

Jaden Mwangi, a fifth grader, said "the most exciting part was seeing what it was going to be."

He was one of several students who stood on stage and clutched a black sheet that shrouded the 400-pound final product. When the image was revealed, teachers and students were audibly impressed.

"The Statue of Liberty was a gift from France," Surette told students. "So we're going to be putting together a package with photographs of what we made to show the president of France."

Surette is working with a connection at the French Consulate in Boston to assure that happens.

There's a bigger take-away message here, he said: Everyone has to do their part for something to be successful.

"If everyone in New Hampshire, and everyone in the United States, and everyone in North America and everyone in the world does their part," he said. "We will come up with a masterpiece."

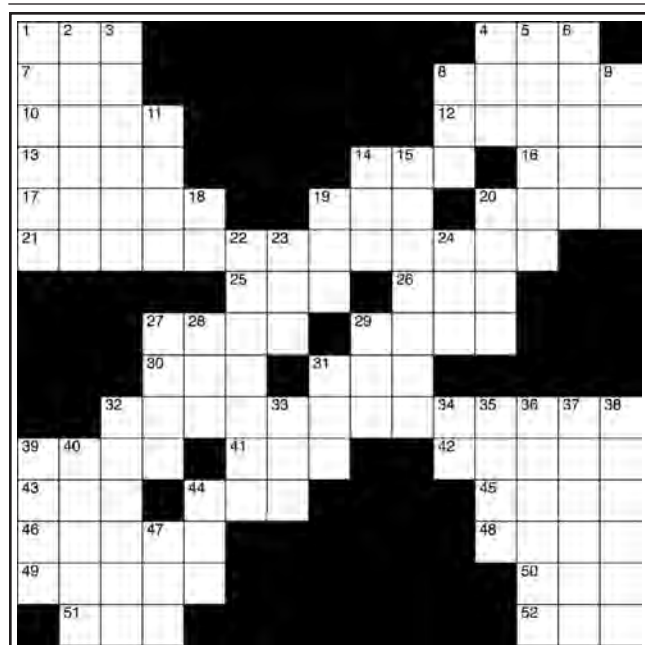
Surette has made other masterpieces with students out of oddities before, including a portrait of Tom Brady with Andover kids using crayons in April of this year.

Surette's resume includes setting a Guinness World Record for creating the largest Lite-Brite picture, using nearly 9,000 lipsticks to depict pop star Nicki Minaj, also record-setting, and using 17,000 gumballs for a portrait of Taylor Swift.

So, why crayons? After breaking the already-existing Lite Brite record, he thought, "What else can I use as dots?" He's also worked with Post-Its, push pins and LEGOs.

Surette describes himself as "the kid who never grew up."

"This is my second time doing something like this in a school," he said. "I like to spread the message that kids really can do whatever they want. I wasn't great at drawing when I was little, I worked really hard at it. And that's what I like them to know."



Solution in Classified Section

### CLUES ACROSS

1. Teletype (Computers)
4. Loose-fitting sleeveless garment
7. They \_\_\_
8. Extinct Turkish Caucasian language
10. Tall N Zealand timber tree
12. Piedmont city on the River Gesso
13. Buri \_\_, storyteller
14. Made up of 50 states
16. Not or
17. Given a monetary penalty
19. Unnilpentium
20. ISU town
21. Equality for everyone
25. A lyric poem with complex stanza forms
26. Actress Farrow

27. Scottish caps
29. Gobblers
30. \_\_\_ Lilly, drug company
31. Process an animal hide
32. Describe in perfect detail
39. 1000 calories
41. American National Bank (abbr.)
42. MN 55121
43. Everyone
44. Substitute
45. Rubber, marching or head
46. Dance Latin rhythm
48. Inside of
49. A way to let know
50. Morning moisture
51. Point midway between S and SE
52. Sales messages

### CLUES DOWN

1. Duty
2. Whatchamacallit
3. A citizen of Yemen
4. \_\_\_ Dhabi, Arabian capital
5. Nickname
6. One seeded fruit (alt. sp.)
8. Fiddler crabs
9. Troughs of bricks
11. Exploiter
14. Atomic #104
15. Italian ice-cream
18. Algerian dinar
19. Consume
20. Macaws
22. Insignificantly small
23. Tooth caregiver

24. Direct toward
27. Bluish green
28. Caliph
29. Faucet
31. The bill in a restaurant
32. Capital of Tocantins, Brazil
33. Explosive
34. The most abundant of the rare-earth group
35. Japanese sock
36. Kampala is the capital
37. Raged
38. Provides with property
39. Miniature racing vehicle
40. Signs
44. Express pleasure
47. Bridge-building degree

12/17/15

## CALENDAR

Continued from Page 13

High School auditorium; and Mozart's "Coronation" Mass and Schubert's "Mass No. 3 in B-Flat Major," Saturday, May 14, 2016, 7:30 p.m., St. Augustine's Church, 35 Essex St., Andover; both concerts will feature a professional orchestra and soloists; the non-audition chorus is open to the entire community, www.andoverchoralsociety.org.

### FEBRUARY

Through Feb. 5  
**STEPHEN J. SILK EXHIBITION**, Gelb Gallery, George Washington Hall, Phillips Academy campus, 5 Chapel Ave., Andover. Silk currently teaches visual arts to students in grades two to four in Lawrence; his studio is located in Lowell; all are welcome to view the artist's creative works; the gallery is open during school business hours and is handicapped accessible; www.andover.edu.

**Sunday, Feb. 7**  
**MISTRAL CONCERT**, "Of Love and Remembrance" Valentine Concert, 4 p.m., Temple Emanuel, 7 Haggetts Pond Road, Andover; tickets are \$30 for general admission and \$25 for seniors; program is subject to change; www.mistralmusic.org.

### APRIL

**Sunday, April 10**  
**MISTRAL CONCERT**, "Sense and Sensibility," 5 p.m., West Parish Church, 129 Reservation Road, Andover; tickets are \$30 for general admission and \$25 for seniors; program is subject to change; www.mistralmusic.org.

### ONGOING

**TREBLE CHORUS OF NEW ENGLAND**, now welcoming singers ages 6 to 18; the informal auditions are quick and simple; prepared pieces are not required; www.treblechorusne.org, tcnemanager@treblechorusne.org.

**ANDOVER CHRONICLERS**, The Andover Chroniclers visited Bread and Roses in Lawrence

and will report on the good work this institution is doing to feed the needy. In the second segment we will talk about feeding your garden. Learn about composting using worms. This show and past shows can be viewed on the Andover Community Channels Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday at 9 a.m.; Wednesday and Saturday at 7 p.m.; Friday at 6:30 p.m.; Channel 8 - Comcast or Channel 47 - Verizon. The show is produced by the Andover Chroniclers, an all volunteer group. For more information, call the Center at Punchard at 978-623-8321. New members welcome. No prior experience needed. Email: seniorcenter@andoverma.gov, subject line: Skip Wilkins.

**PALMERS RESTAURANT**, Live music, Fridays and Saturdays, 9 p.m. to midnight; no cover charge; Friday, Dec. 18, Point of View; Saturday, Dec. 19, Marybeth Maes; Saturday, Dec. 26, White Lightnin' Band; Thursday, Dec. 31, Soul Income; Saturday, Jan. 2, Flair Band; Friday, Jan. 8, Hal Holiday and the No Tones; Saturday, Jan. 9, Shuffle Mode; Friday, Jan. 15, Perfect Crime; Saturday, Jan. 16, Section #42; Friday, Jan. 22, Savasha; Saturday, Jan. 23, Random Acts; Friday, Jan. 29, Jah Spirit Reggae; Saturday, Jan. 30, The Swamptones; 18 Elm St., Andover; 978-470-1606, www.palmers-restaurant.com.

**SPECTRUM CHILDREN'S CHORUS**, rehearses on Thursdays, 5:30 p.m., Andover North Boston Korean United Methodist Church, 244 Lowell St. The mission of the church's multicultural chorus is to reflect on the diversity of the world, widen students' perspectives, and instill cross cultural understandings and harmonization through music and dancing; all children are welcome; registration, auditioning and rehearsal dates are available at www.spectrumchildrenschorus.org, email spectrumchildrenschorus@gmail.com, 978-269-4198.

**KARMA**, Live band music, Thursday through Saturday; 209 North Main St. (Shawshen Plaza), Andover; 978-809-3075, www.KarmaAndover.com.

**ADDISON GALLERY OF AMERICAN ART**, The new exhibitions were inspired by artists' friendships and collaborations: "Converging Lines: Eva Hesse and Sol LeWitt," "In Tandem: Inspirations and Collaborations," and "Words in Air: Jennifer Caine and Rachel Hellman in Collaboration"; free admission to gallery and all programs; located on the Phillips Academy campus, 3 Chapel Ave., Andover; 978-749-4015, www.addisongallery.org.

**GELB GALLERY**, located in George Washington Hall, Phillips Academy campus, 180 Main St., Andover; open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; parking is available on Chapel Avenue and in the lot next to the Andover Inn; www.andover.edu.

**ALPERS FINE ART**, located at 96 Main St., Andover. "Terrain," a solo show by eastern Massachusetts artist Roy Perkinson, is currently on display; fall hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sundays; other times by appointment; 978-760-1829, www.alpersfineartonline.com.

**THE NEW ENGLAND CLASSICAL SINGERS**, holding auditions for all parts, South Church, 41 Central St., Andover. The 30 voice SATB choral group, based in Andover, performs three concerts during the season, in December, March and May; rehearsals are held on Wednesdays, 7:15 to 9:45 p.m.; auditions consist of voice quality and placement, vocal range placement, sight reading ability, and aural recognition; a solo piece is not required; singers should have choral experience and sight reading ability; www.newenglandclassical.org.

**ANDOVER DCS**, 36 Bartlet St., offers a number of different programs for adults, youth and children; www.AndoverDCS.com, 978-623-8274.

## Santa is coming



The Mall at Rockingham Park hosted a Kidgits "Santa is Coming" event on Saturday, Nov. 14. Area children came ready to meet Santa and to enjoy a morning of crafts including snowman wreaths, holiday posters, card making, reindeer food, and more, as well as story time and photos with the jolly guy himself. Here, Nicole Holquin, age 5, of Andover, visits with Santa.



RYAN HUTTON/ Staff photos

Sitting on his father's shoulders, a youngster gazes at the brightly lit Ballardvale Christmas tree on the Ballardvale Green on a recent Sunday evening.

# TREE IS UP AND DELIGHTFUL

The holiday tree lighting on Ballardvale Green was its usual success as many neighborhood residents enjoyed the popular event.

Tradition always includes a sing-a-long led by two former town officials and this year was no different. Former longtime selectman Brian Major and former Town Manager Richard Bowen, who live in the Ballardvale section of town, led the carol singing.

Attendees also enjoyed hot chocolate refreshments and munchies provided by neighbors.



While munching on a cookie, Lucas Sarno, 7, looks over a group of electric candles at the Ballardvale Christmas tree lighting.



Children walk around the freshly lit Ballardvale Christmas tree on the Ballardvale Green.



Beth and Scott Deleo enjoy the festive, Ballardvale Christmas tree on the Ballardvale Green.

## All those years ago

COMPILED BY  
SUSAN MCKELIGET

### 100 years ago December 17, 1915

The delivery wagon of Burns the tailor, and L.E. Elliott's auto collided on Phillips street Saturday afternoon, but little damage was done. The horse attached to the wagon ran away but John Carse who was driving finally stopped it before going very far.

The students of Phillips Academy have contributed \$60 in aid of Belgian women rendered homeless by the war under the direction of the International Y.M.C.A.

Several electric light poles were blown down in the village during the furious storm on Monday evening. The village was in darkness during most of the night. Considerable difficulty was experienced by the railroad men in keeping their switches in working order.

### 75 Years Ago December 19, 1940

The second most recently appointed member of the fire department, Eddie Buchan, was presented with the position of fire chief by the Selectmen on Monday. For many reasons the appointment will meet with popular

approval. A personable young man, only 40 years old, Eddie has a combination of firmness tempered with common sense that is a very necessary quality in his new position.

The Shawsheen youngsters had a "grand time" yesterday afternoon at the Crystal Ballroom and tonight the oldsters will make merry. Refreshments, entertainment and dancing are all on the program with prizes to be awarded for the specialties. If you live in Shawsheen, you'll want to be like Santa Claus and be there with bells on.

Wherever you go, whatever you do in the next few days,

be certain of one thing. Have a very Merry Christmas!

### 50 Years Ago December 16, 1965

It is a brief but action-packed meeting Tuesday, the Board of Selectmen Tuesday, voted to initiate proceedings to take the Shorten Garage property on Park street by eminent domain. Offered will be \$26,300 the assessed value of the location which abuts present town property.

The Board of Selectmen reported Tuesday that efforts to forestall an increase in residential fire insurance rates and to reduce rates for business and industry have

paid off. Legal counsel for the State Department of Education said this week that the Andover school department has no legal responsibility to provide health services for any children except those enrolled in the town's public schools.

### 25 Years Ago December 20, 1990

"Skateboarding isn't a crime" reads a popular bumper sticker on several cars parked at Andover High School. But try telling that to the seven or eight teenagers who are routinely told by police to take their boards

and leave the Memorial Hall library parking lot and other downtown Andover sites. "There's no place to skate in town where people don't get mad" and tell you to leave, said Brian Twomey, 33 Kathleen Drive, a sophomore at Andover High.

The winner of the Andover Townsman's Holiday Decorating Contest is Courtney's Collections, 39 Main St.

Konjoians Greenhouses, 221 Chandler Road, has been selected as a Green Thumbs Up Award recipient for 1990 for its outstanding earth-friendly efforts.

# Townspeople

## Shoppers stroll a work in progress

By JUDY WAKEFIELD  
jwakefield@andovertownsmen.com

It's a gaining holiday tradition that downtown businesses support, but letting shoppers know about the Holiday Stroll could, perhaps, use some carolers singing on Main Street to get the word out.

"Lots of folks showed up to shop at the Holiday Stroll, but, we know we need to let more people know about it ... maybe we should have music playing or something," said Holly Nahabedian, president of the Andover Business Center Association.

She said the Dec. 4 event was just the second year for the stroll and it continues to "gain momentum." The idea is for shoppers to stroll from store to store as the businesses extend hours and shoppers do some holiday shopping.

"A lot of businesses said it was good, but not everyone," Nahabedian said. "We need to do some work on it and we will."

The Holiday Stroll will be back next year, she said, and one store manager said it would be great if more people knew about it.

Lisa Schiavone, manager at Helen Thomas Simply Smashing at 90 Main St., said business was good as her store stayed open until almost 10 p.m. But, few customers knew it was the Holiday Stroll night.

"I just think people need to know about it. It's great that it happened but few knew about it," Schiavone said.

Schiavone remembers the Holiday Strolls of yesteryear when her mother ran the store and shoppers strolled along Main Street because they knew about the event.

"That was years ago and it was fun," she said.

At Sense of Wonder on the other side of Main Street, business was also good. But, owner Jay Smith said customers were sale strolling. The store is closing Dec. 31 and everything is at least 20 percent off.

"We had customers ... it was good," he said. "But, I know they wanted to see what's on sale."

He said it's simply time "to do something else," and that's why he is closing his store which has been on Main Street for the past three years.

The store was located at Eaglewood Shops in North Andover for three years before it moved to Andover.



Madison Renken, left, and Jenna Richardson, both 13, look over items for sale at Helen Thomas Simply Smashing during the recent Holiday Shopping Stroll sponsored by The Andover Business Community Association.



Courtney and Adam Lundquist look over a pair of pants for sale at Izzy's during the Holiday Shopping Stroll earlier this month.



Ava Facella, left, and Emily Damico, both 13, look over a fleece hooded robe for sale at Helen Thomas Simply Smashing during the Shopping Stroll.

## Seeking crafters for Crafts in the Park

By JUDY WAKEFIELD  
jwakefield@andovertownsmen.com

It's time to open that 2016 daybook and put Andover's popular annual Crafts in the Park in your schedule. The event will be held on Saturday, May 7, 2016 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine. And, crafters are needed.

Applications are now being accepted for the event which is entering its 41st year. It is Andover's oldest juried crafts fair.

Crafts in the Park is a fundraiser sponsored by Christ Church Andover. Proceeds from the fair are used to support the church's mission and outreach to the local community, including Habitat for Humanity, Esperanza Academy, Bread and Roses, Neighbors in Need, Lazarus House, and the Merrimack Valley Project.

The church also sponsors The Christ Church Children's Center preschool program, the Andover Thrift Shop, and provides a diverse and enriching music program with scheduled

events open to the public.

Organizer Karen Herman said amateur and professional crafts people are invited to apply to display and sell their original craft work. The online application needs to be filed immediately to be included in the initial jury process. All application submissions require digital photographs of the craft, a website address, if available, and photographs of the craft's display.

Notification of participation will be confirmed by Feb. 29, 2016. Send the \$100 booth fee which includes a \$25 non-refundable jury fee and a No. 10 self-addressed stamped envelope to: Andover Crafts in The Park, P.O. Box 685, Andover, MA 01810.

A refund, less the \$25 jury fee, will be sent to crafters not accepted in this year's show. No additional sales commissions are charged beyond the booth fee. Food vendors require additional permits from the Town of Andover.

For more information, email jury@craftsinthepark.com or visit craftsinthepark.com.



Crafts in the Park is always a popular event, as seen from this 2014 file photo. Next year the event will be held Saturday, May 7.

## ANA Synchro kicks off season with first-place ribbons

By JUDY WAKEFIELD  
jwakefield@andovertownsmen.com

North Andover-Andover Synchronized swimming athletes earned six first-place ribbons, seven second-place ribbons and seven third-place ribbons at its first meet of the season, the 2015 New England Figure Invitational held on Nov. 22 at Wheaton College in Norton.

ANA Synchro's 10 & Under and 11-12 Intermediate athletes swept their events, capturing all 1st through 8th places. Over 200 athletes from 11 teams across Massachusetts and New Hampshire competed at the meet.

Unlike most competitions where athletes perform routines choreographed to music, the Figure Invitational featured only the technical elements of the sport, known as "figures." Athletes had to execute four different figures, each with their own strict positions and speed protocols. Figures get progressively more complex as the athletes advance into the older age groups.

"Perfecting figures to an exact protocol is very difficult," said ANA Synchro Head Coach Leah Pinette. "It takes a lot of practice, focus, and attention to details. We concentrate on strength conditioning, flexibility, and endurance in the early part of the season to help with figure training. With such a strong showing here, the athletes have a great foundation for the rest of the season."

ANA Synchro individual figure awards include: 8-and-under novice: Sophia



ANA Synchro Novice and Intermediate athletes competed at the 2015 New England Figure Invitational held at Wheaton College. First row, sitting (l-r): Margaret Fry, Sydney Wood, Sabrina He, Genesis Nunez, Alicia Zhang, Threya Devan, Audrey Haskell, Chloe Todisco, Marina Ten, and Katherine Wang; second row, kneeling (l-r): Isha Mehta, Margie Gao, Jingru Zhao, Jillian Alden, Julie Mahoney, Annabel Tu, Hannah Chen, Sophia Xu, Maura Krueger, Erika Wojcik, Caroline Bedard, and Sophia Venetiou; third row, standing (l-r): Kate McCready, Isabella Falco, Pia Lee, Aisling Stack, Lucy Topping, Mercy Rule, Eleanor Kahn, Lily Brown, Sofia Sampedro, Mara Duran-Clark, Dia Arora, and Emma Pantazi; fourth row, standing: Caitlin Robinson, Gabriela Estrella, Ysabella Ouyang, Mariana Boullie, Madeline Koenig, Isabella Hesselton, Ashely Morin, Mia Hayes, Ilinca Hirtopanv, Addison Earle, Rachel Cordio, Anyé Kachulis-Moriarty, Maitri Naik, and Jill Shechter.

Venetiou (1st) of Andover, Genesis Nunez (2nd) of Lawrence, and Margie Gao (3rd) of Andover.

9-10 novice: Sabrina He (2nd) and Audrey Haskell (3rd) of Andover; Threya Devan (4th) of North Andover; Chloe Todisco (6th) and Marina Ten (8th) of Andover.

11-12 novice: Ilinca Hirtopanv (2nd), Jill Shechter (3rd), Dia Arora (5th), and Caroline Bedard (7th), all of Andover.

13 & Over Novice: Gabriela Estrella (1st) of North Andover, and Jillian Alden (3rd) of Andover.

10 & Under Intermediate: Erika Wojcik (1st) of North Andover; Lily Brown (2nd), Hannah Chen (3rd), and Annabel Tu (4th) of Andover; Ashley Morin (5th) of Dracut; Julie

Mahoney (6th) and Sophia Xu (7th) of Andover; and Eleanor Kahn (8th) of North Andover.

11-12 Intermediate: Anyé Kachulis-Moriarty (1st) of North Andover; Pia Lee (2nd), Aisling Stack (3rd), Sofia Sampedro (4th), and Rachel Cordio (5th) of Andover; Madeline Koenig (6th) of North Reading; Mariana Boullie (7th) and Mara Duran-Clark (8th) of Andover.

13 & Over Intermediate: Caitlin Robinson (1st) of North Andover; Mia Hayes (3rd), Ysabella Ouyang (4th), Maitri Naik (5th), and Addison Earle (7th) of Andover.

13-15 Age Group: Reverie Nedde (2nd) and Lakshita Motwani (8th) of Andover.

16-17 Age Group: Grace Alwan (1st) and Sophia Ju

(2nd) of Andover.

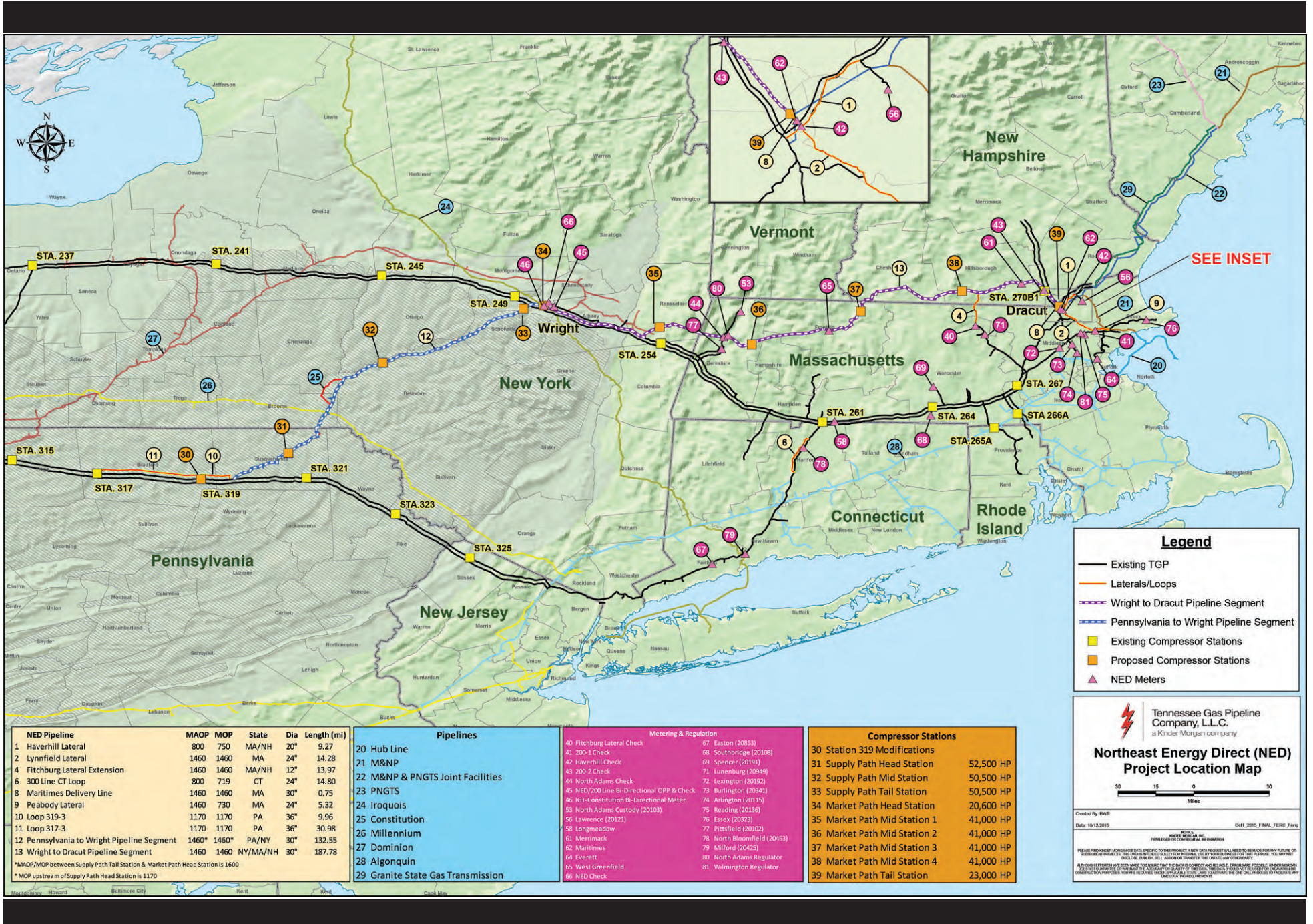
Pinette is in her third year coaching ANA Synchro. Prior to joining ANA Synchro, Pinette was a 9-time US National Team member and the captain of the 2011-2012 U.S. Olympic Selection Team.

ANA Synchro is the competitive synchronized swimming team of the Andover/North Andover YMCA. Girls wishing to join the team or try the sport for the first time should contact Head Coach Leah Pinette at 978-685-3541, lpinette@mvmymca.org. Introductory "Synchro Splash" sessions meet twice a week and are held regularly throughout the year.

For more information, contact Pinette at 978-685-3541, lpinette@mvmymca.org.



# Notice of Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company L.L.C.'s Proposed Northeast Energy Direct Project



Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C. ("Tennessee") plans to construct a project referred to as the Northeast Energy Direct Project ("NED Project" or "Project"). Tennessee, a Kinder Morgan company, is an interstate natural gas transmission pipeline company that is subject to the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC" or "Commission"). Tennessee has been in operation since 1943 and its principal office is located at 1001 Louisiana Street, Houston, Texas 77002. Tennessee proposes to expand and modify its existing pipeline system in Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Connecticut. The NED Project is being developed to meet the increased demand in the Northeast United States ("U.S.") for transportation capacity of natural gas.

On November 20, 2015, Tennessee filed an Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("Application") with the Commission for authorization to construct, install, modify, operate, and maintain pipeline and compression facilities to be located in Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Connecticut, as described below. The Commission assigned Docket No. CP16-21-000 to the certificate proceeding.

The NED Project will provide new firm natural gas transportation capacity to meet the growing energy needs in the Northeast U.S., particularly in New England. The Supply Path Component, as defined in the Application, will transport up to 1.2 billion cubic feet per day ("Bcf/d") of natural gas, and the Market Path Component, as defined in the Application, will transport up to 1.3 Bcf/d of natural gas. The proposed Project involves the following facilities:

- Approximately 41 miles of pipeline looping on Tennessee's 300 Line in Pennsylvania;
- Approximately 133 miles of new pipeline, of which 102 miles are proposed to be generally co-located with the certificated Constitution Pipeline Project (FERC Docket Number CP 13-499-000) in Pennsylvania and New York (extending from Tennessee's existing 300 Line near Auburn, Pennsylvania to Wright, New York);
- Approximately 54 miles of pipeline generally co-located with Tennessee's existing 200 Line and an existing utility corridor in New York;
- Approximately 64 miles of pipeline generally co-located with an existing utility corridor in Massachusetts;
- Approximately 70 miles of pipeline generally co-located with an existing utility corridor in New Hampshire (extending southeast to Dracut, Massachusetts);
- Approximately 58 miles of various laterals and pipeline looping segments in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Connecticut to serve local markets;
- Construction of nine new compressor stations and 15 new meter stations, and modifications to an existing compressor station and 14 existing meter stations throughout the Project area; and
- Construction of appurtenant facilities, including mainline valves, cathodic protection, and pig facilities through the Project area.

Please see the enclosed map for the locations of Project activities.

To the extent that it is practicable, feasible, and in compliance with existing law, Tennessee proposes to locate proposed pipeline facilities (either pipeline looping segments or co-located pipeline facilities) generally within or adjacent to its existing right-of-way associated with its existing 300 Line in Pennsylvania and Connecticut; its existing 200 Line in New York and Massachusetts; and existing utility (pipeline and powerline) corridors in Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire.

Tennessee is requesting issuance of a certificate order for the Project in the fourth quarter of 2016 and proposes to commence construction activities in January 2017, in anticipation of placing the Project facilities in-service by November 2018 (with the exception of the proposed pipeline loop in Connecticut, which will be placed in-service by November 2019), consistent with the terms and conditions of the precedent agreements executed with Project shippers.

During construction, restoration, and mitigation activities for the Project, Tennessee will follow the Project-specific Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation and Maintenance Plan and the Wetland and Waterbody Construction and Mitigation Procedures, which will incorporate the provisions from the Commission's Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation and Maintenance Plan and the Commission's Wetland and Waterbody Construction and Mitigation Procedures.

If you are interested in reviewing Tennessee's Application for the Project, an electronic copy of the public version of the complete Application is available for public viewing at public libraries located in each county where the Project will be located. A list of the locations where the Application can be accessed is included in the Environmental Report, Resource Report 1, included with the Application, and is also available on the Project's website: [http://www.kindermorgan.com/business/gas\\_pipelines/east/neenergydirect/](http://www.kindermorgan.com/business/gas_pipelines/east/neenergydirect/).

Additionally, a copy of Tennessee's Application is available for viewing on the Commission's website at [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov). Also available on this website is the Commission's most recent landowner pamphlet entitled "An Interstate Natural Gas Facility on My Land? What Do I Need To Know?" The pamphlet includes the FERC's summary of landowner rights at FERC. You may reach the Commission through its website or by calling the Commission's Office of External Affairs at (866) 208-3372.

Should your property be directly affected by this Project, a representative of Tennessee will contact you in the near future to discuss the Project. Tennessee has mailed notices to landowners directly affected by this Project, to landowners whose property abuts the Project, and to local government entities. If you have not received such a notice, your property is most likely not affected.

Tennessee strives to be a good neighbor as it provides a safe, clean, and reliable source of energy to the nation's consumers and industry. Questions concerning this Project may be directed to Tennessee at (844) 277-1047.

# SCORE!...as AHS Girls' hockey team holds its popular Santa fundraiser

Just like a successful goal, it was an aim, shoot, and smile strategy at the Santa Breakfast for the Andover High School's girls hockey team.

For years, the team has been taking photographs of local children sitting with Santa at the popular Santa's Breakfast, held Dec. 5. Coffee, hot chocolate and munchkins were plentiful. There were craft tables hosted by Andover Historical Society, Andover Coalition for Education and Century Bank. In addition, there were books and Andover scarves for sale and raffles.

"Attendance is always high as this has become a tradition for many families to attend. It was lots of fun for everyone," said Holly Nahabedian, vice president/branch manager at Century Bank and president of the Andover Business Center Association.

ABCA hosts the breakfast while the hockey team sells their "smiling with Santa" photographs to parents as a way to raise money for the team.



Members of the girls varsity hockey team gather around one of the participants at their Breakfast with Santa workshop and fund-raiser earlier this month.

## Community service

As part of their community service project, Cub Scout Pack 79 of Andover created 32 'Birthdays in a Bag' for The Wish Project in Lowell. Scouts donated birthday-themed decorations and favors along with cake mixes, frosting, and paper goods to create a pop-up birthday experience for children who otherwise may not be able to enjoy such a special experience.



## Looking for volunteers!

Townsmen to highlight hard-working, non-paid people of Andover

The Andover Townsman is looking for a few good men. And women. And even kids, for that matter. Next month the newspaper is launching a new feature, "Volunteer of the Week."

The idea is to celebrate the many people who volunteer in town in any capacity to make Andover a better place to live.

It can be a member of a board or commission who takes up their own, personal time attending meetings that help govern the town.

Or it could be a senior citizen who helps out by reading at a local school.

It could be a student volunteering at a soup kitchen. Or a parent pitching in at their child's school, Cub

Scout troop, church or sports team. It could be a coach, a referee or, in something unique to Andover - an AVIS property caretaker.

If you'd like to nominate someone, send an email to Bill Kirk, editor of the Andover Townsman, at bkirk@andovertownsmen.com. Or call 978-623-8733.

If you already have the information about the person, send that along with a photo. If not, let us know and we can conduct the interview and take a photo.

We basically need to know the following: Name, age, volunteer position, why they volunteer, how long they have volunteered, what they like about it and what they get out of it. So, let us know! We want to celebrate volunteers!



Instructor Lourdes Oramos of Yang's Fitness in Dundee Park leads a fundraising class to raise money for local charities.

## \$2,700 raised at Yang's to benefit charities

STAFF REPORT

Yang's Fitness & Martial Arts Center members and guests helped raise over \$2,700 during the months of October and November to benefit three charities.

Yang's, located in Dundee Park, is helping Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Lazarus House and the Andover Housing Authority. To support Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, various classes at Yang's were earmarked as fundraising classes and participants danced, lifted weights, stepped, stretched and cycled raising \$1,000 to benefit the Susan G. Komen group.

In November, Yang's and the Andover Rotary Club joined forces to provide Thanksgiving dinners to

needy families. Since 2001, members of Yang's and the Rotary have helped to provide over 2,300 turkeys to local residents during Thanksgiving.

This year, Yang's raised over \$1,700 to purchase of turkeys and Thanksgiving fixings for over 75 families supported by Lazarus House and over 50 residents of The Andover Housing Authority.

"The generosity of our members and Andover Rotarians always exceed our expectations," said Diana Kiesel, Yang's co-owner. "In addition, there was an outpouring of help from members in sorting and delivering the dinners to the families. So many of the volunteers were positively impacted by their participation."

### TOWN BRIEFS

#### Vote for your favorite holiday house

Andover DCS, in collaboration with the Andover Townsman, invites the community to take part in the annual Holiday House Decorating Contest.

Photos of houses decked out for the holidays will be posted on the Andover DCS Facebook page. The photograph with the most "likes" by Saturday, Dec.

19, at 5 p.m. will be the winner. The winner will be featured in the Andover Townsman and will be presented with the holiday house decorating trophy and a DCS gift certificate.

Vote for a favorite through Dec. 20 at [www.facebook.com/DCSAndover](http://www.facebook.com/DCSAndover).

#### Andover Girls Softball League now accepting registrations

Registration is now open for the 2016 Andover Girls Softball League's spring season. Teams will be offered in the 6U, 8U, 10U, 12U and 14U age divisions. Register now for early bird discounts.

Andover Girls Softball is also accepting registrations for a pitching clinic with Show Softball Academy's Courtney Pilcher, as well as preseason hitting and fielding clinics.

For more information or to sign up, visit [www.andover-girlssoftball.org](http://www.andover-girlssoftball.org).

American Training accepting donations for annual coat drive.

Help keep the community warm by donating coats and jackets to American Training's annual Coat Drive. Last year more than 100 coats were collected and thus, more than 100 community members were kept warm through the harsh winter. This year's goal is to collect even more coats and jackets. All donations will be distributed to those in need through this program and Anton's Coat Drive.

Donations can be made now through Feb. 1, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, at any of the three American Training locations: 6 Campanelli Drive, Andover; 150 Industrial Ave., Lowell; and 107 Audubon Road, Wakefield. For more information, visit [americantraininginc.com/coatdrive2015](http://americantraininginc.com/coatdrive2015).

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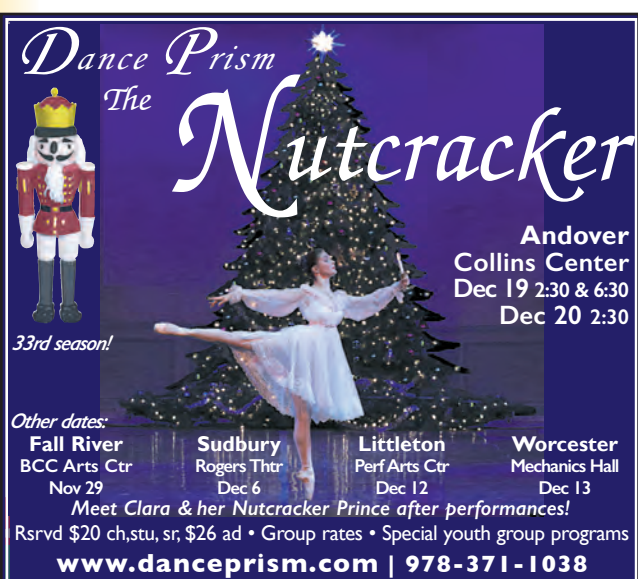
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# Sports

## FOR 'GRAMPA'

### After losing grandfather, Andover's Callahan leads shocking Thanksgiving comeback

By MICHAEL MULDOON  
Staff Writer

Jackson Callahan is nothing if not tough.

The Lowell Catholic High senior from Andover suffered a stress fracture in his back the first week of his freshman season. He tore his ACL early in his sophomore year. Late this summer, he contracted mono, lost nearly 15 pounds and couldn't leave the house for a week.

Thanksgiving week, the 6-2, 220-pound two-way starting lineman suffered a blow that hurt more than the back injury, the blown out knee or the mono.

That Monday he lost his beloved grandfather, Gerry Callahan Sr., 79, of Chelmsford, after a battle with colon cancer.

"He'd been sick for a while," said Callahan, an All-Catholic Central League lineman. "I knew it was coming, but I was still shocked."

The Crusaders played the night before Thanksgiving and Jackson never considered sitting it out.

"I knew he'd want me to play," he said.

The opponent was St. Clement, a team which waxed the Crusaders, 25-6, early in the season.

This looked like it might be even worse. It was 22-0 in the third quarter and in danger of being a blowout.

But LC stormed back and pulled out a thrilling 28-26 win. One of the big plays was a forced fumble by Callahan in the fourth quarter.

Everything felt different that Wednesday night.

"I usually listen to hip hop music to pump me up," said Callahan, who is being recruited by Curry, Endicott, Stonehill and Assumption. "On the bus, I just thought of my grandfather and how he'd be looking down on me. I wanted to make him proud."

The game was played right in the midst of his grandfather's death, wake and funeral on Friday and Saturday. Yet Jackson summoned the strength to do the job.

"He played harder than I've ever seen him play," said his mother, Tracy Callahan. "We were so proud of him."

His teammates helped him press on that Wednesday night.

"I tried not to cry but I did," he said. "My teammates comforted me."

The weeks before Gerry Sr.'s death were something no teen could prepare himself for.

"Three weeks before I talked to him and told him, 'You are my idol. I admire you more than anyone,'" said Jackson. "I had a game that Friday and said, 'I'm playing it for you.' I think it meant a lot to him. I had never said

anything that personal to him. It was just something I really wanted to tell him.

"He just smiled at me and said, 'Good man.' It made me feel great."

That was an emotional day but the Sunday before the game, the night before Grampa's death, would be even more heartwrenching.

He visited Gerry Sr. at the nursing home.

"He'd pretty much been asleep all day," said Jackson. "He wasn't talking to a lot of people. He could barely shake my hand. I was the last person he ever talked to."

#### Callahan family perseveres

Jackson is a Callahan and the Callahans know how to take a punch, dust themselves off and keep on going.

A self-described "chubby kid" who couldn't even make the Andover town travel A team in middle school, he's dealt with injury after trying injury.

He went from Lowell Catholic as a freshman to Proctor his sophomore year, but then decided Lowell Catholic was home and transferred back.

His father, WEEI sports radio host/Boston Herald sports columnist Gerry Callahan Jr., had a well-publicized battle with throat cancer in 2007-08. His mother had what was believed to be irreversible nerve damage in the lower part of her body a few years ago (she's nearly 100 percent now).

And now his grandfather's death two days before the biggest game of his young life.

Jackson learned from "Grampa" that life might not always be fair, but you can persevere through most anything. That's what Callahans do.

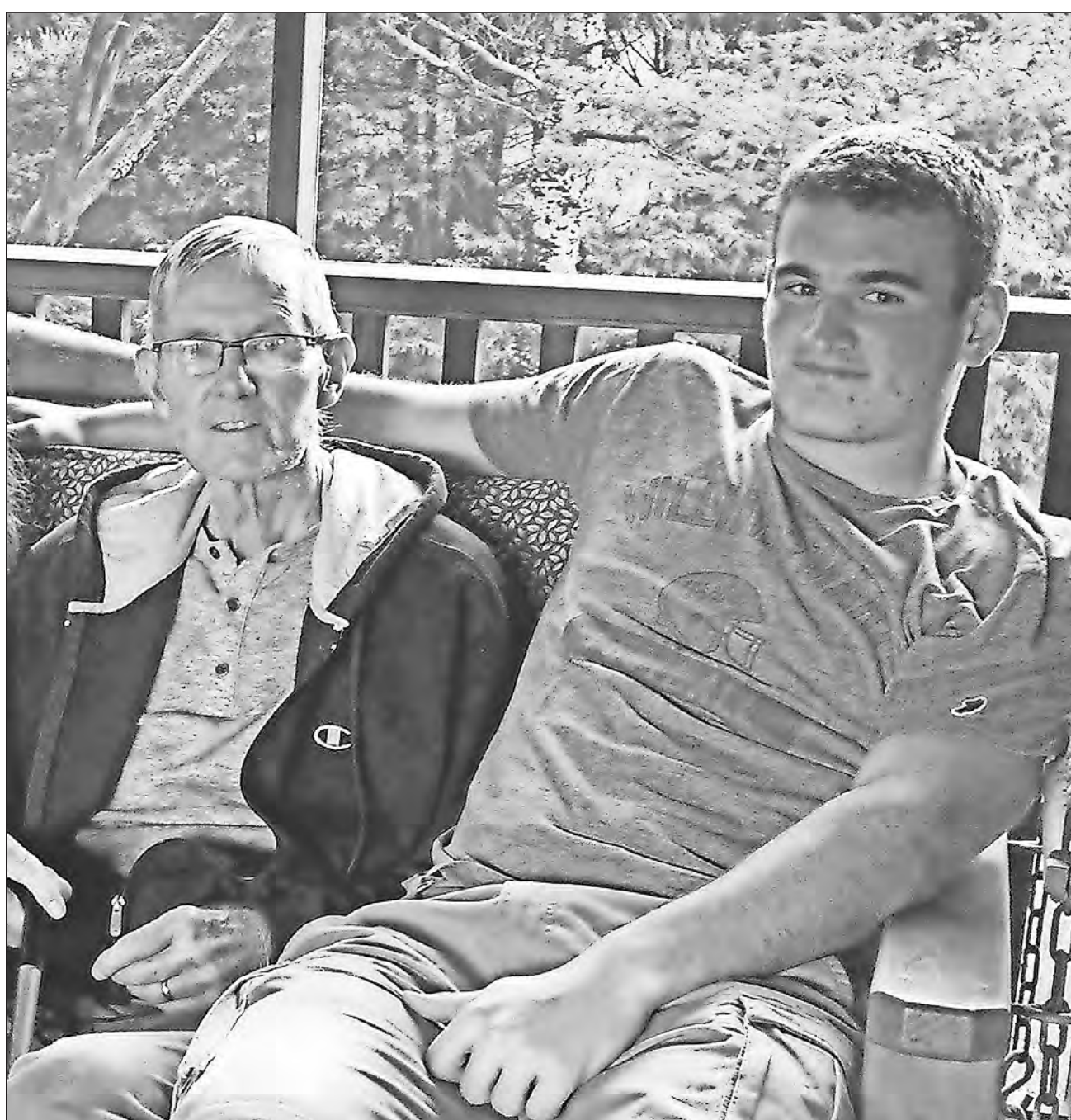
Jackson said, "He was really special to me. I looked up to him and admired him. Just a great guy. He took care of my grandmother for years. It was like a full-time job. He came to pretty much all my games."

"He came to my first scrimmage in August when he wasn't really doing well. He was in a wheelchair. It was a hot day. He probably shouldn't have come. But he got to see me running around with the team one last time."

The repeated body blows of serious injuries and major family health concerns tested him like a brutal exam. Every time he passed.

"Each time I grew a little bit," said Jackson. "After the death of my grandfather, I feel like a man now. That was like the final thing."

Jackson wrote inspirational messages to his grandfather on his cleats. He'd peer down during the



ABOVE: Courtesy photo

Jackson Callahan of Andover with his late grandfather, Gerry Callahan Sr.

Lowell Catholic All-Star lineman Jackson Callahan of Andover holds the cleats he wore during his final game. He had written inspirational messages on them about his grandfather, who had died two days before.

BELOW: RYAN HUTTON/ Staff photo

*"I tried not to cry but I did. My teammates comforted me."*

Jackson Callahan

St. Clement's game and see them: "So easy to love," and "RIP Grandpa" and "Never Forgotten".

Before the game, he listened to a year-old voice message from his grandfather.

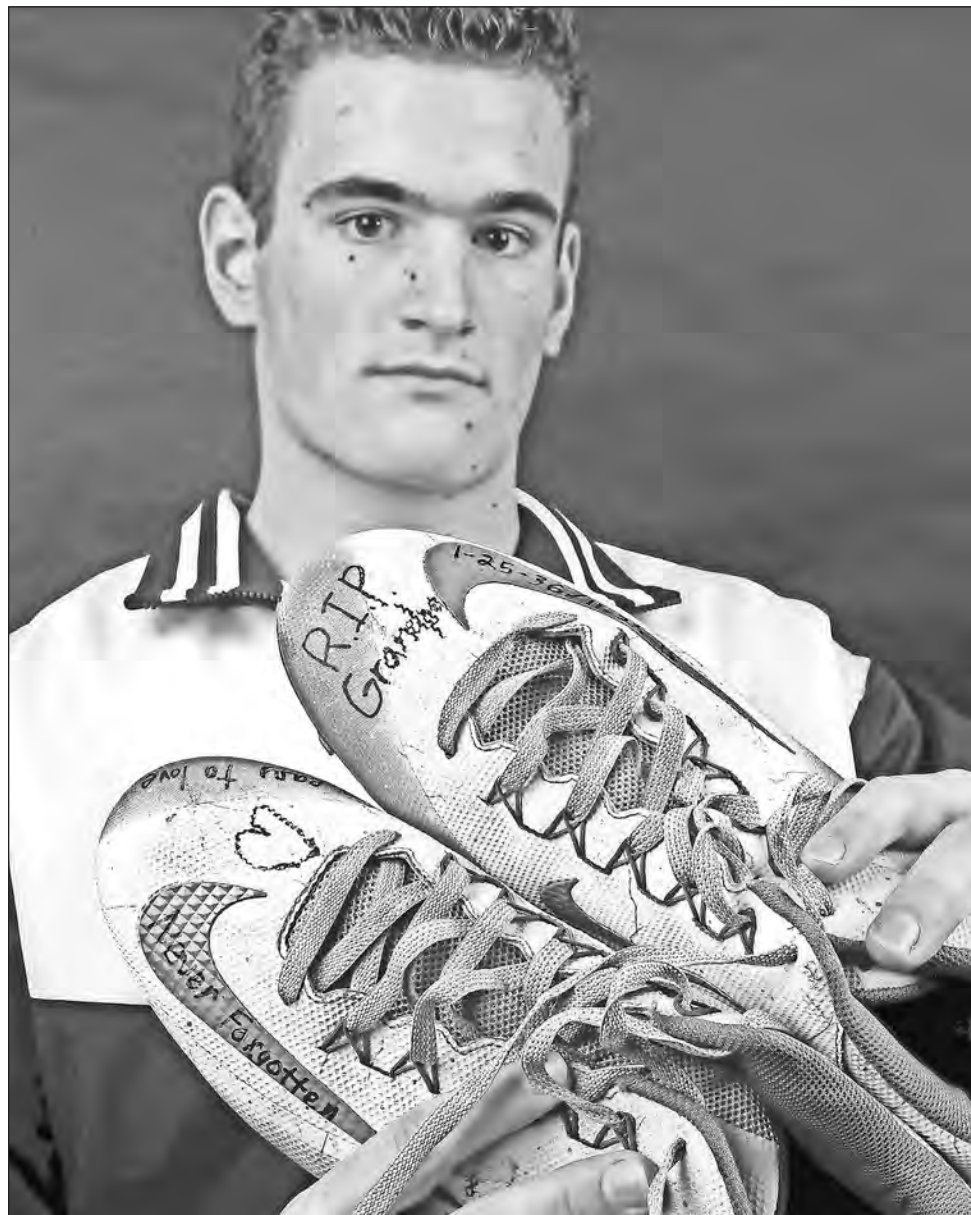
"I just wanted to hear his voice before the game," said Jackson. "I looked at a picture of him and me before the game and thought about the way he lived his life."

Jackson starred and the Crusaders pulled off the comeback that Coach Jason Houston told the Lowell Sun was "amazing" and "phenomenal."

His teammates gave Jackson the game ball.

"I'm actually holding it right now," he said. "I have it on my desk. Lately I've just been holding onto it. It means a lot to me."

His mother said, "Jackson's teammates went above and beyond expressing their condolences. Giving him the game ball was the highlight. Jackson laughed and cried after the game — hugging everyone a little tighter and a little longer than usual."



### Hughes earns field hockey MVP

#### Perry IV takes football honors

It was a big fall for Andover High sports, and Golden Warriors were well represented in the All-Merrimack Valley Conference teams.

Quarterback E.J. Perry IV rewrote the Andover High record books this fall with 2,852 yards and 34 touchdowns, earning him MVC Division 1 football Offensive Player of the Year. He was joined on the first team by receiver Dan Gemmell, lineman Arman Koul and linebacker Derek Dutton.

Andover field hockey continued to dominate the MVC,



CARL RUSSO/Staff Photo

Jillian Hughes led Andover back to the Division 1 North title game, and was named MVC D1 MVP.

#### Local Roundup

### Stamas, Andover wrestling red hot early in season

#### WRESTLING

Freshman Phillipas Menihatas (22 seconds), Matt Stamas (32 seconds) and Kelly Howard (55 seconds) scored quick pins as Andover and new coach Mike Bolduc opened with a 68-12 drubbing of Malden Catholic on Friday. Nate Dykstra (126) and Payton Heidtke (heavyweight) also scored wins by pin.

Led by a 2-0 day for Matt Stamas, Andover edged Phillips Academy 39-35 in

the Battle of Andovers on Saturday. The Golden Warriors also fell to wrestling power Brooks 51-20.

Also starring for the Warriors were Matt Marcotte (2-0), Matt Donahue (1-0) and Josh LePaige (1-0).

#### BOYS HOCKEY

Warriors drop opener Despite a goal by Nate O'Neil, Andover lost its opener 4-1 to Chelmsford on Saturday.

# ALL-STARS: Plethora of Andover athletes garner accolades for fall season

Continued from Page 20

and they placed four players on the All-Conference team. Leading the way was **Jillian Hughes**, who won MVP after scoring seven goals and leading the Warriors to the Division 1 North title game.

Perennial powerhouse Andover swimming was in its traditional dominant form on the way to a state title and nine athletes on the MVC All-Conference team.

The most frightening part for the state? Those All-MVC athletes include freshmen **Victoria Ambrose** and **Julia Donahue**, who each won individual titles.

Boys and girls soccer placed two athletes each on the All-MVC teams, including high-scoring **Veronica Alois** and multi-sport star **Steven Schuhwerk**.

Two Warrior coaches took Coach of the Year honors, legendary **Marilyn Fitzgerald** in swimming and **Maureen Noone** in field hockey.

## ALL-MVC FOOTBALL DIVISION 1 ALL-CONFERENCE

E.J. Perry IV, Jr., QB; Dan Gemmell, Jr., WR; Arman Koul, Sr., OT/DE; Derek Dutton, Sr., LB

ALL-STARS ANDOVER: Anthony Christopher, Matt Stamas, Brandon Marti, Jack Fortune

## HONORS

E.J. Perry IV (Offensive MVP)

## ALL-MVC FIELD HOCKEY

ALL-CONFERENCE Jillian Hughes, Sr., Caroline Curtin, Sr.; Brenna Keefe, Sr., Tori Roche, Sr.

ALL-STARS Katherine Devaney, Jr., Cailleigh Reming, Jr.

## HONORS

Jillian Hughes (Division 1 MVP)  
Coaches of the Year: Maureen Noone, Andover (Division 1 Coach of the Year)

## ALL-MVC SWIMMING

ALL-CONFERENCE Victoria Ambrose, Julia Donahue, Melissa Zhang, Sophia Ju, Rachel Landry, Mia Galat, Anna Carroll, Grace Alwan, Jordan Clements

ALL-STARS Nicole Carzo, Nikole Rudis, Jesse Ford, Elizabeth Flood, Jenna Bukowski

## HONORS

Marilyn Fitzgerald (Division 1 Coach of the Year)

## ALL-MVC BOYS SOCCER

ALL-CONFERENCE Steven Schuhwerk, Stas Curreri

ALL-STARS Raimi Huynh, Mouhammed Thiam

## ALL-MVC GIRLS SOCCER

ALL-CONFERENCE Veronica Alois, Emily O'Hara

ALL-STARS Isabelle Russo, Meredith Van Antwerp, Jenna Davison



Andover's Veronica Alois wrapped up her prolific high school soccer career with another season on the All-MVC team.

RYAN HUTTON/Staff Photo



Arman Koul, jumping, had plenty to celebrate this season. His work at offensive line and linebacker won him MVC All-Star honors.

CARL RUSSO/Staff photo




AMANDA SABGA/Staff Photo

Just a freshman, **Julia Donahue** led Andover to a state title and earned an All-MVC selection.

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

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# L'Italian meets with small business owners in downtown Andover

## She has visited 40 small businesses and local farms in her Senate district since summer

By BILL KIRK

It's not every day that a state senator walks into your business and starts asking questions about how things are going.

But that's just what happened recently at a half-dozen local shops when first-term state Sen. Barbara L'Italian, D-Andover, did a downtown walkabout that led her to speak face-to-face with small business owners.

"The only way I am going to know what issues are important to business owners and other residents in my communities is if people tell me," said L'Italian, chairman of the Legislature's Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure. "Our business walks have been fun, interesting and incredibly informative. Basically what we are trying to do is visit and learn about as many small businesses as we can to find out if there are ways we can help them."

The visit, part of a series of tours of businesses in her

district - made up of Andover, Dracut, Tewksbury and Lawrence - was appreciated by several of the folks involved.

"It was very good," said Andrei Bychkov, who owns Cute as a Button at 4 Main St. with his wife, Irini Astapova. "I was happy to meet her."

Bychkov said he started his business recently because there was no, comparable store in Andover at the time.

"It's just the beginning," he said. "I hope everything will go fine."

Mimi Queen, the owner of Sweet Mimi's, 94 Main St., said she was babysitting her grandchildren so didn't get to see the senator, but her husband Jeffrey was on-hand to say hello.

"I thought it was fantastic she took the time to come downtown," Queen said.

Enzo Fossella, owner of Enzo's of Andover at 91 Main St., #1, said it was nice to talk with L'Italian.

"They learn a lot and it's good for the community," said Fossella, known far and wide simply as Enzo. "More people in public office should



Sen. L'Italian with Heidi Janson of Tulle Bridals.

do that."

One of the things he said he wanted to try to impress on L'Italian is that despite forecasts of a strong economy, "not everything is rosy."

He said small businesses bear the same brunt of state regulations and taxes that big businesses do, but with fewer resources to handle them.

"We do all the things that General Motors does," he said. "There should be some kind of recognition according

to who we are."

He added, "we need to communicate to them - they are making harder than it needs to be. Something's got to change. Even the governor should go around, take a day, listen to us. The economy is not what it seems to be."

L'Italian has visited approximately 40 small businesses and local farms in Andover, Tewksbury, Dracut and Lawrence since summer as part of her Business Walks

in those communities.

She said in press release that she has tried to make business owners aware of various state grants they may be eligible for and connect them with groups that provide loans to small businesses, such as the Lawrence Partnership.

This year-old group of political, business and community leaders has partnered with local banks to set aside \$1 million for loans to small businesses and entrepreneurs in Lawrence.

Sen. L'Italian and her staff were joined on Monday's Business Walk by Holly Nahabedian of Century Bank, president of the Andover Business Community Association merchants group. Nahabedian updated Sen. L'Italian on the business group's plans for upcoming events and promotions throughout the month of December.

They also discussed some ideas for promoting Andover businesses such as an event to highlight downtown restaurants.

Several business owners on the tour questioned L'Italian about pending legislation and state regulations that affect or could affect their businesses.

At Andover Liquors, for example, owner Bob Gilbert wanted to discuss state and local regulations for beverage catering licenses as well as proposed legislation that could affect craft beer distribution and selling wine over the Internet.

At Yella Grille, owner Danielle Berdahn was interested in another bill being vetted in the Legislature that proposes to increase the minimum wage for restaurant workers who receive tips.

Sen. L'Italian is planning more business walks in the near future in Andover as well as her other communities. Owners interested in having the senator visit their business should feel free to contact her Boston office at 617-722-1612. She can also be reached by emailing her at Barbara.litalien@masenate.gov.

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POLICIES/ADJUSTMENTS: Advertisers must check insertions and report errors immediately. Billing adjustments are made for only one incorrect insertion and then only for the incorrect portion. We are not responsible for failure to publish and reserve the right to reject, edit or cancel any ad. Ads are subject to credit approval unless paid for prior to publication.



line ad publication deadlines:  
dailies:

The Eagle-Tribune, Gloucester Daily Times,  
The Salem News, Daily News of Newburyport  
Monday.....5pm Friday  
Tuesday-Saturday.....5pm day prior  
Sunday paper.....5pm Friday (auto only)  
Sunday paper.....5pm Friday

weeklies:

Carriage Towne News: 12pm Friday  
Andover Townsman, Derry News &  
Haverhill Gazette: 5pm Tuesday

Cancellation/change deadlines:  
same as publication deadlines



**Announcements**  
HAPPY ADS

Place a happy ad in this section to wish a special someone a Happy Birthday, Anniversary, Retirement, Thinking of You, Love You or Just Wish Them a Nice Day. Only \$5.00 for 3 lines (\$1.00 each additional line. Call today The Classified Connection 800-927-9200

**INSTRUCTIONAL**  
G/C BUILDER'S LICENSE COURSE Register by JAN 1ST., for Danvers, Lowell, Haverhill, MA 1-888-833-5207 www.StateCertification.com

**LOST & FOUND**  
FOUND CHIUAHUA mix dog, Haverhill nroffo@comcast.net 617-750-1154

FOUND: NERO DESIGNER PRESCRIPTION SUNGLASSES - Dec 3rd, Liberty Tree Mall parking lot. Call (978) 927-0559 to identify

FOUND set of keys on Providence St/park area, Lawrence. Describe them & you'll get them back. Call me at 508-982-2743 & be sure to leave me a message!

LOST GREY/WHITE INDOOR CAT. REWARD FOR HIS SAFE RETURN. NO QUESTIONS ASKED. FEABODY/SALEM LINE.

Mini Max is shy and may be hiding. He may be limping or injured. He fell out my window in August. Please check your yards, garages, sheds & under porches.

Are you or one of your neighbors feeding a new stray cat? Does the cat look like Mini Max? If so, please call or text me. Please send a photo if possible. Thank you. 339-201-1491

LOST GUITAR Takamine in black hardcase near Mitch's, Gloucester, MA June 25th at the Fiesta Also lost Maroun NorthPack CASH REWARD! Call Scott (978) 239-5254

**SPECIAL NOTICES**  
SEACOAST AUTO & TRUCK SPA  
Holiday Gift Certificates!!!  
COMPLETE DETAIL!!! CARS ONLY \$100!!!  
REGULAR SIZE TRUCKS & SUVs ONLY \$125!!!  
FULL SIZE TRUCKS & SUVs ONLY \$150!!!  
THE PERFECT GIFT! 978-462-3232 Seabrook NH

**Real Estate**

**HOMES**  
BARRINGTON - New construction 3 Bed Colonial w/ Association Beach on Swains Pond, Red Oak flooring first floor, Lovely farmer's porch w/ composite decking! Still time to pick Granite for kitchen!! \$339,900. 603-382-0360  
CLASSIC HOMES RE

Beverly - Modern Split level ranch on dead end street. 5 bedrooms, 3 full baths, 2 fireplaces and plenty of parking. \$479,000  
Tache RE (978) 745-2004

Beverly - Newly renovated 3 bedroom ranch in Raymonds Farms. Custom granite & stainless steel kitchen, new hardwood floors, new heat, central air all on a large level lot. \$399,900  
Tache RE (978) 745-2004

Danvers - 2 bedroom bungalow in need of TLC and updating in convenient location plus 1 car garage. \$285,000  
Tache RE (978) 745-2004

Danvers - 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath Cape. Typical Cape floor plan with fireplace. Needs love and attention. \$300,000  
Tache RE (978) 745-2004

Danvers - Beautifully restored 4 bedroom colonial in Danvers with upgraded kitchen and bathroom and new electrical and heating systems. \$468,900  
Armstrong Field RE (978) 740-8700  
armstrongfield.com

DANVILLE - 3 Bed Colonial, Upgraded kitchen cabinetry, SS appliances, Juliet Balcony, lush landscaping, Koi Pond, LL Game & Media rooms TOO MUCH TO LIST!!! \$489,900 603-382-0360  
CLASSIC HOMES RE

**HOMES**  
Dracut - 3-4 bedroom cape style home anxiously awaits a new owner to update and repair. \$125,000  
Tache RE (978) 745-2004

Framingham - Nicely located 2 family home on corner lot with garage, convenient to commuter rail and downtown. \$289,900.  
Tache RE (978) 745-2004

Gloucester-Enjoy oceanfront sunrises with panoramic vistas from almost every room. Offering privacy on over 1.6 acres abutting 112 acres onto a private golf course. An ideal home for entertaining. Half mile from Good Harbor Beach and easy access to downtown, museums, shops and Rte 128. \$2,950,000  
Rick Petralia J. Barrett & Company 978-239-6207

KENSINGTON Three bedroom, 2 Bath Ranch Style home in Country setting. Featuring new roof, freshly painted interior and outside decks and updated Kitchen. \$329,900. 603-382-0360  
CLASSIC HOMES RE

Lynn - Six residential units and one commercial unit generating \$80,400 a year. Five 2 bedroom units and one 3 bedroom unit. Separate utilities with gas fired furnaces and hot water heaters. \$619,900  
Armstrong Field RE (978) 740-8700  
armstrongfield.com

NEWBURY - NEW PRICE ! Stunning new renovation riverside on the tidal Parker River! Two bedrooms, two huge stone fireplaces, two levels, two baths. Amazing marsh views. All new windows, roof, septic system, new kitchen. This is a unique and fabulous home that needs to be seen - lovely setting, comfortable living! \$449,900  
Call Pat Skibbee  
RIVER VALLEY RE 978-502-4782 /office 800-773-9990

NEWTON, NH - Extraordinarily sunny and bright, this feature-filled 3 bedroom home has been totally renovated down to the finest detail. Meticulous and fastidious. From roof to period exterior trim, from foundation to heating system, from electrical to new paints, all has been done beautifully, tastefully and thoroughly. One acre site with perennials and "patio" in the stone walls of the barn site. Workshop unheated attached to the house with direct interior access. This is a beauty. \$240,000  
RIVER VALLEY R.E. Pat Skibbee 800.773.9990 or 978.502.4782

Rockport-Breathtaking Views of Rockport Harbor and Ocean! Two Family Home. Possibilities for various uses (residential, commercial or a combination of both). A rare opportunity to own an iconic property in a prime location! offered at 739,000.  
Mary Ciaraldi J. Barrett & Company 978-778-6351  
maryciaraldi@barrettrealty.com

**HOMES**  
NEWTON, NH: New Construction/Peasley Estates 10 Zoe Lane Custom Ranch \$469,900 Todd 603-382-1669; 603-234-1458

Rockport- Work from Home or use as in-law apartment. Separate entrance with roadside visibility and parking. Former home of renowned artist Wayne B. Morrell. Enjoy single-level living, eat-in kitchen, open concept living room, cathedral family room, four-full baths and two additional bedrooms upstairs. Close to downtown beaches, restaurants, galleries, performance center and railway. Ocean views from upper platform and seasonal from the home. \$395,000  
Rick Petralia J. Barrett & Company 978-239-6207

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. \$415,000  
Rick Petralia J. Barrett & Company 978-239-6207

Salem - Great 2 family in Derby Wharf area. One 4 bedroom townhouse unit, one 1 bedroom unit and parking \$450,000  
Tache RE (978) 745-2004

Salem- Large 5 bedroom home in South Salem with stunning water and conservation land views. Attach garage, hardwood floors, newly shingled roof and much more. \$429,900  
Armstrong Field RE (978) 740-8700  
armstrongfield.com

Salem- Large well maintained two family in North Salem with a nice large level yard, off street parking, and separate utilities. Newer heating unit for 2nd and 3rd floors. \$449,900  
Armstrong Field RE (978) 740-8700  
armstrongfield.com

Salem - Rare 4 family on corner lot. Three 1 bedroom units and one 3 bedroom unit with 2 car detached garage. \$499,900  
Tache RE (978) 745-2004

Wenham- Parsons Hill neighborhood four-bedroom colonial on cul-de-sac. Open-concept kitchen / living room, center island kitchen with stainless-steel appliances and French doors leading to expansive back yard deck. Home boasts fireplace living room, oak floors, first-floor laundry, irrigation system, finished walkout basement with fenced in yard. Quick access to Route 128, major shopping areas and Boston. \$659,000  
Rick Petralia J. Barrett & Company 978-239-6207

**HOMES**  
WEST NEWBURY: NEW PRICE! Lovely contemporary ranch with garage, shed and heated workshop on beautiful, private 1.5 acres on a country road. New septic system, one-level living, 3 bedrooms, vaulted ceilings, very spacious deck, AC. Come see! \$372,000  
Call Joanie Purinton  
RIVER VALLEY RE 978-462-6898 or 800-773-9990

WEST NEWBURY: "SOLD! WE CAN SELL YOURS!"  
Amazing high-end finishes and character throughout this wonderful property! Custom woodwork, the most perfect wide pine floors, custom tile work, 3 FP, 2-3 bedrooms, stone patio, open floor plan, barn/garage with finished upstairs. Views to meadows and woodlands all on great street. 94% efficient gas heating system. Come see! \$462,500 Pat Skibbee  
RIVER VALLEY R.E. 800.773.9990 or 978.502.4782

**TOWNHOMES/CONDOS**  
Lynn - Centrally location 2 bedroom condo near downtown, Community College and public transportation. Off street parking. \$129,900  
Tache RE (978) 745-2004

Marblehead - Enjoy beautiful views of Marblehead harbor in this updated 2 bedroom, townhouse at Glover Landing. \$498,000  
Armstrong Field RE (978) 740-8700  
armstrongfield.com

Salem - Charming 2 bedroom unit in Salem McIntyre Historic District. Open floor plan, large windows and bonus room. \$224,900  
Tache RE (978) 745-2004

Salem- OPEN HOUSE! Sunday, December 13th, 12:00-2:30pm, 23 Beach Ave., #3. 2 bedroom, ocean front condo in Salem Willows Neighborhood. Features include a gourmet kitchen, exclusive ocean front deck, private beach and more. \$449,900  
Armstrong Field RE (978) 740-8700  
armstrongfield.com

Salem- 2 bedroom condo in the desirable Salem Commons neighborhood. Exclusive back deck, in building laundry, pet friendly, extra storage, 100% owner occupied. \$170,000  
Armstrong Field RE (978) 740-8700  
armstrongfield.com

Salem - OPEN HOUSE! Sunday, December 13th, 12:00-2:00pm, 2 Naples Rd., #3. Large & updated 3 bedroom penthouse condo in Os-good Park. Updated kitchen with granite counters and stainless appliances. Spacious rooms and use of private beach and park. \$284,900  
Armstrong Field RE (978) 740-8700  
armstrongfield.com

**TOWNHOMES/CONDOS**  
Tewksbury- Updated, 3 bedroom condo in Livingston Place Condominiums. Attached 2 car garage, stainless steel kitchen appliances, hardwood flooring and more. \$429,900  
Armstrong Field RE (978) 740-8700  
armstrongfield.com

**LAND/ACREAGE**  
Gloucester-New Price! Desirable Private Wingsheek/Coffin Beach- 23 acre parcel completely approved with septic design, beach fields are in and house plans are available. A short stroll to Gloucester most beautiful beaches. A great value at \$299,900.  
Mary Ciaraldi J. Barrett & Company 978-778-6351  
maryciaraldi@barrettrealty.com

Gloucester-NEW TO MARKET! Build your dream home on this 30 acre parcel within very close proximity to Good Harbor Beach. Natural gas, water and electric on street. Super location! Offered at \$335,000  
Mary Ciaraldi J. Barrett & Company 978-778-6351  
maryciaraldi@barrettrealty.com

Gloucester-Wheelers Point! Direct water front building lot with spectacular views of the Mill and Annisquam Rivers, Wingsheek and beyond. Direct water access, very friendly 91 in place, building plans available. \$749,000.  
Mary Ciaraldi J. Barrett & Company 978-778-6351  
maryciaraldi@barrettrealty.com

NEWBURY - Building lot in excellent Plum Island location! Fine natural trees/grasses, will have city water and sewer, plus expansive marsh and city views! Oversized lot will accommodate a very large new house in an area of fabulous new homes! \$315,000 Call Pat Skibbee  
RIVER VALLEY RE 978-502-4782/office 800-773-9990

**COMMERCIAL/BUSINESS**  
PIZZERIA FOR SALE in Salisbury, MA. Plenty of parking. Excellent deal!! Serious buyers only call after 8 pm 978-504-9183

**REAL ESTATE BROKERS/AGENTS**  
NH AGENTS WANTED! Generous commission splits, no franchise or desk fees! Very friendly atmosphere! Call Karen confidentially! CLASSIC HOMES REALTY (603) 382-0360

**Miscellaneous**  
PUZZLE SOLUTION  
T I V U B A R  
A R E L O U B Y K H  
R I M U C U N E O  
L I V E S U S A A N O  
P I N E R O S U F A M E R  
P A I R A N D S Q U A R E  
O C C E T M I A  
T A M S T O M A  
P E L I T A P I C T U R E  
K C A L A N B S A G A N  
A L L A L T R A N D  
R U M B A T I N T O  
T E A C H D E W  
S S E A N D S  
12/17/15

**REAL ESTATE BROKERS/AGENTS**

**REAL ESTATE SCHOOL**  
Get your real estate license in 2 weeks! Flexible class schedule. For more info, go to:  
[AFrealestateschool.com](http://AFrealestateschool.com)

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See All Open Houses For This Weekend at [MassOpenHouses.com](http://MassOpenHouses.com)  
**Armstrong Field Real Estate**  
See all homes on the market at: [ArmstrongField.com](http://ArmstrongField.com)  
978-740-8700

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603-432-5453  
[www.sresre.com](http://www.sresre.com)  
Southern NH & Mass

**Rentals**

**HOMES**

Gloucester - Long-Term Gloucester Three-Bedroom House Rental. First and security. Spacious interior with ample basement storage and parking. Easy access to highway and MBTA to Boston. No Pets. First and security \$1,675/mo

**Rick Petralia**  
**J. Barrett & Company**  
978-865-1203

Rockport - Spacious Year-Round upper level four-room, one-bedroom apartment overlooking all of beautiful Rockport Harbor, enjoy the quiet tranquility and the expansive panoramic views. This extraordinary apartment offers additional storage space, sun-drenched living areas, washer-dryer in unit and centered dining room. Clean and comfortable. No pets please. First and one-month's security require for entry. No fee application required with minimum credit score of 675 to qualify. ....\$1375

**Rick Petralia**  
**J. Barrett & Company**  
978-865-1203

**APARTMENTS**

**First Run**  
ANDOVER - 2 bedroom duplex, near 495/93 T station, fresh paint, new floors, cat OK, \$1400 per month no utilities. 978-806-1915

**APARTMENTS**

ANDOVER: Summer St., Large 2 bedroom 2nd floor in Victorian 2 family. Freshly painted. Porch, attic, off street parking. \$1300. 978-475-2539

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BRADFORD - 3 bedroom apartment. Off street parking for 2 cars, updated bathroom. Near 495. Rooftop deck. \$1200/mo.  
Email: JOHNM1783@gmail.com

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BRADFORD, MA  
**Forest Acres**  
FRIENDLY COMMUNITY LIVING AT ITS BEST  
● Pool ● Central A/C ● Playground  
Basketball/Tennis court ● Free storage  
● Free heat, hot water, gas  
Visit us 28 Forest Acres Dr F-8:30 to 4:30, Sat 10-2 [movetoforestacres.com](http://movetoforestacres.com)

Gloucester - Short-Term, 5-6 month two-bedroom rental. Meticulously maintained single-level unit with spacious and open living, fully appliance kitchen, two-car parking, interior storage area and washer-dryer hookups. Lease for 5-6 months followed by month to month Tenant-at-Will/Extended Lease. No-Fee Application with minimum credit score of 675 to qualify. No pets please. \$1,225/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 \$1375/mo. 978-891-3153

METHUEN MA 2 bedroom, living room, sun-room, kitchen, washer & dryer. Prospect St., near The Loop. Newly painted, 2nd floor. No pets or smoking Excellent area. Off street parking \$1200 includes utilities 978-361-6668

METHUEN, MA - Elm Crest Estates. 2 Bedroom \$1,300 mo; 1 Bedroom - \$1050 mo. All utilities included. No pets. 978-882-4891  
[www.fortent.com/elmcrestestates](http://www.fortent.com/elmcrestestates)

ROWLEY, MA  
**Millwood Apartments**  
Tranquility, fresh air & plenty of parking await you at our oasis in the woods. Spacious 2 bedroom apartments from only \$1180-\$1200 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. 978-946-2052  
1 1/4 miles East of Rt. 95 on 133, [www.millwoodapartments.net](http://www.millwoodapartments.net)

SALEM, NH: BEST LOCATION!! 2 & 3 bedrooms Very clean, fully appliance. Coin-op laundry. No dogs. Call 603-458-1884

SALEM NH-Westgate Arms Carefree Living One Bedroom From \$870 Two Bedrooms From \$925 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](http://www.campbellapts.com)

**APARTMENTS**

SALEM, NH -Willows Park, 2 Bedroom - \$1100/mo. 1 Bedroom - \$980/mo. Heat/hot water included. No pets. 603-894-4631 [www.fortent.com/willowparknh](http://www.fortent.com/willowparknh)

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**COMMERCIAL/BUSINESS**

HAVERHILL/PLAISTOW - FOR LEASE Rte 125, across from McDonalds, 44k traffic vehicles per day! 1.8 acres, will subdivide. Restaurant /Gas/Bank. 3Ksf bldg. + former auto dealer \$5000-\$10,000/mo. NNN  
**AR Bonin Companies**  
603-362-6463 ~ 603-401-7994

FULL SERVICE INDIVIDUAL OFFICE. \$395/Mo. **Jefferson Office Park** Rt 114, No Andover 978-685-5440 [www.officesuites.com](http://www.officesuites.com)

PLAISTOW NH OFFICE SPACES for Lease Multiple units ranging from 300sf to 900sf and priced from \$400/mo to \$1,400/mo! Call Today! Great Location!! (603) 382-0360 CLASSIC HOMES REALTY

PROFESSIONAL OFFICES/SUITES From \$349/Mo Bradford Place, 145 S. Main St. Bradford 978-372-1500. [WWW.BRADPLACE.COM](http://WWW.BRADPLACE.COM)

**MANUFACTURED HOMES**

DERRY, NH - Kendall Pond Community 3 bedroom 2 full bath home. \$1325/mo. Call 603-479-3194

**ROOM FOR RENT**

A CLEAN quiet, safe bldg next to YWCA, YMCA, City Hall. Lowest rents. Near public trans. 4 hr move-in. Lawrence, 978-975-5103

LAWRENCE MA best rooming house 59 Tremont 978-689-8924, 362 Essex 978-682-9078 Saba RE 978-687-8706

LAWRENCE, MA: Clean, Quiet, Safe Lawrence's FINEST ROOMING HOUSE. Sober/Drug Free, 200 Parker St. 978-590-9060

LAWRENCE, MA - Furnished room starting at \$120/wk. Drug-free For details, 978-794-3039

SALISBURY MA, furnished cabin with private bath, kitchenette, parking, all utilities, & cable. \$180/week. Call (978)465-3392

**MOTELS/HOTELS**

**A-1 RENTALS**  
Getting Divorced? Live at the **Salisbury Inn**. From \$200/week. 978-465-5584

**ROOMMATES**

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

DERRY, NH pretty furnished room in house, share kitchen & bath, \$390/mo. includes all. Non-smoker. Call 617-240-3213.

**First Run**  
Georgetown, responsible roommate to share house, private bedroom, living room & bath, off street parking, country setting, washer & dryer, swimming pool, all utilities, pet on approval \$900 mo. 978-352-2550

**Kingston, NH: Must See!**  
UNIQUE HOME - furnished bedroom in quiet neighborhood. \$160 per week, includes utilities. Call 603-793-2650, after 5pm.

LAWRENCE 1 bedroom available, near Methuen line / bus. \$140/wk includes heat, laundry, internet, kitchen. parking no pets 978-828-1174

**ROOMMATES**

**First Run**  
MAGNOLIA, MA: Share large Victorian near ocean. No pets. No smoking. From \$145 per week includes utilities. (978) 975-2319

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METHUEN MA: Share House, utilities included. Own bath / entrance, kitchenette. No pets, 1st & security. \$800/mo 978-376-9557

**ROOMMATE wanted**  
to share home \$650 month 1st, last, security and references 617-480-2378

SALEM, NH Professional male seeks same, 2 bedroom Condo, fully furnished, heat/ hot water/electric included \$600 No pets. NO SMOKING. NO DRUGS. 1st/security. 603-571-3776

**Employment**

**BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

**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!

**GENERAL HELP WANTED**

**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: Bedford, Burlington, Chelmsford, Concord, Dracut, North Andover, Tewksbury, Salem & Plaistow NH and surrounding areas. No SS collections. Must be 18+.  
Call 1-800-615-8000 or online at [www.pcfcorp.com/dsp.php](http://www.pcfcorp.com/dsp.php)

**SERVPRO**  
Salem - Peabody - Marblehead Looking to fill the following positions:

- Marketing
- Production Tech
- Production Manager

Some experience in fire and water restoration preferred. Email resume to: [jantalupo@servpro9692.com](mailto:jantalupo@servpro9692.com) or call 978-744-4545 for more info

**First Run**  
**Supervisor/Dispatcher/ Customer Service Position**

Courier Company located in Lowell area is seeking a dispatcher/supervisor with customer service skills and knowledge of the Massachusetts area. Position will require overseeing couriers delivering medications. Must have great customer relations skills, and the ability to work with a large customer of the Company. Must be able to work independently, capable of resolving problems with good communications skills. Compensation is based on experience and skill level. Hours need to be flexible Monday to Friday and must be available on some weekends. fax resume to 866-878-9943 or call 508-269-6150.

**GENERAL HELP WANTED**

**First Run**  
**AMVETS** Looking to fill the following positions: Door Security - Maintenance & Cleaning - Bartenders. Send or fax resume to: AMVETS Post 147, 576 Primrose St. Haverhill MA 01830. FAX: 978-372-3251

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**ADMINISTRATIVE**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**  
If you are energetic, enthusiastic, and enjoy interacting with people, this is a great opportunity to join a reputable & friendly company. You'll be the office front-person who greets visitors, manages a high volume phone/voice mail system, performs all word processing and report production activities, & is responsible for a variety of other office duties including assisting with accounting data entry. Applicant must have strong organization skills, ability to multi-task in a high paced environment, & excellent written & verbal communications skills. Prior experience in a receptionist/administrative role required. Ransom offers competitive compensation and benefits package. Please send resume to:  
**RANSOM Consulting, Inc.**  
12 Kent Way, Suite 100, Byfield, MA 01922  
Or email [ransomhr@ransomenv.com](mailto:ransomhr@ransomenv.com) [www.ransomenv.com](http://www.ransomenv.com)  
Offices in MA, NH, ME, RI, NJ

**First Run**  
**Administrative Asst** for a small consulting group in Andover 12-15 hrs per wk. flexible schedule. computer experience a must. email resume to [debbi@kravetzgroup.com](mailto:debbi@kravetzgroup.com)

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**RECEPTIONIST/Office Assistant**  
position in a health care office, 36 to 40 hours per week. Must have excellent customer service skills. Computer skills a must. email resume to: [receptionistjob2016@gmail.com](mailto:receptionistjob2016@gmail.com)

**First Run**  
The Charles A. Slee Agency, a well-established North Shore **Insurance Agency** is seeking a self-motivated,  
**Customer Service Representative**  
with prior experience in personal/commercial lines to join our team. Familiar with Agency Management System and Wintrater a plus. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Send resume to [nmaggio@sleeinsurance.com](mailto:nmaggio@sleeinsurance.com)

**First Run**  
**Customer Service Representative**  
with prior experience in personal/commercial lines to join our team. Familiar with Agency Management System and Wintrater a plus. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Send resume to [nmaggio@sleeinsurance.com](mailto:nmaggio@sleeinsurance.com)

**JOB WANTED**  
Ads In This Classification Are WORK WANTED NOT HELP WANTED

**MEDICAL**

**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!

DENTAL OFFICE Part Time **Front Desk** Mon. & Tues eves. 5-9pm and Sat 8am-5pm. Experience with Dentrix software preferred. Mail resumes to: ETPC Job #767 100 Turnpike St No Andover MA, 01845

**Visiting Angels**  
LIVING ASSISTANCE SERVICES  
DO YOU WANT A CARING CAREER?  
Work for a local company that cares about you. CNA, LNA, HHA, PCA, hourly or live-in. Competitive pay, insurance, differentials  
Newburyport, MA: 978-462-6162  
Stratham, NH: 603-583-4890

**MEDICAL**

**IMMEDIATE OPENING!**  
IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A POSITION AS A CARE GIVER PLEASE CHECK OUT THE ADULT CARE SECTION IN THE BUSINESS AND SERVICE DIRECTORY. PEOPLE LOOKING FOR PCAS, HEALTH AIDES, CNAS HAVE ADS RUNNING AND COULD USE YOUR HELP

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**WINDHAM TERRACE ASSISTED LIVING**

**LNA**  
Full time 7-3 and 3-11 shifts, PD all shifts  
Experience preferred. Competitive benefits package for FT positions. Pleasant working environment. Premiere Assisted Living Community. Email resume to [gconsoil@terracecommunities.com](mailto:gconsoil@terracecommunities.com)  
Apply to Windham Terrace Assisted Living, 3 Church Road, Windham NH. No phone calls please

**Medical Receptionist PT**  
(25 Hours)  
For busy dermatology office. Must have excellent communication skills and ability to multi-task. Computer experience required. fax/email resume to: Office Manager 978-474-4537 [jporter@andoverdermatology.com](mailto:jporter@andoverdermatology.com)

\*\*\*\*\*  
**PrimeCare Medical is seeking LPN's**  
to work on the 3rd shift in the medical dept. at The Rockingham County Prison  
**Contact HR at**  
**1-800-245-7277**  
or fax resumes to **717-651-1865**  
EOE. REF#631

**PROFESSIONAL**

**First Run**  
**PRIME TIME SPORTS Graphic Designer**

Screen printing company located in the Andover / Lawrence area seeks an entry level experienced Graphic Designer for a full-time, in-house graphic design position.

- Altering/creating of logos and make judgment calls that visually improve typographic value and design.
- Technical duties include scaling, cropping, repositioning for proofing.
- Create artwork and film for the garment screen printing process (will teach on the job)
- Interaction with sales rep and customer on a daily bases

Job Requirements:  
● Ability to multitask and complete projects in a manner conducive with strict deadlines.  
● Must have strong Adobe Illustrator skills on a MAC platform. Proficiency in Microsoft Office, specifically in Excel and Word is a requirement.  
● Screening printing knowledge is a plus.  
● Bachelors degree in graphic design  
● Excellent communication, decision-making and interpersonal skills.  
● Work well as part of a team, flexible with a positive attitude, including problem solving skills.  
● Must be willing to do other tasks on hand like physical packing and other hands on labor

Forward Resume to: [LGeraci@Psteam.com](mailto:LGeraci@Psteam.com)

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Andover School of Montessori is accepting resumes for teachers in its after school care program. Applicants should have experience with pre-school students. Excellent communication skills and dependability are required. Hours are Mon-Fri 3-6pm. Email resume to: esears@andovermontessori.org.

**LEGAL SECRETARY** P/T for small but busy Andover Law office, hours flexible. Pleasant surroundings, typing and computer skills essential, shorthand helpful. Email resume david@bernardinlaw.com

**QUALITY ASSURANCE LEAD (#168862E)**

Expicient Inc. has an opening for a Quality Assurance Lead (#168862E). See www.expicient.com for job duties & requirements. Reference Job No. 168862E when sending resumes. Mail resumes to: HR, Expicient Inc., 26 Chestnut St., Suite 1D, Andover, MA 01810

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**First Run**

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 MUST have 5+ years experience in american and foreign car repairs. Brakes, suspensions, alignments, timing belts, tune ups, exhaust. No weekends. Must apply in person. Independent Tire & Auto, Inc. 20 Old Clark Road, North Andover, MA

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**First Run**

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Full time position operating hydraulic equipment and performing manual labor within the Forestry Division. CDL and Hydraulic License required. Expected salary range of \$20,15-22,99/hr. DDQ. More info at www.danvers.gov/office.com (click departments/human resources) Apply in writing to Stephen Delaney, Director, Human Resources, Town Hall 1 Sylvan Street, Danvers MA 01923; or by email to: mcarroll@mail.danvers-ma.org

**WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR**

**South Essex Sewerage District 50 Fort Avenue, Salem, MA**  
 seeks qualified applicants for the position of Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator. Massachusetts Grade 4 Operator's License required. To obtain the application information and submit the requirements package for this position, contact Anita Runner at 978-744-4550 ext. 158. Submittal deadline is January 8, 2016. EOE

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**CEMETERY LOTS**

PURITAN LAWN Cemetery in Peabody. One deeded lot for two people. Includes 2 cement vaults. Today's cost \$6000 selling for \$3500. Call Mike 978-532-4286

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 Fast Intel i5 processor 4GB ram 100GB HDD. Great for surfing the web, facebook, email, etc. \$140. Call (978) 965-2728

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BRRII TONAS FIREWOOD (128 c.f.) 2 yr. Seasoned Firewood available. Cut, split. Free local delivery. Fuel Assistance accepted. 603-679-8211

**FIREWOOD FOR SALE**

ADS in this category If the ad shows a price it must show it by cu. ft. Half a cord is 64 cu. ft. and a cord is 128 cu. ft.

**FIREWOOD FOR SALE**

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All ads in this classification run in our 10 paper "Classified Connection" that covers the North Shore, Merrimack Valley and Southern New Hampshire. Ads appearing in this section may or may not deliver to this entire market. Prices may reflect a "Local" delivery area only and may be higher for an extended delivery area.

↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑

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 Checks OK. Prices subject to change. Also servicing Salem & Derry NH, Methuen/Haverhill Call 24/7, 781-718-2364 OR 877-688-7667

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CDs and DVDs \$2 ea. (1) Braided rug, wool 8 x 13 beige, blues, and yellow great shape \$75, (3) Young Men's Winter Jackets \$20 ea. Call 978-865-5503

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CRAFTMATIC electrical bed - Excellent Working condition. \$200. Call (978) 470-3612

**First Run**

MAYTAG 30" Gas stove with double oven, Almond Color works perfectly \$250 or best offer Call (978) 689-9327

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**MINI-FRIDGE**

Almost brand new black mini-fridge. \$125. Located in Haverhill. Call 978-372-6206.

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**BILLIARD POOL TABLE** - Golden West Designer Series 8 ft. Excellent condition. Great Christmas gift. \$1500 or best offer. 978-269-7016

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**First Run**

DOLL HOUSE. Sturdy, wooden, 2 story great hobby to share with grandchildren furniture included \$150.00 Call (978) 283-9243 or email lilat@comcast.net

**MOVING SALE**

inside this Sunday, Dec. 20th from 9-12. 31 Dennison St., Gloucester - Property has security cameras on. Prices from \$20-\$500. Great deals. Cash only. Lots of furniture i.e. Gorgeous DR set 4-6 chairs; Credenza oak cab. Tuscan design \$50; Credenza work desk \$50; Book cases; wd desks, very nice; long single bed complete College \$25; Wicker lounge \$30; greenstar juicer \$250; 96 Books on Tape-\$100 for all or \$3 each; Kayak \$400; light weight leaf blower \$40; Elect. Neutron lawn mower \$25; Much more! Owner moving. gdmr1@gmail.com 978-884-0378

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**First Run**

**Must Sell!**

PIANO - Upright piano, tuned in great condition 300.00 bring it home for the holidays! Contact 978-546-6267

**PETS & FREE PETS**

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**PETS & FREE PETS**

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 Yellow / Black / Hip/eye guarantee. Cute, loveable. Ready! \$850 603-231-7206

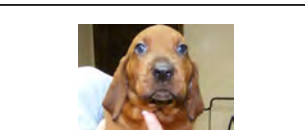
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 ●8'x2' Stainless steel table ●6'x2' Stainless steel table ●5'x2' Stainless steel table  
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 ● Adcraft 3 bin food warmer ●American range 4 burner stove top. ●3'x2' Flat top grill ●Imperial fryer/wt 2 baskets ●3'x34" cold sandwich unit w/insets ●Southband convection oven ●Greenworl 2 door freezer  
 ●Blodget meat slicer ●Holiday chest freezer ●3-bin sink ●Grease trap Stainless steel wall shelves ●Mop sink ●Hand wash sink ●Plastic shelving units ●Rubber floor mats ●Brown walk-in collar w/compressor unit ●Call kitchen trash cans ●8'x24" front counter w/shelving below ●Exhaust hood & fire supression system w/back stainless steel walls ●Portable fire extinguishers ●18"x24" char-broiler in trailer  
**Call 702-400-4781**

**SEASONAL ITEMS**

**CHRISTMAS TREE SALE**

35 Apple St., Essex  
 Appleton Gist Foundation and charitable children of Essex County invite you to join us in supporting Wellspring House this holiday season.

Bake Sale table and Donation Drop Site: collecting school supplies, book, and needed shelter items of diapers, wipes, sheets, towels, hats, gloves, coats. ANY & ALL ITEMS WELCOME.

\*\*All proceeds to benefit Wellspring House\*\*

Generously Sponsored by:  
 Brick Ends Farm and Wellness Connect  
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 Excellent condition barbel used \$750 will accept best reasonable offer (978) 857-5427

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 Seeks Caregiver with Direct Nursing and Companion care exp. 1 weekend day/wk. Must have extensive previous exp in a private home. Wide range of responsibilities/no household tasks. Ref references req'd. Newburyport 978-465-3763

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 Want to receive financial assistance and additional support for the work you already do? We serve the state of Massachusetts and are looking to support families in the North Shore and all over the state. Call Nate Wetmore at (978) 531-0818 x 2704. TODAY!!!!  
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CHEVY CORSICA 1991 -red, low miles, \$1000.  
Call (978) 869-3838



**CHEVY COLBALT IT 2007**  
SEDAN, White/Gray, 80K, Non-smoker tilt, cruise power, cd, door locks, rear spoiler. NEEDS NOTHING, Pristine condition, Fast Sale \$4950 (781) 640-9858

CHEVY, MALIBU 2006 - 4 door  
4 cylinder, silver/grey, 1 family owned. New sticker in Nov. Recent Car Fax report. Excellent condition. 27,700 original miles. \$4700. Call 781-608-1878



CORVETTE Convertible 2002 - Every possible option that comes with 2002 V8t. Pewter/black top, 49K miles. Showroom cond. Heads Up display, Auto, High Tech pkg, magnesium wheels, new 18" Michelins. \$50,000 new \$18,900. Will finance anyone. 603-948-8912

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FORD 2003 TAURUS WAGON  
TIRES, BRAKES, BATTERY, STARTER, ALL NEW!  
Good on gas, front wheel drive, mechanically sound, adj roof rack, long list of extras. 137k miles. Good condition, some rust. Asking \$2500. (978) 683-8419



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sedan, white/gray inter, 110K, automatic, all power options, alloy wheels, rear spoiler, needs nothing \$3950 (781) 640-9858



FORD Mustang GT 2003 convertible, auto, fully equipped, white with white leather & white top, special aluminum Alloy wheels, brand new tires, brakes, AM FM stereo, CD, air conditioning, power package. Runs & looks excellent. 2 to choose from \$2500. 603-948-8912



**FORD TAURUS 2005**  
4 door sedan, V6, all power. 69k  
Leather, moonroof, silver.  
Like new condition. \$3300  
978-332-1304



**FORD TAURUS SE 2002,**  
Silver/Gray, Tilt, CD, Cruise, Power Windows/  
Door Locks/Seats, 94k, NEEDS NOTHING, NO  
RUST/NO DENTS, PRICED FOR QUICK SALE  
\$2950 Call (781) 640-9858



Honda Accord 2006, 4dr EX-V6 Automatic  
213K miles Silver exterior/black leather  
interior. Loaded. Excellent mechanical condition  
have all service records. Recent tires, brakes and  
major service. \$4400 or B/O. Call or text  
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**AUTOS**

**First Run**

**FORD FOCUS ZTS 2001**  
4 door, one owner. Green with tan interior,  
135k miles. New battery, new tires plus 2  
snow tires. Runs good. \$1200.  
Call 603-793-9956, Plaistow NH



**HONDA Accord EX-L 2009**  
Like new condition, 100,000 miles, options  
include leather, navigation, all power, power  
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**HONDA ACCORD EXL COUPE 2006**  
Loaded, leather/sunroof/heat seats pearl white/black leather, new tires \$5345 978-807-3240

**First Run**

HONDA CIVIC EX, 2003, black, all pwr, 180k 4 door, moonroof, stick, new battery/timing belt/brakes/callipers/muffler/catalytic converter/tires. Brand new water pump/bumper, oil change, upper & lower ball joints, struts, tank of gas, antifreeze \$2650 B/O 508-280-2399

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ALL power, moonroof Pearl white/black interior, NO Dents No Rust, 120K, CD, AC, Book value \$6200 asking \$6420 (978) 807-3240

**First Run**



HONDA CIVIC LX 2012 -  
Automatic, like new, red, 45k miles, 1 owner  
nonsmoker, needs nothing. Tires in good  
shape, snow tires included. Recently detailed.  
Asking \$11,750. Call 603-548-8326



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Hatchback, blue, 116k miles.  
Very good condition. 1 owner, lady.  
\$3400. Call 978-337-0934

**First Run**

**LINCOLN TOWN CAR**  
Earlier Edition 2003,  
80,000 miles, always garaged,  
new priced at \$49,000 asking \$8000  
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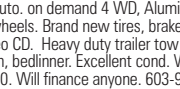
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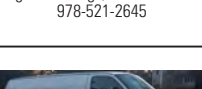
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# A millionaire who made a difference

## R. Kingman Webster donated time, money to impoverished students

By KEITH EDDINGS  
keddings@eagletribune.com

LAWRENCE — Walkiria Manzueta was 11 years old and graduating from Tarbox Elementary School in 1991 when two aides to an Andover millionaire visited her Tenney Street home, bearing hope for her small impoverished family of Dominican immigrants headed by a single mom.

The aides were working for Ralph Kingman Webster, who was spending some of the fortune he made selling feed for farm animals and household pets to set up a program that would pay the college tuition for any of 62 incoming sixth-graders at Arlington Middle School who made it through high school.

Manzueta said the visit changed her life, not just because the financial aid Webster eventually offered, but for the hands-on, one-on-one mentoring the millionaire, his wife and aides would provide to ensure she and her classmates would thrive in one of the poorest school systems in Massachusetts.

"It was all geared toward learning," Manzueta — now 35, a Boston College graduate and the owner of a property management company in Methuen — said recently, recalling Webster's participation in after-school homework programs, his work arranging extra-curricular instruction in areas such as carpentry and computer literacy, the tutors he hired and the weekend field trips he led to museums and places like Plimouth Plantation.

"He gave us things we would not have access to

otherwise," Manzueta said. "All of our parents were hardworking, who didn't have the time to take us mountain climbing on the weekend. He took the time to be one-on-one, to explain a math problem. I don't think he was someone who just wrote a check to an agency. He was heavily involved."

Webster died Nov. 12 in Naples, Fla., where he had retired with his wife, Dee. He was 82.

His philanthropy extended beyond the Arlington School, but stayed focused on the Merrimack Valley. A charitable fund he established at the Essex County Community Foundation supported private schools and non-profit agencies throughout the region, including Bellesini Academy and Community Day Charter School, both in Lawrence, according to Julie Bishop, the foundation's vice president of philanthropy.

"His passion was providing educational opportunities for kids from Lawrence," Bishop said. "(He) believed strongly in the critical role of education as the way out of poverty for at risk children — and he helped so many. He was a brilliant man who loved a conversation with a young student participating in a program as much as with the executive director."

Of the programs Webster created or sponsored, the "I have a Dream" project at the Arlington Middle School attracted national attention, in part because so few students at the school were going on to earn high school diplomas at the time. College appeared even further beyond their reach.



FRANK J. LEONE JR./File photo

Major benefactors R. Kingman Webster and his wife Dee of Andover, chat with Brother Richard Van Hooten, president of Central Catholic, in the third floor science classrooms hallway at the dedication of the new south wing of the school in 2004.

For Webster, that was the point.

"Kingman and his team selected the worst school in the worst school district of one of the hardest-hit cities in the state — Lawrence," his college alma mater, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, wrote in a profile it posted on a page of its website that features the school's top donors.

"Our philosophy was, 'Well, we can't do much harm here. We can only do something positive,' " the profile says, quoting Webster.

The effort paid off. Of the original 62 students in the program, 38 graduated from high school, two received GEDs and 30 went straight to college, The Eagle-Tribune reported in 2000. In all, Webster spent \$750,000 on

the program, the newspaper reported, not including \$1 million he gave Central Catholic High School in Lawrence as the last of the former Arlington Middle School students were receiving their high school diplomas on June 7, 1999.

Manzueta graduated Central Catholic the year before. "I have a Dream," paid most of her tuition during the four years she attended the high school, which she said then was about \$8,000 a year. She attended Boston College on a full scholarship from the school, then worked briefly at a law firm before starting Home Shop Properties, the property management company she owns with her boyfriend, Johan Lopez.

"He touched all of our lives

in this one program," Manzueta said. "I can't imagine what else he's done for other kids in other programs."

Webster grew up in Andover but his family has roots in Lawrence, where a great grandfather served one term as mayor and his father was raised in the Arlington neighborhood. In 1869, a great grandfather founded H.K. Webster and Co., a feed store later called Blue Seal Feeds, on Island Street, where it operated a small grist mill. It also has a store in Derry.

Webster went to work for the family business after graduating from WPI with a degree in physics in 1954. The company had just the one mill and \$15 million in annual sales when Webster joined it.

He eventually took over the business and grew it to eight plants, 17 retail stores, a fleet of more than 100 trucks and \$150 million in annual sales by the time he sold it to the Kent Nutrition Group in Muscatine, Iowa, in 1988, according to the WPI profile.

A spokesman for the company, now called Kent Corp., on Thursday would not say what it paid for Blue Seal Feeds.

Webster joined the expanded company as director of operations, but retired after six months. Two years later, after watching a television news report about a Louisiana man who was providing underprivileged children activities they couldn't otherwise afford, Webster started "I have a dream."

"He was relentless in his efforts, not only with his financial contributions, but with his time, with his commitment to doing what was right for economically disadvantaged students," said James Scully, who was superintendent of schools in Lawrence from 1987 to 1998 and is now superintendent in Haverhill. "He not only showed up at the board meetings, he went into the schools and sat with students."

"He did the same thing at the Boys Club" on Water Street in Lawrence, now called the Boys and Girls Club, Scully said. "Before you could play basketball at the Boys Club, you had to do your homework. Kingman was there helping those kids. I lost track after he left Lawrence, but it was individuals like Kingman who made the 1990s such a significant turning point for the schools."

### REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

The following real estate transfers were recorded recently in town:

**16 Avon St.:** Avon Street RT and Arthur Awley to Edmund V. and Julie M.

**Donnelly, \$572,500**  
**21 Ballardvale Road:** Louanne C. Pash to Ballardvale Road LLC, \$315,000  
**104 Chestnut St.:** Stephen and Lora J. Wilson to Kethian G. and Elena Jordan,

**\$475,000**  
**121 Elm St.:** Kenneth J. and Christine Dillman to Judith A. Hillner, \$147,806  
**132 Elm St.:** Doherty RT and Dennis Doherty Trust to Erik P. Doherty, \$452,000

**121 Jenkins Road:** Jenkins Road RT and Sean Szekeley to Andrew S. and Laura H. Rubin, \$891,400  
**398 Lowell St.:** Matthew and Elizabeth Perry to Astrid and Ralph Cerbone, \$312,500

**85-87 Porter Road:** Frank E. Zavrl to Andrew H. Betts and Sara K. Sheckells, \$1,610,000  
**24 Reservation Road:** Frank C. and Mary M. Condella to Gary and Nicole Grinnell, \$855,000

**20 Seten Circle:** Joseph A. and Lisa C. Miara to Amresh Konamaneni and Veena Kothapalli, \$857,500  
**72 Sunset Rock Road:** Hayes RT and Donald P. Hayes to Maria L. Alexandris, \$525,000



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Afternoon rain	Cloudy and mild	Sunny; windy, colder	Sunny	Rather cloudy; mild	Cloudy	A little rain
High: 49° Low: 45°	High: 52° Low: 31°	High: 40° Low: 30°	High: 44° Low: 30°	High: 48° Low: 42°	High: 52° Low: 43°	High: 56° Low: 45°

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